

JULY 1979

NEWSLETTER of the HUNTER (Newcastle) BIRD OBSERVER GROUP.Issue No. 6/79 (Released monthly at General Meetings.)MEETINGS: 2nd Wednesday of each month at Garden Suburbs
Primary School at 7.30 pmOFFICERS: Chairman: Fred Van Gessell ; Secretary: Mrs. Wilma Barden
19 Carisbrooke Ave. Kotara (573928); Activities Officer:
Olive Hamonet (581023); Newsletter Editor: Ed Hamonet.1. NOTES FROM THE JUNE MEETING

- 1) Attendance at this meeting was quite low - due no doubt to the onset of winter and several of our regulars having succumbed to colds and influenza.
- 2) Our Chairman announced the R.A.C.U. are aiming to promote RAPTORE research throughout Australia - anyone interested? Further information from David Baker-Gapp at Monash University (Melbourne)
- 3) A book recommended for Ornithologists: THE LIFE OF BIRDS by Joel Carl Welty - price: approx. \$24. If you can't spare that sum, see Fred you may be able to borrow his copy.
- 4) A reminder that F. & F. fees are now due. Payments may be effected through our Fees Officer - Tom Kendall.

2. BIRD(S) OF THE EVENING.

Tom Douglass chose for his talk " Three Terns in non breeding plumage - White-winged Tern (Chlidonias leucoptera), Whiskered Tern (Chlidonias hybrida) and the Black Tern (Chlidonias niger).

Speaker endeavoured to sort out the identification of these 3 birds - a difficult topic - well handled by Tom and should promote some interest in the observation of these sea birds. The Black Tern is rarely seen and has only been recorded at The Entrance and on Kooragang.

3. SPEAKER OF THE EVENING - Greg Little.

Greg showed us some of his superb bird slides and enlightened us with some interesting observations. We must congratulate Greg on the excellence of his photographic work - his performance was worthy of a much larger audience, however, he has promised another viewing in the warmer weather.

4. QUEENS BIRTHDAY Week-end Camp.

Due to intending campers being indisposed with winter ailments, this camp did not eventuate.

5. June 24 Outing to CHICHESTER DAM.

Due to the petrol shortage, it was agreed - at the assembly point - to explore an area closer to home. As a result a very rewarding day was spent firstly in a stroll along the coal line which traverses the Hexham swamps. Here we saw, apart from thousands of water birds, hundreds of Golden Cisticolas (Cisticola exilis) Goldfinches (Carduelis carduelis) Reed Warblers (Acrocephalus stenoreous) and a Swamp Harrier (Circus approximans) who was really harassing. Leaving this area we then spent some time in the wet lands west of Cockle Creek railway station. In all over 45 species were recorded.

6. ATLAS Outing to Weston, Abermain, Greta. Sunday 8th July

Nine members attended this outing and spent quite an interesting day in this area. Unfortunately a cold westerly wind made conditions unpleasant for bird watching but despite this handicap, over 60 different species were sighted.

7. BIRD WEEK - Lamington National Park (Queensland)

From an item in the Victorian Bird Observer, we learnt that a BIRD WEEK is to be held at O'Reilly's Guest House in the Mt. Lamington National Park. This week commences on 11 November - anyone wanting further information, please see/ring our Activities Officer.

COMING EVENTS:

Sunday 22nd July - Outing to DORA CREEK - meet at Dora Creek Shopping Centre 8.30 a.m.

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Sunday 5th August - Atlas Outing to the Redhead/Belmont/Jewells area - meet at the 'Nunnery', Dudley-Redhead road at 8.30