



Newsletter of the Bird Observer Group of the Newcastle Fauna & Flora
Protection Society.

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

Editor's Note: The WARBLER was officially launched at our last meeting and judging by it's reception, it could be here to stay - at least for quite a while we hope.

REPORTS:

1. The ANNUAL MEETING - May 10th 1978; the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Hunter Bird Observers' Group was a memorable occasion for the large gathering of members and visitors in attendance to hear an address by our illustrious Guest Speaker, Mr. A. R. McGill. Arnold McGill is an ornithologist of renown, being recognised as an Australian expert on Waders and Warblers, and an author of several books on the subject of bird recognition. With fifty years of practical experience to draw upon he enthralled us all with his illustrated talk on 'the Aesthetic and Scientific Interest of Birds'. Members unanimously agreed that the splendid slides of birds, nests and eggs, and the spoken commentary on identification of species was extremely helpful, particularly to those of us who are simply beginners in the field. We understand that a return visit is a distinct possibility, and we look forward to that treat in the not too far distant future. A hearty vote of thanks to Secretary, Wilma, for her part, not only in proposing and organising the visit, but for her hospitality to the McGills in accommodating them overnight in her home.
2. ANNUAL DINNER - Friday 19th May - Twenty members of our group gathered at the Cardiff Workers' Club for the Annual Dinner - unfortunately some last minute casualties resulted in our numbers being reduced by 4 - however, a very enjoyable evening was held by all - the food was good, the service first class and the old time dance music was keenly enjoyed - noticed Tom Douglas sinking a few glasses of bubbly, however, it appeared to have little effect on him as we later observed the same gentleman guiding a lovely lady through the intricacies of the Pride of Erin. Some of our members are better at observing birds than cost figures on menus - so much so that at the close of the evening we had declared a small profit with which we decided to purchase a Lottery Ticket - details below.
3. MURDERING GULLEY
This was the venue for the outing on Sat. 20th May. Several times of late we have been asked the origin of this rather gruesome name; it seems that this gulley was once called Burwood Gulley. One theory for the change of name, many years ago, was because a Chinese sailor was found hung in a tree. In another yarn, a woman was found murdered there and her husband charged with committing the crime. Murdering Gulley is the site of the sewerage treatment works and the area covered by this particular expedition is more confined to the Flaggy Creek area which is Nor-Nor-West of Glenrock Lagoon. We are indebted to Marion Walker for the following list of birds from this outing: Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike, Crested Shrike-Tit, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-Thrush, Grey Fantail, Eastern Whipbird (H), Superb Blue Wren, White-browed Scrub Wren, Brown, Yellow and Striated Thornbills, White-throated Treecreeper, Little Wattle birds, Lewin, Yellow-tufted, yellow faced and White-naped Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebill, Mistletoebirds, Spotted Pardalote, Silvereyes, Red-browed Firetails, Spangled Drongo, Australian Regent bird, Grey Butcherbird, Magpie, Pied Currawong, Raven, Pelican, Gannet, Small Black Cormorant, Large White Egret, Brown Goshawk, White-breasted Sea Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Dusky Moorhen, Silver Gull, Fantail Cuckoo, Shining Bronze Cuckoo. Total 39.
4. EXCITING FIND
During the May School vacation, one of our younger members had the good fortune to secure a fine specimen of PITTA VERSICOLOR (Buff Breasted Pitta) which gave many of us an opportunity to observe for the first time a bird which mostly seemed unknown in this locality. Spotlighting in a rainforest gulley in the Dudley area, Stephen Parkes found the bird possibly dazzled by the light and was able to catch it with a net. For those of us able to get there it was a memorable experience to examine and photograph the colourful specimen at the home of Theo Tasoulis and later the bird was tagged by Fred and then released. A feather in the caps of these two lads, who deserve praise for their earnest pursuits in the field of ornithology. Earlier a sighting of the Powerful Owl (Ninox Strenua) in their same stamping ground was an exciting achievement. We envy them their youth and enthusiasm and commend them for

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N.S.W. STATE LOTTERY

THE NEW JACKPOT No. 131

(ONE CHANCE IN 21)

The B.O.S

their diligence.

- 5. DHARUG CAMP Due to the excessive rain immediately prior to the week-end of 3/4/5 June, this was a non event.
- 6. COMING EVENTS - SATURDAY June 24 - Broke Trip
- Sunday July 23 - Brisbane Waters Trip.