

THE NOVOCASTRIAN WARBLER

MAY 1980

NEWSLETTER of the HUNTER (Newcastle) BIRD OBSERVER GROUP.

Issue No. 4/80 - Released monthly at General Meetings.

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

Principal OFFICERS: Chairman: Fred van Gessel; Secretary:
Mrs. Wilma Barden (573928)

1. NOTES FROM THE APRIL MEETING (9/4/80)

- (1) Attendance 19.
- (2) A welcome was extended to new member, Len TOLHURST. Len hails from Cooranbong and from all accounts is well versed in Bird lore - should be an acquisition to our Group.
- (3) David Waterhouse reported on arrangements for the Lyrebird survey to be carried out in the Karuah State Forest.
- (4) EASTER CAMP - Four members joined with the F. & F. for an enjoyable camp on the banks of the waterless Goulburn River at Murrumbo (west of Sandy Hollow). Opportunity was taken to do an atlas count in the area and this resulted in a score of 82 species (previous record 28). More interesting sightings were: Gang Gang and Glossy Cockatoos, Dusky Woodswallow, Rock Warbler, Hooded and Red-capped Robins and Orange-winged Sitella.

Jim & Kay Imrie spent the Easter holiday period in the Murrurundi area and added over 100 species to numbers already recorded for the several grids in that locality.

(5) ELECTION of OFFICERS.

Nominations received at the previous meeting were confirmed and our Officers for the ensuing twelve months are as follows:

Chairman: Fred van Gessel; Vice Chairman: Gary Weber; Secretary: Wilma Barden; Asst. Secretary: Kay Imrie; Activities Officer and F.&F. Journal reporter: Sue Hamonet; Atlas Officer: Jim Imrie; Project Officer: David Waterhouse; Fees Officer: Tom Kendall; Newsletter Editor: Ed. Hamonet.

- (6) A letter from Mr. Clive Bilbie drew attention to the proposal to fill the swamp area on the western side of the Toronto road near the Carey St. railway crossing. The letter is to be referred to the F.&F for further action and members are asked to notify our Secretary of any bird sightings in that area.
- (7) DISCOUNTS - Arthur Warner - Chairman announced that he had negotiated a 15% discount for members' purchases at Arthur Warner's Bookshop.
- (8) BIRD OF THE EVENING - was the Red Capped Robin - *Petroica goodenovii* - probably the most attractive member of the Robin family - easily distinguishable by the brilliant scarlet cap. As was to be expected Fred filled us in with scientific detail as well as comments on his personal observations.
- (9) BRIAN GILLIGAN from the Awabakal Field Study Centre presented two very fine Audio-visual displays dealing with (a) The Seaham Swamp and (b) The Green City. Brian's comments and suggestions gave us food for thought particularly in relation to ways members could be of assistance to local schools with information regarding birds in the school's locality.

2. Atlas Outing - Howes Valley 10/11 May.

Because of the School holidays, this outing was brought forward to the 3/4 May but was subsequently abandoned due to the lack of sufficient participants - to be relisted .

3. COMING EVENTS

- (1) May 24/25 Upper Allyn outing - camp at Forestry Commission Hut - final details May meeting.
- (2) Friday 30 May - ANNUAL DINNER - Cardiff Workers' Club
Time: 6.30 for 7 p.m. Final bookings May meeting.
- (3) Sunday 8th June - Atlas outing to STROUD/MILL CREEK area.
Meet at the Oak, Hexham at 7 a.m.
- (4) Next Meeting Wednesday 11 June 1980.
- (5) BIRD WEEK at the Warrumbungles (Coonabarabran)
12 - 19 October.
- (6) BIRD WEEK at O'Reilly's - Mt. Lamington National Park.
Regn. Fee \$30.00; Accommodation for full board including all meals ranges from \$147 to \$224 for the week. 9 - 16 November
- (7) FLORA and FAUNA Society Meetings-Outings.
Mon. 26 May "In the Steps of Threlkeld - the coast from Merewether to Belmont. 8 p.m. Room 11 Wickham Public School.
Sunday 18 May - "Wollombi Heritage" - meet at Wollombi Park at 10.30 a.m.