

January 1979

THE NOVOCASTRIAN WARBLER

NEWSLETTER of the HUNTER (Newcastle) BIRD OBSERVER GROUP.

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OFFICERS: Chairman: Fred Van Cossell.

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MEETINGS: 2nd Wednesday each month at Garden Suburb Primary School.

Notes from the DECEMBER Meeting - attendance 32.

Tom Kendall reported on the Cabbage Tree Island trip; Wilma gave a brief resume on the Lostock Dam trip.

The TOWNSVILLE MIGRATION was again mentioned and it was announced that a meeting of interested members would be arranged when we resumed activities in the New Year.

There was a general discussion as to whether the Bird Observers' Group should become autonomous or continue the 'loose' association which now exists with the Flora and Fauna Society. Feeling of the meeting seemed to indicate that most members preferred the status quo to remain.

The Chairman recommended to members the use of the AUDOBON bird caller. This gadget is available from the Bird Observers' Club of Victoria, P.O. Box 185 Nunawading Vic. 3131. Price \$4.50 plus postage 25c.

The ANNUAL MEETING is to be held in April and names suggested for a Guest Speaker were: Ar. Ed Magill; Bill Lane and Athol Colemaine.

The December meeting was rounded off with a viewing of members' favourite slides. This was much appreciated by all present who voted Ray Walker's 'birds' the highlight of the evening.

After the meeting, Dot Bates kindly made her home available as a venue for a gathering which bade farewell to the Gillies. Several gifts of appreciation were given to Mavis to remind them of their association with the Newcastle 'Birdos'. In reply Mavis said they had really enjoyed their sojourn in Newcastle and hoped to back with us again, in about twelve months time. Au Revoir Mavis and Allan, we have enjoyed your company and look forward to renewing your acquaintance in the 1980's.

BLACK NED'S BAY OUTING - Saturday 16th December.

Our group was extremely fortunate to have as a guide on this day that noted ornithologist, Mr. Malcom McNaughton who gave us a very interesting and enjoyable talk on the Birds of South East Lake Macquarie at our November meeting. Members were delighted to see the birds which Mr. McNaughton had described in his talk. In all this was voted to be a very satisfying and fruitful day of viewing.

ALLWORTH OUTING - Sunday 21st January.

The first outing for 1979 proved to be very rewarding with some 64 species being sighted. Bob Sargent, the Forest Ranger from Dungog joined us for the day and after checking out the areas around Allworth we finished up the day at the Seaham swamp where the CATTLE EGRET are very much in evidence in their beautiful breeding plumage - a buff-orange colour on the crown, nape, throat and back.

ATLAS OUTING - Sunday 4th February.

A small group of members toured the area around Bob's Farm and recorded some 53 species for the day - this was regarded as being very satisfactory as a previous survey in this area only recorded 14.

1979 PROGRAMME. We regret that two outings were omitted from the Programme released at the December meeting - these were:-

SUNDAY 24th June - Outing to the Chichester Dam area.

SUNDAY 21st October - Outing to Barrington Guest House Area.

(Some members may wish to travel up on Saturday and stay overnight at the Guest House on to camp)

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COMING EVENTS:

24/25 February - Week-end Camp at STAINHOPE CREEK (North of Branxton)
Those not wishing to camp may care to join in on the Sunday - to beat
the heat we suggest an' early start.