

NEWSLETTER of the HUNTER (Newcastle) BIRD OBSERVER
GROUP.

Issue No. 9/79 - Released monthly at General Meetings

MEETINGS: 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Garden
Suburb Primary School at 7.30 pm.

OFFICERS: Chairman: Fred van Gessel; Secretary:
Mrs. Wilma Barden, (57 3928); Activities
Officer: Mrs Olive Hamonet, (58 1023);
Newsletter Editor: Ed. Hamonet.

NOTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER MEETING - 12.9.79

1. Welcome to new member, Brian Archer and welcome back to Dot Bates.
2. Bird of the Evening: David Waterhouse gave a very informative discourse on a little known bird, the RUFIOUS SCRUB BIRD, a small brown, insect-eating bird. It is found in cool temperate rainforests and lives on the ground in thick ground cover. Because it is rarely seen it has been called 'mystery bird'. It is a potentially endangered species because of the destruction of its habitat. It is patchily distributed from the Williams River to the Queensland border. Several have been recorded in disturbed areas adjacent to the Gibraltar Range National Park so it may be adapting to a changed environment.
3. The Dharug outing of 19th August was transferred to Swansea. Wilma reported on the outing to Dungog on 2nd September.
4. Interesting sightings: Black fronted dotterel - Budgewoi; Rufous owl - Proserpine; Southern stone curlew and Sunbird's nest - Townsville Common; Speckled warbler's nest in ground - Girraween National Park; Yellow tailed thornbill's nest in a pine tree in Glen Innes.
5. TED JONES entertained us with an illustrated ramble through both islands of New Zealand, showing different habitats and such birds as the parson bird, silvereye, N.Z. bellbird, N.Z. pigeon, kiwi, Canadian goose and swamp herrier. To complete our tour we then had a quick trip through Eastern Australia from Tasmania with its mallee hen and currawong to Queensland with the magpie geese and rainbow lorikeet.
6. COMING EVENTS

Sunday 21st October Barrington Guest House area.

Meet outside Guest House gate at 9 am. Some members may wish to travel up on the Saturday and stay overnight at the guesthouse or camp.

Sunday 4th or 11th November Rawdonvale - Upper Bowman

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Atlas outing. A weekend camp may be held. The area to be investigated is slightly west of Gloucester.