

Most readers will note with some surprise that this is issue No. 6 and wonder what has happened to the preceding five. Number 5 was issued on 14 July 1947, the editor being none other than Dr. Dom Serventy himself. The committee has decided to re-institute W. A. Bird Notes in an effort to keep members better in touch with current happenings in the west.

June Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 26 June, at 8 p.m. in the seminar room at the CSIRO laboratories, Underwood Ave., Floreat Park. The main speaker will be Ian Rooke who will talk on "Behaviour and Ecology of Yellow-winged Honey-eaters".

1978 Field Excursion

This year's field excursion has been sited around Mount Augustus station in the southern Pilbara. Three separate camps will be established at Waldburg Station (shed), the jasper bar where the road crosses the Lyons River (23°57'S; 116°08'E) camp under canvas, and Edmund Station (woolshed). The campsites will be attended from 6 p.m., August 26, to 8 a.m., September 9. All are accessible by two-wheel-drive. Water, meat and petrol will be available (at cost) at each site, otherwise people should be self supporting. The three sites have been selected to allow access to a variety of habitats and the aim of the outing will be to improve the atlas coverage of the area and in particular to prove breeding for as many species as possible. The area has had good rain so far this year and it promises an abundant season in the coming spring. Intending campers should contact Stephen Davies, Waters Upton, Mt. Helena, 6555, as soon as possible.

The camp area can be reached by various routes, probably the least interesting being the main highway through Geraldton and Carnarvon.

Useful atlassing could be carried out on the way and you are urged to travel either through Mullewa and Byro or via Beringarra and Landor.

Eyre Bird Observatory

The observatory is now open and this heralds what is undoubtedly the greatest achievement of the W.A. group to date. The restoration of the old Eyre Telegraph Station has only been made possible by the enormous amount of effort expended by a small number of members of both the RACU and the Post Office Historical Society and to them we should be very grateful.

The current phase of effort is in furnishing the building and providing the various comforts of living which will render the place hospitable. Such items

are sometimes hard to get and of course always expensive. Second-hand items where suitable are being used to try to make our ever dwindling grant money go a little further. We feel sure that quite a few of the items being purchased are probably sitting around unused in members' homes or even discarded down in the shed. How about having a dig around to see what you can offer.

A few of the items needed are:

1 x very large iron kettle or urn suitable for a wood stove - the sort with a tap in the bottom.

Blankets, books, binoculars, small tables or bedside cupboards.

All offers to Stephen Davies, Waters Upton, Mt. Helena, 6555.

Observations

A single Masked/Spur-winged Plover was seen at the end of April at North Lake in Perth. The bird was in a plumage intermediate between the northern and southern forms.

A lone Black Honeyeater visited a garden in Guildford recently. This species has been seen several times in recent years in the Wongan Hills area. Whilst this is an obvious vagrant, two White-plumed Honeyeaters seen in the same garden may be part of what appears to be an extension of range of this species down the coastal plain.

Several reports have been received this season of Forest Kingfishers in the south-west. In all cases the observer failed to give the key identification feature, that is the white wing patches that show in flight. In such cases there is no alternative but to refer the observation to the Sacred Kingfisher which in some individuals can be quite a rich blue with white underparts.

A noticeable feature of many of the U.R.R.F. forms that are submitted is that usually a very detailed description of plumage is given, but hardly anything on the bird's actions. So please, let's have a little more on what the bird was doing, and in particular try to write down a description of the call wherever possible.