



The NOVOCASTRIAN WARBLER August 1978
NEWSLETTER of the Hunter (Newcastle) Bird Observer Group.
Issue No. 4 (Released monthly at General Meetings)

Officers of the Group:

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Mr. D. Waterhouse (616052); Secretary: Mrs. Wilma Barden, No. 19
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32 Thompson Rd., Speers Point (581023) Asst. Editor: Pat. Lavis.

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday each month at Garden Suburb School.

REPORTS

1. General Meeting 12/7/78 - attendance 22.

- 1.1 Reports were given on the BROKE Outing and the Clean-up at Stockton Sand-spit
(See Newsletter No. 3)
- 1.2 Blackbutt Reserve - the small group working in the Reserve reported that 3 areas had been covered but a great deal more remained to be yet accomplished - any volunteers please see Wilma, for details.
- 1.3 Name Changes - the Sub Committee has now completed its findings on this subject and judging by the comments in the report, members involved do not appear to be overimpressed with quite a few of the proposed new names.
- 1.4 1979 Programme - this programme is now in the course of preparation and if you have any bright ideas particularly in relation to new areas, our Secretary would be pleased to have them.
- 1.5 Cabbage Tree Island - a trip to the island is being planned for December - numbers are limited so anyone interested let Wilma have your name a.s.a.p.
- 1.6 Bird Banding - our Fred was quite thrilled to learn that one of the Curlew Sandpipers he banded on Kooragang Island had been identified in CHINA !
- 1.7 Bird of the Evening - a talk on the Regent Bower Bird was very capably given by Marion Walker - this talk generated some discussion and some members expressed the view that they would like to learn more about this intriguing member of the Bird World. Some time ago, our Secretary submitted an article to the N.S.W. Field Ornithological Club and several copies of the article are available - anyone interested please see the Editor.
- 1.8 Films: During the evening, we had the pleasure of seeing several very fine nature films:
 1. Marine Life in Bass Strait
 2. Birds of Australia
 3. Flightless Birds (Emu, Cassowary, Kiwi & Moa)These viewings were very much appreciated and we hope to be able to obtain other titles for future meetings.
2. ATLASSING - Two more excursions have been made by our Atlas Group.

On Sunday 16/7 the group surveyed the Branxton, Dalwood, Stanhope grid. The morning was bitterly cold but conditions improved as the day wore on. To compensate for the cold we recorded no less than 78 species - the highlights being a group of Nankeen Night Herons and the brilliant Scarlet Honeyeaters. The Stanhope area is certainly worth another visit.

Sunday 6/8 the group checked out the area west of Deverell's Fire Tower in the Watagan mountains. Unfortunately birds were scarce - only 32 species being recorded but we did discover another scenic ^{view} the Basin Camp area alongside Wollombi Brook.
3. BRISBANE WATER NATIONAL PARK - the July Outing was held in this area - the weather was cold and windy and this probably accounted for the comparatively poor attendance and the almost total absence of bird life - as a partial compensation we detoured to the Umbi Umbi area on the way home and were rewarded with several sightings - but on the whole a disappointing day.
4. BROWN FALCON - Ted Jones, our Budgewoi representative handed in an interesting item about the Brown Falcon. We intended to print some details in the Newsletter but Athol D'Ombrair outscoped us by publishing the story in the Newcastle Herald on 22/7.
5. COMING EVENTS: Sat 19 Aug / Sun 20 Aug. DOYLE'S CREEK CAMP. If you can't stay for the week-end, come for the day. Assembly point - Burdekin Park, Singleton 8.30 a.m. Sat. 19 August.

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Sunday 24 Sept. RED GUM FOREST OUTING - Guide: Ted Jones - further details at the August meeting.

Sat. 30 Sept to Mon. 2nd October - Gloucester Tops Camp - site bookings thru Wilma - further details at the September meeting.