Barrenger Volumeii. Ringwood Inspectorate Nature T95 NO.1.

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A Message For All By the time you read this

letter, school will have been in session almost a full month and most readers will be back at work in earnest. To old and new readers alike, "Nature Notes" wishes you well for 1974. We hope that it will be an exciting and interesting year for everyone.

Perhaps you will join all the others who write contributions to "Nature Notes". If so, your letters poems, puzzles and articles will be gratefully received: if possible they will be printed. Don't forget, a <u>Periwinkle book prize</u> is offered for the best letter to the editor and for 'On The Spot' contributions that are printed. Interested ? Then go to it ! We are looking forward to hearing from you.

> H.J.Lawry (Editor)

Registered in Australia for transmission through the post as a periodical --- Category B

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Two years ago, a daily newspaper estimated that more than six million Kangaroos had been slaughtered and sent to foreign meat markets since 1958. At that time, at least a million skins were exported annually, but fortunately the government stepped in and lessened this slaughter. It is disturbing to read that some states are now contemplating lifting the existing bans. If this happens, will we have kangaroos about much longer ? Many of our other unique fauna have been brought to the point of extinction - let's look at some of them.

<u>Numbat</u> - we'll be lucky if this fellow is seen in his wild state in south-eastern Australia. Bush-fires and foxes have seen

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to that. One species of numbat may still be seen in the south-west of Australia.



Numbat

You may not have to travel far to find the exclusive habitat of one Victorian bird, but you may have to search hard to find him, for his numbers until recently were dwindling alarmingly. The Helmeted Honeyeater is found at

The Toolache Wallaby has been described as the most beautiful of all the kangaroo family, but unfortunately we will never see one for they became extinct over 40 years ago. At the present rate of destruction and sluggish action by governments , the same fate will be met by other members of the kangaroo family - and for what ? pets, toys and fur coats. What a price to pay !



Yellingbo, just off the road to Warburton on the Woori Yallock Creek. See if you can find the place on a road map. Thanks to man this bird's future was made very doubtful, as his habitat is restricted to dense shrubbery along the margins of streams. Only a concerted effort by a group of dedicated enthusiasts has saved this Australian from extinction.

has saved this Australian from extinction. Remember it's up to everyone to preserve our unique birds and animals for future generations of Australians. Play your part well, won't you.

Helmeted

Honeyeater.

Letters



This interesting letter is from <u>Sarah Murphy</u> of Blackburn Lake Primary School



While we were on our holidays at Cowes last December my sisters and I spent a lot of time looking in the rock pools. We found many different seacreatures, from bright red starfish to eels, when in one rock pool my sister called out to mum to come and help her catch an octopus. They were trying to catch it, when they saw it had blue rings. From then on, mum wouldn't let anyone touch it. She managed to put it in a jar and later found out that it was the fatal blue-ringed octopus. This octopus was three to four inches long and he swam backwards with his tenticles behind him.

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CONSERVATION

In previous articles "Nature Notes" has talked about the need to look after our native plants. the need to protect our native animals, making the best use of our soil and water and so on.

Have you ever asked yourself why we should be concerned with these things ? Is it perhaps, to make the world a better place to live in ?



If we're really interest-

ed in making this a better world in which to live, doesn't it seem odd that so far we have been able to make our world extremely untidy?

• We have filled the air with smoke from factories. • Fish and birds have been killed by waste in our rivers.

• We even leave our rubbish behind after picnics,



You might think since you didn't make this mess that it's not your place to clean it up. However you can teach the "oldies" a little about being tidy. YOU CAN BECOME A CONSERVATIONIST : :

or Common-sense Living

You can set an example and show others that we can make this world a better place in which all can live.

Let us start at school.

Here are some questions for you to answer.

- 1. Is the playground kept tidy?
- 2. Do you always place waste papers in the bin ?
- 3. Do you always report damaged equipment or trees ?
- 4. Do you often tidy up your room without being asked ?
- 5. If someone's coat is lying on the floor, would you pick it up and place it on a peg ?

DON'T FORGET THAT AN ANSWER BY DEED IS STRONGER THAN AN ANSWER BY WORD.



Your school is part of your world. Help make it a better place in which you and your friends can work.

another way you could practise being a conservationist.

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FLIGHT

Since time began, Man has looked at the birds with envious eyes wondering if he too, would be able to fly one day.

As you know, success did not come quickly as it is just under three hundred years ago that Leonardo da Vinci was able to design a flying machine using bird wings for models. He was the first person to study birds' flight scientifically.



Here are a few observations you can make about our feathered friends.

Which birds belong to these groups ? (a) Those that hover and land gently as if parachuting.

(b) Those that dart here and there and manoeuvre quickly.

(c) Those that glide with long narrow wings.

(d) Those that fly short distances only.

(e) Those that fly in formation.

(f) Those that have short, broad wings for quick take-offs.

Can you find out the names of any aeroplanes that have been named after a bird ? What is the likeness ? Select one and make a sketch of the bird and the plane. If you can, watch a duck or swan landing on water. Try to draw the action. Page 10



BBB

HOW DO BIRDS FLY ? Here are some experiments which might help you find the answer.

1. Obtain a glass of water and a piece of card. Make sure the glass is filled right up to the rim.

Place the card over the rim and carefully turn the glass upside down. Try some



other positions. Talk about what happens.



2. For this one you need a strip of cartridge paper and a pencil. Arrange them as shown opposite then take a deep breath and blow over the top of the paper. What happens ?

Talk about the reasons for this?

After performing these experiments and talking about them in class, you will be well on the way to explaining how birds and aeroplanes fly.



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up a friendship with a The lictor is given its name because the bundle of rods carried

Read about ancient Rome and try to find out who the lictors were.



The male moth emerges from the bottom of his case and flies off looking for a mate. The female, however, does not leave the case, even as an adult.

Silken threads. They

grow older. WATCH FOR

THESE NOW (Mid-March)

then build hny

cases which are

extended as they

the female laysher eggs in ground by means of

H-J.L





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UNIQUE ANIMALS AND BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA, by Michael Morcombe (Lansdowne; \$5,50)



Landsdowne Press have produced some excellent books on nature in the past, but Michael Morcombe's <u>Unique</u> <u>Animals and Birds of Australia must</u> surely rank among the best. The above study is but one of Mr.Morcombe's dozens of remarkable photographs, which are set in equally absorbing text. This book is a 'must' for all librarie.