

April, 1979.

NEWSLETTER of the HUNTER (Newcastle) BIRD OBSERVER GROUP.

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(Released monthly at General Meetings.)

OFFICERS:

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MEETINGS: 2nd Wednesday of each month at Garden Suburbs Primary School. 7.30 p.m.



Notes from March Meeting - 14/3/79. - Attendance 22.

Some new faces were seen at the second meeting for 1979 - Lindsay Irvine and Bob Payne - welcome to the 'Club' and we trust that you will be able to get along frequently.

THE RED-WHISKERED BUL-BUL Pycnonotus Jocosus was distinguished by rating as the 'bird of the evening' and was very capably dealt with by Eva Van de Werken. Although an introduced species, this bird has adapted so well that it has become a dominant species in the Sydney area. Released in Sydney early in the century it has spread to the Blue Mountains and is said to have been recorded as much as 150 k.m. North and South of Sydney. A cheery, lively character, the R.W.B.B. is one member of a family of 23 species of the CARDINAL family, found in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Japan. Originally sold as caged birds, and labelled 'Persian Nightingales', it has been suggested that their incessant chattering probably prompted owners to release them. Eva has developed a particular fondness for this cheeky bird and would be interested to hear of any sightings in this locality. Ornithologists hope that its expansion will not cause a decrease in the populations of native birds; however, which, unfortunately has all too often been the case.

ANNUAL DINNER. Agreed that this function be held on Friday, 25th May this year and the venue to be the same as last year - Cardiff Workers' Club. Will members intending to be present please signify early, so that a firm booking can be made.

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM TRIP. The proposed trip to the Australian Museum will take place in April or May. Fred awaits notification of a suitable date by Mr. Don Disney, ~~Sunday 20th~~ April, meet at OLANA Hotel at 7.30 a.m.

OVERNIGHT CAMP AT BOB'S FARM. Wilma is keen to organize this outing which will be held on property owned privately and known to boast some nocturnal birds of prey. A date suggested is 27/28 April, so will those interested please notify Wilma soon.

MIGRATORY BIRDS were the subject for the study portion of the evening, and we are grateful to Tom Kendall for an informative paper on the subject and to Fred for leading a most interesting and animated discussion which was only limited by the lateness of the hour. We hope that it can continue at some future date.

BLACK HILL OUTING. Sunday, 25th March. Eleven members attended, and a quite successful day's birding was enjoyed. Although birds seemed a little scarce at some stops, at other locations they were more plentiful. Altogether some 60 + species were recorded. Halts were made at several different locations, ending up with a diversion down Cedar Hill Drive at Minmi, where it was pleasing to add a Blue-Winged Shoveller to the list. A bird in this area had everybody guessing for some time but thanks to Les Walker and David Waterhouse who waded through the swamp to get a closer view it was identified eventually as a near-Albino Peewee.

THE LITTLE TERN. (Sterna albifrons). Allan Morris, who is the Ranger at Coonabarabran is doing some study into the decline of nesting pairs of the Little Tern and would be pleased to have information of any evidence of nesting in this locality, particularly in the Redhead, Swansea, Kooragang and Corrie Island areas. Please keep eyes and ears open. Unfortunately this delightful little sea-bird is fast becoming a statistic on the ominous list of 'endangered species'.

COMING EVENTS

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EASTER CAMP: 13-16th April. Venue- Emu Creek in the Widden Valley.  
Phone John Dorman (58.1565), of the Flora & Fauna Society for  
details.

KULNURA/YARRAMALONG OUTING: April 22. Meet at Orana Hotel, 7.30 a.m.  
JERRY'S PLAINS. Atlas Outing. Sunday 6th May.