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EDITORIAL

This is my first issue as editor of Canberra Bird Notes, and I am grateful to my predecessor who had assembled sufficient copy to fill most of this issue. I hope that members and friends of C.O.G. will continue to send in articles, papers, notes, letters and reviews for publication in C.B.N.

I do not intend to change the content, style and format which was established by the first two editors, Graeme Chapman and Tony D'Andria, We should all be very grateful for the time and effort they and their helpers. put in to making C.B.N. a success.

I would appreciate it, if material for publication in C.B.N. is submitted typed or in clear hand writing with double-spacing. Articles which need only minor corrections will be printed in the next available number. Those needing major alterations will be returned to the authors for redrafting. Bird names will continue to be in accordance with

"Birds in the Australian High Country" unless stated otherwise in the next.

I am willing to help authors with their drafts and please feel free to contact me at home, phone 814198 or at work, phone 487122.

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AUSTRALIAN BIRD ATLAS

Gerald Horey

Today we are all conservationists. But what are we going to preserve - the smog of Wollongong, the discordant sprawl of Sydney, the slag heaps and rubbish tips? As ornithologists we scorn all this. We want to preserve our birds and the flora on which they exist. But is our house in any better order? Do we know where our birds are to be found, what species are in danger, what changes are taking place in the pattern of distribution or even whether our migratory species disappear in winter? Today's avifauna distribution is pure guesswork; so how can we conserve what is riot known to exist?

As a start we must survey what is here in Australia now, two-day. Other countries have blazed a trail, notably Britain and Ireland and New Zealand. Where they have led others, France, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Sweden, Belgium and Poland, are following. Each is, or has, compiled a Bird Atlas of all species observed to be breeding within their own country.

Now it may be our turn. R.A.O.U. has decided to organise a nationwide survey, not merely of breeding birds but of all birds, calling on the help of all Australian ornithologists both amateur and professional. But prudently there will be a pilot survey first. This will establish procedures, set standards and show how viable such a vast project is in our sparsely populated country. And this is how Canberra fits in. The Pilot Survey area is on our doorstep. It is a 5,000 square miles chunk of N.S.W. with a northern boundary from Lake George to Jervis Bay, a western boundary running due south from Lake George to intersect the southern boundary which runs due west from Bermagui. The coast, including all islands in the eastern boundary.

The Pilot Survey is to yield results that must be ready in time for display at the International Ornithological Congress to be held in Canberra in August, 1974. It has already started in March, 1973, and will run until the end of May, 1974, leaving; a bare two months for the preparation of the I.O.C. display.

The information required is the observation of any and every species within these time limits and anywhere within the Survey area. Recording cards and instruction sheets on how to fill them in have been printed and can be obtained on application to:

Australian Bird Atlas,
P.O. Box 385, Woden, A.C.T. 2606

But if you have no cards then observations setting out all the facts on any old envelope or scrap of paper and sent to the above address will be of equal value.

Results will be plotted species by species on maps and, where necessary, on a time basis. For instance, we hope to show when migratory species appear and disappear, though what their movements are will have to await the full survey. We are using the R502 series of maps with a scale of 1:250,000 and recommend that all observers purchase the appropriate sheets (cost \$0.75 each) entitled Canberra, Ulladulla and Bega. Full details will be found on the instruction sheets. Interim reports of the Survey's progress will be appearing in Canberra Bird Notes, the R.A.O.U. Newsletters and possibly elsewhere.

We are hoping for 100,000 observations and 250-300 species. We know it can be done but only with the help of every ornithologist that can be pressed into service. Although there will be assistance from Sydney and probably from Melbourne the bulk of the work must be done by Canberra observers. And don't think that you have to spend hours at a time making up lists. It doesn't matter how short your stay in one place, a ten minute rest on a long car journey, will yield useful information provided it is accurate. This really is a great challenge.

It is work that must be done by amateurs, though. professionals will be helping. It is worthwhile work and will produce something of lasting value for coming generations. We appeal to you all. Let's find out what we have to conserve.

THE AVIFAUNA OF LAKE COWAL - NEW
SOUTH WALES By Wim Vestjens

Lake Cowal, a semi permanent lake, is situated between the Lachlan river in the north, and West Wyalong in the south, in central New South Wales. When full it has a length of 28.5km and a width of 9.5 km. covering an area about 16.2 hectares. These dimensions are constantly changing according to the season and rainfall. The lake consists of two bodies of water, a shallow open area north of Boogies Lookout at the northern end, called the small lake and the larger and deeper body of water south of Boogies Lookout. The northern part of the lake is covered by stands of Eucalypt species with densely covered areas of lignum. The edge of the lake is covered by large areas of Cane grass and a few stands of lignum. Further away from the shore it changes to open savannah woodland with Eucalypt, Acacia and Callitris trees. Most birds concentrated at the northern part of the larger part of the lake which provides idea breeding, feeding and roosting places. The southern part of the lake consists mainly of open water.

Between June 1972 and February 1973 three more visits were made.

The status of the 164 species of birds recorded in the area is as follows: V = vagrant (seen less than ½ of the visits), C = common (seen more than ½ of the visits), B = breeding.

The sequence and names follow "An Index of Australian Bird Names" by C.S.I.R.O. Division of Wildlife Research 1969.

Emu	C	B	Grey Teal	C	B
Australian Pelican	C	B	Chestnut Teal	C	B
Darter	C	B	Blue-winged Shoveler	C	B
Black Cormorant	C	B	Pink-eared Duck	C	B
Little Black Cormorant	C	B	White-eyed Duck	C	B
Pied Cormorant	V	B	Wood Duck	C	B
Little Pied Cormorant	C	B	Blue-billed Duck	C	B
Little Grebe	C	B	Musk Duck	C	B
Hoary-Headed Grebe	C	B	Black-shouldered Kite	V	-
Great crested Grebe	V	-	Letter-winged Kite	V	-
White-Necked Heron	C	B	Fork-tailed Kite	V	
White-Face Heron	C	B	Whistling Eagle	C	B
Cattle Egret	V	-	Australian Goshawk	C	B
White Egret	C	B	Collared Sparrowhawk	C	-
Little Egret	C	-	Australian Little Eagle	V	-
Plumed Egret	V	-	Wedge-tailed Eagle	V	B
Nankeen Night Heron	C	B	White-breasted Sea Eagle	V	B
Brown Bittern	C	B	Spotted Harrier	V	B
White Ibis	C	B	Swamp Harrier	C	B
Straw-Necked Ibis	C	B	Black Falcon	V	-
Glossy Ibis	C	B	Peregrine	C	-
Royal Spoonbill	C	B	Little Falcon	C	B
Yellow-Billed Spoonbill	C	B	Nankeen Kestrel	C	B
Grass Whistling duck	V	-	Brown Hawk	C	B
Black Swan	C	B	Stubble Quail	C	B
Freckled Duck	V	-	Brolga	V	-
Mountain Duck	C	B	Banded Landrail	V	-
Black Duck	C	B	Australian spotted Crake	C	B

cont /-

Spotless Crane	V	B	Common Bronzewing	V	-
Black-tailed Native Hen	C	B	Crested Pigeon	C	B
Dusky Moorhen	C	B	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	V	
Swamphen	C	B	Galah	C	B
Coot	C	B	Cockatiel	C	B
Australian Painted Snipe	C	B	Ringneck Parrot	C	B
Spur-winged Plover	C	B	Blue Bonnet	C	B
Banded Plover	V		Red-rumped Parrot	C	
Red-kneed Dotterel	C	B	Mulga Parrot	C	-
Red-capped Dotterel	V	B	Budgerygah	C	B
Black-fronted Dotterel	C	B	Pallid Cuckoo	C	B
Eastern Golden Plover	V	-	Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo	C	B
Japanese Snipe	V	-	Boobook Owl	C	B
Greenshank	V	-	Barn Owl	C	B
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	C	-	Tawny Frogmouth	C	B
Red-necked Stint	V	-	Fork-tailed Swift	V	-
Black-tailed Godwit	V	-	Azure Kingfisher	V	-
Bar-tailed Godwit	V		Laughing Kookaburra	C	B
White-headed Stilt	C	-	Sacred Kingfisher	C	B
Avocet	V	-	Rainbow Bee-eater	C	B
Australian Pratincole	V	-	Dollar-Bird	V	-
Silver Gull	C	B	Singing Bushlark	C	B
Whiskered Tern	C	-	Welcome Swallow	C	B
Caspian Tern	V	-	Tree-Martin	C	B
Gull-billed Tern	C	B	Fairy Martin	C	B
Domestic Pigeon	V	-	Australian Pipit	C	B
Peaceful Dove	V	-	Ground Cuckoo-shrike	V	B
Diamond Dove	V	-	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	C	E

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White-winged triller	C B		Whiteplumed Honeyeater	C
Grey-crowned Babbler	C B		Blue-faced Honeyeater	V
Golden-headed Fantail-			Little Friar-Bird	C B
warbler	C B			
Little Grassbird	C B	Noisy Friar-Bird		C B
Reed-warbler	C B	Striped Honeyeater		C
Brown Songlark	C	B	Painted Honeyeater	V
Rufous songlark	C B	Noisy Miner		C
Blue-and-white Wren	V B	Yellow-throated Miner		C
Variegated Wren	C B	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	C	
Western warbler	V -	Zebra Finch		C B
Weebill	C B	House Sparrow		C -
Little Thornbill	C B	Starling		C
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	C	B	Magpie Lark	C B
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	C B		White-winged Chough	C B
Whiteface	C B		Apostle Bird	C B
White-fronted chat	C B			
			White-breasted Wood-swallow	C B
Red-capped Robin	C B			
			White-browed Woodswallow	C -
Grey Fantail	C B		Black-faced Woodswallow	C -
Willie Wagtail	C B			
Satin Flycatcher	V -	Dusky Wood-swallow		V -
	C B	Pied Butcher-bird		C B
Restless Flycatcher				
Golden Whistler	C -	Grey Butcher-bird		C B
Rufous Whistler	C B	Black-backed Magpie		C B
Skrike-tit	V -	Australian Raven		C B
Brown tree-creeper	V B	Little Raven		C B
Mistletoe Bird	C B			
Striated Pardalote	C B			
Grey-breasted Silvereye	V -			
Singing Honeyeater	V B			

Feeding Behaviour of a Immature Brown GoshawkTony Stokes

The 'Lake Road' skirting the western shore of Lake George, N.S.W. is renowned for the myriads of rabbits which move away as one drives along it. The Brown Goshawk, *Accipiter fasciatus*, is similarly renowned as a predator of rabbits. The juxtaposition of these two facts is probably why I was able to record some interesting behaviour in an immature goshawk on the road on the fine clear morning of the 2nd March 1973.

At 7.35 a.m. (Eastern Summer Time) from a distance of about 50 feet, I watched, through binoculars, the goshawk dismember and feed upon an adult rabbit. The body was prostrate on its side and the method was simply to stand upon it and tear at the head with the beak. All fur as well as meat was eaten; seemingly the only criteria used was the size of the chunk torn off.

Subsequent inspection revealed that all of the facial region to the neck had been eaten. No attempt had been made to eat the lower portion of the body. Similarly I saw no attempt to turn over the rabbit and start on the underneath side of the face.

Serventy & Whittell (1962) state that the bird feeds entirely on "live" kills not carrion. I cannot categorically deny that this bird did not kill the rabbit as I only entered the scene while it was feeding, but rigor mortis had set in and it was wet from the morning dew. This indicates that carrion may, at least sometimes, be used by young birds.

At 8.10 a.m. the bird flew to a nearby log and surveyed the rabbits browsing in the surrounding briar-covered, paddock. At 8.13 a.m. it flew some 20 feet and landed about 10 feet from one such adult rabbit. It then gazed at the feeding rabbit for some 30 seconds before starting to walk (using alternate feet) slowly towards it. The bird was quickening its pace as it went and by the time the rabbit saw its intent, the goshawk had broken into a sort of lunging head-long run. I have no doubt that the bird intended to strike only with the beak as the rabbit only moved when it was one foot away and it would have had no chance of bringing its talons into play. The prey hopped quickly behind a briar limb.

It emerged on the other side and continued to browse seemingly unconcerned. The young goshawk meanwhile watched through th^e limb for another 5 minutes and then made a final attempt at capture by hopping (using both legs) quickly around the limb and at the rabbit. This time its evasion was much smarter. The bird then flew to a branch and I saw no more attempts made.

Discussion: This method of attacking on the ground smacks of inexperience and was in fact, very ineffective. A fast attack from the air may well have had a different result. It seems probable that what I saw was merely an example of an education phase which many young raptors may have to go through in order to gain proficiency. Once this has been gained it may well eat only what it kills and thus Serventy & Whittell's statement may be true for adult birds.

Ref: Serventy & Whittell (1962) "Birds of Western Australia"

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Dear Editor,

On Friday 22nd December 1972, about 2.30 p.m. my wife and I were at Bega and we were surprised to see a Jabiru on a swamp on the very edge of Bega, where you turn to leave for Tathra.

There were also 13 Royal and 1 Yellow-billed Spoonbills, 5 White Ibis, 1 White Egret, 200 Black Duck and some Swampheens.

Jim McNaughton.

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Birds Nesting in Canberra Botanic Gardens

1971/72 Season

by C. Green & A. McWhirter

Species	No. of Nests	No. Number		
		Eggs	Young	Fledged
Brush Bronze wing	5	10	6	6
Eastern Rosella	1	3	3	2
Pallid Cuckoo	1	1	1	-
Black-faced Cuckoo	3	6	4	4
Shrike Blackbird	12	35	20	7
Superb Blue Wren	8	26	18	18
Striated Thornbill	1	2	2	2
Yellow-Tailed Thornbill	1	4	3	3
Speckled warbler	1	3	3	3
Yellow Robin	2	4	3	-
Grey Fantail	6	16	12	7
Grey Shrike-Thrush	2	6		4
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	8	22	8	8
Eastern Spinebill	1	2	2	2
Red-browed Finch	4	18	10	10
Banded Finch	3	14	13	8

Dear Editor,

Enclosed please find listings of the birds of the Fyshwick area, bounded by Kelly's Farmhouse, Jerrabomberra Creek, Lake Burley Griffin to the Duntroon Bridge and back along to the Sewage Ponds and Kelly's farmhouse.

These are the birds I have seen and positively identified since those published in C.B.N: 1 No. 4, June 1969. Others have, I believe, seen more in numbers of some of these species; e.g. I believe the Greenshank and Curlew-Sandpipers were seen in larger groups than I was lucky enough to see.

The pelicans deserted the Jerrabomberra Creek area when the silt trap was being built upstream. The gulls have amused me when up to 200, have stood on the iced-up swamp near Kelly's house, like so many lost sheep. Hares are fairly regularly seen, together with an occasional fox. There is an almost pure albino fox in the area, the only colour being on his head and (perhaps) on his feet. The sewage ponds are noticeable for the Black Cormorants that congregate there - In excess of 500 at times.

Jim McNaughton.

PELICAN - 7 on 31/12/72 only 2 seen, singularly on different days, at Jerrabomberra Creek over past approximately 18 months.

DARTERS - 1 on 12/2/72, 4 on 22/10/72, 1 on 19/11/72, 4 on 10/12/72, 5 on 31/12/72. 4 were males, with one male on nest in Molonglo River Willows.

WHITE NECKED HERON - 2 on 11/1/69, 1 on 8/10/72, 1 on 20/10/72, 1 on 17/12/72.

NANKEEN NIGHT HERON - 3 immatures on 19/2/72 in Willows of Molonglo River, building up to 16 on 10/12/72.

GLOSSY IBIS - 20 on 10/10/71, 1 on 17/12/71, 1 on 24/10/71, one from Feb. '72 to maximum of 5 on 12 11/72.

ROYAL SPOONBILL- 3 on 12/2/72, 3 on 19/2/72, 3 on - 27/2/72, 1 on 17 12 72.

YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL - 2 on 8/10/72, 2 on 15/10/72, 1 on 25/11/72, 3 on 17/12/72.

BLACK SWAN - 4 on 15/10/72, 4 on 21/10/72, 4 on 22/10/72, 4 on 10/12/72, some occasional local breeding, in view of size cygnets I have seen.

MOUNTAIN DUCK - maximum of 15 on 12/11/72.

MALLARD - 1 on 25/5/69.

CHESTNUT TEAL - 1 on 12/2/72, 2 on 19/2/72, 1 on 2/10/72, 1 on 8/10/72

HARDHEAD - usually some in area; maximum 10 on 24/9/72.

MUSK DUCK 7 2 on 27/2/72, 1 on 21/10/72, 2 on 19/11/72, 2 on 10/12/72, 1 on 17/12/72, 1 on 31/12/72.

BLACK SHOULDERED KITE - appears that at least two pairs nest in this area.

WHISTLING EAGLE - 1 on 8/10/72.

BROWN GOSHAWK - 2 on 6/7/69, 1 on 26/3/72, 1 on 10/9/72, 1 on 10/12/72, 1 on 10/12/72.

SWAMP HARRIER - 1 on 7/10/72, 1 on 15/10/72, 1 on 12/11/72, 1 on 10/12/72 1 on 17/12/72.

LITTLE FALCON - present in ones and twos.

BLACK FALCON - 1 on 13/12/70 this bird was seen 5 times.

BROWN HAWK - 1 on 25/11/72.

NANKEEN KESTREL - 2 on 2/10/72, 1 on 15/10/72.

STUBBLE QUAIL - one freshly killed and dropped by Swamp Harrier, on 25/11/72.

LEWIN WATER RAIL - 1 on 12/7/70.

BLACK TAILED NATIVE HEN - 2 on 5/1/69, 2 on 25/5/69.

SPOTTED CRAKE - 1 on 27/11/71

PAINTED SNIPE - 1 on 24/9/72, 2 on 30/9/72, 2 on 2/10/72, 2 on 7/10/72, 2 on 31/12 72.

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER - 1 on 23/9/72, 1 on 24/9/72.

RED KNEED DOTTERAL - 1 on 2/10/72, 1 on 19/11/72, 1 on 17/12/72.

JAPANESE SNIPE - a maximum of 14 on 21/10/72 and on 31/12/72.

BAR TAILED GODWIT - 17/12/72.

GREENSHANK - 2 on 30/9/72, 2 on 1/10/72.

RED NECKED STINT - 1 on 17/9/71, slide identified by F.T.H. Smith Melbourne.

SHARP TAILED SANDPIPER - Passing through in small groups; some small groups stay several days, maximum number 80 on 17/10/71.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - 1 on 17/9/72.

CURLEW SANDPIPER - 10 on 10/10/71, 2 on 17/9/72, 1 on 23/9/72, 1 on 30/9/72, 1 on 1/10/72, 1 on 7/10/72, 1 on 8/10/72.

WHITE HEADED STILT - 2 on 23/3/69, 2 on 3/10/69.

GULL BILLED TERN - 1 on 17/9/72.

MARSH TERN - 2 on 10/10/71, 1 on 17/9/72.

WHITE COCKATOO - 3 on 24/4/71, 1 on 20/6/71.

KOOKABURRA - 1 on 22/10/72.

SACRED KINGFISHER - 2 on 19/11/72, 1 on 25/11/72, 2 on 10/12/72. DOLLAR BIRD - 1 on 8/3/70, 1 on 28/2/71.

TREE MARTIN - 20 on 9/9/72, 8 on 10/9/72.

FAIRY MARTIN - 20 on 6/9/70, 14 on 9/9/72.

BLACKBIRD - Up to 2 along Jerrabomberra Creek, up to 2 in willows of Molonglo River.

BROWN SONGLARK - 1 on 8/10/72, 2 on 21/10/72, 4 on 22/10/72, 2 on 12/11/72: 1 on 19/11/72, 1 on 17/12/72, 2 on 31/12/72.

BLUE WREN - Usually seen along Molonglo River in small numbers.

CISTICOLA - 6 on 2/3/69 normally ones and twos

LITTLE THORNBILL - 5 on 6/4/69.

YELLOW TAILED THORNBILL - 4 on 9/11/72.

SPECKLED WARBLER - 1 on 15/6/69.

WHITE FRONTED CHAT - 2 on 28/2/71, 4 on 31/10/71,

GREY FANTAIL - 3 on 22/10/72, 3 on 25/11/72, 3 on 10/12/72, 2 on 17/12/72.

RUFOUS WHISTLER - 2 nesting 19/11/72, 2 on 25/11/72.

GREY SHRIKE THRUSH - 1 on 19/11/72.

GREY BREASTED SILVEREYE - 9 on 22/10/72,

YELLOW FACED HONEYEATER e 5 on 22/10/72.

NOISY FRIAR BIRD - 1 on box thorn; 1/10/72.

GREENFINCH - 5 on 23/8/70, 5 on 4/7/71, 3 on 1/8/71.

INDIAN MYNAH - 1 on 15/6/69, 2 on 27/6/69.

WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE 2 on 1/8/71.

Dear Editor,

Knowing the great interest in Canberra in movements of migrating honeyeaters, Mrs. C.C. Crowe who lives in Berrima N.S.W. has supplied the following observations.

Steve Wilson

As reported to you, we have been on the Honeyeater's migratory line this year and the following are dates and some approximate numbers passing over:-

August 15th Morning, parties of 15 to 20

18th " parties of 10 or 12

19th " of 30 to 40

23rd parties of 10, afternoon about 30

27th Afternoon, parties of 25 to 30, also one group Wattle-birds about 30, travelling S.W.

September 3rd Morning, parties of 10 to 12

September 8th Morning, parties of 20 to 25 10th
 " " " " 15 to 20
 17th " " " " 10 to 12
 21st Morning & afternoon, 500 to 600
 24th " " group of 20 and 25's
 October 1st About 50 went over
 2nd Morning, one or two groups, about 30
 3rd Tuesday, a few small groups
 4th A few in the morning
 6th A few groups of 5 or 6
 12th Morning, one group of about 20
 13th Small family groups of 5's & 6's
 15th " " " "
 16th " " " "
 21st " " " "
 25th " " " "

It was noticeable that the group of Wattle Birds flew over low and went off in a South-Westerly direction. Many of these spent the Winter months with us, feeding mainly on Banksias, of which there are two species in our area, and as these had finished flowering, the birds could have been moving off to the edge of the tablelands, where the native Grevilleas, mainly Grevillea Bauerii would be flowering. During the first three weeks, when we noticed the groups going over, they travelled in a Southerly direction, and during the next weeks, they travelled in a South-Easterly direction, on leaving the second group of Poplar trees.

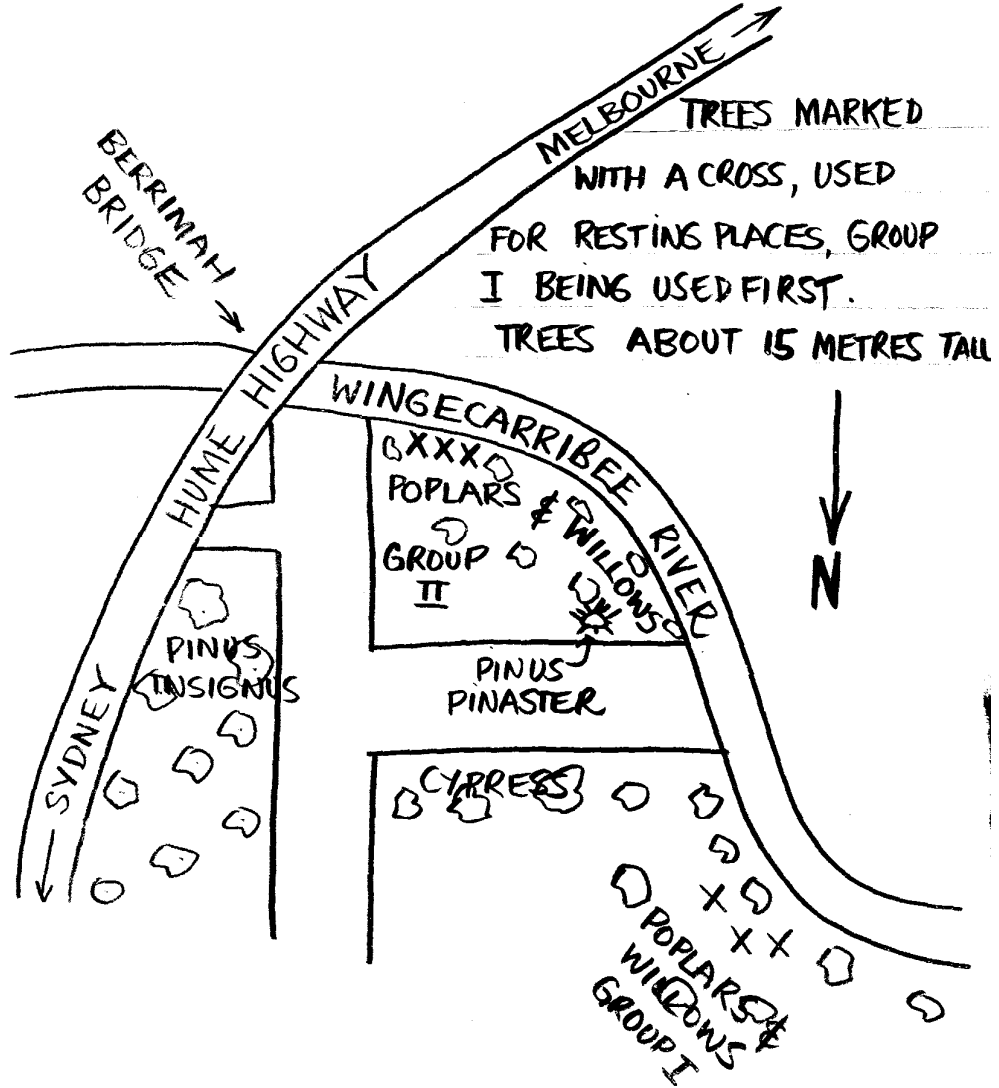
The time spent resting would not be more than thirty seconds in either resting place but occasionally two or three birds would remain for a few seconds after the main group of birds had left.

I was unable to identify most of the species, but from their appearance in flight, some were Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and we noticed that the Yellow-winged Honeyeaters had returned to us about the first week in October.

...over

We shall keep watch for the return of these birds about March-April next year and will contact you when they appear.

We have been amazed at the thousands of Honeyeaters which must have gone over, not realising so many travelled through.



MEETINGS

February 14: Ed Slater showed two superb Canadian Wildlife Service films "Big Horn" and "Death of a Legend", about Big Holm Sheep and Wolves. shots of birds were seen, but members appreciated the conservation message with its applications to our Australian animals. We are very grateful to the Canadian High Commission for having made these films available.

March 14: Gerald Horey launched the Pilot Scheme of the proposed Bird Atlas Project of Australia. The discussion which followed was very lively and constructive and we hope that most members will participate in the scheme. Progress will be reported in subsequent issues of C.B.N. and displayed graphically at meetings.

Birds of the Month: Were swallows and martins by Mark Clayton with helpful suggestions from his audience. We hope that Mark will soon publish something on recognising these birds in C.B.N.

April 11 Steve Wilson will display and discuss "Birds on Postage Stamps".

Birds of the Month will be pipits and larks by Simon Bennett.

May 9: Dick Schodde will tell us all about "the Western Arnhemland Bird Survey"

Birds of the Month: will be Sharp-tailed and Pectoral Sandpipers by Jim McNaughton.

June 13: Annual General meeting and Members Night. Bring your slides and tell us about your recent birding.

STATUS OF BIRDS OF CANBERRA &DISTRICT (Cont'd)1. BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE Elanus notatus

Breeding resident. Distribution throughout mainland Australia where it favours open woodland and grassland habitats. Extensive clearing of forest and woodland for agriculture has extended the suitable habitat. It is now widely distributed in east coast areas where it did not formerly occur. Single birds and pairs can be seen hovering over sports fields, grassed areas and golf courses within the Canberra City boundaries. Breeding is in winter (May-June-July) with sometimes a second brood in spring (September- October). Juveniles have rufous coloured head and chest.

The closely related Letter-winged Kite (E. scriptus) is a bird of the semi-arid and arid grasslands of the interior. Occasional irruptions have brought it into more coastal areas. No confirmed record for A.C.T.

Full details of any sighting of the Letter ringed Kite should be provided, as the black underwing areas in the Black Shouldered Kite can be quite extensive in some birds.

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2. FORK-TAILED KITE Milvus migrans

Rare vagrant. Extensive distribution from Northern Africa, southern Europe, India, Indonesia, New Guinea to Australia. Although irrupting southwards during severe drought, this species is most common across northern Australia. Usually observed in groups of a few birds through to very large flocks which congregate around likely sources of refuse and offal i.e. station homesteads, slaughter yards, refuse dumps. Commonly observed feeding on roadside carrion in the north. The few A.C.T. records are all associated with known irruptions. No breeding record.

2. FORK-TAILED KITE Cont'd. Milvus migrans

The few sight records referred to the Square-tailed Kite (Lophoictinia isura) are most probably pale immature forms of the Fork-tailed Kite.

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3. WHISTLING EAGLE Haliastur Sphenurus

Breeding resident. Extensively distributed throughout mainland Australia, New Guinea, Solomon Islands and New Caledonia. Favoured habitat is open woodland or grassland with scattered trees in close proximity to water. In the region, it can usually be found soaring in the vicinity of Lakes George and Bathurst and is not uncommon at times at the marshy eastern end of Lake Burley Griffin. Although primarily a scavenger and carrion feeder it does kill small birds, mammals and larger insects. Breeding records are for spring (September).

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4. GREY GOSHAWK Accipiter novaehollandiae

Rare vagrant. Restricted to the more humid environments of northern and eastern Australia and also Tasmania, in addition to New Guinea, Solomon islands and eastern Indonesia. Favoured habitat is tall open forest or closed forest (= rain forest). The few records in the region appear to be of transients although it is resident in small numbers in the wetter Eucalypt forests to the east of Braidwood.

No breeding record.

5. BROWN GOSHAWK Accipiter fasciatus
 Breeding resident. Widely distributed throughout Australia and Tasmania and outlying islands from Christmas Island, Lesser Sundae, Timor, New Guinea, New Caledonia to Fiji. Favoured habitat is the drier open forest and woodland. Single birds or pairs have been observed in almost all occurrences of such habitat in the region. Regular sightings have been made in urban areas fringing Mts. Majura, Ainslie and Black Mountain and Red Rill. A fierce predator, pursuing birds through tree-canopies and swooping on small mammals and birds on the ground. Spring and summer breeder. Although it is only the large female of this species which can be distinguished from the related Sparrowhawk (A. cirrocephalus) the data suggest that it is the most common.

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6. SPARROWHAWK Accipiter cirrocephalus
 Resident breeder, but population much smaller than that of the Brown Goshawk (A. fasciatus). Extensive distribution throughout Australia and Tasmania, Aru Islands and New Guinea favouring rather drier woodlands and open forest. Usually observed singly, but occasionally in pairs. Preys on birds, small mammals, insects and hunts like the Brown Goshawk. Breeds spring-summer (September-December) Unless seen pursuing prey is likely to be overlooked. A single male (same bird?) has been observed in the Turner-O'Connor area below Black Mountain at irregular intervals between 1966-1972.

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7. LITTLE EAGLE Hieraetus morphnoides
 Breeding resident. Distributed throughout mainland Australia and New Guinea in open woodlands or where grassland or cleared land abuts wooded areas. In the local region, pairs have

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7. LITTLE EAGLE (Cont'd) Hieraetus morphnoides
occupied territories centred on Black Mountain,
Molonglo Gorge and the western scarp of Lake
George. Plumage variations are a feature of this
species and both light and dark phases have been
observed locally. The distinctive, loud three-noted
whistle and staccato chatter often draw attention
to soaring birds, which may spiral to great
heights. Small mammals and rabbits in particular,
reptiles birds and insects are killed, but carrion
may also be eaten- Breeding records locally are for
late spring-early summer (October-December).

8. WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE Aquila audax
Breeding resident. Widely distributed throughout
Australia and in southern New Guinea. Usually
seen in pairs, this very large eagle is not
uncommon anywhere outside the strictly urban
areas of the A.C.T. and is occasionally seen
soaring over inner suburbs. It occurs throughout
a very wide range of habitats from humid to arid
and coastal to alpine. Small to medium sized,
mammals, larger birds and reptiles are killed,
but carrion may predominate in the diet. Locally,
breeding behaviour commences in mid-winter (June)
with first eggs laid in August, but sometimes as
late as November.

9. WHITE-BREASTED SEA-EAGLE Haliaeetus leucogaster
Breeding resident. Extensively distributed in the Oriental Region and throughout mainland Australia and New Guinea. It is closely associated with littoral and riparian habitats and may extend far inland along major rivers or large inland lakes. In Australia it is most common in coastal areas, but locally, pairs have maintained territories and bred at Lakes George and Bathurst. Breeding commences in late autumn, when nest building begins. Eggs are laid in late winter-spring (August-September) Occasional adult birds have been observed soaring over Lake Burley Griffin in the post-breeding season. (summer)

10. SPOTTED HARRIER Circus assimilis
Uncommon vagrant - possibly migrant through the region. Extensively distributed throughout mainland Australia but absent in New Guinea and vagrant in northern Tasmania. Favours open drier habitat than the related Swamp Harrier, but nevertheless it can sometimes occur foraging in swampy habitat. Commonly glides very low over grass and bushes and preys on small mammals, birds and reptiles. Observed singly or in pairs, most local records being outside the normal breeding season. (July-October) No breeding record.

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11. SWAMP HARRIER Circus approximans
Breeding, resident? Very extensive distribution throughout Australia, New Guinea, New Caledonia, Fiji and New Zealand (also Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands) Favours swamps and

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11. SWAMP HARRIER Cont'd.Circus approximans

marshy habitat and adjoining grassland areas. It is known to be migratory in Tasmania and southern Australia. Although recorded in every month locally, most records are of single birds seen in the same locality, mainly during the warmer months. This may reflect observers bias! Breeding has been recorded locally, with one record for cumbungi beds fringing Lake Burley Griffin. Eggs were laid in spring (September. October)

12. OSPREYPandion haliaetus

Rare vagrant. Almost world-wide distribution. In Australia very largely confined to coastal habitats, but has been recorded on inland rivers and far inland lakes. The spectacular soaring behaviour and diving for fish prey was described by Vestjens in Canberra Bird Notes No, 6 (1970) from observations made on a single bird at Lake George on 16/9/68. An unconfirmed record of an apparent immature bird was made for Lake Burley Griffin on 13/2/66.

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