

# Western Australian Bird Notes

Number 20  
December 1981

Quarterly Newsletter of the W.A. Group  
Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union

Registered by  
Australia Post  
Publication No. WBH1453

**CHAIRMAN:** Dr S.J.J.F. Davies, "Waters Upton", Mt Helena, 6555.  
**SECRETARY:** Mrs J. Seabrook, 15 Rabone Way, Boya, 6056. Ph.299 6816  
**EDITORS:** Graeme Chapman, P.O.Box 10, Glen Forrest, 6071. " 298 8491  
Roger Jaensch, 15 Boya Crescent, Boya, 6056. " 299 7137

## ANNUAL NEW YEAR DINNER AND A.G.M.

Our biggest social event of the year will be held in more informal style this season and will take the form of an outdoor smorgasbord, catered for by the Miss Maud Catering Service in much the same style as the evening at Dr. Serventy's cottage at Gooseberry Hill a few years ago.

Please note carefully the date, Friday, January 8th, and this time the venue is to be at 15 Boya Crescent, Boya, where Roger Jaensch has his office and the building is shared by the R.A.O.U. Please arrive at about 7.00 p.m. (any earlier and you will probably be co-opted into helping) and the food (feast!) will begin at 7.30 p.m. The cost of the evening will be \$12 per person, children under 10 will be free. Drinks will not be provided (B.Y.O.) and it would be a great help if you can bring a chair or two. Following dinner the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at 9.00 p.m. so that anyone not wishing to join in the dinner may attend.

It will be necessary to arrange numbers with Miss Maud soon after Christmas and a deposit has already been paid on the basis of 60 people. Please book early. Send your cheque for the full amount to Mrs. J. Seabrook, 15 Rabone Way, Boya by the 20th December, 1981. Because of the catering arrangements those who leave it till the last minute this year will miss out. Entertainment following the meeting will include slides shown by Dr. Stephen Davies Jr. and no doubt the whole evening will be the usual great occasion.

## LOCAL EXCURSION — PICKERING BROOK Saturday, 30th October, 1981

The first of our local excursions to Mundaring Reservoir and Pickering Brook was attended by 25 people, many of them newcomers. Most of the common jarrah forest species were seen during the morning, perhaps the most noteworthy being the pair of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos which flew overhead. If these birds were a breeding pair the record would be a good one for a northerly location of the forest haunting Red-tail. The 8 a.m. start was probably a little late for the time of year and future excursions will probably begin a little earlier, in summer at least.

Splendid Fairy-wrens put on a good display for the assembled multitude when summoned with a tape recorder, but not everybody succeeded in seeing the Red-winged

which proved more elusive. Golden Whistlers had small nestlings in a nest about six feet up in the creek-side thicket and this constituted the only breeding record for the morning. A total of 24 species was recorded during the morning, viz:- Common Bronzewing, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Port Lincoln Ringneck (Twenty Eight), Red-capped Parrot, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, Sacred Kingfisher, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Scarlet Robin, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey Fantail, Splendid Fairy-wren, Red-winged Fairy-wren, Western Gerygone, Inland Thornbill, Western Thornbill, Red Wattlebird, Western Spinebill, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Silvereye, Masked Woodswallow, Grey Currawong and Australian Raven.

Whilst the number of species recorded looks like an all time low for a morning's birding, it does point out what a poor habitat for bird diversity the jarrah forest really is. No effort was made to rush around looking at other nearby areas just to increase the list, but four members who did continue on after lunch on a walk up the Helena River near the pipe head dam saw an almost completely different list of birds, including:- Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Square-tailed Kite, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Australian Goshawk, New Holland Honeyeater, Rufous Whistler and Grey Butcherbird.

## BODDINGTON CAMPOUT REPORT

The W.A. Group of the R.A.O.U. owes much of the success of its October campout to Gordon, Owen and Flora Nicholls for sharing with us their farm, hospitality and friendship. The 30 people who attended the campout thoroughly enjoyed the convenience and comfort of the old cottage and farm in its attractive hilly setting at Marradong, near Boddington. Joan Seabrook and her henchwomen kept our stomachs well satisfied with excellent tucker, while the men maintained the kero fridge, outdoor loo, log fire and stove.

Short excursions were made to localities near Boddington, Chadoora and Mt. Saddleback. The wandoo country near Saddleback was particularly rewarding: most observers had superb views of Crested Shriketits which at one stage fed amongst flowering *Hakea prostrata* shrubs. Rainbow Bee-eaters and Shining (Golden) Bronze-Cuckoos were often seen or heard about camp and an immature Night Heron usually camped in one of the large pine trees beside the house.

A day trip to Benger Swamp introduced many to the wonders of the Tiger Snake (about 10 of them), together with a variety of waterbirds and Regent Parrots at Peel Inlet. Another day trip looked at Lake Toolibin which was rich in waterbirds, after several dry years. Searches in the Murray Valley and other areas near Dwellingup yielded Red-eared Firetails, Red-winged Fairy-wrens and White-breasted Robins.

One of the prime objectives of the campout was to obtain breeding records for the System Six Atlas and concerted searches by experienced and new observers alike produced useful results. Some 22 species were recorded breeding in the areas visited within System Six, with four additional breeding species at Lake Toolibin. Many ducks were seen with young at dams and small swamps and Little Grassbirds were feeding a fledgling in bulrush in front of the camp-house. Breeding highlights were nests of the Pacific (White-necked) Heron, Varied Sittella and Mistletoe-bird at Lake Toolibin; Pink-eared Duck with young at Coolup; White-naped Honeyeaters fostering a Pallid Cuckoo and nests of the Rufous Treecreeper and Western Yellow Robin in wandoo woodland which hadn't been burnt for many years.

Our thanks again to all who participated and we hope to see you all at future camps which are bound to be equally enjoyable!!

Doug Watkins and Roger Jaensch.

## FORTHCOMING EXCURSIONS

**Saturday, January 23, 1982 : South Metro Lakes.** Meet at 6.30 a.m. at the carpark on the south side of Thomsons Lake Nature Reserve (on Russell Rd., Success). The early start will hopefully find bush birds active before the day's heat sets in. We also hope to investigate waterbirds with the assistance of several tripod-mounted telescopes, so come prepared for wading in shallow water. After this we will probably move to L. Forrestdale : other venues will be organised for those who wish to continue into the afternoon. Beginners especially welcome.

Leaders: Peter Curry (390 6995), Roger Jaensch (299 7137), Graeme Chapman (298 8491).

Another excursion may be organised for early in **February** in the Wanneroo - Jandabup areas. This will be discussed at the January outing: for final details contact Roger Jaensch.

## PROPOSED SOUTH COAST CAMPOUT

A great deal of interest has been shown in the idea that the R.A.O.U. organise a campout in the South Coast region in the new year. Suggested venues are the Stirling Ranges and Torbay: the probable date will be the Labour Day long-weekend in early March with additional days before or after the weekend.

We would hope to conduct bird-banding exercises and arrange short-distance excursions to places of ornithological interest, particularly wetlands of which a great number and variety exist in the region. The campout will be advertised in local newspapers and hopefully will attract local residents interested in the South-West Waterbird Project.

Before proceeding with plans we would like to hear from any persons interested in participating in such a campout, either by telephone, letter or approach to one of the R.A.O.U. Committee at the Dinner in January. You will be contacted personally about final arrangements if sufficient response is forthcoming.

## EYRE BIRD OBSERVATORY 1982 PROGRAMME

On behalf of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, the Eyre Bird Observatory will offer the following courses during 1982.

- 17 - 23 January. Work Party. The object of this work party will be to carry forward the work on dune stabilisation, and to plant *Spinifex hirsutus* to combat their movement towards the Observatory. Inclusive cost \$42.00.
- 9 - 15 May. EYRE BIRD OBSERVATORY. Its history and work. Di and Peter Congreve. Participants will be involved in the work of the Observatory, Bird banding, Surveys, and renovation. Excursions will be made to Twilight Cove and either Burnabie or the Hampton tableland.
- 16 - 22 May. HONEYEATERS. Dr. Brian G. Collins. The course will involve the use of mist nets and the handling of honeyeaters, and will concern various aspects of nutrition, energetics and pollination biology of these birds.
- 29 Aug. - 4 Sept. BIRD BANDING. Perry de Reberia and Peter Congreve. Mist netting, banding, measuring, moult and recording. The course will involve extensive field work and will emphasise the correct method of extracting birds from the net and their handling.
- 26 Sept. - 2 Oct. SOUND RECORDING. Ian Rooke. The equipment, its care and use. Recording of bird calls in the field, and editing. The use of recorded calls to call up birds.
- 30 Oct. - 6 Nov. SHORE BIRDS. Jim Lane and Peter Congreve. Aspects of the behaviour and identification of shore birds and the use of cannon nets. Ageing and sexing of the bird in hand.
- 5 - 11 December. FIELD ORNITHOLOGY. Dr. Stephen Davies and Peter Congreve. The course will cover practical aspects of census techniques, watching and recording bird behaviour and the writing up of results.

During October it is hoped to offer a workshop in Bird banding, to cover the bird in the hand, ageing sexing, feather wear and moult and the interpretation of moult and other statistical data.

In December Michael Morecombe has tentatively agreed to lead a course on Bird Photography, but the details have not yet been fixed.

The fees for all courses are \$90.00 to include six nights and local transport. Courses start on the Sunday evening and run to the morning of the following Saturday. All courses will be limited to 12 people.

## W.A. ATLAS NOTES

By the time you get this the Atlas field work will be almost over. Atlasers in Western Australia, ably assisted by visitors from other places, have done a magnificent job visiting at least once all of the 1° blocks in Western Australia.

The Field Investigation Committee of the R.A.O.U. is extremely grateful to you all and greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm and cheerfulness that characterised all the outings and excursions.

There is still much to be done and the System 6 Breeding Atlas can be a real contribution to the State and its conservation effort. Let me also mention to you the Waterbird Usage Project which will be needing more and more of your help now that the Atlas field work is winding down. The Atlas itself should be published some time during 1983 and we hope it will act as a base line against which future surveys can be compared. Many species of birds have maintained a surprisingly wide distribution in the face of settlement but yet have decreased in abundance, and we must now turn our attention to trying to get adequate measurements of these abundance changes. The Rolling Bird Survey which has already been mentioned in the R.A.O.U. Newsletter is one way you can help to obtain this information.

Another important contribution will be to boost the records of the Australian Nest Records Scheme maintained by the R.A.O.U. from which we are gradually accumulating details of the breeding success of our native species.

I hope to continue to see many of you at R.A.O.U. meetings and outings and shall always be interested to hear from you even though the formal Atlas correspondence should be over early next year.

### EYRE BIRD OBSERVATORY

Eyre Bird Observatory will be holding a working party in January this year to help the restoration of the sand dunes. The party will run from January 17th to 23rd and during that period charges will be halved, that is \$6 a day for adults, \$3 a day for children.

Eyre has a very pleasant maritime climate in summer, and I can heartily recommend it as an enjoyable holiday during the summer vacation.

Stephen Davies.

### OBSERVATIONS

#### More on White-backed Swallows

Following the comments in W.A. Bird Notes No. 19, Tom Delaney wrote that he had seen a single bird near sand pits at Bibra Lake last year. Freda McColl reported having seen a number of nest/roost holes with White-backed Swallows nearby in a large sand pit at Neerabup National Park (5 miles from Yanchep) on 23rd March 1980.

#### Chestnut-breasted Mannikins near Perth

Stephen Keeling writes:- 5th July 1981, Bibra Lake (by the golf course). A flock of approx 18-24 birds seen in dead grasses behind golf course car park to S. of lake. They maintained tight formation in the grasses and when alarmed flew together to low branches. Very clear sighting to within 20 feet and watched for some 20 minutes.

A resident flock of Chestnut-breasted Mannikins has inhabited Herdsmans Lake for several years now and they were also seen free-flying with juveniles at Helena Valley several years ago. Does anyone have any further information on this species in the Perth area?

#### Irruption of Crimson Chats and other migrants into the South-West

A number of people have reported on the unusual occurrence of Crimson Chats in many areas of the South-West and to a lesser extent, other migrants whose movements don't normally bring them so far south. The last time such an invasion occurred was in 1977 but this year it

seems to be more widespread than previously. A summary of observations reported is as follows:-

From Lindsay Milhinch:- Crimson Chats first seen on 26th September near Northam and nesting was observed locally and near Brookton and Tammin. A few Cockatiels and Budgerigahs also seen.

Harry Bell saw birds feeding young near Wickopin on 16th October. Harold Davis found a nest with eggs near Mogumber on 4th October. Mary Smith reported widespread nesting in the Manmanning area during October.

Roger Jaensch saw two males at Bullsbrook East on 18th October and others 8 km S. E. and 15 km E. of Lancelin, along the Gin Gin/Guilderton Road and between Eneabba and Three Springs and Moora and Wongan Hills.

At Yandegin, S. E. of Bonnie Rock, Crimson Chats were widespread during October and one pair of Orange Chats also arrived in a grass paddock on 26th October. A Pied Honeyeater was seen there also on 27th October. Bill Lane reported the Pied Honeyeater near Wongan Hills on 18th October.

Flocks of Masked Woodswallows have reached the Perth area and were seen at Gooseberry Hill on October 15th and at Pickering Brook (overhead) on October 30th.

No doubt when you read this you will be able to say . . . . but we saw . . . . If you can add more to the above information, please pass it on to one of the editors.

#### from Stephen Davies Jnr.

at Bunbury, October 31st. Terek Sandpiper (1), Large Sand Plover and 300-500 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters flying south during 1 hour of observation.

off Fremantle, November 8th. 1½ hours in afternoon 5 Aust. Gannets, 21 Arctic Skuas and 1 Great Skua.

at Rottnest Island, November 14th. 1 White-browed Albatross.

#### from Roger Jaensch.

Little Egret (2), nest with 4 eggs near Bunbury, 2nd November 1981. First breeding record for the South-West. Pacific Heron. (200), Karrakin Lakes near Lancelin, 24th October 1981.

Eastern Grass Owl, (2), 1st September 1981, found roosting in Buffle Grass on the coastal plain south of Broome. Second state record.

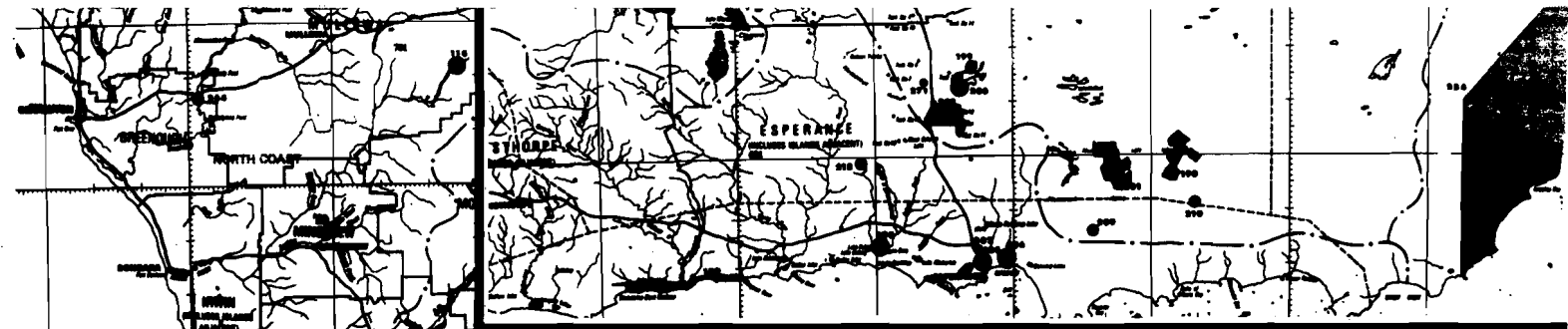
#### from Graeme Chapman.

Banded Stilt. Several thousand on Lake Nambling near Dowering on 13th November.

### BIRD REPORT 1982

There are now only a few months to go before I want you to start collecting records for the 1982 Bird Report. With the next newsletter I shall be sending out a reporting sheet for your use if you wish.

The sort of records I am interested in will be the maximum and minimum number of a species in a specific place over a period of time; a list of birds and numbers from a specific place on a particular date; or the arrival and departure dates of migrants. There will have to be some supervision of records and I would expect that records will be labelled as definite, probable and possible. This will be done by a group of experienced observers (yet to be approached).

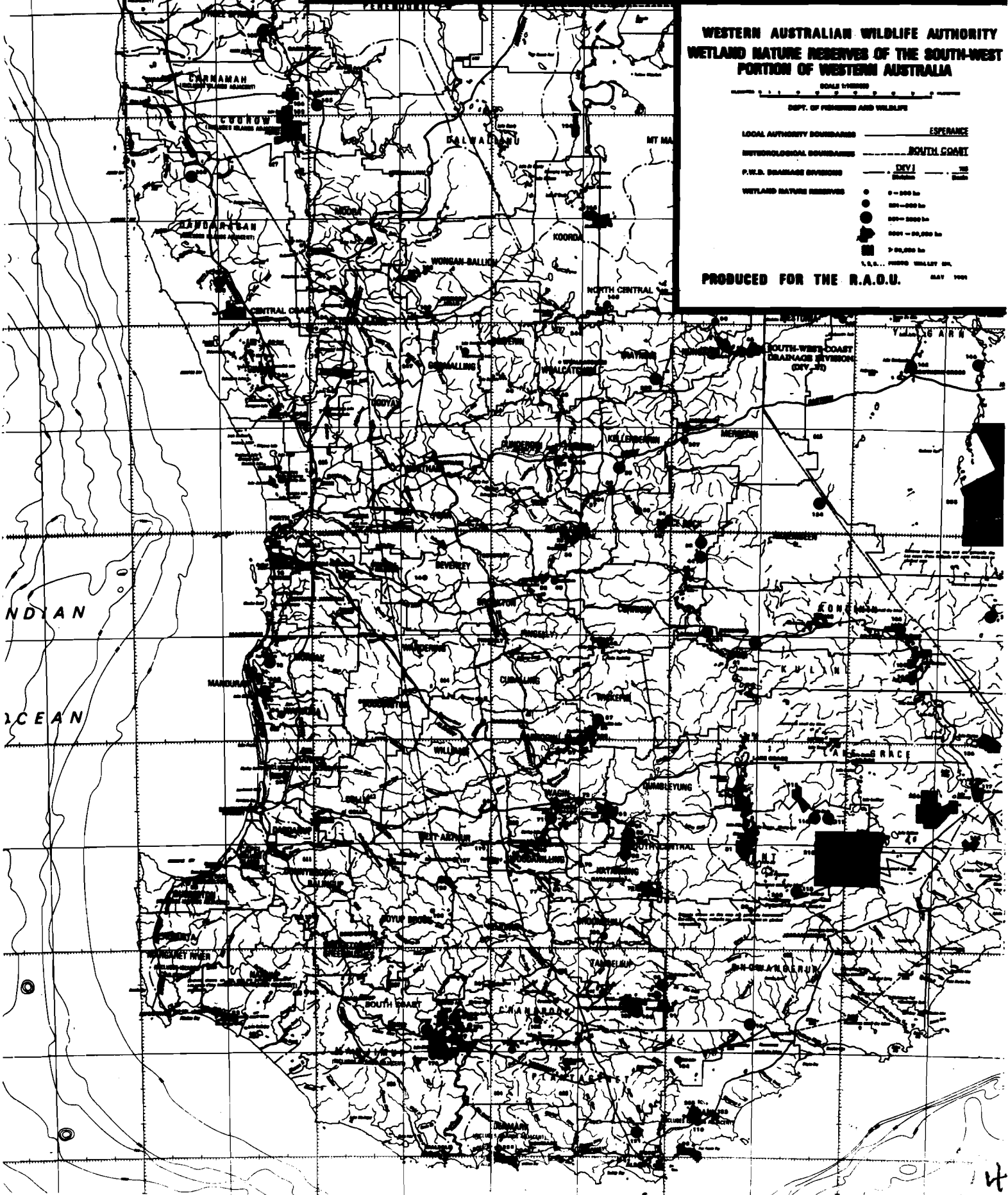


**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE AUTHORITY  
WETLAND NATURE RESERVES OF THE SOUTH-WEST  
PORTION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

SCALE SYSTEMS  
DEPT. OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

- LOCAL AUTHORITY BOUNDARIES
  - METEOROLOGICAL BOUNDARIES
  - P.W.D. DRAINAGE DIVISIONS
  - WETLAND NATURE RESERVES
- ESPERANCE
  - SOUTH COAST
  - COV
  - 0 - 200 ha
  - 201 - 500 ha
  - 501 - 1000 ha
  - 1001 - 20,000 ha
  - > 20,000 ha
  - S.S.S. FISHERY SHALLOE BAY

PRODUCED FOR THE R.A.O.U. MAY 1990



Thanks to those who have already submitted records (these will be kept. . . .Ed.) . . . but the Report will cover the period 1st January 1982 - 31st December 1982. Could you please give your name and address with records sent in and could you please direct records to my home address:  
31 Cimbrook Way, Duncraig, W.A. 6023.  
Thank you.

Geoff Shannon

## SOUTH-WEST WATERBIRD PROJECT

Readers who are not aware of the details of this new project should refer to the September issue of W.A. Bird Notes where the Project is explained fully. If you don't have access to a copy, please write to me and I will ensure that you receive all the relevant information.

Since the last report I have prepared several new survey form designs: the most recent formats are much simpler than those preceeding and the computer form has more instructions printed on it than previously. Collation of aerial photograph enlargements for many reserves has enabled me to prepare outline maps of each wetland within those reserves. Reserve wetland maps will be printed on the backs of the computer forms before they are sent to the observer(s) covering each reserve: this will greatly assist the marking of sites where active nests are found.

We have decided not to burden participants with the task of obtaining a reading from installed depth gauges during each visit. Locating or reaching gauges is in many cases a difficult proposition, particularly in early spring when wetlands are at their greatest extent and depth. The time required to obtain a reading would be better spent in covering more of the wetland being surveyed. That is, we will be encouraging participants to spend as much time and effort as possible in searching for waterbirds on the day of visit. This will result in more meaningful data and is preferable to quick, superficial surveys of several reserves on the one day.

The Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife is committed to reading all gauges on a two-monthly basis: their data will be adequate for correlation between water depth and bird population changes.

Another innovation has been the inclusion of the question "total or partial count" for each species recorded. A total count should only be indicated where the observer is confident that all individuals of the species have been accounted for. In many cases, partial counts will be inevitable, either due to the dense nature of the vegetation or the secretive habits of the waterbird. This piece of information will give us a maximum or minimum figure which will make graphs of species population fluctuations (over time, by reserve) more meaningful.

The logo designed for the Waterbird Project depicts the Hardhead (White-eyed Duck), Little Bittern and Banded Stilt. These were chosen as representatives of the largest orders of the wetland avifauna to be surveyed, namely waterfowl, heron-types and waders. Furthermore, they are all "important" species in the South-West wetlands system. The Little Bittern was especially chosen in order to bring public attention to the existence and significance of bitterns and other secretive or inconspicuous waterbird species.

Computing requirements for the Project have been investigated and advice has been sought from professionals in the computing field regarding data punching and the style of printouts that we require for feedback to participants. Any readers who are able to assist with the computing

aspects of the Project should not hesitate to contact me!

Recruitment of participants has realised 38 volunteers to date (early November), many of whom showed interest after attending the October campout. About 12 of these are from country districts, depending on how one defines the metro area! We still need many more observers in order to achieve minimum coverage (once every two months) of the 180-odd reserves. For example, participants are needed from the Coorow, Moora, Wongan Hills, Wagin, Lake Grace, Cranbrook, Frankland and Esperance districts.

Although the three-year survey only commences in May 1982 you are welcome to start waterbird surveys now: write to me and I will provide you with the necessary material. Bird data gathered prior to May 1982 will be stored and analysed by computer along with information that I have gathered during my reserve familiarisation expeditions.

The purpose of starting officially in May is to enable most "bugs" to be ironed out of the system and allow observers to become reasonably acquainted with waterbirds and the survey methods. To this end, material sent out to you prior to May will be subject to changes, largely as a result of your comments and field testing.

Included with this newsletter is a map showing all the existing Wetland Nature Reserves that we hope to survey between May 1982 and April 1985: there may be some additions during this period. The purpose of this map is to give readers a rough idea of the location of reserves in relation to where they live or work. Please don't hesitate to write to me requesting further information such as the exact location of reserves.

I am planning excursions during the proposed South Coast March campout to familiarise observers with difficult waterbird species such as bitterns and waders. There will also be several waterbird field days closer to Perth in the new year: I will personally contact those volunteers whose names and addresses I have, about these events and any other developments with the Project.

I trust that you will all carefully consider what part you can play in the Project and I hope to see many of you at the R.A.O.U. Dinner!

Roger Jaensch,  
R.A.O.U. Waterbird Project Field Officer,  
15 Boya Crescent, Boya, W.A. 6056  
Telephone (09) 299 7137

## INTERESTING SIGHTINGS IN W.A.W.A. WETLAND NATURE RESERVES: 1981

Great Crested Grebe:	4, L. Toolibin (Wickepin Shire), 8 October;
Pacific Heron:	6, 4 nests with eggs, L. Toolibin, 5 November;
Australasian (Brown) Bittern:	4, L. Pleasant View (Albany) 5 November;
Little Bittern:	1, L. Pleasant View, 5 Nov.;
Glossy Ibis:	2, L. Chandala (Chittering), 24 October;
Yellow-billed Spoonbill:	1, nest with 3 eggs, L. Eganu (Coorow), 9 Nov. 3, L. Pinjarrega (Coorow), 9 November;
Royal Spoonbill:	1, L. Chandala, 24 October;
Freckled Duck:	9, L. Chandala, 24 October; 8, L. Toolibin, 5 November;
Hardhead (White-eyed Duck):	2,000, L. Walyormouring (Goomalling) 10 November; 80, Yurine Swamp (Gin Gin), 8 November;

Blue-billed Duck:	one struck by Peregrine Falcon, L. Toolibin, 8 Oct.; 30, Bengier Swamp (Harvey) 3 October;
Marsh Harrier:	1, L. Toolibin, 5 Nov.;
Spotless Crane:	nest with 6 eggs, L. Forrestdale (Armadale-Kelmescott), 31 October;
Hooded Plover:	several, North Sister Reserve (Albany), 4 November; 4, Reserve 105 (Cranbrook) 10 October;
Terek Sandpiper:	1, Pt. Waylen (Metro.) 27 September;
Greenshank:	18, L. Campion (Merredin/Nungarin), 11 November;
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:	50, L. Walyormouring, 10 November; 35, Capamaura Swamp (Coorow), 9 November;
Gull-billed Tern:	9, North L. Yarra (Carnamah), 9 November;

**Note:** Any persons interested in purchasing full-length waders or spotting telescopes should contact me and I will look into obtaining a bulk order at a reduced price.

Roger Jaensch

### SUMMARY OF W.A. WADER STUDY GROUP 1980/81 SEASON

The inaugural meeting of the 1980/81 wader season was held at 29 Joyce Road, Lesmurdie on 6th September 1980 and 13 people attended.

In the ensuing season from October – April very few weekends were issued in an active field programme. The account of one of the most successful outings reads like this:—

25/10/80 – A total of 26 people came to Point Waylen for the morning or afternoon or both and the Group's first attempt at cannon netting under the leadership of Grant Pearson met with success just as Dr. Clive Minton was leaving to attend a business commitment. The rising tide frustrated an initial try on a sand bar some distance from the beach and the catch was eventually made in the afternoon at high tide on the beach itself. Of the 153 birds caught, 143 were Red-necked Stints, 9 were Red-capped Plovers and one was a Sharptailed Sandpiper. Two Red-necked Stints were re-traps, one having been banded at Pelican Point by Jim Lane on 16 October 1974 and the other at Uelen on the Bering Strait in the easternmost extremity of Siberia by a Dr. Paul Tomkovich on 17th June 1979. The latter bird, a female, had been banded on the nest and Dr. Tomkovich had not seen her after her nest was destroyed at the end of June 1979. These records are important ones, for Jim Lane's bird, though not the longest lived of its species, was over 6 years old and Dr. Tomkovich's bird had, as far as the writer knows, been banded farther east than any other wader controlled in Australia. One of the Red-capped Plovers, moreover, had been banded at Lake Jandakot by the Group on 8th December 1979.

A total of 277 birds of 9 different species was caught and banded in the 1979/1980 season and a total of 482 birds of 20 different species in the 1980/1981 season, birds retrapped during the season in which they were banded being excluded from that season's total. The greater bag,

during the 1981/1981 season is partly accounted for by the fact that the Group made many more attempts at catching during that season than during its predecessor: 28 attempts (including 5 complete failures) were made during the former and 10 (without any complete failures) during the latter. Three of the complete failures in 1980/1981 involved cannon netting (four, in fact, if one includes the cancellation of 28 February) and in the mistnetting failure of 17 January 1981 no attempt was made to put up the nets. From our experience with cannon netting thus far, it would seem that favourable winds and tides, large concentrations of birds, care in the concealment of members of the catching teams and an absence of beach obstacles are important for success and that the first half of the season, when the largest numbers of waders are present, is the time when cannon netting is likely to be successful. Indeed, the second half of the season will probably produce low catches whichever netting method of capture is used unless the coastal lakes dry out late and hold their birds until shortly before the northward migration.

Another reason for the larger number of birds caught in 1980/81 was the greater geographical spread of the Group's activities. The Kununurra area produced 72 birds (among them 7 species not hitherto netted by the Group) and the Preston river mouth at Bunbury 42 birds (among them 4 species not hitherto netted by the Group).

The Group held its final meeting of the 1980/81 season on 13 June 1981 at 29 Joyce Road, Lesmurdie, to discuss the doings of that season and future activities. Some 21 people were present.

Ken Mills discussed his projected study of both migratory and resident species of waders in the Great Southern Region of the State commencing in July 1981. The study is much needed and it is to be hoped that residents in Ken's study areas along and inland from the southern coastline of Western Australia will become interested in his work and support it. Members of the group who can assist Ken will be most welcome, his telephone numbers being (098) 81 1188 (business) and (098) 81 1809 (home) and his residential address is 5 Burns Street, Narrogin, W.A. 6312.

### TWERTUP FIELD STUDIES CENTRE

The Fitzgerald River National Park Association has written to advise of the establishment of this centre at a site approx. 40 km S. E. of Jerramungup. An invitation weekend and "Biological Busy Bee" was held on December 5th at which it was hoped some of our members could attend, but the date was too early for advising in this issue. Two of our committee members did attend. After the initial work phase, which includes rendering the building and surrounds safe and clean the Association intends to make Twertup available at a nominal rental to interested groups and individuals. The Western Whipbird is one of the rare species which occur in this area.

The co-ordinator of the project is Keith Bradby, P.O. Box 199, Ravensthorpe W.A. 6436.

Sounds like a good spot to campout!

**STOP PRESS : Future issues of W.A. Bird Notes will only be sent to RAOU members and Waterbird Project participants..**