

HFNC Excursion to Brian Swamp on 24 February 1961

Lionel Elmore

Four members visited Bryan Swamp [later recorded as Bryan Swamp] about half a mile beyond, and to the west of McIntyres's Crossing.

In the portion of the swamp covered in the afternoon, a large and varied bird population was observed, in spite of the activities of duck shooters.

Approximately 54 ibis nests were located in the clumps of rushes. Of this number, 14 were single isolated reed platforms built to water level and showed obvious signs of occupancy by young birds.

The remaining 40-odd nests appeared to be of a different type as sticks up to 1 inch thick were used, and they tended to be in groups. That these nests were occupied by Australian White Ibis was testified by the heavy mortality of young fledgelings and parent birds. The remains of about 40 fledglings and parent birds were noted near nests in the portion of the swamp covered by the excursion.



Australian White Ibis on nests at Bryan Swamp



View of Serra Range from Bryan Swamp in 1961

Returning to Hamilton, attention was drawn to a fine plantation of trees up to 50 ft high, which had the appearance of having been burnt. Close examination showed the cause: damage by grasshoppers, through the insufficiency of ibis to cope with them.

[Editor's note – Lionel's photos have been added to his notes of this excursion]