

THE NOVOCASTRIAN WARBLER

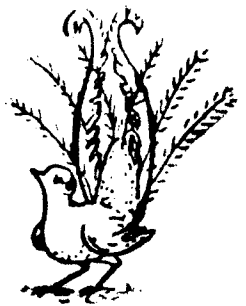
July, 1981.

NEWSLETTER of the HUNTER (Newcastle) BIRD OBSERVERS GROUP

Issue No. 6/81 - released monthly at General Meetings..

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

Chairman: Fred van Gessel



1. Notes from the June meeting 10/6/1981.

- (a) Attendance 18. A good number for a very cold night.
- (b) Welcome to new member, Jim Perry.
- (c) Annual Dinner to be held on Friday, 26/6/81 at the Wallsend R.S.L. Club.
- (d) Details of annual Australian Winter Survey of Waders to be held 4/5 July. Fred to distribute tally sheets.. Suggested work areas: Port Stephens, Kooragang Island, Swansea.
- (e) Invitation to attend next Committee meeting at the home of Fred van Gessel at 8 pm on Monday 6th July at 33 Elcho Street, Hamilton.  
(Committee meetings usually held on first Monday of the month except for Public Holidays)

2. Bird of the Evening - Penguins.

Sue Hamonet entertained us with a very interesting presentation on penguins, with special reference to the Little Blue or Fairy Penguin, which breeds on local off-shore islands. She suggested a 'Designer of the Year' award for penguins when the adaptations to their bodies for a life in the sea were considered. Sue recommended as a useful reference: John Sparks and Tony Soper: Penguins. Angus and Robertson, 1968.

3. Bird Calls of the Evening - Flycatchers..

Fred played the calls of the Leaden, Spectacled, Black-faced and Boat-billed Flycatchers.. He also presented the call of the Rose Robin which is similar to that of the Boat-billed Flycatcher.

4. Back-benchers" Spot.

Wilma Barden reported the sighting of a Franklin's Gull at Greenwich Point, Sydney. John O'Malley described an attack by three magpies on a Grey Goshawk. Ted Felton has seen recently 13 Eastern Golden Plovers in breeding plumage on Kooragang Island, also one Avocet; a Dominican Gull on Stockton breakwater. Also on Kooragang Island Jim Perry observed a Black-tailed Kite. Ed and Sue Hamonet

have a Striated Thornbill nesting in their back garden. (3 eggs). Wilma has recently heard the Cicada Bird calling in Blackbutt Reserve.

5. The Hunter Wetlands Group are undertaking a survey of the Hexham Swamp area. Assistance of members requested by Fred who has maps and details.
6. MEMBERS NIGHT PROGRAMME  
A wide range of interesting slides, with commentaries, were shown. Ern Walpole: 1981 Easter camp at TableTop Creek, Widden Valley. Ted Felton: Waders around Kooragang Island and Stockton. Ed and Sue Hamonet: Kakadu N.P., O'Reilly's, Bunya N.P. A quick quiz of common bird names was conducted by Kay Imrie and both Wilma Barden and Arthur Williams scored the maximum. Well done, both of you.
7. July COMMITTEE MEETING report next newsletter.
8. Your attention is drawn to three matters which need comment and consideration.
  - (a) the pros and cons of autonomy for the H.B.O.G.
  - (b) the Bird List of Names which our group intends to use from 1981 onwards.
  - (c) a design for a metal badge for the H.B.O.G.
9. The field outing to the Watagans on Sunday 21st June was attended only by Wilma who braved the elements and recorded some 33 species for the day.
10. The Atlas outing on Sunday 5th July was somewhat more successful. Despite very windy conditions 53 species were recorded in the Girvan area by seven atlassers. Six members of a newly formed bird observers' group from Taree joined us for the day. While their knowledge was limited their enthusiasm was not and it is to be hoped that they learnt a little while with us. Future combined outings are planned.

#### 11. COMING EVENTS

- (a) Committee Meeting  
Monday 3rd August, 8 pm.  
Home of Ed and Sue Hamonet, 32 Thompson Street, Speers Point.
- (b) Field outing (with F&F) Stockrington Road area..  
Sunday 19th July. Meet 8.30 am. at the junction  
of Stockrington Rd and Minmi Rd. Leader: Marion Walker.
- (c) Atlas outing  
Sunday 9th August. Denman area. Details Jim Imrie  
Phone 524524.