

THE NOVOCASTRIAN WARBLER.

February 1981

NEWSLETTER of the HUNTER(Newcastle) BIRD OBSERVER GROUP.

Issue No. 1/81 - Released monthly at General Meetings.

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each month (except January)
at the Garden Suburb Primary School at 7.30.

Principal Officers: Chairman: Fred van Gessel.

Secretary: Mrs. Wilma Barden (573928)

1. NOTES FROM THE DECEMBER 1980 MEETING.

- a) Good attendance for the final evening meeting for 1980 - 25 present.
- b) 1981 Programme - final draft circulated for comment.
- c) Report on Wader Survey held in Port Stephens area over w/end 6/7 Dec. Several members from this group participated with 30 from the N.S.W. Field Ornithologists Club.
- d) Billets are required for the week-end of 21/22 March 1981 when some members of the Victorian Bird Observers Club will be visiting the area - anyone able to assist please contact Wilma.
- e) Unusual sightings - a White-rumped Sandpiper at Kooragang and an Owlet Nightjar at Cooranbong.
- f) Cabbage Tree Island 'Cruise' arranged, weather permitting, for Saturday 14 Feb. Bookings: Wilma Barden.

2. GUEST SPEAKERS

Dot Bates spoke on her Historical Tour out west while Gary Weber described his visit to the 'Corner Country' during the August-September school holidays. Gary's talk was illustrated with some of his high quality colour slides.

3. SPECIAL ITEM.

Marion Walker literally brought the house down with her monologue which dealt with the trials and tribulations of a BIRD WATCHER. As a result of this performance we're not sure whether we shall see an increased attendance on our field days or whether Marion's effort will cause the faint-hearted to confine their bird watching to viewing slides. Congratulations Marion on an excellent exposition.

4. BUTTABA/COORANBONG OUTING - Sunday 14th December.

Eight members attended the final outing for 1980. 78 species were sighted but the one which caused quite a discussion was a juvenile Mangrove Heron - at first it was thought to be a young BlackBittern. Apart from the Mangrove Herons, other less common sightings were: Brown Goshawk, Channel-Billed Cuckoo, Pheasant Coucal, Spine-tailed and Fork-tailed Swifts, Brown Songlark, Fuscous Honey-eater and an Olive-backed Oriole.

5. TAYLORS' BEACH OUTING Sunday 15 January.

An excellent roll-up of 15 members participated in this outing which was held in very hot and humid conditions. 66 species were recorded with the highlight of the day being the superb viewing of Southern Emu-Wren families.

6. COMING EVENTS:

Saturday 14 February - BOAT TRIP to CABBAGE TREE ISLAND - Bookings Wilma.

Sunday 22 February - Outing to MARTINSVILLE/GAP CREEK - meet outside Cooranbong Church at 7 a.m. Leader; Ray Walker.

Sunday 8th March - Atlas Outing to Williamtown/Saltash - Details: Jim Imrie (524524)

FLORA & FAUNA PROGRAMME

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Room 11, Wickham Public School 8 p.m.

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Sunday 8 March - Birds on Stockton Sandspit followed by Journey into
Newcastle Bight Sandhills - Leaders: John Dorman, Don McNair.
For details ring: 581564 or 573030

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