



Canberra bird notes

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July 1973 50c

EDITORIAL

One of the main objects of COG and CBN is the exchange of information about birds. All are welcome to participate: by taking part in discussions at meetings; by helping others identify birds in the field; by recording significant observations in the Observation Book; by helping with various bird study projects; and by contributing material for publication in CBN.

In the previous issue of CBN there was a call for participation in the Australian Bird Atlas Scheme. The response has been good and this issue contains a progress report.

The instalments in CBN, on the Status of Birds of Canberra and District, would not have been possible without the help of a decade of observations by numerous observers. We welcome more information about the birds of our area.

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Several of COG's members are conducting studies involving a variety of study methods including birdbanding. Some of them would welcome help at certain times of the year. If you are interested in helping, please contact a member of the Excursions Committee.

For those who spend weekends on the NSW coasts worthwhile activities includes watching sea birds from boats or headlands, and patrolling beaches for washed up birds. New Beach Patrol Survey forms will soon be available from the Secretary of the Australian Sea-bird Group, P.O. Box 235, Civic Square, ACT 2608,

A new nesting season is starting and if you wish, to participate in the RAOU Nest Record Scheme, please write for cards and information to its new organiser- Mrs. Helen Young, 33 View Hill Crescent, Eltham, Vic 3095.

Thus there are many ways of studying and appreciating birds. Almost all tastes are catered for - including deep-fried for Sunday dinner.

THE AUSTRALIAN BIRD ATLAS

Progress in the survey of the Pilot Scheme is going well with the results to the last week of June quite encouraging.

211 species have been reported, including some not frequently seen this part of the country, such as Grey-tailed tattler, Lewin Water Rail, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Ground Parrot, and Spangled Drongo.

Total observations approach 6,000 with some birds being reported rather more frequently than might have been expected. i.e. Cattle Egret, Southern Emu Wren., Spotted quail Thrush, Heath Wren and so on.

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The area is divided into 168 squares of which 122 have been visited at least once. Although incomplete, the figures month by month are:

March	55	squares
April	57	"
May	68	"
June	72	"

The most completely surveyed square is the one containing Milton and Ulladulla where 138 different species have been reported.

Helpers now total 72 and, of these, rather more than 50% have never before had any contact with organised ornithology. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance given us by everybody. Helpers by name are:

Canberra Mr. H. Anderson Mr. & Mrs. L» Hall
Mr. B. Baker Mr. IT. Hermes
Mr. D. Balfour Mr & Mrs. G. Horey
Mr. S. Bennett Mr. N. Kaye
Mr. Or. Clark Mr, C. Kogan
Mr. M. Clayton Dr & Mrs. R. Mason
Miss R. Cummins Miss S. Mathews
Mr. C. Davey Mr & Mrs. N. Morrison
Mr. S. Davey Mr. H. Nix
Mr. H. Elvish Mr. B. Pennefather
Mr. A. Fleming Mr. & Mrs.C. Piiarski
Mr. M. Fleming Mr. P. Roberts
Dr. & Mrs. P. Fullager
& Family Mr. & Mrs. P. Eyan
Mr. K. Goodridge Mr & Mrs. J. Scollay
Mr. T. Gourlay Mrs, R. Stgnton
Mr. W. Gregson Mr. D. Stewart
Mr & Mrs. D. Guppy& family Mr & Mrs. C. Walters
Mr & Mrs. S. Wilson
Mr, M, Carins Mr & Mrs, D. Wilson

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Sydney Dr. & Mrs. J. Broadbent Mr B. Hamon
Mr. R. Mason Miss D. Stenhouse

Bateman's Bay Mr. N. Fowler Mrs K. Saunders
Mr. J. Mills Mr. And Mrs E. Williams

Melbourne Mr. S. Marchant

Bungendore Mrs E. Davy Mr. S. Reynolds
Mr. C. Humphries Berrima Mrs. C. Crowe

Bermagui
Mr. & Mrs. D. Smith
Mr & Mrs. E. William

Braidwood Mr. Forbes Gordon Bergalia Mr. N.
Dickson

Tuross Heads Mr. E. Dixon
Mr. C. Wheeler

Narooma Miss D. Nichterlein Mrs & Miss J. Riggs
Bowral Mr. C. Sonter

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Dear Editor,

I was wondering if you could tell me whether the swamp on Kelly's farm constitutes part of Lake Burley Griffin. This is in connection with one of the articles published in Canberra Bird Notes - 2(4) ("The Status of Birds in Canberra & District" - Part three). In the section on Chestnut Teal it says that during September to November there have been no recordings of the Chestnut Teal on the Lake.

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Last year I had a hide set up next to the swamp and saw a number of Chestnut Teal there in the period mentioned above. I have records for the 1st & 5th September, 1972, and I also have pictures of both these recordings, Jim Mc Naughton also has records in this period for the 2nd & 8th October (C.B.N. - 2(5)). The pictures I have are of a male Chestnut Teal, swimming and feeding.

Next, on the 17th June I saw, what I had been previously told was an Albino Galah, feeding on the ground on the nuts of a Pin Oak tree, I decided, for a change, that I'd try and get a picture of him and check to make sure he was an albino Galah. I went home and got my camera and Birdbook (Slater). I then went back to where I saw it, (half-way between Banks and Novar Sts on Schlick St.), and then pulled up in my car next to where it was feeding. I had a look at the bird with a 135 mm lens and aperture wide open. I looked at it for a while and compared it with the little Corella in Skater. I could see no difference between them. They both had the greyish eye ring and the pinkish spot between the eye and beak.

So knowing the spot I was in, seeing a little Corella that everybody had told me was an albino Galah, I figured I needed help. I'm hoping you can help me because I'm almost positive it was a Little Corella. I was very unlucky in not getting a picture because I was just about to take one about 21ft. away, when a cat scared it away. I am now determined to get a picture of it. By the way, I saw the bird in Yarralumla, and it normally flies around with a flock of Galahs.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Perman

Single Little Corellas have been seen on several occasions in Galah flocks. There are unconfirmed reports of a small flock of Little Corellas in the Belconnen area. Presumably the Corellas have escaped from aviaries. There are no reported sightings of Long-billed Corellas in our area.

Editor.

LEUCISM IN THE KESTREL

FALCO CENCHROIDES

One day in April an unusual hawk was seen by one of the authors (MC). The bird appeared to be of a silver grey with moustachial stripes and had a light under-surface. The bird sat very erect on a telegraph pole until chased away by a Pied Currawong. At the time (MC) believed that the bird was a Grey Falcon Falco hypoleucos, but since the period of the observation was short and it was not possible to make notes the sighting was not reported officially.

May 17th a similarly coloured hawk was seen by (TG) on and later by BB on the same day. It was later seen again by MC on 4 June. All sightings were in the Narrabundah area.

On his second sighting MC noted that the bird perched on telegraph wires, appeared more erect than Falco cenchroides and looked like a small Black-shouldered Kite Elanus notatus but the black on the shoulder was absent. The upper-surfaces of the bird were silver-grey and the underparts were light or white. The legs were lemon-yellow and the moustachial stripe was again noted but the colour of the bill and cere could not be seen. Both at rest and in flight a prominent

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tail bar could be seen, a feature first noted by (TG). In his notes (MC) noted "tail bar similar to Kestrel". As (MC) approached the bird it dropped from the telegraph wires and flew away. It was noted that the primary flight feathers appeared dark from above. In flight the wings were pointed and the tail slightly fanned presenting a typical Falcon silhouette.

After his second sighting (MC) contacted (BB) who noted that he had observed some brown on the body during his observations and had also reached the decision that the bird was a 'light-phase' Kestrel.

From our observations we believe this bird to be leucistic (rather than albinistic) Kestrel for the following reasons.

1. Size. Seemed smaller than Black-shouldered Kite. Thus 14 ins. or less - F. Cenchroides is 12 to 14 ins.
2. Moustachial stripe. Present in F. cenchroides F. Berigora, F. Hypoleucos, and to some degree in F. longipennis. Of these F. Berigora, must be eliminated since it is too large (18-20 ins)
3. Dark primaries. Could apply to F. cenchroides F. Hypoleucos or F. longipennis
4. Yellow legs. Could apply to all three acceptable species.
5. Dark subterminal tail band. Could only apply to F. cenchroides. This would reduce the size to two inches less than E.notatus.

For the above reasons we believe the bird to be a Kestrel, Falco cenchroides. We believe leucism more likely than albinism since, the plumage lacked

the patchiness of true albinism in its intermediate stages, the general appearance suggesting a selective deficiency in brown pigment rather than a general lightening of all colours.

M. Carins T. Gourlay B. Baker

NOTE "The above mentioned bird appears to have a permanent territory in the open farmland just south of the Hindmarsh Drive, Canberra Avenue intersection.

The powerlines close to the traffic lights and adjacent to Jerrabomberra Creek seems a favourite roosting place, the bird being consistently present during May, June and July 1973".

T. Gourlay

Observations of Banded Birds

On 1 December 1971 the writers commenced bird banding (under license from (C.S.I.R.O.) in an area of dry sclerophyll forest and woodland approximately one mile south of Aranda, A.C.T. near Caswell Drive. We have made over 20 trips to the area and banded nearly 360 birds. During the course of our banding we have made the following observations.

Superb Blue Wren On 15 March 1972 we captured a Blue Wren, in brown plumage, which had a remarkable bill. The lower mandible was a normal, straight, thin shape approximately 1.2 cm long. The top mandible, however, had a sharp right-angled bend halfway along its length. The tip of the bent section protruded 0.5 cm below the bottom mandible. The bird was otherwise in apparently good physical condition.

Eastern Spinebill We have only handled four individuals of this species in the banding area. The first, an adult male, was banded by us at Caswell Drive on 4 December 1971 and was subsequently killed by a car in O'Connor A.C.T. on 12 April 1972. Another, a juvenile, was banded by G.S. Clark in the Botanic Gardens A.C.T. on 10 May 1970, re-trapped in the same place on 5 July 1970 as an adult female and then re-trapped by us at Caswell Drive on 5th December 1971. The final two birds were both banded as juveniles by G.S. Clark at the Botanic Gardens on 8 April 1972 and were re-trapped at Caswell Drive as adult male and female on 25 November and 26 November 1972 respectively.

The feature of these movements is not the movements themselves (about two miles in each case) but the fact that each bird has moved.

A footnote on the female re-trapped on 26 November 1972 is that this bird also had a mal-formed bill. When the bill was closed the tips of the mandibles were about three millimetres apart. This was first noted by the bander and then by us, about seven months later, when the bird was re-trapped.

Red-capped Robin A juvenile of this species was caught on 3 March 1973 and re-trapped on 10 March 1973. Its head had a rusty washband it had a very faint red wash on the breast. No adults were seen on either occasion.

Yellow-tipped Pardalote One adult bird was caught on 3 March 1973 in the company of a Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*). This is an early record for this species in Canberra.

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Red-browed Finch One bird banded at the Botanic Gardens on 13 March 1971 was retrapped at Caswell Drive on 4 December 1971.

Striated Thornbill An adult banded at the Botanic Gardens on 29 December 1972 was caught at Caswell Dr. on 3 March 1973.

Pied Currawong A juvenile banded by B. Baker in Hughes A.C.T. on 28 May 1972 was retrapped at Caswell Drive, still a juvenile on 13 August 1972.

Neil L. Hermes, 68 Birdwood Street, Hughes, A.C.T., Simon Bennett, 14 Coles Place, Torrens, A.C.T. Michael Fleming, 84 Pennefather St., Higgins A.C.T.

STATUS OF BIRDS OF CANBERRA & DISTRICT (Cont'd)

PEREGRINE FALCON Falco peregrinus

Resident breeder, uncommon. Almost world-wide in distribution and occurs throughout Australia. Favours broken terrain, scarps, cliffs as a centre of foraging activity but may hunt far out in more open country. Most records are of single birds, except those associated with nesting activity. Breeding apparently takes place in spring (Sept. Oct.) and nests have been found along the Lake George Scarp. Old nests of the Raven or Wedge-tailed Eagle are commonly used. Medium sized birds such as ducks, parrots and pigeons are favoured prey.

LITTLE FALCON Falco Longipennis

Resident breeder, common. Widely distributed within Australia and migrant to New Guinea. Favours open-forest and woodland habitat and is not uncommon in Canberra suburbs which have well established street and

garden trees. Single birds are often observed in swift pursuit of prey. Smaller birds and larger insects are favoured, but it does hunt and kill birds much larger than itself. Early morning and dusk are preferred hunting times, but may be seen at any time in dull, overcast weather.

GREY FALCON

Falco hypoleucos

Rare, status unknown. Essentially restricted to drier inland habitats, where it favours open shrubland and woodland. Possibly there is some coastward movement during extreme arid cycles, as is the case with many other inland species. The few records for the A.C.T. are of single birds in open woodland habitat and during hot dry summer periods.

BLACK FALCON

Falco subniger

Uncommon, status uncertain. Another species which favours open woodland habitat, chiefly of drier inland areas, but also occurs in more humid coastal areas. Usually seen alone or in pairs. When not stooping upon prey, birds have a characteristic flapping flight pattern very reminiscent of the Raven. Confirmed breeding records for the local region are restricted to the Lake George Scarp zone along the federal Highway.

BROWN HAWK

Falco. Berigora

Common, breeding resident. Widely distributed throughout all types of habitat in Australia and Tasmania and also in central and eastern New Guinea. Usually seen alone or less commonly in pairs or small groups.

Often perch, on telephone poles or fence posts watching for prey. Slow, flapping wing beats alternating with gliding runs over foraging territory are usual. Birds may soar to great heights and rather spectacular display flights coupled with loud cackling calls draw attention during the breeding season, which is normally September-October.

KESTREL

Falco cenchroides

Common, breeding resident. Very extensive distribution throughout Australia and Tasmania and irrupting on occasions into New Guinea and New Zealand. Usually observed hovering over open grassland or low shrub-land, or perched on telephone poles or dead trees. The call is a shrill repetitive chattering sound. Major food items are mice and grasshoppers. Breeding activity is largely confined to October-November and nesting sites range from hollow limbs and deserted raven's nests to ledges and recesses in buildings.

POWERFUL OWL

Ninox strenua

Resident Breeder. This owl occurs in heavily timbered wet gullies in the Tidbinbilla and Brindabella Mountain ranges. It has been recorded at Lees Creek and Tidbinbilla but probably lives throughout the ranges in suitable habitat although nowhere in large numbers. Fleay (Nightwatchmen of Bush and Plain, Jacaranda Press, 1968) states that each pair of owls controls a territory of at least two miles square and often there is six miles between pairs. The bird is resident throughout the year, with young birds being recorded in January 1966

and in October 1971 (these were still partially down covered). Breeding therefore occurs in the ranges and this bird is probably the first local bird to breed each season even breeding before the lyrebird.

BARKING OWL

Ninox connivens

Status uncertain. The Barking Owl is a bird of open forest and is a rare bird over its whole range. Since the first record for the Canberra area in Feb. 1949 there have been only five records in our area all in July, Aug. or Sep.,) with no breeding information. Status is probably, a very rare breeding resident.

BOOBOOK OWL

Ninox novaeseelandiae

A breeding resident and the most numerous, owl in the area. It can be found anywhere from the Brindabella Ranges to Canberra gardens. Although not very abundant it has been regularly reported since Barrett saw one in 1921. The nesting period is more uncertain but appears to be from September to November (from one unpublished record of birds being banded in the nest).

BARN OWL

Tyto alba

Breeding resident. The Barn Owl is rarely seen in the local area but is probably fairly numerous all the same, as it is a bird of open woodland and clear spaces more than forest country. Its silent habits and the fact that it roosts in hollows rather than in trees probably mean it is overlooked;

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more often than the Boobook Owl. There are no nesting, details for the area, but this bird is an opportunist, nesting whenever food is available, but usually in winter. After the plague of mice in New South Wales in 1969 there was a large incursion of Barn Owls into our area with many dead birds being found as well as live sightings being made. This is another characteristic of the Barn Owl.

MASKED OWL

Tyto novaehollandiae

Status uncertain. There is only one record of this owl in the Canberra area, which was a bird killed by a car at the site of Lake Burley Griffin in March 1960. One difficulty in identification is its apparent similarity to the Barn Owl and it is possible that it is more numerous than presently thought. Like its smaller relative the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) it is both a bird of open woodland and an opportunist breeder, breeding whenever food is available.

STUBBLE QUAIL

Coturnix pectoralis

Resident breeder. The Stubble Quail is a bird of varied habitat being found practically everywhere except, closed forests. It is however most commonly found in flat grassland without too much top cover like stubble. The field list shows it to be less common in the months of April to July but Birds in the Australian High Country states "common at all seasons" and the records in the observations book appear to substantiate this latter view. This species is subject to large fluctuations in numbers which makes status hard to define precisely. Breeding is usually in summer but is subject to variation according to rainfall,

BROWN QUAIL

Synoicus ypsilophorus

The Brown Quail is normally found in swamps and wet grassland but is also found in company with the Stubble Quail in lucerne. There have only been five published records in our area and the status is uncertain, but probably a breeding resident. There are no breeding records in our area.

PAINTED QUAIL

Turnix varia

A breeding resident. In our area the Painted Quail is a bird of open forest. It is usually found on slopes where there is not too much continuous ground cover, Black Mountain appearing to be a favoured, spot. It is normally seen singly or in pairs and is present throughout the year. It is regularly seen in its favoured habitat although nowhere in large numbers. There are two breeding records - on Black Mountain in November and December 1967.

LITTLE QUAIL

Turnix velox

Rare vagrant. This bird was included by Jones and by Mathews in their lists. There were no further records in our area up until 1968/69 when an irruption of this species and the Red-Chested Quail occurred. There were several records of birds in grassland around the Belconnen naval station at that time. There have been no records since that-time and there have been no breeding records. It is possible that the bird is here permanently but there are no records to justify this.

RED-CHESTED QUAIL

Turnix pyrrhothorax

Rare vagrant. The status of this bird is similar to that of the previous species. There was one record of a nest near Braidwood in 1863. It appeared in Mathews list. There were no further records until the irruption of 1968/9 when there were several records at Gungahlin, Belconnen Radio Station, Lyneham and also at Bungendore. There were more records than of the Little Quail but again no records since the irruption. There have been no breeding records but one of the birds seen during the irruption (Feb 1969) was a juvenile that could only just fly.

PLAIN WANDERER

Pedionomus torquatus

There is one sight record of this bird on 10/5/54 at Gungahlin by an observer who was familiar with the species in the field (Lamm, 1963).

BUSTARD

Eupodotis australis

Barrett reported one sighting of this bird on 21/6/20. There have been no further records, apart from Mathews who placed it on his list possibly on the basis of this earlier record.

BROLGA

Grus rubicunda

There has only been one record recently apart from Mathews. The record was a second hand report of one at Government House in August or September 1963 when the lake level was low.

LEWIN WATER RAIL

Rallus pectoralis

This bird like all rails is a secretive bird keeping to reeds and other thick cover around swamps, lakes and other water areas. The status is therefore very

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hard to define precisely. The first record was in Jones (1928) who wrote that it was present in the wet seasons only. Since then there has been one record in March 1955 near Hall (Lamm 1963), one at the Gudgenby River February 1968 (CBN 3) and one at Uriarra (9/2/72). There are no breeding records nor any records around Lake Burley Griffin and it was not recorded during the banding operations conducted when the Lake was filling. Mathews recorded this bird as rare along the rivers.

BANDED LANDRAIL

Hypotaenidia philippensis

Like the Lewin Water Rail it is a bird of thick cover around the edges of swamps, rivers, lakes and dams and is rarely seen as a result. The first record was in 28/10/62 along a drain in Yarralumla (Lamm 1963). Since then two birds were netted on 12/1/64 when the Lake was filling, one bird was seen at the East end of Lake Burley Griffin on 21/12/66 and one bird was seen at Uriarra on 7/2/70. There was also a breeding record in Yarralumla Bay in Nov/Dec. 1968. Status uncertain but probably a migrant (all records in Oct. to Feb.) which breeds locally.

SPOTTED CRAKE

Porzana fluminea

Another bird of the dense vegetation surrounding swamps, lakes and rivers. There have been several records around Lake George (Lamm 1961), and regular reports in small numbers at the east end of Lake Burley Griffin. The records are all in the period October to March and there have been no breeding records. Possibly a migrant that may be more numerous than is generally realised.

MARSH CRAKE

Porzana pusilla

This appears to be the most common of the crakes and rails and Lamm (1964) talks of them being fairly common amongst the reeds in deep water at Lake George. It was very common when Lake Burley Griffin was filling and 25 birds were banded in seven days of netting during Jan. and Feb 1964. Since then there have been regular reports at the east end of Lake Burley Griffin and one record in October 1967 on Black Mountain Peninsula. There are no breeding records nor any sightings in the April to July period, despite the numerous records. Probable status a breeding migrant.

SPOTLESS CRAKE

Porzana tabuensis

The Spotless Crake is another secretive bird of uncertain status. There have been a total of eight published records, one at Lake George (Feb. 1960), one at Blundell's Orchard (August 1957), one at Sullivan's Creek (Spring 1952) and the rest at the east end of Lake Burley Griffin. There are no breeding records. Status uncertain.

BLACK-TAILED NATIVE HEN Tribonyx ventralis

There are two records at the east end of Lake Burley Griffin, one of two birds on 5/1/69 and the other of a single bird on 12/1/69 - both records at the same place.

DUSKY MOORHEN

Gallinula tenebrosa

Breeding resident. The Dusky Moorhen is a fairly numerous bird that frequents rivers, lakes, swamps and other wet areas which can usually be found at the east end of Lake Burley Griffin and at Lake George either in the water or feeding on grass near the water. This bird congregates in winter in flocks which can be seen in loose groups on open water areas or as tighter groups feeding on grassy areas close to the water. The breeding period appears to be from the end of October to the end of February.

EASTERN SWAMPHEN

Porphyrio melanotus

Breeding resident. It can be found around the edges of most lakes and dams and also along rivers in fact anywhere that there are reeds or similar aquatic vegetation. Lamm (1964) commented that the winter population at Lake George was materially higher than the summer one. The records at the east end of Lake Burley Griffin suggest that numbers are uniform throughout the year. The breeding season is from the beginning of September until the end of January with a peak in October at Lake George (Lamm 1964). This bird appears to have increased in numbers since Lake Burley Griffin was formed.

COOT

Fulica atra

A very numerous resident that has been recorded as breeding. It is found usually swimming on large open areas of water where it can dive for its food. It can also be found feeding on grassy areas near water. The nesting period is from the beginning of September until the end of March but this is dependant at least partly on rainfall. Lamm (1964) points out that this bird is by far the most common at Lake George but he was unable to find any seasonal trends in the numbers of birds present. The numbers just appeared to increase steadily over 18 months to a peak and then crash to very few. There also appears to be no pattern to the records we have from the east end of Lake Burley Griffin.

WADERS

PAINTED SNIPE

Rostratula benghalensis

Accidental visitor. Four were caught and banded on the site of Lake Burley Griffin in January 1964, and several were recorded in early 1965 as the Lake was filling. There is an unconfirmed sight record of one in flight at the Fyshwick sewage ponds on November 20, 1967. One at Molonglo River Flats on 17.9.72. This species is nowhere common in Australia, and appears to be very irregular in occurrence. It frequents well-vegetated marshland where it habitually skulks in cover. The flight is silent and heavy.

MASKED PLOVER

Vanellus miles novaehollandiae

The southern form, widely known as the Spurwinged Plover, is a very common bird in our area, frequenting the open margins of lakes and rivers, dams, swamps, grasslands and city lawns. A year-round resident, it gathers into flocks of up to a hundred birds at the end of the breeding season. Around Canberra nesting commences in August and lasts until the end of November. If the first nest fails, pairs may lay a second clutch within a few days. Nests have been found in a variety of unusual places; out the site chosen is almost invariably one which gives the sitting bird a good view of the surrounding countryside.

EXCURSIONS

A "sub-committee" to help organise excursions has now been formed. It is hoped that excursions will now be held each month, possibly including November and December, our usual breaks. It is hoped that more "campouts" will be held over week-ends, especially in the pilot study area of the Australian Bird Atlas Scheme. Details will be notified on the newsletter sheets. The committee is as follows.

Miss Leigh Kuster, Messrs. Simon Bennett, Rob Ellis, Michael Fleming and Neil Hermes.

M. Clayton

Excursions Officer.

ADDENDUM to C.B.N. April 1973 page 4

Lake Cowal was visited, monthly from July 1970 to June 1972.

MEETINGS

June 13: Annual General Meeting and Members Night.

The new Committee for 1973/74 is:

Chairman: G.S. Clark,

Secretary/Treasurer N.S. Winders,

Editor CBN: GF. van Tets,

Assistant Editor/Publications Officer:
T.G. Gourlay,

Excursions Officer: M. Clayton

Records Officer: B, Baker-

Committee members: S. Bennett, N. Hermes
G. Horey.

The annual subscription was raised to \$2 and is now due.

A good selection of slides was shown and there was a lively discussion about the status of some of the birds in our area.

July 11: Dr. N. Wace (ANU) - Birds of Tristan da Cunha

August 15: A.K. Morris (NSW NPWS) - The change
In the status of bird populations in the Mudgee District

September 12: Dr. G.P. van Tets (CSIRO)- Prehistoric
birds of Australia.

October 10: Dr. W. Braithwaite (CSIRO) - The Open Season
on waterfowl in south- western Australia.

November 11: Jo McIlroy (CSIRO) - New Zealand Magpies.

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SECRETARY Mr. N. Winders, P.O. Box 301, Civic Square,
Canberra A.C.T. 2608,

EDITOR Dr. G.F. van Tets, C.S.I.R.O. Division of
Wildlife Research, P.O. Box 84, Lyneham A.C.T. 2602.

All contributions for publication should be addressed to the Editor.