

THE NOVOCASTRIAN WARBLER

February 1982

NEWSLETTER of the HUNTER (Newcastle) BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB.

Issue No. 1/82 - released monthly at Club Nights.

MEETINGS: Club Nights : 2nd Wednesday of each month (except January) at the Garden Suburb Primary School at 7.30 p.m.  
Committee Meetings: 1st Monday of each month (public holidays excepted) at Garden Suburb Primary School at 8 p.m.

1. MEETING Wednesday 9th December 1981.

1) Notes:

- a) Attendance - 20 members and 1 visitor.
- b) 1982 Programme - issued to members present with an explanation of necessity to ring 'contact person' in the event of petrol shortages, inclement weather or other emergency.
- c) The final draft of the proposed Constitution for the Hunter Bird Observers Club was tabled for perusal and will be presented for adoption at the Club night on 10th February 1982.

2) BIRD OF THE EVENING AND CALL.

This was handled by Jim Imrie in his usual efficient manner. The bird chosen was the CRESTED BELLBIRD (*Oreoica gutturalis*) - this one is not found in the Hunter Valley but Jim was speaking from personal sightings in the Hattah Lakes National Park in Victoria and at Pulletop in N.S.W. The call was very musical and was not unlike that of our Bell Miner. Thank you Jim for enlarging our knowledge of a bird found outside our area.

3) MAIN FEATURE

In lieu of a guest speaker a members' Slide Night was held and we were treated to a display of really first class slides by Arthur Austin, Ted Felton, Mavis Gillies, Jim Imrie, Ern Walpole and Arthur Williams. Our Club is very fortunate in that we have in our midst such talented photographers. Thank you one and all for a superb display.

4) DISPOSAL of CHRISTMAS GOODS

As the festive season was fast approaching, our innovative Chairman decided to dispose of a bottle of vin de grape and a Christmas cake - Brian Archer and Tom Douglass were the lucky winners. Thanks to Fred van Gessel and Ted Felton who provided the prizes.

The evening was rounded off with refreshments provided by some of our female members - thank you ladies.

2. ATLAS WEEK-END to Warra/Warranulla/Waukivory 4/6/ December 1981.

Due to excessively hot weather conditions forecast for the Saturday, this outing was confined to Sunday 6/12/81. Three members attended and recorded 92 species in the 3 grids covered during the day.

3. FIELD DAY to BLACK HILL Sunday 13th December 1981.

In very hot and tiring conditions, 9 members spent the morning at Black Hill. Unfortunately for our Birdos the cicadas were in fine voice in the forest area and birds were hard to find. Observations were made at the meeting place on John Renshaw Drive, at several spots along the road to Black Hill and finally from a vantage point above Hexham Swamp. 71 species were recorded with the highlights being the Rufous Fantail, the Grey Goshawk and the Whiskered Tern K.I.

4. CABBAGE TREE ISLAND TRIP - Sunday 10th January 1982.

Nine visitors from Sydney joined 11 Newcastle people on a sea trip to Cabbage Tree Island. Prime reason for the excursion was to view the GOULD PETREL which (in Australia) is only found there. The party was not disappointed as 3 Gould Petrels and one chick were sighted. In addition, other sightings were several species of Shearwaters including the rare Buller's Shearwater; Skuas; Gannets and the Little Penguin with a Leatherback Turtle thrown in for good measure. A.C.

5. FIELD DAY to WARKWORTH - Sunday 24th January 1982.

Ten members participated in the first Field Day for 1982. An early start was made for the venue at Warkworth where it was hoped to see the Painted Honeyeater. 72 species were recorded but unfortunately, the Painted H.E. was not one of them. The sighting of the day was a female GLOSSY BLACK COCKATOO (*Calyptorhynchus lathamii*) who obligingly perched in a casuarina tree about 3 metres off the ground while she fed on casuarina nuts. E.H.

6. REPORT FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS held on 7/12/81 and 25/1/82.

- 1) 1982 programme finalised for release at the December 81 meeting.
- 2) Auditors: Messrs. H.Doherty and R. Watson appointed as Auditors for the 1981 accounts.
- 3) Details regarding content of the Annual Report were finalised.
- 4) Nomenclature of Australian Birds - after much deliberation the Committee has decided to analyse the INTERIM LIST of Australian Birds and to eventually produce a list for use by members of our own Club.
- 5) Details of the programmes for February, March and April Club nights were completed

7. R.A.O.U. COURSES in 1982.

Details of Courses to be held at ROTUNDAH Island Bird Observatory (in Victoria) and the Eyre Bird Observatory (in W.A.) are set out in a circular which has been tabled at this (February) Club Night. Incidentally, the R.A.O.U. are taking steps to establish a Bird Observatory at the Barren Grounds Nature Reserve (near Robertson - south of Wollongong).

8. ATLAS of AUSTRALIAN BIRDS.

The mammoth task of finding out where Australia's birds live and breed was finished on 31st December 1981 after 5 years of activity. About 2,500 Birdos have marshalled nearly 3 million records covering 750 species. By comparison, the British Bird Atlas involved 10,000 observers, 218 species and 285,000 individual records. All of the Australian records are being computerised and in due course the results will be published.

9. EXHIBITION

An Exhibition of Australian Bird Paintings by Malcolm McNaughton opened at the Cooks Hill Galleries, 67 Bull St on Sunday 31st January. The Galleries will be open at the following times:

Friday and Saturday	11am to 6 p.m.
Sundays	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Mondays	11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Exhibition will close on Monday 15th February 1982.

10. COMING EVENTS:

Sunday 21st February - FIELD DAY to LAKE MUNMORAH.

Meet at Coles Car Park, Belmont at 7 a.m. Leader: Bill Cambridge  
Contact person - Kay Imrie 524524.

Wednesday 10th March - CLUB NIGHT - The Guest Speaker is to be Mr. Arnold McGill F.R.Z.S. F.R.A.O.U. Mr. McGill is probably one of the best known ornithologists in Australia and it is hoped that there will be a good attendance of members (and friends) that evening.

Saturday 20th February. The Cumberland Bird Observers Club is having an outing to Swansea and would like H.B.O.C. members to join them for the day. Details: Wilma Barden - 573928