

AUGUST 1979

NEWSLETTER of the HUNTER (Newcastle) BIRD OBSERVER GROUP.

Issue No. 7/79 - (Released monthly at General Meetings.

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

OFFICERS: 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 JULY MEETING.

- a) Our Secretary reported that written approval had been received from the Hunter District Water Board for members to enter the Sewerage Farm at Morpeth.
- b) Two items of interest were announced from the June issue of the BIRD OBSERVER - issued by the Bird Observers' Club of Victoria;
 - (i) The B.O.C. has invited country/interstate members to send in (to them) a group of not more than 10 slides together with a short written commentary - slides will be returned by registered mail at the end of October.
 - (ii) National Mapping has produced two maps of particular interest:
 - (1) Australia's National Parks - a multi coloured map of national parks and reserves.
 - (2) A Reference Map of Australia - Scale: 1:5,000,000. Map measures 925mm x 840 mm (39 x 32").Each map is priced at \$2 and may be obtained from Mr. Frank Dan, 8 Proudfoot St. Mont Albert 3127.
- c) Bird of the Evening. In lieu of the Bird of the Evening - Wilma entertained members with several cassettes of Australian Bird Calls.
- d) Operation Dollar Bird

To round off the evening we were privileged and absorbingly interested in the method used to prepare a bird (in this case a Dollar Bird) for display in a Museum.

The 'operation' was performed by that noted taxidermist Dr. Gessellbird. Although we were fascinated by the process, I doubt that anyone would be keen enough to indulge in that sort of activity. At the conclusion of the operation we were amazed to see the contents of the bird's stomach which contained no less than 21 crickets apart from quite a number of beetles. Many thanks Fred for extending our knowledge.

2. DORA CREEK OUTING - Sunday 22nd July 1979.

For an interesting study in bird activity we can recommend a stroll along the creek bank at Dora Creek at this time of the year. Several species were seen to be nesting in Casuarina trees: a pair of Whistling Kites (*Haliastur sphenurus*) circled above us and for real excitement, consider a Black-Necked Stork (*Jabiru*) - *Xenorhynchus asiaticus*. Those members who attended this outing in 1978 will remember the enormous flocks of Black Swans (*Cygnus atratus*) on Maddy Lake. Sadly they were missing this time - but we hope that doesn't mean they won't be back. We were happy to welcome several members of Fred's W.E.A. group to this field day - we enjoyed their company and hope they will be able to join us again - Monsieur Henri may need a little orientation, however; seems he travelled from Merewether to Dora Creek via Belmont! A list of some 63 different species was compiled for this day's work.

3. Atlas Outing - Sunday 5th August: REDHEAD/BELMONT/JEWELLS area.

Attendance for the day was 18 and represents a record for an Atlas outing. Areas covered were the scrub on the western side of the Dudley-Redhead road; the Jewell's swamp; the area west of the Redhead Colliery railway line and the Belmont lagoon. All told 70 different species were sighted,

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