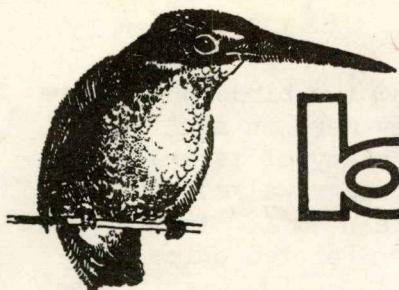


Joy PEGGER
305 NARDI



birds

Price 25c.
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1 September 1972

NEW RECORDS OF THE PECTORAL SANDPIPER.

Although the Pectoral Sandpiper (Calidris melanotos) is a regular but scarce migrant to Victoria (Smith 1965, Aust. Bird Watcher 2: 9-17) it is a very rare wader to the Sydney area.

There are two records for Sydney, the first being 27 February 1965, seen at Botany mud-flats by Brian Speechley, presumably the same bird was seen by several observers the following day, and on 5 March 1966 Brian Speechley recorded another bird in the same area. I wish to record four more sightings, the first of which was a single bird at Bakers Lagoon, Richmond on 11 December 1971 with several Sharp-tailed Sandpipers.

The article by Smith is a first class account of the status and habits of the bird in Victoria, and the bird that I saw tallies with his description, i.e., bill longer and thinner than that of a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper with a slight curve downward, the colour being black with dark horn colouring at the base of the lower mandible. The head was smaller and the neck thinner than that of a Sharp-tail. At times it would stretch its neck giving the impression that it was standing on its toes. Heavily striped light and dark fawn down the neck to the back and sides of the neck, through to the breast where it ended abruptly at the white belly. The line of demarcation was clean cut. Legs were yellow.

Roger Tory Peterson, the eminent American ornithologist says in his "Field Guide to the Birds" - "There is much difference in size between sexes" and that is so with the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper also. This bird appeared small compared with the Sharp-tail beside it, the Pectoral was probably a female and the Sharp-tail a male.

On 26 December 1971 at the same place, I saw two birds which were feeding not very far apart most of the time, they were in similar plumage to the other bird. They were in the company of several Sharp-tails and at one stage one of the Pectoral Sandpipers walked within 30cm of a pair of Painted Snipe. On 11 December within 9m (30 ft.) of each other, three rare waders were observed, namely one Painted Snipe, one Pectoral Sandpiper and eleven Oriental Pratincoles. The Pratincoles were found by Dick Cooper and his wife a few hours earlier when they saw twelve birds mostly in eclipse or immature plumage.

At Wilberforce on 18 December 1971 a single Pectoral Sandpiper was seen by G. and M. Dibley.

Ernest S. Hoskin
44 Patricia St., Eastwood. 1.3.72

HIGHEST PEREGRINE?

For a week commencing Thursday, 27 January 1972, I observed by telescope, a Peregrine Falcon perched on a rail surrounding the warning lantern near the top of the Channel 9 television antenna at Crows Nest. The height of the antenna 250m. (820 ft) above ground level and the Peregrine was on the rail 15.2m (50 ft) below the top. Surely few birds can claim a higher perch.

Ray Chandler,
Crows Nest. 4.2.72

Location of Peregrine Eyries. Details of the location of eyries is required for a survey to determine the present breeding success of the species. Details of past history of breeding successes and information on how long the site has been occupied will be of value. All assistance will be acknowledged and the information obtained will be treated as confidential. Send information to Records Officer.

The Conservation and Wildlife Show in which the N.S.W.F.O.C. was participating during Earth Week has been postponed until next year - a date to be announced.

We would like to thank the members who offered assistance and hope we may call on their help next year.

NOTES ON THE CICADA-BIRD PART I.

Of the birds which nest regularly around Sydney perhaps there is no other about which so little is known than the Cicada-bird (Edoliosoma tenuirostre). As long as I can remember, a pair have nested in a gully on the northern side of Fox Valley Road, on the Sanitarium Hospital property. Observations of these migrants have shown me that they have an arrival and departure area which they use regularly year by year. The male arrives first, usually fairly early in September and about two weeks later the female turns up, and they then move off to the nesting area. I believe the White-winged Triller (Lalage sueurii) has a similar arrival pattern.

The arriving and take-off area in this case is a large clump of trees, behind the S.D.A. Divisional Offices, on the southern side of Fox Valley Road. The trees in the area are predominantly Sydney Red Gum, Red Ironbark, White Ironbark, Black-butt, Turpentine, Wattles, Oaks, Messmate and Myrtles. The birds usually spend a week or two in this area before taking off about the middle of March on their return journey north.

I made several attempts in 1969 to locate their nest and was rewarded in late November when the male bird was observed to fly into a Turpentine tree situated at the edge of a creek. As he flew into the tree he gave a metallic clucking call. Immediately a softer and lower pitched call was heard and for the first time the female was sighted in the Turpentine. The female, a slender, cuckoo-like bird with horizontal barring on the breast, moved out on to a large branch facing up the creek and sat on its nest. The nest was in a horizontal fork, about two thirds of the way along the branch and at a height of 11m. (35 ft). The sides of the creek rose vertically to about 3.6m. (12 ft) and then continued up the gully for some distance at a steep angle. As the nest was in a reasonably open situation, it was calculated that good photographs could be obtained by setting up a hide further up the bank using a 1000mm lens.

A young bird was observed in the nest when the female left to get food. The nest was very small for a full clutch consists only of one egg. The chick would have been approximately 14 days old and resembled a young Cuckoo-shrike to which it is closely related.

By 12 o'clock next day the hide (green hessian), tripod and 1000mm lens were set up and a green army mosquito net was draped over lens,

camera and tripod. As the habitat was dense, the equipment was well hidden and difficult to see at a distance of 5 m. (15 ft). The nest was photographed from a distance of 21 m. (70 ft) and a variety of shots of the female were obtained over a period of $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours. During this time she would leave the nest for 12 - 15 minutes in search of food for the chick. Whilst on the nest her favourite pose seemed to be along the line of the branch, facing outwards from the centre of the tree.

The male never ventured near the nest nor was he seen to feed the chick or the female, rather he appeared to stay close by only to defend them. Several times cicadas were taken by the male and were vigorously bashed on the branch on which he was perched until legs and wings were removed and then swallowed whole. On several occasions after feeding the chick, the female was seen to remove the faecal sack and swallow it.

The last occasion that the female left the nest it was apparent that her absence was rather extended; the male was becoming very excited, loudly scolding, but from my position I could not see the cause of the commotion. Peering from the hide it was observed that the male was making vigorous passes at something out of my line of vision. However, when looking again through the lens I observed a Pied Currawong approaching the nest where it began to savagely peck the chick around the head. I jumped out of the hide, shouting and clapping my hands as I ran towards the creek. The Currawong seized the chick and carried it off, but in a moment of confusion, dropped it. A short deviation had to be made to get into the creek and so the Currawong returned to retrieve its prey but retreated again at my fast approach. I picked up the chick but it had died so, later that evening the specimen was taken to Keith Hindwood who arranged for it to be deposited in the reference collection of the Australian Museum.

Jack Purnell
Wahroonga. 30.4.72

WHITE-HEADED PETREL OFF SYDNEY HEADS.

On 18 September 1971, on a boat trip outside the heads, an unusual bird put in a brief appearance. We were about 12 miles (19.3 km) from shore - wider than usual - and had just seen a group of 50 Cape Petrels (Daption capensis) feeding around an oil slick, combined with garbage, when a bird was seen some distance ahead backing about 9 m. (30 ft) above the water. It dropped lower and approached us gliding with the slight wind (Beaufort Scale 2) about 1 m. (3 ft) above water and appearing vaguely like a small mollymawk in outline. There was a fairly heavy swell running and the light was very good. From a range of about 7.5 m (25 ft) the following details were noted by various members of the party

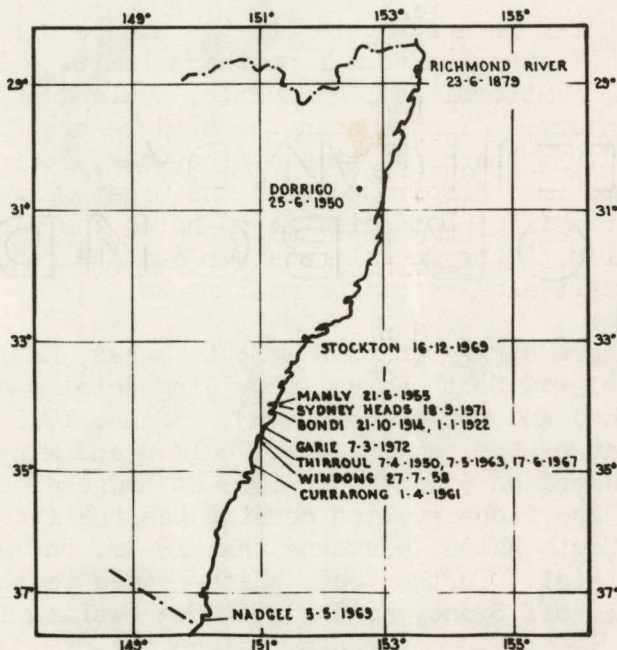
A light coloured petrel, slightly larger in size than a Cape Petrel with stiff pointed wings, the tips being held slightly down. Stubby stout bill, white head with blackish patch around eye; pale grey wash on the crown and nape merging into the grey back. Upperwings darker grey superimposed by a darker W. pattern, broken across the back. Tail white and rounded. Underparts white, underwing not seen. The bird showed little interest in the boat and passed across the wake before being lost astern. After a short discussion the bird was identified as a White-headed Petrel (Peradroma lessoni).

The White-headed Petrel is a straggler to the waters off southern Australia, latitude 33°S being its normal northern limit. It breeds on Kerguelen (the local "muttonbird"), Macquarie, Auckland and Antipodes Islands in December/January. I have seen the bird before in the Australian Bight and indeed, at the right time of the year, it is apparently not uncommon there, sometimes associated with the Great-winged Petrel (P. macroptera). Norris (1965 Notornis 12:96) notes the similarity of the White-headed Petrel's flight in calm weather and its general colouration to that of the small albatrosses or mollymawks.

This species is a rare straggler to New South Wales, McGill (1960 Handlist of the Birds of New South Wales) providing details of only six records (four beachwashed and two storm-blown). Since 1960 the only known occurrence is that of the remains (head culmen and wing) of a bird picked up by Keith Hindwood on 5 September 1969 at Nadgee Beach on the far south coast. The above observation constitutes the first sight record at sea for New South Wales (assuming that 19 km. out to sea the bird is still in our State! Further out, White-headed Petrels have been recorded 112 km. (70 ml) off Sydney Heads (1964 Sea Swallow 16).

The records of the late K. Hindwood and from Messrs. Gibson and Sefton provide details of the following 14 records of White-headed Petrels for New South Wales where they have been recorded for most months of the year.

23. 6.1879 Richmond River, blown inland during storm. Spec. Macleay M.
 21.10.1914 Bondi Beach, female AMNH No. 527987 ex Mathews Coll.
 1. 1.1922 Bondi Beach, female AM No. O.27143
 7. 4.1950 Thirroul Beach (Collected by Doug. Gibson)
 25. 6.1950 Dorrigo, blown inland during storm. AM No. O.38727
 21. 5.1955 Manly Beach, badly decomposed. Collected by T. Iredale
 27. 7.1958 Windang Beach. G/S Coll. No. 34,224, Headless specimen
 1. 4.1961 Currarong Beach, dried remains found by F. Johnston
 7. 5.1963 Thirroul Beach, mature adult AM No. C.41805 (P. Strong)
 17. 6.1967 Thirroul Beach, G/S Coll. No. 234,326 (found by R. Draisma)
 5. 5.1969 Nadgee Beach, for details see previous page.
 16.12.1969 Stockton Beach, remains found by G. Holmes
 19. 9.1971 Sydney Heads, sight observation by T. Kenny and others.
 7. 3.1972 Garie Beach, female AM No. O.44216 by Ranger J. Clunes
 Wgt.457gm; L.375mm; WS.1047mm; Cul.35.8mm; Tar. 46.6;
 Tail 134mm. (Records courtesy of E. S. Hoskin).



**WHITE HEADED
 PETREL
 SPECIMENS AND
 OPSERVATIONS
 IN N.S.W.**

LITTLE WATTLE-BIRD TRIC.

Ever since Little Wattle-birds have been visiting my city garden, a period of some twenty years, they have almost invariably been in threes. A family party, no doubt, a male and two females (judging by the latter's size). On one occasion I counted seven. These however were passing visitors. Staying an hour or so they then passed to gardens elsewhere. It is when Little Wattle-birds come to the garden for nesting, as well as to feed on my supply of sugared water, to settle down as it were, that they number three.

From the sound of its almost perpetual squeaks, the third one of this trio appears to be an adolescent bird, one that hasn't yet severed the parental apron strings. The male, a more robust bird than the female, appears to have objections to this young one's hanging around and only just tolerates its presence. Timidly this third one approaches the sweetened water, its eyes always on the bigger bird as if expecting a swift rebuff, which indeed it often gets. Yet despite the many peckings it gets, it remains part of the family group even when the pair begin to nest.

This behaviour seems out of character with the general run of pair-off birds and has always puzzled me. If the odd one out happened to be a male I dare say that it wouldn't be accepted at all.

There are one or two further interesting observations. An old fur rug thrown over the back garden seat became a source of nest-lining material. The female plucked out the fur in beakfuls. In a fur-lined cradle two young birds were hatched, though only one lived to enjoy the softness. I have also watched the birds catching bees. They kill the bees by bashing them on a branch evidently also to destroy the sting.

Michael Sharland,
Hobart. 17.4.72

GRASS WHISTLING DUCKS IN THE GRAFTON DISTRICT.

During the last 12 months unusually large numbers of Grass Whistling Ducks have been present in the Grafton District.

Since June 1971 I have heard flocks of these birds flying over Grafton at night. They usually come over just after dark when the flocks are on the way to their feeding grounds and they are often heard returning just before dawn.

Although enquiries were made in an endeavour to find where the birds camped during the day, it wasn't until 16 April 1972 that they were discovered. Accompanied by Mr. Roy Grieves, I visited a property 8 km (5 ml) from Grafton. The owner described the large numbers of Grass Whistling Ducks that had been in the area in recent months, mentioning that at times they had even grazed in daylight around his house. We accepted his invitation to have a look at the two large swamps on his property. On the first we saw large numbers of Grass Whistling Ducks which were very tame and allowed us to approach within 68 m (75 yds). Even when disturbed they just flew around briefly and then settled in compact flocks on the water hyacinth in the centre of the swamp. This allowed us to make a count and we estimated that there were 1400 of the species present. Later in the afternoon we went to the other swamp on the property and saw another 100 there.

Subsequent visits to the property have yielded 400+ of the species on 25 April and 800+ on 4 June 1972.

Up to 120 have also been seen on the swamp at Cowan's Creek T.S.R. on the Gwydir Highway, 6.4 km (4 ml) west of Grafton. This swamp is visible from the road and is well worth a visit from anyone passing through Grafton.

A large flock of these ducks was also reported to have camped on a property in the Ulmarra District in mid 1971.

E. Wheeler,
Grafton. 30.6.72

GRASS WHISTLING DUCKS IN THE HAWKESBURY VALLEY.

Grass Whistling Ducks have been recorded irregularly in the Hawkesbury Valley in small numbers over the past few years, although the only observation that I have made was that of six near Bakers Lagoon, Richmond on 15 February 1969 after a 6 inch fall of rain. Once again heavy rains caused an influx of these ducks to the Hawkesbury districts in mid-December 1971, and the ducks have since settled down in the district with numbers swelling to over 200 birds. The first observation was made by Mrs. R. Bigg and Mrs. L. Smith at Pitt Town Common in 1971 when ducks were observed.

Since that date, I have made the following observations:- Pitt Town Common 97 on 12.12.71; Fearnley's Lagoon 2 on 27.12.71; H.A.C. Grounds, Richmond 200+ on 6.2.72; and at the Golf Course Swamp, Windsor 215 on 6.5.72; 60 on 13.5.72; 51 on 18.5.72; 64 on 1.7.72; A. K. Morris at the same location recorded 143 on 25.7.72 (pers. Comm.).

The Golf Course Swamp at Windsor is located along Rickaby's Creek and the birds use this area as a day time roost and at dusk are known to move onto Pitt Town Common and possibly other such areas to feed.

A. Colemane,
Northmead. 10.7.72

(Further data on the irruption of this bird in New South Wales during 1971/72 is provided by a number of people. John Izzard (Finley) in a letter dated 28 July 1972 says these ducks are recorded in small numbers in most summers in the Finley - Tocumwal area, possibly strays from the resident flock at Blighty. However, last summer 250+ Grass Whistling Ducks were recorded on 4 December 1971 near Finley. The ducks remained in the district until the swamps dried out in late January. In his letter the point is made that the summer 1971/72 was the wettest that he had experienced during 14 years residence in the district.

From C. Lallas and B. Miller there comes a report of over 2000 on Lake Goran 32 km (20 ml) south of Gunnedah on 12 May 1972. I was advised by Merv. Goodwin (Gunnedah) that these Grass Whistling Ducks were first noticed at the Lake in January 1972 and are still reported (3.8.72) to be present although their numbers have dwindled. During

June and July he observed up to 2000 along the Mooki River some 22 km (14 ml) to the east - possibly the same birds.

Additional observations on these large flocks of Grass Whistling Ducks would be of value, particularly if the birds remained to breed - Ed)

A SHINING BRONZE CUCKOO AT COFFS HARBOUR.

On 22 February 1972 a Shining Bronze Cuckoo, which had injured its upper mandible through colliding with a window pane, was brought to me. It spent the day perched on my desk without attempting to move and in the afternoon Robert Floyd offered to take it home and care for it. I was surprised when he informed me later that the bird had eaten insects quite willingly and two days later, when he placed it in his backyard, it flew strongly away.

The Shining Bronze Cuckoo (Chalcites lucidus) breeds in New Zealand and winters in the Solomon Islands (Dorst 1962, The Migrations of Birds, p. 152). Specimens have been obtained in Eastern Australia mostly in spring and it has been generally assumed that they are stragglers that have lost their way. However, it is possible that the birds are regular visitors to Australia, escaping notice because of their resemblance to Golden Bronze Cuckoos. The Shining Bronze has the crown and mantle the same shade of bronze-green as the back whereas the Golden Bronze has the crown and mantle a contrasting purplish copper-bronze, forming a distinct two toned effect. Judging from gramophone records (K. & J. Bigwood, A Treasury of NZ Bird Song No. 4) their calls sound the same and descriptions of the eggs (Cayley 1968, What Bird is That? Fifth Edition) suggest they they might be hard to distinguish. In fact, these stragglers could well breed in this country without ornithologists being any wiser.

The Golden Bronze Cuckoo (C. plagosus) breeds in Australia and part of the population migrates to New Guinea and other islands to the north, whilst others over-winter here. Some authorities regard it as a sub-species of the New Zealand bird (C. lucidus plagosus). Both are illustrated and described in Slater (1970, A Field Guide to Australian Birds, Non Passerines); for a more detailed analysis of the differences see "Bird in the Hand" (1964, Aust. Bird Bander 2:113-4).

Peter Roberts,
Coffs Harbour. 28.6.72

REPORT ON THE SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The following people were elected to office: Chairman George Dibley; Vice-Chairman Arnold McGill; Sec./Treasurer Lola Smith; Ass. Secretary Bob Cooke; Conservation Officer Dr. Mason; Ass. Cons. Officer Margaret Cameron; Records Officer Alan Rogers; Ass. Records Officer Tim Kenny; Activities Officer Marie Dibley; Editor Alan Morris and Ass. Editor Beryl Marchant.

On behalf of the members present Mr. McGill moved a motion of appreciation for the work done by the committee during the year and particularly thanked Messrs. H. Battam and L. C. Haines, retiring members, for their efforts.

Following the election of Officers, Mr. A. McGill chaired a discussion on the need for Ornithological Research in New South Wales.

The first speaker, Mr. J. Disney spoke on "How to make use of the Museum", and detailed its resources of staff, skins and library.

Dr. H. Recher, Ecologist and Behaviourist at the Australian Museum, outlined methods of research, particularly the censusing of breeding bird populations, which is well within the scope of the amateur with a little help and direction. He said that there was an appalling lack of information available in Australia on the status and behaviour of birds.

Mr. A. Morris made a plea for observers to publish records, which would be useful for other workers. He made the following points: Good beachwashed birds were useful as specimens for the Australian Museum, and poor specimens could be used by CSIRO Wildlife Division for skeleton studies. Information on the location of Peregrine eyries is lacking - a bird important in the study of the effects of pesticides such as DDT and Dieldrin.

Mr. E. Hoskin spoke of the records system of the late Keith Hindwood which he is continuing. Mr. Hoskin outlined the various headings under which information is recorded and indicated his willingness to assist people requiring data. It is hoped to publish further details of the "Keith Hindwood Bird Recording System" (as it is now called) in future issues of "Birds".

CONSERVATION NOTES

Kooragang Island During June 1972 public hearings of the Kooragang Island pollution enquiry were conducted by the Pollution Control Commission and both the Newcastle Flora and Fauna Society and the NPWS gave evidence. The two organisations detailed the value of the mangrove, estuarine mud flats and salt marshes for wildlife in the Hunter Valley, particularly for birds, viz. 7,000 - 10,000 waders congregate in the estuary each summer including such rarities as 800 Black-tailed Godwit, 200 Broad-billed Sandpiper, 600 Terek Sandpiper and 25 White-winged Black Tern; The Mangrove Warbler here is at its most southern breeding point; and the area is important for Chestnut Teal and Mangrove Heron. As the Department of Public Works reclamation project for Kooragang Island will eliminate all the mangroves, mud flats and salt marshes, the above mentioned organisations and the State Fisheries Department called for the establishment of an area of 1000 acres to be set aside as a nature reserve on the north-east section of the island to preserve these habitats. The outcome of the enquiry is awaited with interest.

Use of D.D.T. in Australia - Report by Aust. Academy of Science This report, No. 14. February 1972 has just been published. The conclusions reached by the majority of the working group on the effects of D.D.T. in Australia on wildlife is as follows -

"11. There is insufficient information available concerning the effect of DDT on most non-target organisms in Australia. There is, as yet, no evidence that it has had any deleterious effects on the population of any bird or mammal in Australia, but further investigations are required."

Prof. Birch gave a minority report calling for the phasing out of DDT. For those interested in wildlife conservation the report is depressing for the members of the working group appear to have ignored work done overseas. The report infers that the effect of DDT residues in birds is "not understood". Twenty years of research by scientists in Europe and North America have demonstrated that DDT residues inhibit avian reproduction by causing birds to lay thin-shell eggs that break prematurely. The resulting low reproduction rate has caused steep population declines of many species of carnivorous birds on at least two continents. In some cases the effect has caused extinction of certain species over large portions of their range. Eggshell thickness measurements can demonstrate the presence or absence of a problem with birds

but no such data was cited. The viability of Australia's bird populations should not be presumed when no research work has been done! The report shows that in the cotton growing areas of the Namoi Valley 17.4 ppm body fat basis of DDT was the average for seven wild ducks. As human cancer victims have been found to have $2\frac{1}{2}$ times more DDT in their fat than normal people, Namoi shooters beware! 70 ppm in the fat of a Peregrine from Victoria is equally disturbing for Peregrines are one of the birds most susceptible to pesticide residues. Representations on this matter have been made to the usual quarters, it is regretted that no ornithologist in Australia is investigating this problem.

It is quite obvious that if members want to continue watching birds they had better become more involved in the conservation of wildlife and not leave the matter in the hands of one or two committee members. How often have you written a letter to your local MP on these matters?

MUSEUM MEETINGS SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 1972.

21 September	Mr. Alan Rogers	<i>New Zealand -</i>
19 October	Members Night	<i>Brian Bell -</i>
16 November	Dr. D. L. Serventy	<i>"Seabirds"</i>
21 December	Mr. H. Battam	<i>Chattam Island -</i>
		<i>"Short-tailed Shearwaters"</i>
		<i>Films of birds.</i>

(All meetings commence at 8 p.m. in the Lecture Room, Australian Museum, College Street, Sydney - meetings close at 10 p.m.).

REPORTS OF MUSEUM MEETINGS

15 June 1972 The retiring Chairman Mr. John Disney gave his address on "Birds in Pine Forests" in New South Wales". Mr. Disney covered some aspects of the work he commenced on a bird survey in a pine forest, located at Sunny Corner, near Bathurst. Here a study area has been established that contains all age classes of a pine forest. A census of breeding birds will be carried out in an 8 ha (20 acre) site in the pine forest and it is hoped that a similar site in an adjoining native forest will be censused for comparative purposes. Mr. Disney requested help from any person willing to assist in the location of breeding birds in the study area during November.

20 July 1972 Mr. Jack Purnell showed many of his excellent colour slides, concentrating mainly on birds of the mallee areas of Hattah and Wyperfield National Parks in Victoria, and Pulletop and Rankin Springs

in New South Wales. His pictures of Red-lored Whistler, Mallee Fowl, Black Honeyeater, Black-backed and Purple-backed Wrens, Black-capped Sittella and many other species showed the audience the skill of Mr. Purnell as a photographer and his comments proved his knowledge as an ornithologist.

To conclude the evening Mr. Harold Pollock showed a few slides of Egrets in flight and at nest and a series of slides of Mallee Fowl in Pulletop. We have not seen slides from Mr. Pollock before and look forward to seeing more at a later date.

NOTICE OF FIELD EXCURSIONS.

Saturday, 23 September - Annangrove, Maralya and Hawkesbury Swamps

Leader: E. Hoskin 88-2900

Meet 8.30 a.m. at Rogans Hill in Old Northern Road near Swans Hardware.

Saturday, 28 October - Seven Mile Beach State Park.

Leader: A. Morris, for information contact M. Dibley 570-1298

A coach will leave Chatswood Station at 7.30 a.m. sharp on the eastern side of the Railway Station at Deanes Bus Stop opp. hotel. Pick up at York St., City near Druitt Street 7.45 a.m., and at Sutherland on highway outside Bank of N.S.W. 8.10 a.m. Return City 6.30 p.m. Fare \$3.00 to be in hands of Mrs. Dibley by 19 October 1972. Minimum of 29 starters required.

Saturday & Sunday 9 - 10 December - Carlons Farm, Megalong Valley.

Tentative booking has been made with the "Packsaddlers" for the weekend. This is the old Carlon's Farm, a good bird area, in Green Gully, Megalong Valley via Blackheath. Accommodation for 12 persons has been tentatively arranged in 2-berth cabins, fuel stove, electric frypan and jug, cutlery and crockery provided - bring own seats. The costs - \$2.00 per person per night. The management wants final bookings by early September with deposit of \$1.00 per person.

Note: Fares and deposits for the above mentioned trips should be sent immediately to Mrs. M. Dibley, 18 Russell St., Oatley 2223. Deadline for Megalong Valley 25.9.72, for Seven Mile Beach 19.10.72. Cheques made payable to "N.S.W. Field Ornithologists Club".

REPORTS OF FIELD DAY EXCURSIONS.

Heathcote State Park, 18 June 1972 - A party led by Paul Barnes walked along the Pipe Line Road following the Woronora River through the Park. 36 persons present had good views of Rock Warblers, Buff-tailed Thornbills, seven species of Honeyeaters, including Yellow-tufteds along the trail although birdlife was not very plentiful. Late in the afternoon near Woronora Dam a Superb Lyrebird was in good song.

Curra Moors, Royal National Park, 22 July 1972 - A calm sunny day made conditions excellent for 27 members, led by George and Marie Dibley, to enjoy the Heathlands. 34 species were recorded including a White-breasted Sea Eagle at its nest. Beautiful Firetails, 9 species of Honeyeater, Emu Wren, Heathwren, Blue and Variegated Wrens. Right on the cliff edge at Currarong an Eastern Whipbird was recorded in the thick heath. Some of the party spent time along Lady Carrington Drive both before and after the main trip and recorded a Little Corella, 20 Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Top-knot Pigeons and at dusk three Green Catbirds. Total number of species seen for the day was 48.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

The following is a list of projects requiring information and assistance in which all members of the Club are able to take part.

Breeding Bird Census, Brisbane Water National Park. Any person prepared to assist Dr. Recher, Aust. Museum (Tel. 31-0711) in surveying the breeding birds of his study area at Woy Woy or would like to be taught how to census, please contact him.

Breeding Bird Census, Sunny Corner near Bathurst. Mr. J. Disney, Aust. Museum, requires assistance in November to survey breeding birds in pine forests and adjoining native forests. Will necessitate an overnight stay either at Sunny Corner or Bathurst.

Beach Surveys for Dead Seabirds. Information on the numbers and species of seabirds washed up dead on beaches is of value to the Seabird Group, the regional organiser being Alan Morris. A special form is available to complete after each walk and any specimens collected will be readily identified by Messrs. Disney, Morris or Rogers.

RAOU early Oct.

Rockdale 7.08 - 7.38 town Hall
 Allan Morris, Deano Blue bus.
 bus 6.46.
 32.

CONTENTS.

	Page
The Pectoral Sandpiper in New South Wales - E. S. Hoskin	17
Nesting of the Cicada-bird - J. Purnell	19
The White-headed Petrel off Sydney Heads - T. Kenny	21
Little Wattle-bird Trio - M. Sharland	23
Grass Whistling Duck Observations in N.S.W. - Messrs. Wheeler, Coleman, Miller et al.	24
A Shining Bronze Cuckoo at Coffs Harbour - P. Roberts	26
Report of the 1972 F.O.C. Annual General Meeting	27
Notices	28

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