

February 1980

NEWSLETTER of the HUNTER (Newcastle) BIRD OBSERVER GROUP.

Issue No. 1/80 - Released monthly at General Meetings.

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

Officers: Chairman, Fred Van Gessel: Secretary, Mrs. Wilma
Barden:(573928): Activities Officer, Sue Hamonet (581023)
Newsletter Editor, Ed. Hamonet.

1. NOTES FROM THE DECEMBER 1979 MEETING.

- (1) Reported that the Outing to the Stockton sand dunes area with the Flora & Fauna Society had recorded 42 different species.
- (2) Announced that the Annual Meeting would be held in April and nominations were being sought for the various positions in the Group.
- (3) Annual Dinner - tentative date set for Friday 30th May - to be confirmed.
- (4) Norfolk Island trip scheduled for early December - members interested in this venture may like to have a look at some films on Norfolk Island - these are to be screened in JAYES theatre on Thursday night (14 Feb) at 6 p.m. and 7.15 p.m.
- (5) BIRD SCHOOL - A Bird Week is being arranged by Fred Van Gessel from 12-19 October 1980 at The Warrumbungles.
- (6) Atlas Outing to BOBS FARM 1st & 2nd Dec.79 - Sand flies and bushfires brought this week-end outing to an early close; however, interesting sightings included a Bush Curlew, a White-breasted Wood Swallow and a White Fronted Chat. In all 55 species were recorded.
- (7) Ted Jones (just back from Western Australia) was the cynosure of all eyes at the meeting, being resplendent in an eye catching 'Bird' Observers 'T' Shirt.
- (8) Feature of the evening - a talk by Fred Van Gessel and Ed. Hamonet on the CAIRNS trip - 268 different species were sighted including 58 which at least two members had not seen before. Thanks mainly to the B.O.C. Slide Library members at the meeting were able to see slides of the new species while Fred made the presentation more interesting by interspersing taped calls of some of them.

2. ATLAS OUTING - Weston/Abermain area - Sunday 13 January.

Originally set down for Twin Rivers but venue changed due to fire bans and hot weather. A 5 A.M. start was made and this proved to be very beneficial for two reasons: (a) The heat of the day was avoided and (b) on arrival in the area, birds were busy collecting or seeking their breakfast. All told 50 species were sighted - not as many as a previous visitation but it did include 18 not seen on the first visit.

3. BIRDLAND NATURE PARK - on a recent visit to Tasmania the Editor came across this park at a place called Sisters Beach on the western side of Tasmania's North coast. Well worth a visit if you happen to be visiting Tasie - the owner, Trevor Waite, was most hospitable and has an eye catching display of photography of birds in the park.

4. ROY WHEELER. The guest speaker at our March meeting (12/3/80) will be that noted Victorian ornithologist, Roy Wheeler. Roy is a foundation member of the Bird Observers Club of Victoria and has had two books published - The Birds of New South Wales and the Birds of Victoria. It is hoped that we will have a good attendance on that night, so please make an effort to try and be there.

5. N.S.W. Field Ornithologist Club. This Club meets monthly in the Hallstrom theatre in the Australian Museum, Sydney. Two of our members attended the February meeting and saw over 50 slides shown by Mr. Ellis McNamara who also provided an interesting commentary. Mr. McNamara has travelled widely

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throughout Australia and his reputation was apparently responsible for the massive attendance of 190 members.

The next meeting of the EOC, is on Tuesday 4 March and the speaker will be Mr. John De Jose - Curator of Birds, Taronga Park Zoo. If in Sydney members may like to go along - visitors welcome - starts at 8 p.m. entrance from William Street.

6. THANKS. Many thanks to that capable young lady, Kay Imrie for the very efficient manner in which she acted as Editor of our Newsletter during my absences towards the latter end of 1979.

7. BROUGHTON ISLAND TRIP.

Saturday 2/2/80 found some 21 adventurous mariners boarding the good ship PETER BEE bound for Broughton Island. From all accounts, a good time was had by all; unfortunately inclement weather forced an earlier than scheduled return on the Sunday. The number of species recorded was 20 - not a large number but then we must remember that this area is almost the sole preserve of Sea Birds.

8. ATLAS OUTING - Gresford Area 9/10 February 1980.

This outing proved to be very successful as 70 different species were sighted - almost double the number recorded on a previous visit.

COMING EVENTS

Sunday 24th February - Outing to NERONG STATE FOREST.

Meet at the OAK at Hexham at 7 a/m.

March 8/9 Atlas Outing - details at February meeting or contact the Activities Officer.

Wednesday 12 March - Monthly meeting - guest speaker ROY WHEELER
(See note above.)