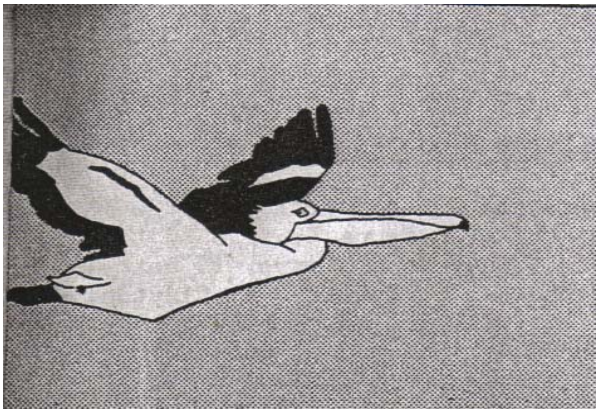

# Canberra bird notes

**No.12 July 1971**
**Price 25c.**

Ninox strenua see page 14

# THE CAMERA AS A FIELD NOTEBOOK

Michael Carins

Introduction In my title I have deliberately specified ‘cameras as field notebooks’ because the uses I envision are informal. The shots taken will mostly be for one's private benefit rather than for exhibition. As one takes scrappy, apparently meaningless notes so one will take add photographs. The camera is a recording machine with a permanent memory almost instantaneous in its action, and able to record objects either larger than life or in greater detail than can be seen. It can record a complete area or a small section of it. The only disadvantage is that the camera can lie - or mere exactly, not record what the eye sees.

The Camera The most useful general ornithological camera is the 35mm single-lens reflex. Ideally it would incorporate an exposure meter and use interchangeable lenses. The larger the range of accessories available for a camera the greater its adaptability.

These cameras are net cheap, prices ranging from the vicinity of $100 to almost as much as one cares to pay. With cameras, almost more than anything else, one gets what one pays for. Despite external appearances the price indicates quality. Prices can be reduced by making certain moving parts of brass rather than steel, which means they wear out sooner; lenses may be made more simply, increasing distortion; shutters may be made less accurately, reducing the coupling tolerances.

The camera specified is chosen for the following reasons:-

35mm film - the film size enables the camera- to remain reasonably compact while providing an adequate choice of films and exposures (36 and 20, 10 with some colour film).

Single lens reflex - so that one sees what the camera sees regardless of lens. As one is looking directly through the lens parallax on close subjects is eliminated and focusing errors become evident

Built-in exposure meter - enabling the light available to be monitored at all times. A through-the-lens metering system provides even better results since the light striking the meter cells is that which passes through the lens, so that the possibility of error is smaller.

Interchangeable lenses - they extend the scope of the camera. The standard lens normally has a focal length of 50 or 55 mms (although this should be about 45 to 47 mms to correspond to what the eye sees). A long-focus lens is usually between 115 and 135 mms corresponding to the area covered by the attending eye - an actual magnification of 2.3 to 2.7. Popular telephoto lenses are normally 200 mms (x4) and 400 mms (x8). Above these sizes price becomes a major factor. Wide-angle lenses are less uniform in size, but a 12 ½ mm lens covers almost four times the visual field and would cover a field of over 180 degrees. Large wide-angle lenses of this type invariably introduce distortion in the photograph.

Bellows units and extension tubes permit the camera to photograph objects at from ½ to 2 times actual size.

Filters are used either to emphasise certain colours (contrast filters) or to balance the type of film to a colour or tonal range approximating that seen by the eye (correction filters).

Lens hoods are used to prevent seme of the unwanted reflected light reaching the lens.

Tripods are used to 'held, the camera in a fixed position, either to support it for long periods or to provide rigidity where large (ever 200 mm) telephoto lenses are being used.

Flash units are used either to provide or to supplement light and they may be electronic or bulb. Electronic flash provides many thousands of flashes from a single unit, while bulbs are expendable items. The former is limited to one or two levels of light output, while a versatile bulb unit may permit outputs varying from thousands to millions of candlepower to be used.

Buying a Camera and Film Two points should be borne in mind when buying a camera. Only buy second hand cameras if their history is known. They may have been stolen, illegally imported or damaged internally.

When buying lenses only buy the size you will use. The difference between an f l.2 and f 1.7 lens represents a very marginal increase in light gathering power while increasing the cost by about $100 in some cases.

Film is available in three types - black-and-white (monochrome), colour positive (transparencies) or colour negative. Monochrome film provides the greatest range of emulsion speeds and is most convenient for shots of opportunity. Colour positive is ideal for photographs where colour is important and where duplicates are rarely required. Colour negative requires further processing but can be used to provide transparencies, colour or monochrome prints.

Although colour is mere pleasing than monochrome, the range of film normally available is comparatively small and enlargements are expensive. The difference in cost between a postcard-size monochrome print and a colour transparency is small, but while the cost of the transparency is in the film that of the print is in the enlarging. Thus a much higher wastage rate is acceptable in monochrome where only the best negatives are enlarged.

Cine Cameras Although net quite as good as still cameras a versatile cine-camera can provide very useful information on display and flight. The main objection to cine-cameras in the field is the cost of material.

Photographs of Opportunity When using a camera as a notebook the ideal film is a high-speed monochrome film (Kodak Tri-X, Ilford HP3, Fuji Neopan SSS, Agfa Isopan ISS). Super speed films are undesirable due to their excessive grain.

Ideal lenses would be normal, 200mm and possibly the U00mm$_e$ A tripod should be used with the larger lenses whenever possible

Photographs of opportunity are those which one cannot predict and may have to be taken in extreme light and weather conditions. They would include shots of rare birds, unusual behaviour, flora, net sites, changes in en area, etc, Monochrome film is recommended since the film's speed permits its use in conditions where colour film would be unsuitable,, The latitude of the emulsion allows sheeting without checking exposure in an emergency; many sheets may be taken to achieve an optimum result; and because it is possible to enlarge a small portion of the negative to a useful size quite cheaply.

cont/-

A further point in favour of monochrome is that speeds of up to 1/1000 sec. may "be used with suitable lenses - this is rarely possible with colour film in any "but the most ideal conditions.

Historical Records Since natural regions change with time, and with them the avifauna, a particular area could "be photographed at intervals to relate changes in vegetation to changes in the bird fauna. Large seabird colonies could also be photographed to show changes in the size of the colony and the area occupied by the birds, and for population counts.

All types of film may be used for historical records. It is suggested that transparencies be taken to provide records of flora and for seabird counts, and monochrome be used when colour would serve little purpose - such as habitat shots and fluctuations in colonies.

Birds in the Hand Colour should be used whenever possible, although lighting conditions may be such that it can be used only with flash. Ideally a 'Standard Colour' chart should be included in the photograph so that corrections t» the colour balance can be made during processing. When photographing birds in the hand measures should be taken to ensure that the lighting is as even as possible.

Documentation Occasionally real or imagined differences are noted between specimens, both in the field and in collections. If these are small, such as differences in bill shape, extension tubes or bellows may be used to take large photographs for comparison. A scale should be included in the photograph se that measurements can be made.

Drawings While photographs or transparencies are normally sufficient in themselves it may be desired to emphasize certain features or to compare one or mere photographs, incorporating the results in a single drawing. I have found that this can be easily accomplished by pre selecting transparencies or negatives onto a sheet of paper and drawing them in. Where shots include scale, projections can be made to the same degree of magnification.

Some Hints and Ideas

Rare Birds Photographs of opportunity. Unfortunately rarities are usually found in the most inaccessible places in the worst weather. Large telephoto lenses are usually necessary, but it should be remembered that most only focus down to around 20 or 30 feet. Be prepared for long uncomfortable waits and tiresome crawls.

Shy Birds Use hides to get close and spend time studying your subject.

In a New Area Take photographs of the area to provide an initial record and keep a file, updating it as the area changes. Refer song pests, nesting sites and territories to photographs and maps.

In Regular Areas Keep a photographic file of known age birds. Compile a photographic index of birds in the area. Record seasonal plumage changes and sexual dimorphism, particularly with banded birds.

Traps and Techniques Keep a record of new methods and photograph details for writing up.

Breeding Birds Photograph nests, eggs (in colour) and chick development without tee much disturbance at the nest.

cont/-

## Some Advice

Film Film is net stable. It dislikes heat. Colour film should be stored in the refrigerator until required (allow sufficient time for the condensation to evaporate before loading into the camera). Keep the camera in a cool place. Keep both exposed and un-exposed film in a vacuum flask or jar in the field. Never under any circumstances leave either film or cameras in the glove compartment of a car - it builds up heat like an oven.

Weather Protection Cameras should be protected from the weather. Ideally a weatherproof case should be used but since one may not readily be available a pressure-cooker provides an ideal container when the camera is not in use. If the camera gets wet, in rain for example, it should be left to dry-with the back open. Lenses should be wiped clean with lens tissue (mop, don't scrub) and surplus moisture allowed to evaporate in a warm, dry area (not an oven). When not in use, cameras should be stored in an airtight biscuit tin surrounded by silica-gel in sealed, cloth bags.

Disturbance Birds, particularly nesting birds, are easily disturbed. Remember that a display is likely to be affected by the photographer's presence, that breeding birds are very liable to desert, and that fledglings might 'explode' from the nest.

Colour Change The dyes used in colour film are net stable and are only balanced to 'neon sunlight' at 1/25 to 1/250 sec. At other times of day, other speeds, and depending upon storage conditions and age, a shift in colour may occur. The colour of transparencies may also change if not stored under the right conditions. Hence the recommendation that a colour chart be included in transparencies.

Colour balance is also affected by reflected light for which the eye compensates A white breast en a bird standing en grass can look faintly green in brilliant sunlight. The internal coating of lenses (to reduce light less) can also impart a colour bias.

Colour correction filters can be obtained to correct light shift, but these depend upon accurate measurement of the colour temperature of the light involved.

Photographs should not be taken by fluorescent light since strip lighting only appears white - the phosphorus coating the tubes being a combination of fluorescent chemicals which approximates to white, but with seme shades missing.

When using flash or electric lighting, blue flash bulbs, a blue correction filter er colour film balanced for artificial light should be used. A blue correction -filter is usually the simplest course, but it reduces the light intake.

An ultra-violet filter is recommended if colour film is to be used in normal daylight at distances in excess of 30 feet. This filter blocks ultra-violet radiation which, though invisible, adds a bluish haze to the photograph.

Conclusion The camera's use as a notebook can be that of a jotting pad or as an accurate scientific instrument. As a pad one is concerned merely with achieving an identifiable result. As a recording instrument one is concerned with standards and measurements. Both are of use, but when precise results are required one has to be a scientist as well as a photographer. The choice is yours.

P.O. Box 156, Civic Square, A.C.T.

## SOME NESTING NOTES

Tony Stokes

The weather was particularly significant to the 1969/70 nesting season in Canberra, The preceding winter had seen good rains which broke a fairly severe drought and yet it had been very mild. Sunny days and cold nights had a much higher predominance than usual, and by August I was expecting a rather early return of migrants and some early nesting.

The following are some notes which I made during that season and a couple of more recent observations. All nests (except the Mud lark's) were in the Mount Pleasant/ Duntroon Rifle Range area of the A.C.T.

A pair of Mudlarks Grallina cyanoleuca, which usually nest in an old Blakely's Red Gum Eucalyptus blakelyi in our backyard, raised four successive, successful broods during the season. They used the same nest on each occasion though there were four other old nests in the same tree. The nest was inaccessible, but I noted that the young left the nest on the following dates:- September 20, 1969, November 22, 1969, January 30, 1970 and April 30, 1970. The total number raised was 14, consisting of the following clutch sizes in order of appearance – 3,5,3,3. The last clutch was presumably incubated during early April when snow fell fairly heavily in Canberra and the weather was very inclement for at least two weeks.

From available literature, such a high brood number per season seems to be unusual, and I think this would be especially applicable to Canberra's temperate climate. Details of the nesting of this species in this district in Rowley (Frith, 1969) and the C.O.G. Field list (1966) indicate that it rarely nests before October and the last eggs are usually laid in January.

Keast (1965) states that one to three broods per year is the norm for this species and Serventy and Whittell (1967) state that "Two or more broods are raised each nesting season" and that the incubation period is 18-19 days and the nestling period 18-19 days, North (1914) observed that "Nidification ... generally commences in August and the usual breeding season in Eastern Australia continues for the next-five months", i.e. till January. He also says "A new nest is almost invariably constructed for each brood, of which two, if not three, are reared during the season."

The significance of this record would therefore appear to lie in the number of broods raised i.e. four; the extent of the season - from August till May; and in the fact that the same nest was used for each clutch by apparently the same parents.

Speckled Warbler

A pair of Speckled Warblers Chthonicola sagittata was discovered building a nest on August 11, 1969. The nest had three eggs in it on August 25. Though the normal nesting season for this species in Australia is from September to December, some authors have found it nesting in August in other parts of Australia, e.g. North (1914), and the frequency of this occurrence appears to increase the more northerly one goes in its range. Judging from notes in Frith (1969) and the field list for the area, it would seem to be rather a rare event in Canberra.

cont/-

## Yellowtailed Thornbill

I have a few records of Yellowtailed Thornbills Acanthiza chrysorrhoa nesting in the same situation each year, however I believe that the following observation stands out because of the permanence of the nest.

A nest of this species was discovered in a thick drooping mistletoe clump attached to a Yellow Box Eucalyptus melliodora in late 1967. It was in use then and has been used each season since. The nest has been checked a few times in winter and does not appear to have ever been destroyed - the normal fate of used nests. The factor responsible for the nest's survival seems to be the numerous mistletoe twigs to which it is closely woven.

Finally - I have noted in November 1970 a pair of Whitethroated Warblers Gerygone olivacea and a pair of Blackfaced Cuckoo-Shrikes Coracina novaehollandiae nesting in exactly the same spots on exactly the same branches at which similar pairs nested in 1969. Both nests had been destroyed after their use in 1969.

## References

Canberra Ornithologists Group, 1966. A Field-list of the Birds of Canberra and District.

Frith, H.J., (Ed.) 1969. Birds in the Australian High Country. Sydney - Reed.

Keast, A., 1965. Bush Birds of Australia. Brisbane - Jacaranda Books.

North, A.J., 1914. Nests and Eggs of Birds found breeding in Australia and Tasmania, Vol. I. Sydney - F.W. White.

Serventy, D.L. and H.M. Whittell, 1967. Birds of W.A.

16, Badgery Street, Macquarie, A.C.T.

## OUR FIRST TRANS-TASMAN VISITOR

Anthony H. D'Andria

On March 15, 1971, while at the sewage-treatment works at Fyshwick, A.C.T., I flushed a dotterel which flew a short distance and alighted on a pond bank. It was stalked carefully to within 30 feet. The following description is "based on field notes taken at the time.

No other suitable birds were suitable for size comparison, but it seemed slightly larger than a Black-fronted Dotterel Charadrius melanops with a longer bill and legs. The bill was black, and the large eye was dark with a pale eyering. The legs appeared dark, but less than black. The white forehead extended back to a thin superciliary stripe over each eye. There was a pale-grey patch around each eye, and the ear-coverts below this were buffish. The crown and back were mousy brown, with some buff on the hindneck.

The throat was white. There were blackish smudges on the sides of the upper breast, and below them the breast was buffish blending into a pure white belly.

During the swift and dashing flight, a narrow pale bar showed on the upperwing, while the rump and tail looked dark with white outer feathers. The call, which sounded like a soft "tsip-tsip" was elaborated to a trill in flight.

After looking through field guides and other literature, I concluded that the bird was a Doublebanded Dotterel Charadrius bicinctus in eclipse plumage, and hereby submit the record as a new species for the A.C.T.

10, McCrae Street, Garran, A.C.T.

Addendum Mark Clayton reported Ch. bicinctus present "in thousands" at Lake Bathurst on June 26, 1971.

## AN A.C.T. RECORD

## OF THE POWERFUL OWL

Mark Clayton

The Powerful Owl Ninox strenua has seldom been recorded in the A.C.T., probably because of the nature of its habitat and its nocturnal habits.

During the C.O.G. outing to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve on February l4 1971, the party was led along the Red Hill Nature Trail. About 200 yards along the track Miss Rosemary Metcalf pointed out a large bird at the side of the trail. Glaring at us with large yellow eyes was a Powerful Owl, in its talons the remains of a Greater Glider Possum. The bird was perched about ten feet up on the limb of a small scrubby tree and about 20 feet to the right of the track. It showed no fear of the party, as most of us walked down and stood directly beneath it. It was watched from as close as six feet for about 20 minutes before the party moved on.

On the following Saturday the owl was not there, but I collected a quantity of pellets from beneath the perch. These consisted of the fur and bone remains of a Greater Glider Schoinobates volans (identified by Mr W. Vestjens, CSIRO Wildlife Research). Graeme Clark later found the owl two hundred yards away along a creek at the other end of the Red Hill Nature Trail. Again-the bird was clutching the remains of a Greater Glider.

Although the bird was not seen again, fresh pellets were found at the second roosting site some time after the abovementioned visits, so it appears that the owl is still in the vicinity.

23 Nardoo Crescent. O'Connor. A.C.T.

## S.A. CORMORANT CAUGHT IN THE A.C.T.

David Purchase

On February 22, 1971, Mr M.A. Elliott of the Dept of Interior and Dr M.E. Griffiths of the CSIEO Division of Wildlife Research netted a Black Cormorant Phalacro-corax carbo at the Corin Dam. The bird was released still wearing its band No. 130-71975.

This cormorant had been banded as a nestling on May 31, 1970 near Narrung, S.A. by Mr M.H. Waterman. The distance between banding site and place of capture is approximately 570 miles East.

The longest movement yet recorded for a Black Cormorant was for an adult which was banded at Lake George in 1965 by Mr J.L. McKean and caught more than four years later in a fishing-net near Goolwa, S.A. This movement, of 580 miles westward, is practically an exact reversal of the one above.

These and other recoveries of banded birds have shown that Black Cormorants disperse widely from their breeding sites.

Bird-banding Office, CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research

A Timely Reminder Members are advised that subscriptions for the year 1971/72 are now due and payable to the Secretary at the address on page 24.

Prompt payment of your subs now will prevent embarrassment later.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Unusual Frogmouth Roosts

Sir,

On September 8, 1970 I received a telephone call from the Department of the Army, Russell Hill, saying there was a sick bird sitting on a railing of the building. Upon investigation it was found to be a Tawny Frogmouth Podargus strigoides. The bird was sitting on a granite railing of a blotched dark-grey and white colour which harmonised perfectly with its plumage. The only give-away was the white marble column to which the railing was attached. The frogmouth was caught by hand and kept for the day, eventually being banded and released "back at Russell Hill.

The point that interests me is whether the bird deliberately roosted there, or was caught by daybreak and had no other choice but to remain. I personally believe it was the former as Mr Hugh Elliott (pers. comm) reported a similar occurrence from the same defence complex, but at a later date.

I would be very interested to hear from anyone else who has noted similar occurrences of frogmouths roosting in other than their natural habitat.

Yours,

Mark Clayton

O'Connor, A.C.T.

## Jacky Winter and Robins

Sir,

I cannot help thinking that, though separated generically, the Jacky Winter Microeca leucophaea should have been included in the key to the five female 'brown' robins (C.B.N. 11, April 1971).

TO beginners or those unfamiliar with the dryer country birds it is a most confusingly similar species, and its range and habitat overlap with the robins'. For instance, at the You Yangs, Victoria on April 19 1971 male and female Flame Bobins were in the same small clearing as a group of Jacky Winters, while further up the slope were immature and separable male and female Scarlet Robins. Redcapped Robins and Jacky Winters also occur together.

Admittedly, the Jacky Winter lacks the robins' wing markings, but the paler edges to the primaries, the white outer tail feathers and the generally similar colouring all confuse the issue.

Once learnt the calls are a great help, as well as the sideways motion of the tail when perched.

Yours,

Ellen M. McCulloch

Mitcham, VIC.

BOOK REVIEW

Kookaburras

Veronica A. Parry Lansdowne Press.

Some years ago, Veronica Parry came to CSIRO's Wildlife Division in Canberra to demonstrate her kookaburra catcher - a combination of rat-trap and hoopnet that looked foolproof. We were impressed

That trap played an important role in Miss Parry's 2 ½ year programme of research into the biology of Kookaburras. One outcome of her field-studies in Victoria was a Master of Science degree awarded by Monash University. Another very commendable result is this book.

Kookaburras belong to a loose group of quite unrelated birds whose social behaviour runs to auxiliaries at the nest. (The White-winged Chough and Blue Wren are two other Australian members). This phenomenon is given adequate treatment here. Kookaburra helpers are usually the young from previous seasons who join their parents in looking after new clutches and broods. Their duties include incubating, feeding the chicks and territory defence alongside their parents.

Since kookaburras are sexually mature at one year, and some auxiliaries had remained in their territory for up to three years, the big question was - what kept them from dispersing to seek their own mates and territories? By trapping and tagging, the author has supplied the answer, and it makes fascinating reading.

The benefits of the auxiliary system are not so clear. In the long run it may be an insurance against overpopulation by curbing the birth rate to match the species' low death rate.

Other facets of kookaburra life have been investigated. There are chapters on plumage, territory, vocal and visual behaviour, breeding, mortality and predation. The bird's raucous laugh, popularly interpreted for so long as an expression of joie de vivre, is in reality rather more complex.

Like other birdsong it functions as a declaration of territory ownership. It may be an outlet for the release of tension during an emergency. The rousing chorus, so often heard in the bush, may serve a social purpose by helping to maintain the familial bond, on the premise, no doubt, that the family who brays together stays together.

The book's style is highly readable and quite uncluttered by scientific jargon. It is profusely illustrated. Some of the photographs are indifferent in quality but the majority are good. The whole aspect of the book is pleasing, and I believe it should find its niche as a popular monograph on a universally recognised yet hitherto little-known species.

AHD'A

Other data

| | |
|---|---|
| Publication date | 12 March 1971 |
| Price | $4.75 |
| Number of pages | 110 |
| Size | 10 x 7 ½ |
| Number of colour photographs | 6 |
| Number of monochromes and diagrams | 46 |

## XVI INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The International Ornithological Committee agreed at the end of the XV International Ornithological Congress at The Hague, Netherlands, that the next Congress would be held in Australia in 1970. Professor J. Dorst was appointed President. The Australian invitation had been proffered jointly by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union and the Australian Academy of Science.

The Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union appointed Dr H.J. Frith as Secretary-General and an Australian Advisory Committee had been formed. After close examination of the possibilities the Australian Advisory Committee has decided that the XVI International Ornithological Congress should be held in the Australian National University in Canberra in the period August 12 to August 17, 197U. A programme of scientific sessions, major and minor excursions and ornithological exhibits will be organized.

Applications for membership will be accepted until March 1, 1970. Applications for the presentation of papers and for arranging Specialists' Meetings should reach the Secretary-General not later than February 1, 1974. It is probable that, apart from those presented by invitation at a Symposium, there will be some selection of the papers that are actually read. Accordingly it is essential that each offer of a paper should be accompanied by a summary of about 200 words.

Information regarding the XVI International Ornithological Congress can be had from:-

The Secretary-General,
XVI International Ornithological Congress,
P.O. Box 84, Lyneham,
A.C.T. 2602
AUSTRALIA

## C.O.G. ACTIVITIES

### April 14

Mike Carins talk about "Birds and Islands" developed into a very pleasant film-cum-commentary about the Shetland Isles. Mr Carins showed colour film covering a whole year's cycle in the Shetlands' bird-life, and perhaps the most interesting parts were those dealing with birds less familiar to Australians - the puffins, guillemots and auks that colonise the bleak shores of this farflung British outpost. The lecture was an admirable example of the use of the camera as a notebook, a topic which is dealt with by Mr Carins in this issue.

### April 18

The 11 members and friends who attended the outing to Lake George were treated not only to a variety of birds but also to a variety of weather. Birds of interest included several Whistling Kites which allowed close approach, a Fantailed Cuckoo and a juvenile Sea Eagle which was watched for about half-an-hour as it hunted among the waterfowl. Many honeyeaters, mainly Yellowfaced, and Silvereyes were moving through, attracted by the ripening blackberries.

cont/-

May 12

Mr Alan Morris of the National Parks and Wildlife Service came from Sydney to talk about the Island Reserves off the N.S.W. coast. He gave a brief illustrated description of each island, covering landforms, vegetation and avifauna as well as means of access. He made the point that the N.P.W.S. now had island reserves only because the islands were at one stage useless for anything else, and so they were set aside as reserves. In certain areas e.g. the Five Islands off Wollongong - commercial considerations and industrial pollution were threatening the reserves.

Mr Morris ended the lecture by saying that visitors were permitted onto these islands provided that permission was obtained beforehand from the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

June 9

Annual General Meeting and Members' Night. The Committee for 1971/72 was elected as follows:- Chairman; Dr G.P. van Tets; Secretary/Treasurer; Mr D.E. Peters; Editor; Mr A.H. D'Andria; Excursions Officer: Mr M. Clayton; Sales Officer; Mr T. Gourlay; Members; Mr G.S. Clark, Dr P.J. Fullagar, Dr V. A. Harris, Mr H.A. Nix, Mr S.J. Wilson.

The Canberra Ornithologists Group's new address for general correspondence is: P.O. Box 301, Civic Square, A.C.T. 2608.

June 23

The 15 members who met at the Botanic Gardens recorded the second winter record of the Rose Robin in the A.C.T. Other interesting species were Scarlet Robins, Speckled Warbler and Common Bronzewing. Pied Currawongs were watched at close range.

## COMING MEETINGS

July 14

Dr. H. Keener of the Australian Museum will lead a Symposium on the Biology of Lord Howe Island.

August 11

Mr H.A. Nix will give a lecture on the influence of habitat and other ecological factors on bird distribution.

September 8

Dr V. Harris on "Skokholm".

## THE NEW FIELDLIST

The Second Edition of "A Field-List of the Birds of Canberra and District", a C.O.G. publication, is now on sale. This handy booklet provides a ready reference in graphic form to all species likely to be encountered in the Australian Capital Territory and areas as far as Lakes George and Bathurst to the Northeast. It was first published in January 1966, and has now been brought completely up to date.

This new edition also includes a large sketch map of the district. Copies (at 40c each) can be bought at bookshops or directly from the Sales Officer (P.O. Box 301, Civic Square, A.C.T. 2608). Copies will also be available at the monthly meetings.

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All contributions for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

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