

THE NOVOCASTRIAN WARBLER

April 1980

NEWSLETTER of the HUNTER (Newcastle) BIRD OBSERVER GROUP.

Issue No. 3/80 - 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)

1. NOTES from the MARCH MEETING (12/3/80)

- (1) The number of members present was 14 - attendance being no doubt affected by the petrol shortage but a number of visitors helped to swell the total present to 19.
- (2) A welcome was extended to a new member - Harry Catling who comes from Toronto. Harry is interested in recording bird calls and no doubt we shall hear the fruits of his efforts in due course.
- (3) Annual Dinner - the date for this function has been confirmed for Friday 30th May at the Cardiff Workers' Club. Intending diners should make their booking with Ed Hamonet.
- (4) The week-end camp at Cowparlour Creek (Denman area) was confirmed for 19/20 April.
- (5) Nominations for the undernoted positions were received for the Annual Meeting which is to be held on 9th April.

Chairman: Fred Van Gessel; Vice Chairman: Gary Weber  
Secretary: Wilma Barden; Asst. Secretary: Kay Imrie  
Activities Officer: Sue Hamonet; Atlas Officer: Jim Imrie  
Fees Officer: Tom Kendall.

- (6) Reported that Dennis Birt, Forestry Officer - Dungog. was conducting a study on the Lyrebird population over an area of 1,000 acres. Anyone who can assist in this study is invited to contact Fred or David Waterhouse.
- (7) Bird of the Evening was the Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) and a very interesting talk thereon was given by Tom Kendall.
- (8) ROY WHEELER, the noted Victorian ornithologist, enthralled us all with his illustrated talk on his sightings of 581 different species throughout Australia in 1979. Roy deservedly won spontaneous applause for his illuminating and at times humorous comments. We were fortunate indeed to have had the honour of hearing from a 'Birdo' who has spent the best part of 75 years in Bird-watching. At the conclusion of Roy's talk, the evening was rounded off with a light supper; thoughtfully provided by some of our ladies to whom we must express our thanks and appreciation.

2. Atlas Outing 16 March, Fosterton (Dungog) area. A very successful outing during which over 80 species were recorded.

3. CHICHESTER DAM Outing - Sudnay 23 March/

Over 60 species were recorded on this trip, the most interesting being the GLOSSY COCKATOO (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*) which our Group has only recorded previously on one occasion.

4. GEO - Australian Geographic Magazine - the latest issue Vol 2 No. 1 (available at Newsagent) contains an excellent, well illustrated article on Bower Birds.

COMING EVENTS:

Easter Week-end 4 - 7 April. Camp with Flora and Fauna Society at MURRUMBO - details - John Dorman 581564

W/E April 19/20 Outing to COWPARLOUR CREEK (near Denman)

W/E May 10/11 Atlas Camp in HOWES VALLEY area.

EXHIBITION OF BIRD PAINTINGS by Malcolm McNaughton - on show at the Cooks Hill Galleries, 67 Bull Street. Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Friday and Saturday and from 2 to 6 on Sunday. Closes on 14/4/80. (Not open on Good Friday)

NEXT MEETING - Wednesday 14th May 1980.

ANNUAL DINNER - Friday 30th May - Cardiff Workers' Club.

12 - 19 October - BIRD WEEK at the WARRUMBUNGLES (Coonabarrabran)

9 - 16 November - BIRD WEEK at O'REILLYS Mt. Lamington National Park.  
Regn. Fee \$30 : Accommodation charges range from \$147 to \$224 per week.