



Canberra bird notes

Volume 3 Number 12

October 1977

EDITORIAL

Most of our members seem to regard C.O.G. as a convenient and interesting organisation providing a monthly meeting place to enjoy an absorbing discussion and to talk 'bird' matters over with kindred souls. Easy going; friendly; interesting; all true.

Today however Canberra is faced with a number of conservation problems: Mallard hybrid birds have been present on Lake Burley Griffin for some years and are increasing in numbers and spreading; the Common Myna is rapidly becoming a pest here, especially near shopping centres; there is the matter of the defence of the Majura-Ainslie foothills which has aroused many residents; Tuggeranong people are concerned about the future of the Murrumbidgee valley, used by countless thousands of honeyeaters on annual movements; and there is the future of the Dairy Flat Road area.

Largely such issues have passed C.O.G. by. The Committee has advised the Department of the Capital Territory on occasions, but our voice is a quiet one. Members as a body seem lethargic.

Surely we need a louder voice than we have used so far, and the interest and support of all members.

BIRD REPORT, 1 JULY 1976 TO 30 JUNE 1977

Graham Clark

Note: For convenience, scientific names are given in the list only.

As usual this report can be assembled only because of the efforts of those members and friends who have bothered to record their observations in the observations book at our meetings. To all of them I say thank you, but in particular I would like to thank those who have kept regular records in one area. It is these people who provide the basics of this report; they are K. Anway (Aranda), M. Hasten (Campbell), D. Johnson (Hughes), J. McNaughton and A.D. Ross (east end of Lake Hurley Griffin), D. Stewart (Chapman) and S. Webb (Weetangera). I would also like to thank J. McKean who provided the information on the Letter-winged Kites for this report.

This year I have tried to apply rigidly the four conditions (a) to (d) given at the beginning of the Systematic List to all observations, but where I think the records are interesting I have put them in anyway; for example the Red-capped Robin which I regard as a very rare bird in our area despite the Field List.

Remember if you disagree with anything I have written please put pen to paper and inform the Editor as to where I have made mistakes. The Editor will be only too pleased to receive the copy for the next Canberra Bird Notes. Any further records you may have to add to those listed may be written in the observations book or posted to Records Officer, C.O.G., P.O. Box 301, Civic Square, 2608.

Finally a plea. If you see any of the following species during the coming year please enter the details in the observations book: Great Crested Grebe, Little Eagle, Whistling Kite, Hooded Robin, Greenfinch and Indian Myna. If you wish to help by keeping a regular record for your area but are not sure how to go about it just give me a ring on 54 1279 and I will explain how easy it can be.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

This list should be read in conjunction with the second edition of *A Field List of the Birds of Canberra and District* and also *Birds of the Australian High Country*. For that reason the English and

scientific names and the taxonomic order used in those publications are adhered to here for ease of comparison by members.

A species is included in the following list if during the period 1 July 1976 to 30 June 1977 one or more of the following conditions applied:

- (a) It is represented in the Field List by a dotted line for part of the year at least and it was recorded during that non-continuous period.
- (b) It has changed in status in our district.
- (c) It has been recorded in unusual circumstances (numbers and/or locality).
- (d) It has been recorded breeding outside its accepted breeding parameters in the above reference.

[Example: 4/24 Aug means that 4 birds were recorded on 24 August 1976.]

EMU *Dromaius novaehollandiae* A single bird seen on the Corin dam road 3 Jul (JMK) could mean that the bird is starting to recolonise our area from the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.

HOARY-HEADED GREBE *Podiceps poliocephalus* This year the numbers of this species built up dramatically over summer and then declined (JMN) whereas the numbers of the Little Grebe *P. ruficollis* remained reasonably constant. A study of the fluctuations of numbers of these two species in our area would be extremely interesting.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* There was a serious lack of records for this species, not one being recorded on Lake Burley Griffin. Could all sightings be recorded this year please?

PELICAN *Pelecanus conspicillatus* A single bird seems to have been around Lake Burley Griffin for most of the year (JMN, AR, SJW). Numbers increased slightly at the end of the period 5/3 Jun (AR); flying over Weetangera 4/30 May (SWE).

WHITE-NECKED HERON *Ardea pacifica* This bird has become quite uncommon again after the irruptions of recent years. There was a record at the north end of Lake George 3/9 Jan (BB). Also a single bird at the east end of Lake Burley Griffin from September to March (JMN, AR, SJW) and also 2/30 Mar (AR).

WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba* An unusual record was 40+/24 Oct (JMN) at east end of Lake Burley Griffin.

PLUMED EGRET *Egretta intermedia* A single bird was seen irregularly at the east end of Lake Burley Griffin between the end of October and the end of January (JMN, AR). A second bird was present 25 Nov and 12 Dec (JMN).

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* 1/2 Mar (JMN) east end of Lake.

CATTLE EGRET *Ardeola ibis* Regularly recorded from the beginning of September at the east end of Lake Burley Griffin (AR, JMN) rising to a maximum of 15/30 Apr (AR). Also recorded in a group varying up to six in number near the crematorium over the period February to July (MC). A record on the south coast at Moruya was of six birds (two in breeding plumage) on 28 Aug (GC). This bird appears to be slowly but surely increasing in numbers in our area.

NANKEEN NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax caledonicus* Winter records of this bird were as follows: 3/18 Jul, 3/15 Aug, 11/22 Aug, 11/29 Aug (all JMN) and 1/26 Jun (AR), all at the east end of Lake Burley Griffin. The maximum sightings were 32/24 Oct, 20/14 Nov (JMN).

BROWN BITTERN *Botaurus poiciloptilus* The only record in our area for some time was 2/9 Jan (BB) at the north end of Lake George.

STRAW-NECKED IBIS *Threskiornis spinicollis* Still unusually scarce at the east end of Lake Burley Griffin, not being nearly as numerous as the White Ibis *T. molucca* which it normally outnumbers (JMN, AR).

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus* Two breeding records at the east end of Lake Burley Griffin produced cygnets in September and January (JMN).

PINK-EARED DUCK *Malacorhynchus membranaceus* Records at Lake George were 2/28 Aug at south end (RR) and 20/9 Jan at north end (BB). At the east end of Lake Burley Griffin 8/14 Nov, 3/28 Nov (JMN).

HARDHEAD *Aythya australis* Showed a definite increase in numbers in December to over 200 (JMN), dropping off again in March. Is this a regular fluctuation?

LETTER-WINGED KITE *Elanus scriptus* The irruption of this species into coastal Australia also affected Canberra in a minor way. The first record was at Narrabundah Drive-in 1/2 Mar (JMK), then a dead bird in starving condition was picked up near Lake George and handed in to CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research 11 Mar. Next 3 birds were seen near Duffy shops roosting in a tree 31 Mar (JLE), were still

there on 5 Apr (JMK), then not present 7 Apr. Any other records for this species would be appreciated.

WHISTLING KITE *Haliastur sphenurus* Only record was of one bird at Botanic Gardens 26 Feb (GC).

BROWN GOSHAWK *Accipiter fasciatus* Another breeding record in Campbell with presumed fledging in January (MB).

LITTLE EAGLE *Hieraaetus morphnoides* More records of this species and the Whistling Kite are required. Only records were of a single bird on 22 Aug at the east end of the Lake (SJW) and on 18 Jan at Campbell (MB).

SWAMP HARRIER *Circus approximans* Regularly recorded at east end of Lake (JMN, AR) and also near Coppins Crossing 2/9 Feb (DJ).

BLACK FALCON *Falco subniger* Two records of this species are as follows. One on 3 July at Curtin was of a bird (?female by size) being chased by two ravens (SJW). The other was of a bird at HMAS Harman on 29 July (SJW).

BOOBOOK OWL *Ninox novaeseelandiae* Regularly recorded around Canberra. Throughout year in Campbell, more frequently Sep to Dec inclusive when two birds often called (MB). In Aranda calling 24, 25 Oct (KA). In Weetangera calling Dec and Jan (SWE, JLA). In Narrabundah calling Jan (AR).

BROWN QUAIL *Synoicus ypsilophorus* One bird just below Botanic Gardens on 1 Jan and 7 Jan (JP).

MARSH CRAKE *Porzana pusilla* Records from east end of Lake as follows: 1/9 Jan (CLA), 2/23 Jan (CLA), 2/6 Feb (AR). Also 1/21 Aug in dead reeds on the north shore of the Lake opposite Royal Canberra Golf Course (SJW).

COOT *Fulica atra* After it disappeared from the east end of the Lake at the end of last year numbers have gradually risen again (12 in July, 20 in Sept, 60 Nov, 200+ Jan) (JMN).

DOUBLE-BANDED DOTTEREL *Charadrius bicinctus* A record of ten birds at Moruya 29 Aug (GC).

EASTERN CURLEW *Numenius madagascariensis* The first record for this species in the Canberra district was a single bird seen and photographed by J. McNaughton on 9 January 1977.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* One bird recorded at east end of Lake on 29 Aug, 5 Sep and 12 Sep, then no more recorded until 1/5 Dec (all JMN).

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis* Recorded at north end of Lake George 2/9 Jan (BB) and several 12 Feb (RR). Also at Moruya 10/29 Aug (GC) .

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *Calidris acuminata* Recorded at the east end of the Lake as follows: 4/29 Aug, 2/5 Sep, 1/19 Sep, 16/16 Jan (all JMN).

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* Recorded at north end of Lake George 1/9 Jan (BB). Also at east end of Lake Burley Griffin 1/5 Dec, 1/16 Jan (JMN).

DIAMOND DOVE *Geopelia cuneata* One bird seen in the Botanic Gardens for two weeks in January was probably an escapee (AMW).

GANG-GANG COCKATOO *Callocephalon fimbriatum* Regularly recorded around Canberra throughout year. Suspected breeding Botanic Gardens (AMW) where it was present all year round. Also most months at Campbell (MB).

SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO *Cacatua galerita* Continuing to increase in winter in Campbell (MB). Also now a common sight in Haig Park, Braddon, in numbers of 100+ and present at Narrabundah/Manuka area in similar numbers.

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus* probably an escapee. One bird at Campbell 20 Oct.

SUPERB PARROT *Polytelis swainsonii* Record from Murrumbateman was 15/26 Dec (BB). A single bird in July in Chapman (DS) was probably an escapee judging by the time of year, although the bird could fly well.

MALLEE RINGNECK *Barnardius barnardi* The (presumed escapee) bird first seen in Hughes in March 1976 managed to stay around until 8 Sept (DJ).

BUDGERIGAR *Melopsittacus undulatus* The report of two birds north of Uriarra on 12 Dec (see elsewhere in this issue) appears to be of wild birds (JR). A record of a single bird at Hughes 1 June was almost certainly an escapee (DJ).

PALLID CUCKOO *Cuculus pallidus* First record was of a bird calling 30 Aug Weetangera (SWE), then Gungahlin 10 Sep (DP), CCAE 13 Sep (KA). Also in Sep at Campbell (MB) and Hughes (DJ). Juveniles noticed in Nov and Dec in Campbell (MB). Last record at Weetangera 8 Mar (SWE). There was a letter in the Canberra Times on 20 Sep by G.M. Miller trying to start an annual competition for first hearing - he heard one at Parliament House on 8 Sep.

BRUSH CUCKOO *Cacomantis variolosus* Unusually common in Botanic Gardens from Oct to Jan (GC). Also two presumed juveniles of this species (heavily speckled all over) were seen on 22 Jan in the Botanic Gardens being fed by one female Leaden Flycatcher (CA).

HORSFIELD BRONZE CUCKOO *Chrysococcyx basilis* One juvenile seen in Campbell twice in March pursuing Buff-tailed Thornbills *Acanthiza reguloides* for food (MB).

TAWNY FROGMOUTH *Podargus strigoides* Two birds observed feeding on frogs in the Botanic Gardens 19 Sep were probably the birds that bred there in Dec (KT). Heard at Campbell several times in Jan (MB).

SPINE-TAILED SWIFT *Hirundapus caudacutus* Several records were received, the most interesting being the large numbers over Chapman at the end of March (DS). Other records are 10/27 Dec (11 p.m.) Pine Island road (SJW), 10+/26 Feb Aranda (KA). Regularly seen (up to ten birds) at Campbell during Sep, Oct, Jan and Feb (MB). Botanic Gardens 10+/26 Feb (RM).

[FORK-TAILED SWIFT *Apus pacificus* There have been unconfirmed rumours of sightings of this swift in our area over the last year, so if you see any swifts have a good look at them.]

SACRED KINGFISHER *Halcyon sancta* First records were 20 Oct Botanic Gardens (RM) and Oct in Hughes (DJ). Last record Hughes 2/10 Mar (DJ).

RAINBOW-BIRD *Merops ornatus* First record 2/4 Oct at Hall (SC).

DOLLAR BIRD *Eurystomus orientalis* First records 12 Oct at ANU (DJ), 24/10 at Royalla (SG) and Oct in Hughes, where it also nested (MB).

BUSHLARK *Mirafra javanica* Recorded at Mitchell (details elsewhere in this issue) 2/20 Jan and 1/22 Jan (DW).

WELCOME SWALLOW *Hirundo neoxena* An interesting record was a flock of 120+ at east end of Lake on 5 Sep (JMN) when there were only five

the week before and ten the next week. Presumably a migratory flock.

FAIRY MARTIN *Petrochelidon ariel* A large flock (50-80) was present with the Swallows above (AR, JMN).

WHITE-WINGED TRILLER *Lalage sueurii* Several pairs nested in Duntroon area - two pairs noted feeding young in Feb (MB).

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* A partial albino was reported from David St, Turner. This bird was believed to have a black collar at the back.

AUSTRALIAN GROUND THRUSH *Zoothera dauma* A bird was reported from the Botanic Gardens 19 Sep (NC), then no more reports until 16 Apr (KT), then it was reported several times after that date (CA, RM).

LITTLE GRASS-BIRD *Megalurus gramineus* A winter record was of 3 or 4 in the reeds on the north shore of the Lake near Acacia inlet (SOW)

RED-CAPPED ROBIN *Petroica goodenovii* Two records of this species 1/9 Sep at Rehwinkels animal park (RR) and a pair (m & f) at Tharwa 23 Jan (RM).

HOODED ROBIN *Petroica cucullata* The only record of this bird during the whole year was near Tharwa on 3 Aug (SJW). Surely there must be more than this in our area? More records please.

RESTLESS FLYCATCHER *Seisura inquieta* An unusual record was of a bird in suburban Chapman in July, then again in Feb, Mar, Apr (DS).

OLIVE WHISTLER *Pachycephala olivacea* This bird appears to be an altitudinal migrant in our area. A bird was banded in the Botanic Gardens on 18 Sep (GC) and a bird seen again on 25 Sep (CA) (whether it was banded or not was not noted). No further records until a bird seen 16 Apr (KT) and 28 Jun (NC). An unusual record was of a single bird in Nov at Campbell (MB).

YELLOW-TIPPED PARDALOTE *Pardalotus striatus* Late record was in October at Chapman (DS). They were moving through Scullin in large numbers in September (JMK, NC).

REGENT HONEYEATER *Zanthomiza phrygia* One record on the Gundaroo road 1/2 Jan (JP).

FUSCOUS HONEYEATER *Meliphaga fusca* Probably the highlight as far as this species was concerned was the publication of confirmed breeding

records in CBN 3 11 (July 1977). This was on 28 Jan (ARM). Also see CBN 3 9 (January 1977) for further summer records (BB). Three birds were recorded also at Canberra Hospital 25 Jan and one may have been a juvenile (SJW). Winter records include single birds in Chapman (DS) and Campbell twice (MB). Also in the Botanic Gardens 'several' 23 Jun (CA).

YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER *Meliphaga chrysops* The migration into our area in spring was noted in Aranda 23 Sep mixed with White-naped (KA) and a day later mixed with White-naped and Noisy Friarbirds in Scullin (NC). Also noted in Weetangera in Sep (SWE).

WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER *Meliphaga leucotis* The local migratory nature (altitudinal) of this species is shown well by the following records. Campbell - a few seen in July-August, then no more until April, May and June (MB). Weetangera - July, August, June (SWE); Hughes - April, June (DJ); Aranda - August (KA); Botanic Gardens - July, August, September, April, May, June (KT, AMW).

EASTERN SPINEBILL *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris* The status of this bird in the Canberra district may need revising since all constant recording in individual areas shows the numbers rise in winter as for the White-eared Honeyeater. Examples are: Narrabundah - one daily throughout August (SJW); Scullin - 2-6 present daily from end July to mid September, then again in June (NC); Botanic Gardens - numbers rise in winter (AMW); Hughes - June, July, May (DJ), Weetangera - June (SWE), - Campbell - present all months (MB). Therefore around Canberra at least this bird is more common in winter. Can we praise the NCDC for planting grevilleas?

WHITE-CHEEKED HONEYEATER *Phylidonyris niger* A record of a single bird in the swamps behind Broulee 30 Jan (JP).

LITTLE FRIARBIRD *Philemon citreogularis* A bird banded at Hackett 17 Oct was still around until 21 Oct (IG). At least two birds were also present in Chapman from November to March (DS).

GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris* The first record north of the Lake was a single bird at Hackett 14 Aug (IG). Also recorded at the east end of the Lake as follows: 1/22 Aug, 2/29 Aug, 2/16 Jan, 3/30 Jan, 1/6 Feb, 8/13 Feb, 2/2 Mar (JMN); also recorded 11 Apr and 29 Jun (AR).

INDIAN MYNA *Acridotheres tristis* Recorded from Scullin, Braddon, Lyons, Hughes, Narrabundah and the east end of the Lake during the

year (NC/JMN, DJ). Please keep entering records of this species in the observations book so that the spread can be plotted.

OLIVE-BACKED ORIOLE *Oriolus sagittatus* An unusual record was of a single bird at Weetangera 19 Jun (SWE). Another late bird was one at Campbell 15 May (MB).

WHITE-BROWED WOOD-SWALLOW *Artamus superciliosus* Noted 2 Jan on Gundaroo-Murrumbateman road (JP).

GREY CURRAWONG *Strepera versicolor* An early nesting record was of two large chicks being fed in a nest 7 metres up a tree near Mt Wanniasa on 6 Nov (DJ).

GREY BUTCHERBIRD *Cracticus torquatus* Recorded in Chapman in July (DS)

MAGPIE *Gymnorhina tibicen* A Black-backed pair in Hughes produced a White-backed offspring for the second year running (DJ).

CONTRIBUTORS

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| CLA C. Allen | JMK J. McKean |
| CA c. Appleby | JMN J. McNaughton |
| KA K. Anway | AMW A. McWhirter |
| BB B. Baker | ARM A.R. Morrison |
| MB M. Basten | JP J. Penhallurick |
| SC S. Chittick | DP D. Purchase |
| GC G. Clark | JR J. Redmond |
| NC N. Clark | RR R. Rehwinkel |
| MC M. Clayton | AR A.D. Ross |
| SG S. Garnett | DS D. Stewart |
| IG I. Grant | KT K. Thaler |
| DJ D. Johnson | SWE S. Webb |
| JLA J. Land | DW D. Wilson |
| JLE J. Lewis | SJW S.J. Wilson |
| RM R. Magrath | |

G.S. Clark, 24 Adair Street, Scullin, A.C.T. 2614

SIGHTING OF TWO BUDGERIGARS IN THE CANBERRA DISTRICT

James Redmond and Anthony Vale

In view of Frith's description of them as 'very rare vagrants' (*Birds in the Australian High Country*, p. 213) we would like to place on record a sighting of two budgerigars *Melopsittacus undulatus* in the A.C.T. region by us on Sunday 12 December 1976. Details of the sighting are:

Location: At a position about 1.6 km due east of a point on the Murrumbidgee River, about 13.5 km, in a straight line, north of Uriarra Crossing. Grid reference 979615 (approx.) on the Umburra map (1:50 000; series R753, sheet 8627-1).

Locality: The birds were seen in a gully, sheltered from the prevailing nw winds in a patch of savannah woodland remaining in cleared grazing country. The main species of eucalypt was *E. blakelyi*.

Numbers: Two birds were seen together. It is thought that they were a pair. Certainly one was a male.

Coloration: Natural (yellow, green and black).

Behaviour: The birds were behaving as though they were at home in the environment. They were perching on grass stalks and feeding from the heads. They did this within the shelter of nearby trees which they returned to when resting.

Based on the above observations we are of the opinion that, the birds were wild, rather than aviary escapees.

J. Redmond and A. Vale, c/- Box 887 P.O., Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601.

A LUTINO KING PARROT

Wayne Braithwaite

At the Cotter Reserve at 4.30 p.m. on 25 April 1977 a flock of King Parrots (*Alisterus scapularis*) numbering about forty was present, feeding on *Liquidambar styraciflua* near the children's playground. Among them was a lutino bird, pale yellow with a suffusion of greenish feathers on wings and body.

SIGHTINGS OF THE SINGING BUSHLARK

Denis Wilson

At Mitchell in the developing area of Grace two Singing Bushlarks *Mirafra javanica* were seen about 7 p.m. on 20 January 1977 and one bird was seen on 22 January 1977 during the late morning.

Both the Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* and the Common Skylark *Alauda arvensis* were in the area on both occasions.

The birds were perching on 1 metre high posts (star posts), being at a height to clear the heads of nearby wheat. The call was distinct from that of the Pipit and the Skylark. The flight was low and fluttering, with low-held wings.

When perched the birds showed a noticeably brighter, redder plumage than I had expected in what I, at first, assumed to be Pipits. The tails also attracted attention in being shorter than expected (for presumed Pipits). The birds appeared relatively stocky, with short stubby bills.

The birds were quite tame, and permitted quite close observation.

Denis Wilson, 39 Anzac Park, Reid, A.C.T.

ODD OBS

WHITE-FRONTED CHAT

Doug Ross

Time was when one could expect to see White-fronted Chats *Epthianura albifrons* in the lawns/gorse area between the pontoons in front of Parliament House. The area has been subject to considerable disturbance in recent months (construction sites and tree felling in particular), which may explain why these conspicuous birds were not seen by me during the first half of 1977. The birds have reappeared. A male was seen early on 6 July 1977 and three males with two females at midday on the same day. A group of ten (seven male, three female) was reported to me by Mr G. Martin at midday on 12 July. I suspect that in earlier years the chats may have bred, or sought to breed, in the lawns/gorse area. I have several times seen birds engage, at my approach, in 'broken wing' diversionary activities.

THE KOSI BARRAGE AREA, NEPAL, AS A NATURE RESERVE

Richard Gregory-Smith

As Dick spoke to C.O.G. recently on this subject this paper is considered of sufficient interest to appear in Canberra Bird Notes - Editor.

The Indian Government financed the building of this huge barrage across the Sapt Kosi during the years 1958-64 and it stands a great example of India-Nepal co-operation. The barrage is 1 kilometre in width and with the great, sluices aids both in controlling the concentrations of flood waters on the plains of Bihar to the south in the wet season and in irrigating these plains by feeding canals in the dry weather.

The area upriver of the barrage consists of large expanses of water of varying area depending upon the level maintained by the sluices. When the waters are low, mudflats and sandbanks appear. Flanking the river north of the barrage are large tracts of marshes and reed beds, which are inundated during the monsoon, but dry out except for pools and streams during the winter. The river is contained by great bunds to the east and west alongside which are borrow pits which have become reed beds and contain water for most of the year. The whole area is therefore one very attractive to water birds and indeed many other species. I have had the opportunity of keeping the area under observation on monthly visits over the past two years and have found it a fascinating and changing scene.

During the monsoon season the high water levels attract a number of marsh-loving birds, but on the other hand those which feed on the riverine mudflats and sandbanks must depart to other feedings grounds. As a consequence there are some interesting migrations. The population of Purple Herons increases by large numbers, while the Grey Herons move out of the area entirely, probably to distant breeding sites at which they congregate annually. The Watercock appear in small numbers, We first recorded their presence in Nepal in 1975. The Yellow Bittern comes in larger numbers, but 1975 was the first year they had been recognised since 1846. Neither of these species has been recorded elsewhere in Nepal. The Chestnut Bittern appears with the Yellow Bittern

and together with the Night Heron they supplement the resident Ardeids: the Great, Median, Little and Cattle Egrets and the Pond Heron. Five types of Stork are resident in the area, while the Black Stork joins them in winter. Both the Pheasant-tailed and Bronze-winged Jacana spend the wet season in the Kosi area.

The Grey and White Pelicans are seen occasionally during the monsoon and have only been reported in this part of Nepal. They are a most impressive sight, either soaring or splashing after fish in the river. Its status as yet undetermined, Jerdon's Bushchat has been seen in the summer of both 1975 and 1976, the first sightings in Nepal. During the monsoon one may see seventy or so species in the Kosi Barrage area, but as winter approaches the numbers are boosted as there are far more winter visitors than summer and a hundred or more species may be recorded.

The winter migration brings the Cormorants, Spoonbills, five kinds of Harrier, Ospreys, Peregrine Falcons, Waders, Shrikes, including the uncommon Grey Shrike, Warblers, Wagtails and many others. Duck and Geese do not normally stop on their southward journey, but stage in large numbers in the spring, supplementing the resident Spotbill, Cotton Teal, Lesser Whistling Teal and Tufted Duck. The visiting Anatidae are numbered in thousands and include Greylag and Bar-headed Geese, Ruddy Shelduck, Pintail (the commonest at 5000+ often present), Common Teal, Mallard, Gadwall, the rare Falcated Teal, Wigeon, Gargany, Shoveler, Red-crested, Common and White-eye Pochards, Nucta Duck and Eastern Merganser. Five species of gull and six of tern visit during the winter, although members of some species such as the River and Black-bellied Terns are present throughout the year. The scarce pink Slender-billed Gull has been seen twice in Nepal in this area. Amongst the Warblers the visitors include the uncommon Smoky Leaf Warbler, and the first Eastern Grasshopper Warbler to be recorded in Nepal was netted in 1976. Mention should also be made of the large flocks of several hundred Yellow-breasted Buntings which appear during the winter and the occasional Black-headed Bunting which strays from the south-west. Besides being on the migration route for geese and ducks it is clear from the large numbers of birds sighted or netted in the spring that it is on the general migration route. Migrants especially noted are the Great-crested and Little Grebes, Hoopoes, Blyth's Reed Warblers and Bluethroats.

This area is then of great ornithological importance.

Not only is it an important staging area during migration, but it is the only area in Nepal where a considerable number of uncommon birds are found. It is therefore important to preserve it as an area of international importance and to provide a reserve where these uncommon species may be conserved, and where migrants may pause in safety. To this end then I would welcome the creation of the Kosi Barrage Nature Reserve.

Footnote: Since this article was written the area upriver of the Kosi Barrage and the extensive marshes flanking it to the west have been declared a National Nature Reserve by King Mahendra.

R. Gregory-Smith, Brassey House, Barton, A.C.T. 2600.

A NEW A.C.T. RECORD - THE EASTERN CURLEW

Jim McNaughton

On 9 January 1977 because of the expected heat I visited Kelly's Swamp area earlier than usual, being over at the main swamp at approximately 7 a.m. As usual, I viewed the main swamp from the road before going into the paddocks. On the northern edge of the swamp right at the water's edge was an Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*. This was the first time I have seen this species in this area. I attempted a couple of photographs from the road and then went down to the edge of the southern side of the swamp for a couple more. By the time I reached the edge the bird had been disturbed by a Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes* which landed nearby, and the Curlew came into the shallow water approximately 10 metres from the northern shore.

After this I tried to get to the same side as the Curlew. I did this but at about 200 metres distance it took off, circled the swamp twice, calling (which I have faintly on tape) and flew in the direction of the river, over the sewerage ponds. I had no further sighting. The bird was in the area for about 45-60 minutes whilst I was there.

J. McNaughton, 30 Launceston Street, Lyons, A.C.T. 2606.

SCIENTIFIC COLLECTING - GOOD OR BAD?
REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF SPECIMENS ESSENTIAL

Merle Baldwin

In CBN vol. 3 no. 9 Dr R. Schodde and Mr G.S. Clark present arguments for and against the collecting of bird specimens for scientific research. Dr Schodde informs us that it is absolutely necessary to have complete sets of specimens for continuing studies, and stresses the relatively small number required. Mr Clark, however, is more cautious and points out the need for strict policing of collectors, some of whom appear at present to abuse their privilege. He also mentions the arousing of militant emotions which prompt some of us, at any cost, to keep safe our birds in green places.

Although the figures supplied by Dr Schodde are somewhat vague - i.e. about thirty to fifty specimens of each species within a 1500 square mile block - they appear to be acceptable if only one collection is to be made, but I fear that if students of taxonomy are to have easy access to specimens, about ten such collections would need to be located throughout Australia. These would call for ten times the number of specimens suggested by Dr Schodde. We would also have to consider requests from overseas museums.

Dr Schodde believes that our small passerines will provide more surpluses in one year than the taxonomist will need in fifty years and bases his remark on a theoretical figure for the Song Sparrow, an assumption not entirely applicable to the local scene. My own observations in the Inverell district indicate that the Grey Shrike-thrush, the Scarlet, Eastern Yellow and Red-capped Robins are now limited to about one pair to each 10 square miles (in altered habitats they no longer reside), a generous total of 300 birds of each of the above species in each 1500 square mile block, of which fifty of each species would be required for one collection I doubt if there would be more than 150 Wedge-tailed Eagles in a similar block here, while the Crested Bellbird and Spotted Quail-thrush are rarer still. Adaptable species like the Willie Wagtail and the Australian Magpie average about four breeding pairs in the square mile. Flock birds such as the Galah would suffer little from

judicious culling and there is a substantial floating population of honeyeaters and lorikeets which would need special consideration.

In drought years breeding is minimal and death of adults often occurs further reducing the population. Consider also the disruptive effects of collecting on the family unit. In the case of the White-winged Chough solitary females may be accepted by another depleted unit but solitary males are often killed. I believe also that many skins are lost, damaged or destroyed in the making of collections.

If we consider all these points we must agree with Mr Clark that strict policing is essential to ensure the taking of only truly surplus birds. This can only be determined by population counts prior to the collecting of specimens. Such counts should be carried out by an unbiased committee - or at least one in which both sides are equally represented!

As an alternative to collecting it should be possible with modern cameras to take detailed pictures enabling classification by feathers and soft parts colours and markings. This would reduce considerably the number of specimens required for other aspects of taxonomy. Although the camera approach might be time consuming, as it could require the catching of birds for close-ups, it would provide a collection capable of unlimited reproduction. I believe that we should interfere as little as possible with the natural order if we are to benefit from ecological studies. Of these taxonomy plays a relatively small part.

Mrs M. Baldwin, Gilgai, via Inverell, N.S.W. 2360.

ODD OBS

JASMINE FOR THE BIRDS

P. Morris Kennedy

The deciduous shrub Winter Jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*) is a welcome splash of colour during its flowering season, early June to August. As a bonus, its flowers seem to be particularly attractive to the Eastern Spinebill (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*); a male of this species has visited our bush at least once daily throughout the winter, hovering in characteristic fashion to feed from the flowers. Other honeyeaters, including the Red Wattlebird (*Anthochaera carunculata*), visit it occasionally, but apparently regard it as emergency rations only.

OUT AND ABOUT

S. Graculina

Recently the New Idea has been dealing with 'Phobias and obsessions, their understanding and treatment in a series of articles by Joy Melville. We trust that C.O.G. numbers no bird phobics (in the following sense) among its members. The following is from the New Idea of 27 August 1977.

BIRDS

Bird phobics find themselves continually on the watch.

'When I'm in the house alone,' said one, 'I always keep the windows and outside doors closed, even in hot weather. We live in an old house which has fireplaces in every room. I had the bedroom ones taken out and the chimneys blocked up. Downstairs we have gas fires and I have had covers with small apertures made over these chimneys.'

Unfortunately, her neighbour encourages birds, so she cannot go into the garden as the birds come quite close and she is terrified.

Another woman said she could not even put up with them on the window ledge outside the room she was in; and one phobic's holiday was spoilt because of the presence of a lot of tame sparrows. 'I had to make a hasty exit from the ballroom twice when a sparrow flew in; and the last morning I had to run out and leave my breakfast because there was a bird hopping about on the tables.'

A pedestrian shopping centre has become a source of fear and embarrassment to one 21-year-old girl as it is always infested with pigeons. She also watches cages in people's homes constantly in case the birds get out, and even dreams of them. It is always the same kind of dream: she walks into a building of some sort and suddenly the place is full of birds flying round her head; all she can do is scream.

This girl believed her phobia began when she was 4 and her father bought her a budgerigar which got into her hair. Even now she still wants to cover her head when near birds. This reaction, in fact, is fairly common among phobics - particularly with those whose first fear of birds came from being trapped in a room with a bird, or having a bird fly up at them suddenly. The

sight or sound of fluttering of wings is often one of the most feared factors.

The article 'Attracting native birds to a Canberra garden' by David Purchase (CBN vol. 3 no. 11, pp. 7-14) raises a few thoughts regarding the ethics of feeding birds.

Some purists argue that even planting to attract birds is undesirable, but that surely is an extreme view.

In some parts of Australia direct feeding of birds is being encouraged actively by bird lovers. This appears to require serious thought as to its effects. When carried out on a large scale, as at the Currumbin Sanctuary on the Gold Coast, it can have the effect of increasing the populations of certain species; this has certainly happened over the whole area from which the Currumbin population comes. What happens to that increased population, now dependent upon artificial feeding, should that feeding cease? Cessation of course is unthinkable, but this does cause the ordinary bird lover to think seriously before commencing artificial feeding about the home.

What are the effects of artificial feeding? Is it justified? This is an ethical problem. Welfare of birds is involved.

What happens when birds are artificially fed? It seems natural that having been fed in this way birds will continue to look for that food. If feeding is carried out to the point of dependency, the person concerned is taking on an obligation to keep the feeding up continuously and that may be a tall order. What happens during holidays, illnesses etc. or when the person concerned simply loses interest? Depending on how the particular birds have come to rely on the artificial feeding, so will be the effect of cessation. Stopping such feeding can cause deaths among the birds which come regularly for the food.

To revert to David's article, trees, shrubs and a garden generally provide a regular cycle of food for birds which changes with the season but basically the cycle is repeated annually independently of the gardener. Nature takes over. This can find few serious objectors.

The position is not so cut and dried with artificial feeding. A person who provides food for birds to the extent of the birds being dependent upon the food does pose a problem for himself as the situation arises wherein that feeding must be kept up continuously; a sobering thought.

Some thought must also be given to the nature of food provided. For example, honeyeaters love nectar and seem to have an uncanny habit of finding flowering shrubs (especially native shrubs). However bees in gathering nectar and storing honey in their hives change the nature of that food. Nectar is an excellent food for many of our birds, but honey is not. If honey is used it must be diluted by the addition of about ten parts water to one of honey; otherwise neat honey or a strong honey-water mixture can be positively harmful.

So go plant your garden or put out food; but please think of the effect of what you are doing.

The Committee has decided that, despite a not too bright financial vista, subs will continue as follows for this financial year:

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Single member | \$3.00 |
| Couple with one CBN | \$4.00 |
| Couple with two CBNs | \$6.00 |

Subs are overdue so please see our Treasurer Alan Taysom or post subs to him c/- the C.O.G. box no. on the back page.

G. Tibicen (CBN vol. 3 no. 11, p. 25) pondered upon the mystery of the Audubon Bird Caller. In my experience the answer is simple: certain birds are always attracted by it, e.g. the Grey and Rufous Fantails and some other small species especially. Any species which can be 'whistled up' can be attracted by the skilful use of this implement. Why bother with such an expensive item (\$4.20)? Why not use a small glass bottle with a cork and a little water to keep the cork moist. Methylated spirit is a little more effective but tends to leak in the pocket or bag. Rubbing the cork on the glass provides a variety of calls which will attract several species.

Again adverting to the article by David Purchase (CBN vol. 3 no. 11, pp. 7-14), lots of us can boast huge and interesting garden bird lists (I'm among these). But what function does the garden perform in the life of the birds we see?

I've concluded it's a small and relatively unimportant one.

The real test is whether or not the birds breed in the area and in local experience these species are only a small proportion of those listed.

One fairly obvious effect is that as Canberra grows the number of birds seen within the suburban areas is continuing to increase. If one compares the birds seen in nearby undeveloped areas with those seen in older areas the effect is immediately seen. At all seasons birds are more abundant than they would have been in the same areas prior to development, notwithstanding changes of species. The effect is most obvious during the winter months and at this time the regular renewal of 'garden-provided' food of all types enables a large number of individuals of many species to survive in areas where food would previously have been very scarce indeed.

So it seems that while we do not get large numbers of breeding birds in our gardens, we do help lots of birds to survive. Of course ultimately the fate of these and the next generations depends on the ability of these birds to find breeding territory elsewhere. It appears therefore that the balance is quite heavily in favour of the development of our suburban gardens, notwithstanding the relatively small effect on locally breeding populations. What do you think? The Editor would like to know.

GANG-GANG COCKATOO EATING WATER MILFOIL

Michael Brooker

Unusual feeding behaviour by a Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum* was observed at the Cotter River below Corin Dam from 1300 to 1330 hours on 28 December 1976. The bird, a female, was eating Water Milfoil *Myriophyllum propinquum* growing in the water near the edge of a large pool. She pulled plants from the water while perched on the end of small overhanging sticks, ate the submergent stem and leaves and discarded the emergent tip. She flew low over a patch of Milfoil several times and appeared to be trying (unsuccessfully) to seize plants with her bill. She also ate Milfoil stranded on rocks and logs by a recent flood. Other Gang-gangs were seen in the area feeding more conventionally in eucalypts and wattles.

M.G. Brooker, 21 Dwyer Street, Cook, A.C.T. 2614.

THREE SOUTH COAST SIGHTINGS

John Penhallurick

Over the Australia Day weekend birdwatching in the Guerrilla Bay-Broulee area produced three sightings of some interest. On 30 January 1977 Steve Marchant and I had an excellent view of three Southern Emu-wrens *Stipiturus malachurus* in the wildlife sanctuary along Candlagan Creek, behind Broulee. Two males were in a mangrove beside the creek, while a female foraged in a fallen tree nearby.

On the next day I walked along a creek half-way between Broulee and the Moruya aerodrome and found six White-cheeked Honeyeaters *Philodonyris nigra* feeding on insects above the plants which choke the creek. It was not until I checked the Reader's Digest Complete book of Australian birds that I realised the sighting was significant; that book gives Nowra, a long way north of Broulee, as the southern limit of the bird's distribution on the east coast. The White-cheeked Honeyeater shares the heavy black and white streaking, and yellow markings on wing and tail, of the New Holland Honeyeater *Philodonyris novaehollandiae*, which was feeding in the same area, but the first can easily be distinguished by its large white ear-patch. The white ear-patch on the New Holland is much smaller.

Finally, on the Monday, a flock (60+) of Fork-tailed Swifts *Apus pacificus* were seen above the tip of Burrewarra Point, where a month before I had seen a similar flock of the more common Spine-tailed Swift *Hirundapus caudacutus*. The Fork-tailed Swift is slightly smaller, and its forked tail can be seen when it banks. The most useful features for distinguishing the two species are the rump and undertail; the Fork-tailed has a white rump and dark undertail, while the spine-tailed has a dark rump and white undertail.

J. Penhallurick, 86 Bingley Crescent, Eraser, A.C.T., 2615.

EXCURSION TO BURREWARRA POINT

Neil Hermes

On 12 June 1977 a small group of C.O.G. members made a sea watch from Burrewarra Point, south of Batemans Bay. Unfortunately it was a fine day with a calm sea and so seabirds were scarce.

We were able to positively identify two species of Albatross, the Black-browed and Wandering, and saw other birds, including Shearwaters, further out to sea. Nearer to land Australian Gannets, Crested Terns and Silver Gulls were common.

Highlights of the morning were a White-breasted Sea-eagle observed close to the cliff top and a flock of Sooty Oystercatchers which commenced feeding on the rocks at the base of the headland just as we were leaving. A group of dolphins was also seen.

This area is highly recommended, not only because it is a very good vantage point for sea watches (used by Marchant (1977) for his study), but also for its heath, where numerous species of honeyeaters, lorikeets and the Southern Emu-wren can be found.

S. Marchant (1977), 'A sea watch on the south coast of N.S.W.', *Emu* 76, 9-18.

N. Hermes, 'Oaklands', Spring Range, via Hall, N.S.W.

ODD OBS

THE COOT'S FLIGHT PATTERNS

Doug Ross

The two flight patterns of the Coot *Fulica atra* were very clearly demonstrated in the autumn months when larger quantities of weed were carried out into the open reaches of the Lake off Bowen Drive. Coots working out of Jerrabomberra Creek were seen several times in sustained, comparatively high flight as they made their way from Jerrabomberra to the weed patches. The sustained flight pattern is both elegant and powerful, especially in comparison with the Coot's normal scurry.

SEA WATCHING NEAR CANBERRA

John Penhallurick

Canberra birdwatchers are well placed for watching seabirds, with two excellent spots within a few hours' drive. Hopefully, a number of C.O.G. members will get a practical introduction to sea watching on the October outing to Green Cape. So it seems a good time to outline the basics of sea watching.

The essential equipment is a pair of binoculars - preferably 8 x 40 or 10 x 40. Those with higher magnification are usually heavy and difficult to focus on a swift-flying seabird. A telescope is a useful addition.

Not everyone will agree on the best time of day for watching. Although one can see birds at any time, my experience is that the hour or so after dawn is best. The best vantage point is some 15 to 20 metres above the surface of the sea.

The two places handy to Canberra - Burrewarra Point and Green Cape - provide ideal spots. Burrewarra Point is located half way between Bateman's Bay and Moruya. South of the Point, the sea cuts into the land in a deep bight, so that birds following the coast north are close inshore as they swing out to round the Point. To get there, take the road from Bateman's Bay through Malua Bay to the Burrewarra Point - Guerrilla Bay turn-off sign. It is best to park at the base of the Point, which is a reserve, and to walk the last half mile. Follow the track past the light to the very tip. There is a level area half way down to the sea which is at a suitable height and which offers some protection from the wind. Camping is not permitted in the area, but there are several caravan parks nearby, and motels in Batehaven.

Green Cape is a little further from Canberra, just south of Eden. The quickest route is through Cooma to Bega. The turn-off from the Princes Highway, about 5 kilometres south of Kiah, is clearly signposted. Again, go out to the very tip of the Cape, past the lighthouse! There is camping at two sites nearby in the Ben Boyd National Park, though these may be full at holiday periods. The Cape is probably the best spot in Australia for watching seabirds. One has a good chance of seeing species here that usually don't come as far north

as Burrewarra Point and there is deep water close inshore.

The best times for sea watching are June to September, when the birds which move up from the Southern Ocean are present; and October to November, when the summer population of shearwaters returns. Highlights during the winter are: four species of Albatross (Wandering, White-capped, Black-browed and Yellow-nosed); Fluttering Shearwaters from New Zealand; Giant Petrels (get a good look at the tip of the bill); and an occasional Skua, White-fronted Tern or Great-winged Petrel. The great sight during the spring is the return of the Short-tailed Shearwaters to their breeding grounds, usually around the beginning of October. In 1975 I watched a solid stream of birds passing at a rate above 5000 per minute, a flow which continued without pause from dawn to dusk. Australian Gannets, Silver Gulls and Crested Terns are present throughout the year.

Sea watching requires different techniques from watching land birds, not least because you sit in one spot and wait for the birds to come to you. Staring through binoculars can become very tiring after ten minutes, and the best procedure is to watch most of the time with the naked eye, with a regular scan with binoculars every five minutes. At times of heavy passage, two or even three watchers are needed - one to watch close inshore; another to watch beyond a kilometre; and a third to record.

Another important difference with sea watching is that you are often looking at a bird a kilometre or more distant. Identification must rely on characteristics like the underwing pattern, the way the bird flies, and the way it holds its wings. It is best to get to know these features in company with an experienced watcher, who can tell you that the dot you can see in the distance is a Wedge-tailed Shearwater. I owe a great deal to my own tutor, Stephen Marchant, who spent many a chilly dawn with me on Burrewarra Point. There are a number of C.O.G. members, including myself, who watch regularly, and who would be glad to help anyone interested.

J. Penhallurick, 86 Bingley Crescent, Fraser, A.C.T. 2615.

KING PARROTS IN CURTIN

Terry Gourlay

I was interested to read Steve Wilson's note on King Parrots in CBN vol. 3 no. 11; living in Curtin one can hardly ignore the large flocks of these birds which in winter months are to be found feeding in gardens and plantation areas. The greatest concentrations are to be found in the plantations close to the Cotter Road and the Governor-General's residence. Favourite food is without doubt the seed of the Cotoneasters, which is speedily extracted from the ripe berries, cracked and the kernels eaten. Another favourite is ripe pin oak acorns which are eaten on the ground. I have been intrigued, whilst on many occasions observing these birds in a stunted plantation of Spanish oaks, that they never eat the acorns but seem to be eating the leaves, which in our climate are evergreen.

Large flocks of King Parrots may be observed every evening from about 1530 hours onward winging their way home to roosts deep in the heart of the Stromlo pine forest, where they gather in noisy groups. The total number of these birds roosting in the forest must be quite significant; in one hour of observation from the Scrivener Dam in July 1977 I counted 280 birds; this seems but a fraction of the birds passing this spot and, from my observations, which are regular in other areas of the forest, only a portion of the total number of the birds using the forest.

Anyone who has a copy of Steve Marchant's observations of birds from the same spot whilst undertaking his Pied Currawong survey could provide us with some interesting comparisons on the changing status of the King Parrot, which in my belief is increasing steadily in numbers and becoming far more tame.

I would be interested to hear from anyone noticing significant movements of these birds in spring or autumn as the presence of birds in the Brindabellas over the winter period may be evidence that the birds in this area are residents. I have heard in personal comments from aviculturalists that King Parrots are particularly numerous in the Wee Jasper area during summer, but as they are also numerous at such times in the adjacent east coast areas then I believe one should keep an open mind on this issue.

T. Gourlay, 9 Elmslie Place, Curtin, A.C.T. 2605.

SIGHTING OF A LITTLE BITTERN NEAR TEMORA

Mrs L. Thompson

On 20 September 1976 I sighted what I believe to be a Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* at Ingalba Nature Reserve near Temora, N.S.W. A description of the bird is as follows: legs, feet, breast pale creamy-buff; the tail and wings black; there was a distinct russet patch on the nape of the neck; the face and beak were pale. The legs were paler than shown in Slater vol. 1 and more like the illustration in Cayley (What bird is that?).

When the bird was first noticed it was crouched under a spreading Cootamundra Wattle *Acacia baileyana* in a 'typical' bittern pose as it was being threatened by nesting Australian Magpies. The bird was approximately the same size as a Magpie. When disturbed it disappeared through the wattle into vegetation behind.

This observation was during a wet period just after 12 mm of rain and there was plenty of surface water around, and birds of many other species. The wattle was very near surface water.

Although I have never seen a Little Bittern before, the pose, coloration and size of the bird leave very little alternative identification available.

Mrs L. Thompson, R.M.B. 123, Temora, N.S.W. 2666.

ODD OBS

MARSH CRAKES

Doug Ross

In high summer, the top basins of the Dairy Flat sewage farm tend to be covered by very thick growths of algae. Two Marsh Crakes *Porzana pusilla* were seen in the early afternoon of 6 February 1977, some metres out into one basin, walking on the algae carpet and picking up food from it. The birds were not particularly concerned at the (not too close) presence of an observer and, when they did react, did no more than walk fast into a nearby reed patch.

CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|------|
| Editorial | 1 |
| Bird report, 1 July 1976 to 30 June 1977 | 2 |
| Sighting of two Budgerigars in the Canberra district | 11 |
| Sightings of the Singing Bushlark | 12 |
| The Kosi Barrage area, Nepal, as a nature reserve | 13 |
| A new A.C.T. record - the Eastern Curlew | 15 |
| Scientific collecting - good or bad? | 16 |
| Out and about | 18 |
| Gang-gang Cockatoo eating Water Milfoil | 21 |
| Three south coast sightings | 22 |
| Excursion to Burrewarra Point | 23 |
| Sea watching near Canberra | 24 |
| King Parrots in Curtin | 26 |
| Sighting of a Little Bittern near Temora | 27 |

Secretary: Editor:

Canberra Bird Notes is published quarterly by the Canberra Ornithologists Group.

Secretary: Mr R. Gregory-Smith, P.O. Box 301,
Civic Square, Canberra, A.C.T. 2608.

Editor: Mr S.J. Wilson, P.O. Box 301, Civic
Square, Canberra, A.C.T. 2608.

Assistant Editor: Miss J. Wyatt

Editorial Panel: Messrs B. Baker, G. Clark and D.
Purchase

October 1977