

J Guilfoyle.

# Nature Notes

Ringwood Inspectorate

Volume 9

No.6



BLACKBURN LAKE

PRIMARY SCHOOL

6



▶ **IMPORTANT:** Nature Notes will be delivered to depots on the Second Wednesday of September, not the First

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Front Cover :H.J.L.  
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\*\*\*\*\*  
Registered at the  
G.P.O. for trans-  
mission by post as  
a periodical.  
Category B.



CONSERVE,  
PLANT,  
**ENJOY!**  
\* \* \* \*

Recently a little girl came into my office proudly bearing a bird she had found in our school-ground. I immediately recognised it as a Red Wattle Bird. The poor thing was suffering from a curious sickness which seemed to have affected its balance and it died later in the day.

What beautiful birds these large honey-eaters are. About 12"-14" in length the Red Wattle Bird derives its name from two red "wattles" which hang just below its ears. The back is dark brown and the long tail is tipped with white. The breast is mottled brown and white with a tinge of yellow lower down. The long curved beak is typical of most honey-eaters.



● Red Wattle Bird.

For several mornings recently, some excited boys greeted me with the news that there was a big black and white bird down on the oval. Unfortunately by the time I got there "the bird had flown". Could it have been an Ibis ? A week or so later, two senior girls came to tell me they had seen a Blue

I had observed a few pairs of these birds flying about the school-ground only a few days before. You see, Blackburn Lake is a very fortunate school because it backs onto a forest reserve, and the trees and scrub, not to mention the lake, are the haunt of many beautiful birds. Because of thoughtful planning by the School Committee and Education Department authorities, there are many native trees and bushes in the school ground, so birds like the Wattle Bird come right in near the buildings.



● Ibis





Crane on the oval. They described it accurately and had done some research from a book, so they were very well informed about this particular bird. On the following Wednesday afternoon when all was quiet, I had the good fortune to see the Blue Crane myself and one of the girls' remark that it was a very graceful bird came back to me. One doesn't realise

● White-faced Heron

how graceful the Blue Crane is, until it is seen stalking about as we saw it. The Blue Crane isn't a Crane at all by the way: its correct name is White Faced Heron. Actually, Australia has only one true crane-- can you discover which bird it is?

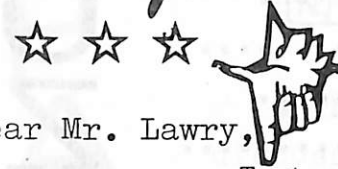
Well girls and boys, that will give you some idea of how lucky the residents of the Blackburn Lake area are, especially when it is remembered that the school is just 16 miles from the G.P.O. The point is, that if areas are set aside for our wild-life, some birds and animals will remain, even close to the city. I believe it should be the care of every school to set an example and plant as many native plants as possible in the grounds. In this way, natural habitats will be created

in all sorts of unlikely places, making it possible for many of the wonders of nature to be near at hand.

See a rather upsetting foot-note on Page 12. Ed.



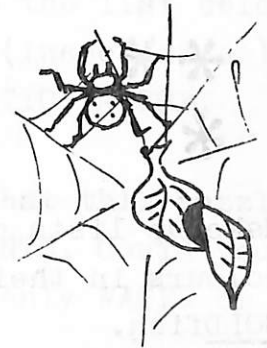
## Drop a Line



Editor, 'Nature Notes',  
State School,  
Blackburn Lake,  
P.O. Box 30,  
NUNAWADING. 3131.

Dear Mr. Lawry,

Today we have a leaf curling spider, it is in a leaf. The spider has curled the leaf and it sticks the leaf with the same thing that comes out of his body to spin the web. It is like glue because it sticks. My teacher got some flowers and one of the leaves was curled up and there was a spider in it. The spider came out to have a look around. It was black with little strips of white.



➡ Joanne Sone Grade 2. Southwood Primary School

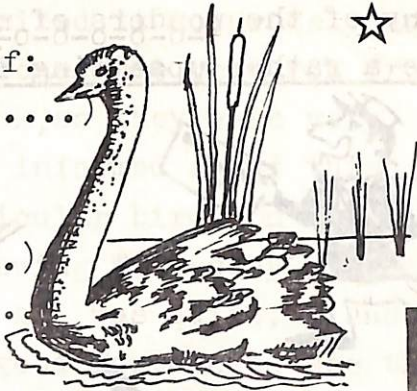
Thank you for the lovely letter Joanne. I will be posting a Periwinkle Book prize to you shortly. Ed.



## SOME COLOUR QUIZZES

A ● What is the main colour of:

1. An Australian Swan.(.....)
2. A Flamingo.(.....)
3. A Spoonbill.(.....)
4. A Grizzly Bear.(.....)
5. A Grass Parrot.(.....)



B ● Fill in the names of these birds. The colour parts of their names are given.

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Silver.....  | Azure.....   |
| Blue.....    | Flame.....   |
| Scarlet..... | Rainbow..... |
| Pink.....    | Pied.....    |
| Crimson..... | White.....   |



C ● Make up lists of other creatures with colours in their names. eg. GOLDfish.

Giant RED kangaroo.

BLUE whale.

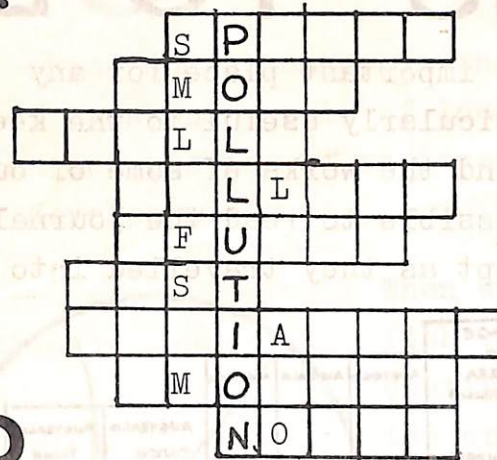
I thought of FIFTEEN other creatures. Can you beat this total ?



\* \* \* \* \*



# P U N Z L E S



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# P A G E



● There has been much talk and discussion about pollution. Here is a pollution puzzle. Just choose the appropriate pollutant from the list below.  
SMOG. SMELLS. DUST. SPRAYS (insecticides)  
FUMES. SMOKE. FALL-OUT. RADIATION. NOISE.

● I have just noticed that this puzzle is filled with AIR POLLUTANTS. Could you make another one up using only WATER or LAND pollutants?

Use the space beside the puzzle.

● What are ELEMENTS ? Could you name three elements that start with the letter C?

\* \* \* \* \*



## LIBRARY

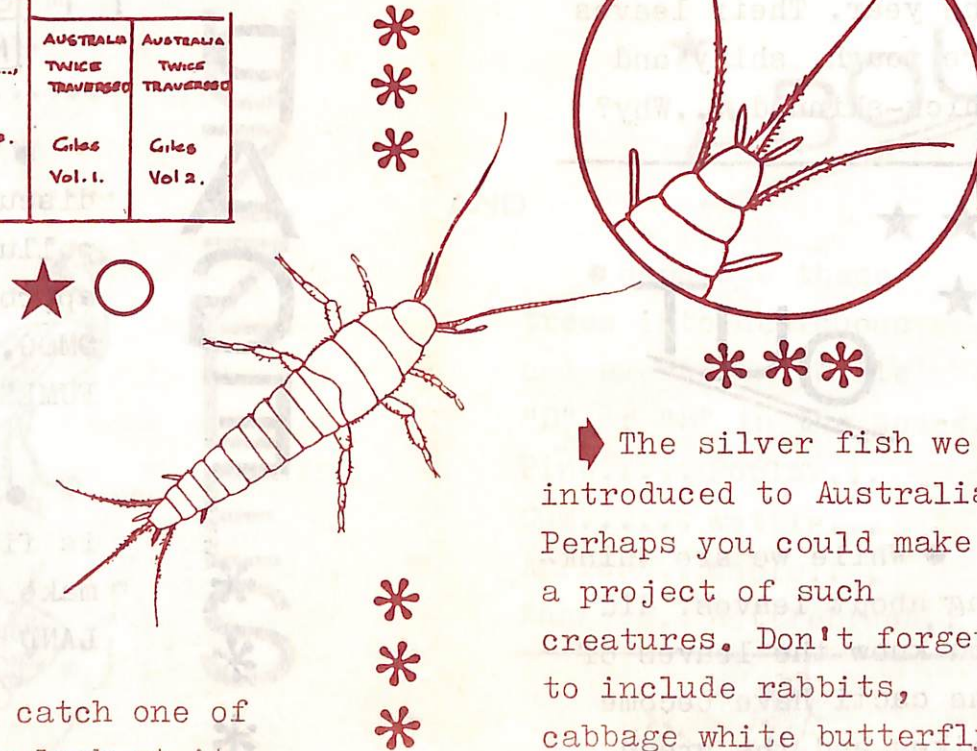
head, chest and abdomen. On the head you will see a pair of eyes and a pair of long feelers. Here we have the characteristics of an insect, but silver fish never develop wings.

\* \* \* \* \*

When we look at the silver fish under our lens, note the coating of scales which give the creature a metallic silvery appearance.

How many tails does the bristle-tail have? Did you find three long ones and a number of short ones?

► If you can catch one of these creatures look at it under a hand lens. Note that the body is divided into



Perhaps you could make a project of such creatures. Don't forget to include rabbits, cabbage white butterfly, codlin moth etc. If you find silver fish under bark or stones, or in damp sheltered places, they will probably be our harmless Australian species.

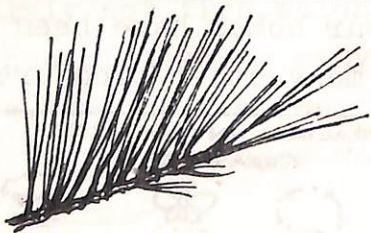




● Examine the trees near your school or home and see if you can find out whether they are evergreen or deciduous



Deciduous trees shed their leaves in winter and become dormant. (You might like to look up that interesting word in your dictionary)



● These leaves grow like this to allow snow to slide easily through them. Which tree do they belong to?



● Evergreen trees lose only a few of their leaves throughout the year. Their leaves are tough, shiny and thick-skinned....Why?



OUT

● While we are thinking about leaves: did you know the leaves of the cacti have become spikes, and the green fleshy stems have learnt to do the work of the leaves?

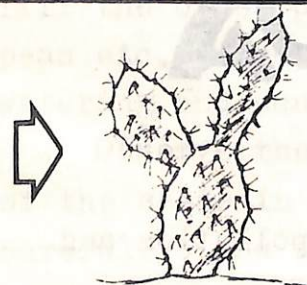
● What is the work of a leaf on a plant? See if you can find out, then write in to Nature Notes with your findings. You might win a book prize !



ABOUT

AND

● Separate these trees into deciduous and evergreen. Write "D" or "E" in the space.  
Pine..... Poplar...  
Gum..... wattle...  
Apricot.. Maple....  
Banksia.. Bottlebrush..



● Pull a few weeds out of a garden bed and examine the roots. Here are a few you might find:



What is their purpose? Can you discover any others? While you are probing about, keep an eye open for other interesting things won't you !



## DISTURBING NOTE \* \* \* \* \*

Just as I finished typing "Conserve, Plant, ENJOY", a boy came in with a Noisy Miner with the same symptoms as the Wattle Bird. Stranger still, that evening some children called at my home to tell me they had found a Jay which couldn't fly and kept falling over all the time. Co-incidence?.....surely not. General bird sickness?.....possibly, but not likely. It seems their nervous systems were affected..... Insecticides? Garden sprays? Orchard sprays? ..... I WONDER ??????????. Your views would be welcome.



● Let them LIVE.

## \* \* \* \* \* ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

● The Environment Protection Society has adopted a protective "umbrella" as its organisation symbol. It could soon be as familiar to Victorians as the badge of their favourite football team. Chairman of the Authority, Mr. J.C. Fraser, explained: "Just as an umbrella protects you from the rain, so we hope the E.P.A. will protect Victoria's environment from pollution and



the harmful effects of waste discharges."

The Environment Protection Authority is due to come into full operation in August or September this year, so watch out for the symbol won't you.

## \* \* \* CROSS WORD \* \* \*

When you finish this cross-word puzzle, the name of the young of one of the creatures mentioned should appear in the heavy diagonal squares.

(rabbit, hare, horse, swan, goose, parrot.)

1. The Native Companion is Australia's only true.....

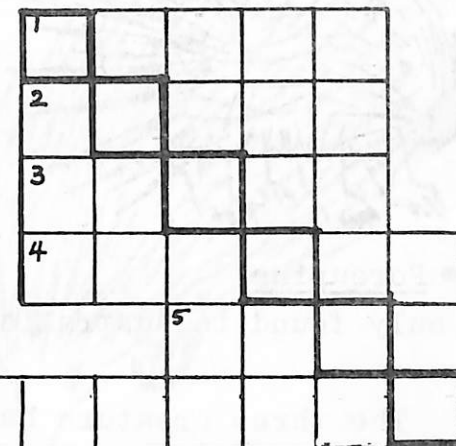
2. Eagle's nest.

3. Bird of Prey.

4. Diving Sea-bird.

5. Name of a bird.

6. A game and an insect too.



## \* AN EXPERIMENT

Take some soil, fill one pot with some of it, then take sufficient soil to fill another pot and heat it over a fire in a tray. Allow it to cool, then fill the other pot. Sow seeds of wheat, oats, beans or peas etc. in both pots, then treat them the same with watering and sunlight.

Observe the growth of the seeds in both pots carefully, and see if you can come to any conclusions.





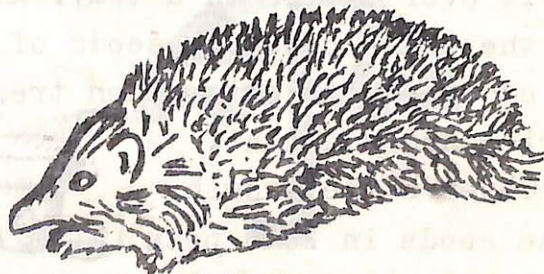
# THEY'RE ALIKE .....

## .... OR ARE THEY?



● Porcupine  
are only found in Australia and New Guinea.

The three creature have very different tastes for food. Porcupines are rodents or gnawing animals, which feed on bark, twigs and roots. Hedgehogs eat insects, snakes, small animals, birds and eggs. Echidnas have long toothless snouts and long sticky tongues suited to gathering ants and termites. When threatened, both Echidnas



● Hedgehog.

Australian Spiny Anteaters are often wrongly called Porcupines, and at times Hedgehogs. Their main similarity is that all three have quills or spines. Porcupines and Hedgehogs are found in Europe, Africa and Asia. Porcupines are also found in the Americas. Echidnas

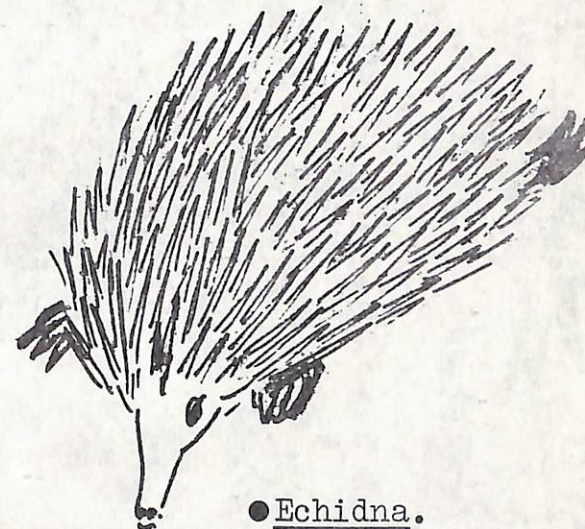
Hedgehogs tuck in their heads and feet and present sharp spines to their enemies.

Unlike the Porcupine and the Hedgehog, the Echidna is an egg-laying mammal. The female hatches the egg in an egg pouch. Echidnas are about 16 inches long, while Hedgehogs may only grow to 9 inches. The Porcupine may grow to a length of 3 feet.

Try to find out more about these three interesting animals.

What other creatures have other striking similarities?

Next month we will compare a pair of well known spiders with similar names.



● Echidna.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

- 1. Don't forget that Periwinkle Book Prizes are offered for the BEST LETTER TO THE EDITOR each month.
- 2. A PRIZE is to be awarded for the most thoughtful article on POLLUTION. Entries close at the end of Term Two . Just send your letters to the Editor of Nature Notes, P.O.Box 30, N'wading.



# HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING?

The Committee and voluntary workers on Nature Notes hope you have observed the clarity of the printing in the past two issues. This is because we have invested in new printing machinery and now produce every part of Nature Notes right here in our office.

We hope to increase our sales to help pay for the new equipment, so if you like our magazine and want to see it improve still further, please tell your friends in other schools, clubs or organizations about us. We would like to send them copies too.

H.J. Lawry.

(Editor)

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