



*" One Good Tern
Deserves Another"*

I.B.O.C. NEWS

The Newsletter of the ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56 FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519

<http://www.iboc.org.au/>

Founded in 1977

Club's Aim: To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the birdlife around them.

IBOC NEWS Contents		Club Contacts
Club events	p 2	PRESIDENT :Martin Cocker, tel: 0418 429 132
Tarrawanna Walk	p 3	SECRETARY:Betty Hudson, tel: 02 4236 0307
CapeYork Trip, Can You Help:	p 3	email: elizabethhudson@bigpond.com
Bass Point Walk	p 4	TREASURER:Bronwyn Wilson, tel:02 4283 4744
Tree planting, BOCA photos	p 4	EDITORS: John Cashman, tel: 02 4284 0538
Birds and Poems	p 5	email: cashman5@bigpond.com
Sefton Lecture, Blackbirds & Lyrebirds	p 6	Val Dolan, tel: 02 4229 6737
Unusual and Interesting Sightings	p 7,8	RECORDS OFFICER: Martin Cocker
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Sooty Tern (Lord Howe Island)

Photo Peter Fackender

WADER COUNT – Sunday 2nd August 8.30 am. at Windang. Meet in the carpark under the pines. All welcome. Come and hone your wader identification skills. Bring morning tea.

CLUB MEETING Monday 10th August 2008 - 7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall - Speaker **Roger Truscott**. on 'Avian Adventures in Central America 09' You are invited to bring a plate of goodies for supper, and your cup too.

MID-WEEK WALK Wednesday 12th August 2009 Tallawarra Ash Ponds Leader **Chris Brandis** Meet at the small car park about 300m down the road to Tallawarra from the old highway **8.30am sharp**. We may have to move the cars into the ash ponds area, so those who are late will be locked out. This is a half day walk around the ash pond area and the new service track by Duck Creek. Bring morning tea. Contact Chris Brandis on 4296 2837, or Joan & Tom on 4284 2051 or mobile 0407 268 279.

August Monthly Outing: Sunday 16th August 2009- Wanganderry High Range – Leader :Betty Hudson Meet at the Old Hume Highway, and Wombeyan Caves Road intersection just outside Mittagong at 8.30am. We will then drive on to Miss Badgery's Property, Wanganderry at High Range. Bring a carry morning tea and lunch. This an easy walk.

Travelling from Wollongong via the Hume Highway take the Mittagong exit and go through Welby, when the Wombeyan Caves Road is on the right shortly after crossing the freeway. There is space to park here. Travelling from southern suburbs via Macquarie Pass to Mittagong you will need to turn left as you enter Mittagong, at Bessemer Street (cross roads with traffic lights at bottom of hill) There is no left turn when you reach the Old Hume Hwy. Contact Betty Hudson on 4236 0307 or 0432 892 945.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 17th August, 2009 at 7.30pm at Betty Hudson's home 1 Drualla Road, Jamberoo. Phone 4284 2051

Logrunner Survey Saturday, 29 August 8.30am. Mt. Keira Ring Track. Meet at entrance to Mt. Keira lookout by the entrance gates on the right at the top of the climb. Martin Cocker Mob 0418 429 132.

SEPTEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER Deadline for articles for the next IBOC News is Friday 21st August 2009. Please don't leave your contributions to the last minute! Submit them by email to the editor: cashman5@bigpond.com. or post them to 5 Madden Street, Fernhill 2519

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS due 1st January each year: Family \$35, Single \$30, Junior \$10. Please pay Bronwyn Wilson, our Treasurer, by cash, cheque or mail order.

WELCOME to several new members who have joined over the past several months: Sue and Ken Brown, Val Cooper, Joytischna and Ronel Jit, Pat, Verity and Lawrence Knight, Mrs Bette Neal, Terrill Nordstrom, Ms Rosanna Untaru and Fiona, Matthew and Hannah Brockman. Nice to have you with us



Film Night

32, Shearwater Boulevard, Albion Park Rail, on Saturday, 8th August at 7 pm

The first film night for the year was a great success so Barbara and Brian Hales are hosting a second film night, as above. Please feel free to come along and bring your camping chair in case we need extra seats and also a small plate to share for supper afterwards. If you intend to join us it would be very helpful if you could phone the Hales on 42574431 so that they can get some measure of the number expected to attend.

Summary of I.B.O.C. September Activities

Wader Count	6 th September	Martin Cocker 8.30am	Windang Surf Club Carpark
Monthly Meeting	14 th September	Nick Oudtshoorn	
Midweek Walk	16 th September	Leader Alan Cousins	8.30am Mangerton Park
Monthly Walk	19 th September	Leader Betty Hudson	8.30am Crookhaven
Half Day Field Trip	27 th September	Leader Martin Cocker	Logrunner Survey

Tarrawanna Walk Report - 15 July 2009

Despite the daunting forecast, 16 members assembled at the start of the walk on a relatively mild pleasant July morning. A number of larger birds, cockatoos, parrots, magpies etc. kicked off the list before we set off up the old Corrimal Mine road.

Small birds in the tall eucalyptus trees in less than perfect light made identification difficult, but eventually Striated Thornbills, Grey Fantails and Golden Whistlers were identified. Further along the road a disturbed Wonga Pigeon burst out of the undergrowth with its typical wing clap. White-throated and Red-browed Treecreepers were sighted before we left the road and headed down through the eucalypt forest towards the creek.

Not a lot of birds were sighted along this section, but Brown Thornbill, Brown Gerygone and White-

Wal Emery

browed Scrubwren were added to the total. A conveniently placed log in a clearing provided seating for all to enjoy a cuppa and a chat, with whipbirds and Lewin's Honeyeaters providing the background audio.

All refreshed, we set off on the final leg back to the cars. Again the birds were light-on(?) along this section, Yellow Robins, Grey Shrike-thrush and parrots overhead being the exception. The pleasant company and the warming winter's day compensated for the lack of birds. We arrived back at the cars before 12 midday with a pair of Eastern Rosellas topping off our list of 34 species.

Lyrebirds and Brown Cuckoo-Dove usually seen in this area were noticeably absent from the list. Thanks to everyone who participated in the walk adding to the enjoyment of the morning.

Spotted Dove	White-browed Scrubwren	Golden Whistler
Wonga Pigeon	Brown Gerygone	Grey Shrike-thrush
Galah	Striated Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Brown Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Rainbow Lorikeet	Spotted Pardalote	Pied Currawong
Australian King-Parrot	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Fantail
Crimson Rosella	Lewin's Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Eastern Rosella	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Laughing Kookaburra	Little Wattlebird	Mistletoebird
White-throated Treecreeper	Red Wattlebird	Red-browed Finch
Red-browed Treecreeper	Eastern Whipbird	
Satin Bowerbird	Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike	

Cape York trip 2010

The tour company we have chosen is Outback Track Tours and the trip will be in September 2010 (the first half hopefully). It will be Cairns-Cairns going by road one way and flying back the other way. The cost is \$3000, which includes most meals. It is a camping tour with 'erecting your own' provided tents, and sleeping on stretchers.

We will visit Cooktown, Weipa, Lakefield, and Iron Range National Parks on the way to the top stopping at different spots for birding. Whilst we are up there we will visit Thursday Island and Horn Island, we fly from Horn Is. back to Cairns.

Neil Wheway

There is a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 19. At the moment all 19 seats are filled but this may well change when final details are known. At present there are two on the reserve list. At this stage it is not known what or how payment is to be made or the exact dates. When the tour people inform me I will pass on the information.

Please note that airfares to and from Cairns are not included, nor is any accommodation before or at the end of the tour. Anyone wanting any more details can ring Neil on 42613230 home or 0409999394 mobile

Can You Help?

Expressions of interest are requested from members to form a Sub-Committee to undertake the launch and distribution of the Birding in Illawarra Brochure.

The IBOC Committee is looking for people with skills in sales, marketing and or tourism if possible, but everyone is welcome to apply if they feel they can assist. All applications to Martin Cocker by email cocker@speedlink.com.au or by phone 0418 429 132 before the 17th August 2009.

Bass Point Reserve Walk Saturday 18th July 2009**Lorraine Pincus**

School holidays did not interfere with the 15 members who met at the designated parking area for the Bass Point Reserve walk. The birds seen while driving to the swamp included a Nankeen Kestrel, Australian Wood Duck, Crested Pigeon and in the swamp, Royal Spoonbill. The bird list grew further at the swamp, before the car park, with an Eastern Great Egret, Chestnut Teal and a Rock Dove. It was enjoyable to see the increased numbers of Australasian Pipits. Being a sunny day, many birds were heard, such as Eastern Whipbird. Others were very active chasing each other, particularly female and immature New Holland Honeyeaters. Superb Fairy-wrens were everywhere, on the wet rocks near the breaking waves as well as on the grass and under bushes.

The first sight of the ocean gave us views of Australasian Gannet, adult and juvenile, on the rocks a lonely Sooty Oystercatcher was outnumbered by Silver Gulls. Morning tea at the picnic area and Tommy's keen eyes spotted a Red Wattlebird on a nest. The area was populated with people preparing to go deep-sea diving.

42 species.

Australian Wood Duck	Royal Spoonbill	Red Wattlebird
Pacific Black Duck	Nankeen Kestrel	New Holland Honeyeater
Chestnut Teal	Sooty Oystercatcher	Eastern Whipbird
Rock Dove	Masked Lapwing	Grey Butcherbird
Crested Pigeon	Crested Tern	Australian Magpie
Bar-shouldered Dove	Silver Gull	Pied Currawong
Black-browed Albatross	Rainbow Lorikeet	Willie Wagtail
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	Superb Fairy-wren	Australian Raven
Australasian Gannet	Variegated Fairy-wren	Magpie-lark
Little Pied Cormorant	White-browed Scrubwren	Eastern Yellow Robin
Little Black Cormorant	Brown Thornbill	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Australian Pelican	Spotted Pardalote	Red-browed Finch
Eastern Great Egret	Lewin's Honeyeater	Australasian Pipit
White-faced Heron	Little Wattlebird	European Goldfinch

The plan was to "Rock Hop" around to Bushrangers Bay which turned out to be impossible, but we thoroughly enjoyed the sightings and the adventure of finding this out. The sightings of Black-browed Albatross, Wedge-tailed Shearwater and a pod of three Southern Right Whales enticed us to spend more time on the rocks looking towards the ocean. It was decided to have lunch on the rocks which gave us the opportunity to observe whatever came our way. There were pods of whales in 2s and 3s swimming past, a total for the day approximately 25. A juvenile and adult Gannet were frequently diving, and there were fishing and deep sea diving boats frequently passing.

We retraced our steps back to the car park, and then onto Maloney's Bay where we saw many Variegated Fairy-wrens, more New Holland Honeyeaters and Australasian Pipits. Thank you Betty for an interesting and enjoyable walk.

Capertee Valley Tree Planting

The next tree planting in Capertee Valley to aid the growth in numbers of the Regent Honeyeaters will be held over the weekend of the 15-16 August. Tiffany Mason spoke about the Regent Honeyeaters and about the Tree Planting Project last year, and Jill Molan can fill you in on the

weekend too. You are invited to join the treeplanters, and can book accommodation and a place for the dinner on Saturday night by contacting Pixie Maloney, Office Manager, Birds Australia Discovery Centre, 9647 2030 and basna@birdsaustralia.com.au

Information on PhotoBOCA

The National Photography Group of Bird Observation & Conservation Australia. PhotoBOCA is a new branch of BOCA. It is primarily for those members of branches of BOCA or groups affiliated with BOCA (such as IBOC) who are interested in Bird Photography.

A newsletter and a registration form is available on IBOC's web site and some copies will be available at IBOC's August meeting (See Martin Cocker)

Of Birds and Poems

John Douglas Pringle

The Scot, John Pringle, came to Australia, shortly after World War II. Pringle was editor of the Sydney Morning Herald, and later editor of the Canberra Times. This essay was published 35 years ago, in his book, On Second Thoughts, and records his astonishment at seeing the birds of Australia, which we so easily take for granted. This follows a previous installment of this essay in the IBOC News of February 2009

But for me, even before the parrots, come the owls and birds of prey which have always been my greatest interest. Here, again, Australia is particularly well-off. Because falcons and hawks are strong, wide ranging birds which can fly over narrow seas, many of them are similar too, or even identical with their fellows in Europe and North America. For instance the Australian peregrine falcon, brown goshawk, kestrel and fork-tailed kite are indistinguishable from these birds in other countries. But Australia has many hawks and owls that are unique. It has two magnificent eagles, the wedge-tailed eagle, absurdly persecuted in a country where it is accused – generally wrongly – of taking lambs, and the beautiful white-breasted sea-eagle which is really a large kite and feeds mainly on dead fish and other offal on the shores. When I first came to Sydney the sea-eagles were still fairly common on Pittwater and the estuaries of the Hawkesbury. Today they are rare, though occasionally one can be seen early in the morning flapping heavily over the water or soaring, on wide wings, on the air currents above the hills. The wedge-tailed eagle fortunately is still fairly common inland in spite of

persecution. I have stopped the car beside Lake George near Canberra and watched three of these bold, dark, splendid birds – one of the largest eagles in the world – perching together on a tree beside the road. I have several times seen a pair of the much rarer little eagles in the hills near Canberra. The common ‘whistling eagle’ of the plains is not an eagle at all but a large kite, but its easy soaring flight and shrill musical whistle are pleasant things to see and hear.

One of the curiosities of Australian bird-life is that so many birds of prey are very pale or even white, an unlikely colour for a sunburnt country. I have already mentioned the white-breasted sea-eagle whose pale-grey back and snow-white breast and belly make a dazzling picture as it soars over the blue water. Two kites, the letter-winged and the black-shouldered species are mostly white. I once saw a black-shouldered kite sitting on a gum-tree at the very top of Dead Horse Gap, a high and windy pass in the Snowy Mountains. It looked like a snow-flake in the cold mountain air. Once again – for the last time – I must quote Judith Wright:

Carved out of strength, the furious kite
shoulders off the wind's hate.
The black mark that bars his white
is the pride and the hunger of Cain.
Perfect, precise, the angry calm
Of his closed body, that snow storm –
Of his still eye that threatens harm.
Hunter and force his beauty made
And turned a bird to a knife-blade.

But the most spectacular of all is the white goshawk. This is the extreme form of a distinct species, the grey goshawk, and is found chiefly in Tasmania and southern Victoria. Alas! I have never seen one outside Taronga Zoo in Sydney, which has a magnificent specimen, though I have seen a grey goshawk in Kuringai Chase. The grey goshawk is beautiful enough – it is a pale smoky grey all over – but the white goshawk is spectacular. Snowy-white, with red-gold fiery eyes, this bold hawk must rival the Greenland and Iceland falcons as the most beautiful of all birds of prey. One of my few surviving ambitions is to see the white goshawk wild and free in the dark forests of Tasmania.

Invitation to IBOC Members

Birding NSW has invited IBOC to participate in a joint campout.

Date: Long weekend in January

Location: Currently being negotiated, possibly a private property in south eastern NSW.

Further information will be available soon.

2009 Alan Sefton Memorial Lecture at the University of Wollongong. Tuesday 22 September 2009, 6.30pm to - 8.30pm. UniCentre, Building 11, Function Room 1 (Please advise your intention to attend to Wendy Weeks, School of Earth & Environmental Sciences-email wendyw@uow.edu.au) The Speaker is Professor Richard Kingsford, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of NSW.

The Australian government has embarked on the one of the world's most ambitious and costly rehabilitations in the country's history (~\$A12.9 billion) to restore the wetlands and rivers of the Murray-Darling Basin. These aquatic ecosystems are in poor ecological health, although the full extent of this decline is not truly known. The talk will focus on case studies of Murray-Darling Basin wetlands and examine not only their current ecological state but also the drivers for change. There is a long history of developing Australia's rivers for irrigation that has seen inevitable clashes with conservation objectives. Against this background, Australian governments are now actively buying back water from the irrigation industry to improve river flows, and to rehabilitate the Murray-Darling Basin wetlands. Environment agencies are likely to become one of the major water holders in a river, but there are real challenges for the management of the environmental flows held in the dams. The next decade offers considerable promise for the conservation of wetlands in this most developed river basin in Australia but inevitably there will be considerable challenges for management; there are also salutary lessons for development of unregulated rivers elsewhere in the country, such as in central and northern Australia.

Professor Richard Kingsford from the Australian Wetlands and Rivers Laboratory, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences of the University of NSW, has focussed his research over about the last 20 years on the waterbirds, wetlands and rivers of arid Australia, an area that covers about 70% of the continent. He has identified the significant impacts of water resource development on the rivers and wetlands of the Murray-Darling Basin and contributed to policy development and environmental flow management. He is a member of the Australian Government's Environmental Flows Scientific Committee. Aerial surveys of waterbirds, mapping of wetlands and development of software for delivering knowledge about catchments are other areas of his work. His research has demonstrated the ecological values of many rivers and impacts of water resource in arid Australia, for which he received a Eureka Award in 2001. Professor Kingsford, who holds BSc and PhD degrees from the University of Sydney, has more than 100 publications including three books, one of which is on the desert rivers of the world. In 2007, he received the Wetlands International Hoffman Medal for contributions to global wetland science, and in 2008 he was awarded the Eureka Award for Promoting Understanding of Science.

Blackbirds and Lyrebirds

Wandering on the escarpment one afternoon I stood listening to a Common Blackbird calling in a rainforest interspersed with lantana. I was surprised to hear this bird so high up the escarpment away from the built-up area, although on reflection I have heard and seen them many times on the Barrington Tops.

Wal Emery

Several weeks later I stood in the same area watching and listening to a lyrebird going through his repertoire, when to my surprise this master mimic broke into a perfect imitation of the common Blackbird call. I wondered if he was aware that the call that he was imitating was that of an interloper in his territory.

. OUTING REPORTS

It is great when different members of the club write up a report of a club outing or campout for the newsletter. Each person has their own style and adds their personal touch (there is always help with the bird list). It also helps the leader to feel appreciated when people are willing to write up a report of the day.

If you would like any help with writing up an outing report, or other details (like the correct common names for the birds for example), your committee will help you.

Contact Jill Molan

0439 134 827 jill.molan@ozemail.com.au

MEMBER'S SIGHTINGS-JULY 2009

Compiled by Martin Cocker

SPECIES	No.	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Brush-turkey	1	14-Jul	Mt. Keira Ring Track	Forest	Terrill Nordstrom
Brown Quail	6	11-Jul	Swamp Road Berry	Rural	Bob Ashford
Musk Duck	2	25-Jun	Thirlmere Lakes	Lake	Elizabeth Hudson
Cape Barren Goose	2	July and prior	Bomaderry Treatment Works	Paddock	Dianne Perry
White-headed Pigeon	2	16-Jul	Wollongong	Urban	Terrill Nordstrom
Emerald Dove	1	14-Jul	Mt. Keira Ring Track	Forest	Terrill Nordstrom
Black-browed Albatross	3	18-Jul	Black Head Gerroa	Coastal	Bob Ashford
Yellow-nosed Albatross	1	18-Jul	Black Head Gerroa	Coastal	Bob Ashford
Southern Giant Petrel	1	10-Jul	Off Bulli	Coastal	Tom Wiley
Fluttering Shearwater	20	18-Jul	Black Head Gerroa	Coastal	Bob Ashford
Cattle Egret	300	21-Jun	Gerringong	Paddock	Martin and Penny Potter
Little Egret	14	21-Jun	East Woonona	Paddock	Mike Morphett
Royal Spoonbill	30	21-Jun	Whyjuck Bay, Lake Illawarra	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Eastern Osprey	1	06-Jul	Kanahooka Point	Lake	Martin Cocker
White-bellied Sea-eagle	1	16-Jul	Primbee	Bush	Charles Dove
White-bellied Sea-eagle	1	18-Jul	Black Head Gerroa	Coastal	Bob Ashford
Brown Goshawk	1	16-Jul	Primbee	Bush	Charles Dove
Brown Goshawk	1	20-Jul	Kiama from H'way	Rural	Bob Ashford
Grey Goshawk	1	18-Jul	Black Head Gerroa	Coastal	Bob Ashford
Grey Goshawk	1	18-Jul	Lothlorien/Bellawongarah-White Phase	Bush/Paddock	Bob Ashford
Grey Goshawk	1	30-Jun	Kembla Grange	Rural	Joan Wiley
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	14-Jul	Mt. Keira Ring Track	Forest	Terrill Nordstrom
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	20-Jul	Kiama from H'way	Rural	Bob Ashford
Little Eagle	11	28-Jun	Killalea SRA	Forest	Josh Coyte
Hobby	1	16-Jul	Primbee	Bush	Charles Dove
Hobby	1	11-Jul	Swamp Road Berry	Rural	Bob Ashford
Peregrine Falcon	1	16-Jul	Primbee	Bush	Charles Dove
Pied Oystercatcher	13	05-Jul	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	05-Jul	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Red-capped Plover	18	26-Jun	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Nigel Jackett
Red-capped Plover	11	05-Jul	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Double-banded Plover	6	21-Jun	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Double-banded Plover	64	26-Jun	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Nigel Jackett
Double-banded Plover	38	05-Jul	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Bar-tailed Godwit	44	21-Jun	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Bar-tailed Godwit	95	26-Jun	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Nigel Jackett
Bar-tailed Godwit	50+	05-Jul	Windang Estuary	Estuarine	Lorraine Pincus
Eastern Curlew	6	26-Jun	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Nigel Jackett
Gull-billed Tern	1	21-Jun	Shoalhaven Heads	Estuarine	Martin and Penny Potter
Turquoise Parrot	1	26-Jun	St. Josephs High School Albion Park	Parkland	Bruce Coyte

Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	21-Jun	Budderoo Firetrail	Bush	Elizabeth Hudson
Eastern Barn Owl	1	08-Jun	Bomaderry/Coolangatta	Paddock	David Marshall
Logrunner	2	14-Jun	Corrimal Escapment	Forest	Wal Emery
Logrunner	1	03-Jul	Balgownie Escarpment	Forest	Wal Emery
Spotted Quail-thrush	2	25-Jun	Thirlmere Lakes	Bush	Elizabeth Hudson
White-winged Triller	1	08-Jun	Bomaderry/Coolangatta	Paddock	David Marshall
Beautiful Firetail	2	21-Jun	Budderoo Firetrail	Bush	Elizabeth Hudson

Many of you have been at Shoalhaven Heads this month and been rewarded with healthy numbers of wintering waders. Nigel Jackett has appended his records with the following comments:

“Of interest, Rex Worrell and I briefly saw a bird-of-prey during the count that may have been a Black Falcon. It flew from the dunes onto Comerong Island where we lost sight of it. We regularly see Peregrine Falcons and Australian Hobbys here, but this was black on top, and paler underneath, with a longer tail than a Peregrine.

Flew much too fast for a Brown Falcon as well. Just thought you could mention to people to keep an eye out if they are visiting there anytime soon. It would be a fantastic bird to confirm!”

Indeed it would so please lift your eyes above the mud flats when next you are visiting !

Many thanks for all your records! Please send in your sightings to cocker@speedlink.com.au and don't forget that these lists are on our website www.iboc.org.au. Good Birding!

OOPS! What do you get when you cross a parrot with a centipede ?

A walkie-talkie ! O Good Grief !



‘Henry, Henry! Drop the car keys! Drop the car keys!
The New Yorker 1948