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Newsletter Editor:

Group Meetings: 2nd Wednesday each month at the Garden Suburb, Primary School.

Editor's Note: Welcome to this our first edition of the Novocastrian Warbler. (What do you think of the name ?) The production of this publication has been thought necessary as a means of improving communications with members of our Group. Copies (1 per family) will be available at our regular meetings. All journals are dependent on contributions and the success and continued production will depend on the support and co-operation of members - so, if you have anything to report, put pen to paper or voice to phone and let us have it.

#### REPORTS

24 March

1. Widdien Valley Easter 1978. Two members of our group braved the watery weather and headed for the Valley during the Easter break. Unfortunately the torrential rain which fell on the Thursday and on Good Friday deterred quite a number of would be campers. However, our two brave venturers had plenty of company as 9 members of the Sydney group showed up and according to all accounts a good week-end of birding ensued - some 127 species being recorded over the three days. One of the highlights was the discovery of a deceased WHITE TAILED TROPIC BIRD apparently blown inland during the stormy weather the previous week.

2. Cessnock Survey - On Saturday 10/4/78 twelve of our Group explored some property on the outskirts of Cessnock for Dr. Lang to ascertain the extent of the bird population with a view to having the area declared a Wild-Life Refuge. Unfortunately, the smaller birds appeared to have been shot out by trigger happy youngsters and the only birdlife of any consequence were the water fowl which inhabited the swamp which dominated the area. It doesn't seem as though the good Doctor will get his wish at least not from that angle. To compensate for the lack of feathered friends in that area, on the way home we feasted our eyes on the thousands of birds which had been attracted to the Hexham swamp area, no doubt after the build up of water following the abundant rains the week before.

3. Corrabare State Forest. A party of 15 souls, in bright sunny weather, moved into the Corrabare State Forest on Saturday 22 April. Over 40 different species were observed - the most interesting being a colony of noisy grey crowned Babblers; a flame robin; speckled warblers and for one lucky lady a male Lyrebird. At a delightful lunch spot, near a water-hole, entertainment was provided by a party of musical bellbirds while the view from Flat-Rock lookout was quite breathtaking. On the return trip, a detour was made via Ellalong to view the teeming bird-life in the swamp - since the recent rains, this swamp has extended over a much bigger area. Altogether a most enjoyable day.

#### Programme - Meeting Night 12/4/78

Accommodation was taxed to the limit on the 12/4/78 as over 40 people crowded into our meeting place - as well as our regulars, we were pleased to have quite a number of visitors.

THE BIRD OF THE EVENING - the Nankeen Night Heron was presented very capably by Master Gary Johnston - it is indeed very pleasing to see our younger members displaying so much knowledge and having the courage to stand up before an adult audience and present the results of their observations and research - congratulations Gary.

LORD HOWE ISLAND \* as a sequel to the visit to the Island in February by 10 members of our group, a talk on his impressions of the Island was given by Ted Hamonet followed by an illustrated talk on the Birds of Id Howe Is accompanied by recordings of some of the bird calls, by our Avian Academic, Fred Van Gessel. Many thanks to Alan Gillies and Fred for the excellent viewing from their coloured slides. There would be no doubt that the trip to Lord Howe Is will be one of the highlights of 1978's activities and it is hoped that an Annual Migration will become part of our programme each year.

OBSERVATION PROJECTS - now that some of us are becoming more proficient in identifying birds, our President would like to see more people undertaking Observation Projects in certain areas. One habitat we would like to have more details about is the Blackbutt Reserve - anyone interested ? please contact our Secretary, Wilma for a project sheet.

#### COMING EVENTS

Friday 19th May - ANNUAL DINNER at Cardiff Workers' Club - menu a la carte - time 6.30 p.m.

June 3/4/5/ Queen's Birthday; Camping week-end at DHARUG NATIONAL PARK - details at May meeting.

June 24 BROKE Trip - details at June meeting.

July 23 Sunday - Brisbane Waters outing