



NEWSLETTER of the Newcastle Bird Observer Group

Issue No. 3 (Released monthly at General Meetings)

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

Editor's Note: The WARBLER is available at general meetings, but if you should miss a meeting and would like to have a copy, please notify the Editor and one will be reserved for you to be collected the next time you attend.

REPORTS:

1. General Meeting 14/6/78. At this meeting the election of Officers held over from the Annual meeting was conducted and resulted as set out above. The following matters were then discussed:

ATLASSING - Under the terms of the ATLAS scheme the whole of N.S.W. has been divided up into areas. The idea is for these areas to be examined and a record made of the bird life observed therein. We, naturally, are more concerned with the Hunter Valley areas. As a first step to do something for the scheme, the Martin's Creek area was checked out on Saturday 17 June and the Mt. Vincent area on Saturday 1st July. Examination of more areas is planned and this should give the enthusiastic Observer ample opportunity to indulge in the satisfying pastime of Bird Observing and at the same time make a meaningful contribution to the Bird lore of this region.

STOCKTON SAND SPIT - it was reported that this area was again becoming infested with the Salicornia weed not to mention the pestiferous Bitou Bush and on Sunday 18 June, 10 members braved the icy conditions and made quite an impression on this weed growth.

NAME CHANGES IN BIRDS - a Sub Committee was appointed to examine the changes of which we had been notified. This Committee has met 3 times and it is expected that a report will be available for the July meeting.

BIRDS of the EVENING - we were very fortunate to have two speakers to tell us about the Bird of the Evening which in fact turned out to be 3 Birds. Firstly David Waterhouse gave an interesting talk on that shy bird the MANGROVE WARBLER. David was then followed by Bill Murphy. Bill spends a lot of time on the water and therefore seems to know much more about water fowl than most of us. He spoke with illustrations about the BLACK DUCK and the GREY TEAL - we were much more enlightened after listening these two experts. Having disposed of the Birds of the Evening we were then treated to a feast of magnificent coloured slides accompanied by a learned dissertation by Gary Weber about BIRDS IN CLOSE UP. Gary showed us quite a variety of birds, mostly at nesting sites with the parent bird(s) feeding the apparently never satisfied youngsters. Thank you Gary for an excellent viewing.

2. The BROKE Expedition, Saturday 24 June - attendance 16.

Two points for concern or discussion arose out of this trip:

(i) It was felt that the time of departure should be adhered to more rigidly - at times all of us have been probably guilty of keeping the 'others' waiting. Mostly we do not really know who actually intends to come along and it was suggested that the <sup>5.00 P</sup> could wait for a further ten minutes for someone who said they were coming. Also it was felt that the proposed route and the ultimate destination should be determined and made known beforehand so that latecomers could still join in - we realise of course that this is not always possible but it is worth a thought.

(ii) To assist members to identify who comprises the group, it was suggested that we fly a ribbon or ribbons from the radio aerial or car door handle!

We are again indebted to Marion Walker for recording the birds sighted on this trip:

HONEYEATERS: White-plumed, Striped, White-naped, White-cheeked, Yellow-faced, Yellow-throated. Magpie, Raven, Magpie Lark, Butcherbirds - Grey and Pied, Chough. ROBINS - Red-capped, Rose, Hooded, Flame, Scarlet; Little Lorikeet, Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Red-rumped parrot, Eastern Rosella; Wedge-tailed Eagle, Kestrel, Black-shouldered Kite, Brown Falcon, Little Falcon, Little Eagle. Australian Pippit, Spotted Quail; Wood Duck, Black Swan, Dusky Moorhen, Eastern Swamp Hen, Black Duck. THOUBILLS: Yellow-rumped, Buff-tailed, Yellow. Bar-shouldered Dove, Crested Pigeon, Peaceful Dove. TREECREEPERS: Brown & White-throated. Grey Thrush, Wagtail, Kookaburra, Spotted Pardalote Welcreeper, Grey fantail, Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Speckled Warbler, Weebill Varied Sitella, Fantail Cuckoo, Starling, Black-faced Cuckoo shrike, Plover, Noisy Miner, Jacky Winter, Diamond Firetail Finch, Double-Bar Finch. Total 64. A good days birding

and our thanks are due to Ted Felton who led this expedition in a most capable manner - obviously Foreman material.

COMING EVENTS: Sunday 23 July BRISBANE WATERS TRIP - details at July meeting.  
August 19/20 week-end Camp at DOYLES CREEK - final details August meeting.  
Sept. 30 Oct. 1/2 Long week-end camp at GLOUCESTER TOPS - Reservations for camp sites have to be made with the Ranger by August 1 and intending campers should notify Wilma before the end of July if they wish to have a camp site reserved.