

NEWSLETTER of the HUNTER (Newcastle) BIRD OBSERVER GROUP.Issue No. 4/79 (Released monthly at General Meetings)MEETINGS: 2nd Wednesday of each month at Garden Suburbs
Primary School at 7.30 p.m.Notes from April Meeting - 11/4/79. - Attendance 17.

As this was the Annual Meeting, nominations were called for the undernoted positions which were filled by the following:

CHAIRMAN: F.W. Van Gessell; VICE CHAIRMAN: David Waterhouse; SECRETARY: Wilma Barden; ASST. SECRETARY: Ted Felton; ACTIVITIES OFFICER: Olive Hamonet; FEES OFFICER: Tom Kendall; NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ed. Hamonet; In addition to the foregoing, Jean Payne, Kay & Jim Imrie volunteered? to serve on the Committee.

BIRD BOOKS: Our Chairman tabled two books which may be of interest to members: The SNIBE by Tuck, available from Arthur Warner's Book Shop for \$19.00 and a GUIDE TO THE RECOGNITION OF AERODROME BIRD HAZARDS - price \$2.65 from the Aust. Govt. Publishing Service.

Speaking about books, no doubt some members added to their collection from the Bird books available at the Book Mart in the old Fredc. Ash Building. Two titles which appeared to be good buys were: RARE and VANISHING AUSTRALIAN BIRDS by Peter Slater and BIRDS of NEW GUINEA and TROPICAL AUSTRALIA by Peckover & Filewood.

Guest Speaker for the evening was RICHARD JOHNSTON from Sydney. Richard is a keen young ornithologist who has travelled widely in Australia in his search for first hand knowledge of our fascinating bird life, and he very ably passed on to us his observations about Sea Birds and in particular the following species: Albatross, Petrels, Skuas, Shearwaters, Prions, Terns and Gannetts. The talk was illustrated with slides of Sea Birds taken at such places as Michaelmas Bay, Rottnest Island, Port Augusta and off the coast of New South Wales.

EASTER CAMP 13-16th April. Seven of our Group spent the Easter week-end in camp with 30 members of the Flora and Fauna Society. The camps were sited along a creek bank on the Emu Vale property in the beautiful Widden Valley. Apart from a thunderstorm, the weather was kind and helped to make the week-end a very enjoyable occasion. Over the 4 days, more than 80 different species were recorded including an OWLET NIGHJAR (*Aegotheles Cristatis*) and a Turquoise Parrot (*Neophema Pulchella*). Fred had his banding nets set up and netted a record of over 200 Silvereyes (*Zosterops lateralis*) which appeared to be passing through the area.

MUSEUM TRIP - Saturday 21st April - 11 members participated in this visit to the Museum of Natural History where Mr. Don Disney showed us some of the Museum's ornithological treasures, chief of which was undoubtedly John Gould's seven volumes of the BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA, and then permitted us to explore at will the contents of the Bird cabinets which contained innumerable trays of stuffed birds. The opportunity to observe at first hand the detailed colouring of species of which we have only had fleeting glimpses, was very much appreciated. We are most grateful to Don Disney for this most educational visit.

KULNURA TRIP - Sunday 22nd April. Attendance at this outing was no doubt affected by the Museum trip (held the day before) however, some five members turned up and recorded some 52 species for the day.

COMING EVENTS: SUNDAY 20 May Outing to TELEGHERRY FOREST PARK.

Some members are planning to camp in the Forest for the week-end and the Forestry Hut has been booked for any who may wish to spend the night therein. How to get there: after leaving Dungog, take the road to the Chichester Dam; 4 kilometres from the Bandon Grove Bridge the road forks. Take the right fork (Wangat Trig Road) and this will take you to the Telegraphy Forest.

FRIDAY 25th May - ANNUAL DINNER. To be held at the SULPHIDE WELFARE CLUB at Cockle Creek - bookings will be taken at this meeting. Time 6.30 to 7 p.m. Tables have been reserved in the Auditorium, so that after Dinner those who wish to do so may join in the regular Old Time Dance.

SUNDAY 10th June.

Atlas Outing to Warranulla (East of Stroud) Meet at 8 a.m. at the OAK at Hexham.

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