
REVIEWS

Cunninghamia 1981 Vol. 1(1). Government Printer: New South Wales.

This new journal, published by the National Herbarium of New South Wales, is for the publication of papers dealing with vegetation mapping and plant community descriptions. It is named in honour of Allan Cunningham, Colonial Botanist and Superintendent of the Sydney Botanic Garden in 1837.

The first part of volume 1 has a lively introduction by Professor Noel Beadle on a botanical expedition through western New South Wales forty years ago (in 1939). Vegetation surveys have come a long way since then, specially, as Beadle says, in having a much stronger ecological basis. The rest of part 1 consists of descriptions of the vegetation of six sites in NSW, a bibliography of recent floristic lists in the state and a summary of the status of a rare conifer. The journal is well-produced with many black and white plates of habitats and a vegetation map of Brisbane Waters National Park.

I am not qualified to comment on the papers from a botanical point-of-view. However they are of great value to ornithologists, who are now beginning to take more notice of the plants that provide birds with their habitat, and, directly or indirectly, their food. At least one site, whose vegetation is described (Brisbane Waters), has been the venue of appreciable ornithological research recently. Ornithologists will certainly hope for floristic treatments of their study area. Alternatively maybe they should choose areas whose vegetation has been described.

With increasing interest in surveys, for instance for environmental impact studies, there is a strong need for a journal such as this. However, launching a new journal is a brave venture at a time when many institutions are cutting back severely their subscriptions to scientific journals. *Cunninghamia* deserves the support of those that study bird ecology, specially in New South Wales.

H. A. Ford, Armidale, N.S.W.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions fell due on 1 January. If you have not already renewed your subscription for 1983, please do so promptly to ensure continuity of receipt of your journal and avoid unnecessary cost to the Association.

Islands of South-west Tasmania, Gary White, 1980, Published by author, Sydney. pp Xii + 64. Price \$A4.50.

This booklet contains descriptions of five of the islands of south-west Tasmania; De Witt Island, Maatsuyker Island, Flat (Mutton Bird) Island, Louisa Island, and Flat Witch Island, and notes on another ten. Species lists, with additional comments are given for the vegetation, birds, mammals and reptiles with miscellaneous notes on other fauna. The black and white photographs, some of which are excellent, adequately convey the "feel" of the region. The text is informative with a useful bibliography. It is to be hoped that a map could be included, should there be a third edition, to assist those not familiar with the region and the location of the islands mentioned.

It is a useful publication containing a lot of information. The author is to be thanked for two reasons; his determination to visit these remote islands and his determination to publish his findings. His solution for the latter deserves to be commended. Any person, claiming to be interested in the seabirds of Australia, should have a copy.

M. D. Murray, Pymble, N.S.W.

New Members

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Corrigendum

In Volume 6, Number 5, December 1982, Page 97 the reference to 85% of the Australian Kestrels being received "from May to November" should read "from November to May".