



# Western Australian Bird Notes

Quarterly Newsletter of the WA Group  
Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union

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No 68 December 1993

## White-breasted Robin at Neerabup

The White-breasted Robin is known from parts of the south coast through to the Darling Range north to Canning Dam (Storr 1991), with occasional sightings further north at Bickley (eg WABN 47: 13). There is also an isolated population from Lancelin to near Geraldton. On the Swan Coastal Plain, in recent years it has only been found near Harvey and Busselton, with records of vagrants at Bengier Swamp and Floreat (Storr and Jonstone 1988, Storr 1991).

On 13 October 1993 I saw a single White-breasted Robin on the Swan Coastal Plain near the southern end of Neerabup National Park, six km NW of Wanneroo. This location is almost 50 km NW of Bickley and 60 km from Canning Dam. I had a good, clear view of the bird in good light, using 10 x 50 binoculars at a distance of about 6-7 m. I also heard it giving typical robin alarm calls. The bird was in a dense 2m tall thicket of *Dryandra sessilis* with scattered tuarts. At least on the Swan Coastal Plain, the White-breasted Robin seems not to have been recorded previously in *Dryandra* thickets. The birds north of Lancelin are usually found in dense thickets of *Acacia* and *Melaleuca*.

During a search at the same site two days later, I could not relocate the bird. The vegetation is very dense, however, and so robins could easily be missed. On the other hand, it may have been a vagrant on its way through, although this is perhaps unlikely at this time of year. It would be interesting to know whether this bird belongs to the northern or south-western population. If it is a northern bird, this species may also occur in other dense thickets between Neerabup and Lancelin.

As observations in other localities may assist in answering this question, observers should be on the

lookout for the White-breasted Robin on the Swan Coastal Plain, particularly in dense thickets.

Interestingly, I recorded Golden Whistlers within 100 m of the site where I saw the robin. The Golden Whistler is also scarce on the Swan Coastal Plain.

**Allan Burbidge**

### References:

Storr, GM (1991) *Birds of the South-West Division of Western Australia* Records of the WA Museum Suppl. No. 35

Storr, GM and Johnstone, RE (1988) *Birds of the Swan Coastal Plain and Adjacent Seas and Islands*. Records of the WA Museum Suppl. No. 28

The Editor and staff  
of  
Western Australian Bird Notes  
send  
Christmas Greetings  
to all.

May you have good bird observing  
in 1994  
&  
remember to  
send one contribution to WABN  
during the year.

# Observations

Compiled by the Observations Committee. Shires are in brackets.

## SOUTH-WEST (Shark Bay to Cape Arid)

**Great-winged Petrel** - 20+, 25/9/93, Cape Leeuwin (Augusta-Margaret River) - JH, FO

**Australasian Gannet** - 6, 27/9/93, Penguin Island (Rockingham) - FO \* 8, 10/10/93, Scarborough Beach (Stirling) - GL, IL

**Chestnut Teal** - 1 male in eclipse plumage, 2/10/93, Kogolup Lake (Cockburn) - JH, TK

**New Zealand Scaup** - 1, 9/5/93, North Lake (Cockburn) (escapee from Perth Zoo) - AA

**Spotted Harrier** - 1, 20/9/93, ca. 6 km N of Stirling Range (Gnowangerup) (rare this far south) - FO

**Malleefowl** - 1, Hyden-Norseman Rd, 1.2 km W of turn-off to Graham Rock (Kondinin) - BN \* 1, 29/9/93, 4 km W of Hyden (Kondinin) - JB \* 2, 18/10/93, Buntine Nature Reserve (Dalwallinu) - BB

**Common Pheasant** - 1 male, 20/8/93, Bold Park (Perth) (presumed escapee) - PA

**Sooty Oystercatcher** - 47, 18/9/93, car park at Cape Leeuwin Light House (Augusta-Margaret River) - JH

**Double-banded Plover** - 1 immature, 10/9/93, Pelican Point (Nedlands) - MBy \* 2 immatures, 18/10/93, Woodman's Point (Cockburn) - BM

**Whimbrel** - 17, 10/10/93, Creery Island (Murray) - JH, TK, CD

**Greenshank** - 175, 5/10/93, Creery Island (Murray) (apparently the highest count from south-western Australia) - JH, TK, DCD

**Laughing Turtle-Dove** - 1, 19/10/93, Buntine (Dalwallinu) (E margin of range) - BB

**Galah** - 12, 14/9/93 Rottne Island (unusual on Rottne) - TJ

**Rainbow Lorikeet** - 2+, at intervals since early 1992, Henley Brook (Swan) (this species is expanding its range) - AW \* 6, 28/10/93, Edith Cowan University campus, Joondalup (ca. 2 km W of Wanneroo) (Wanneroo) - MJB

**Ground Parrot** - 1, 16/6/93, Cheyne Beach (Albany) - AD, LW \* 1, 10/9/93, Waychinicup River (Albany) - MH (these are the first definite records in the Manypeaks-Cheyne Beach area since the 1970s)

**Crimson Rosella** - 1, 10/9/93, Bold Park (Perth) (presumed escapee) - PT, RN

**Red-whiskered Bulbul** - 1 male, 25/8/93, Safety Bay (Rockingham) (specimen now in WA Museum) - per APB

**Southern Emu-wren** - 2, 22/10/93, Duke of Orleans Bay, feeding young Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo (Esperance) - PB, VM, VW

**Chestnut-breasted Mannikin** - 25, 27/6/93, Bibra Lake (Cockburn) (feral population) - AK

**ARID ZONE** (including the Pilbara, Gascoyne, interior and Nullarbor)

**Regent Parrot** - 8+, 24/8/93, near Paynes Find, entering hollow linbs, apparently breeding (Yalgoo) - KC

## **KIMBERLEY**

**Great Frigatebird** - 50 + (breeding also recorded), 11/5/93,

Adele Island (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - FO, KC

**Great-billed Heron** - 1, 18/5/93 and 12/6/93, Sale River (West Kimberley) - KC \* 1, 22/5/93, Walcott Inlet (West Kimberley) - KC \* 3, Hunter River, Prince Frederick Harbour (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - KC

**Magpie Goose** - 200+, 9/10/93, south end of Lake Argyle (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - FO

**Radjah Shelduck** - 1 female, 1/93, Broome sewage ponds (Broome) - GS (unusual in the western Kimberley)

**Pacific Baza** - 1, 8/6/93, King Cascade, Prince Regent River (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - KC

**Red-chested Button-quail** - 2, 21/5/93, grassy woodland near Isdell River (West Kimberley) - FO, KC

**Chestnut Rail** - 9, 3/6/93, Hunter River, Prince Frederick Harbour (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - KC

**Banded Lapwing** - 20, 4/7/93, Lake Gregory near Stafford Bore (northern-most record) (Halls Creek) - FO, KC

**Oriental Plover** - 14000, 6/3/93, in 18 km along Eighty Mile Beach (Broome) - BBO

**Red-capped Plover** - 2, 9/10/93, south end of Lake Argyle (unusual in this area) (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - FO

**Ruddy Turnstone** - 1, 9/10/93, south end of Lake Argyle (unusual in this area) (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - FO

**Common Redshank** - 2, 4/6/93, entrance to Rothsay Waters, near Prince Regent River (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - KC

**Asian Dowitcher** - 35, 8/6/93, Roebuck Bay (Broome) - BBO \* 54, 11/6/93, Richard's Point, Roebuck Bay (Broome) - GS

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** - 100+d, 9/10/93, south end of Lake Argyle (unusual in this area) (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - FO

**Red-necked Stint** - 20+, 9/10/93, south end of Lake Argyle (Wyndham-East Kimberley) (unusual in this area) - FO

**Curlew Sandpiper** - 10+, 9/10/93, south end of Lake Argyle (Wyndham East Kimberley) (unusual in this area) - FO

**Gull-billed Tern** - 150, 9/10/93, south end of Lake Argyle (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - FO

**Caspian Tern** - 50+, 9/10/93, south end of Lake Argyle (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - FO

**Torresian Imperial-Pigeon** - 250+, 2/6/93, in fruiting trees, Coronation Island (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - KC \* 250+, 5/6/93, St Andrew Island (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - KC

**Spinifexbird** - 1, 4/7/93, ca. 20 km S of Lake Gregory (Halls Creek) (few records from this area) - KC

**Rufous-crowned Emu-wren** - several family groups, 4/7/93, 10-20 km S of Lake Gregory (Halls Creek) (northern limit of range) - KC

**Black Grasswren** - 1+, 19/5/93, lower Sale River (West Kimberley) - KC

**White-lined Honeyeater** - 1, 18/5/93, Sale River (West Kimberley) (SW limit of distribution) - KC

**Yellow Chat** - 1 male, 9/10/93, south end of Lake Argyle (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - FO

**Masked Finch** - 4, 26/7/93, Manning Gorge, ca. 2 km W of Mt Barnett HS (West Kimberley) (near southern margin of range in this part of Kimberley) - GS

**Gouldian Finch** - 3, 1/6/93, near Lombardina, Dampier Peninsula (Broome) - KC \* ca. 100, 31/7/93, Pumpkin Spring, 20 km W of Kununurra (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - KC

**White-browed Woodswallow** - 1, 26/7/93, with Masked and Black-faced Woodswallows, Manning Gorge, ca. 2 km W of Mt Barnett HS (West Kimberley) - GS

**CORRIGENDA AND ADDENDA TO WABN 67, September 1993**

**Long-billed Corella** - 11, 4/93, Lake Joondalup South (Wanneroo) - NH. At least some of the birds in this flock were Eastern Long-billed Corellas (*Cacatua tenuirostris*). This is a separate species from both the Western Long-billed Corella (*C. pastinator*) and Little Corella (*C. sanguinea*). Flocks of corellas in Perth can contain the Little Corella, Eastern Long-billed Corella or Western Long-billed Corella, all established from aviary escapees. Mixed flocks do occur. The Little Corella appears to be common in Perth, The Western Long-billed Corella uncommon and the Eastern Long-billed Corella rare. More observations would help clarify this, but observers should take care in distinguishing the three species.

**Tree sparrow** - 4, 7/93, Fremantle (Fremantle) - APB - arrived by ship. (Shown as Diamond Firetail in WABN 67.)

**Observer codes for WABN 67:** Add CD = Chris Davis

**Observer Codes**

AA = Andy Anderson  
AD = Alan Danks  
AK = Alan Kemp  
APB = Agriculture Protection Board  
AW = Allan Willis

BB = Bruce Buchanan  
BBO = Broome Bird Observatory  
BM = Bill McRoberts  
BN = Brenda Newbey  
CD = Colin Davis  
FO = Frank O'Connor  
GL = Graham Little  
GS = George Swann  
IL = Ingrid Little  
JB = John Brooke  
JH = Jack Hunt  
KC = Kevin Coate  
LW = Leigh Whisson  
MBy = Max Bailey  
MH = Mary Hart  
MJB = Mike Bamford  
NH = Neil Hamilton  
PA = Peter Anson  
PB = Phyllis Bentley  
PT = Patricia Todd  
RN = Richard Nowotny  
TJ = Tom Jeffcote  
TK = Tony Kirkby  
VDM = Viv McCormick  
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**Notes For Contributors**

The Editor requests contributors to note :-

- \*WABN normally only publishes material on WA birds
- \*contributions should be written or typed with Double Spacing
- \*WABN uses RAOU recommended English names
- \*copy will be edited where appropriate
- \*contributions will be published unless the contributor is informed to the contrary

**Deadline for the March  
Issue  
12 February 1994**

**Members Contributions**

**BAT AND BUTCHERBIRD**

While visiting the Pallinup Nature Reserve (Shire of Jerramungup) on 17th April 1993 I saw a Grey Butcherbird fly to a fallen log with what appeared, at first, to be a bird in its beak with its wings still flapping. Through my binoculars I saw that the captive 'bird' looked more like a mouse-sized mammal.

The Grey Butcherbird delivered about 6 blows to its victim against the log and then flew off when I briefly lost sight of it. I saw the butcherbird about 50 metres away, in a Yate tree, where it was jamming its prey into a forked branch. I was still confused as to the prey but as I watched the Grey Butcherbird wrenched a chunk of flesh from its victim and a wing flopped open. To my surprise I realised the prey was a bat.

It was mid-morning and a bright sunny day. The bat was still alive when I first saw the Grey Butcherbird with it. I assume the bird found the bat roosting in a nearby hollow as it was unlikely the bat was active during the day. Do Grey Butcherbirds forage for bats as part of their normal behaviour or was this just an opportunistic find?

A. Sanders

**ALFRED COVE ATTACKER**

On the 2 November 1993 I was standing on the mudflats at Alfred Cove about 200 metres from the shoreline observing a large flock of migratory waders. The flock, of several thousand birds, comprised mostly Red-necked Stints and Curlew Sandpipers. There was also a large number of Silver Gulls resting on mudflats nearby.

I had been observing the flock for about half an hour while searching for a Broad-billed Sandpiper, when the flock suddenly flew and headed rapidly towards Como. At the same time there was a loud commotion among the gulls. Curious as to the

cause of this uproar, I turned to see a slow flying Bar-tailed Godwit, which was following the flock, being knocked into the water by a Peregrine Falcon.

The Peregrine Falcon did not catch the godwit. It then turned towards the raucous gulls. As the Peregrine Falcon flew towards the land, it cruised about two metres above the mudflats and it frightened the Silver Gulls into flight. As they took off, the falcon swooped and hit gulls in the back, which caused them to crash into the water. About eight Silver Gulls were bullied in this way by the Peregrine Falcon, but none appeared injured.

The falcon was last seen flying away from Alfred Cove toward Canning Highway. An astonishing sight, and yes, I did see the Broad-billed Sandpiper!

G. Moore

## DUCK v DUCK

At 6.10 p.m. on Sunday 26 September, I was observing a family of Pink-eared Duck - two adults and two young - at Lake Claremont when I witnessed an unusual event.

The two adult Pink-eared Duck rose into the air and flew in different directions piping loudly. The cause of this was a Musk Duck, which had taken one of the young from below the lake surface. The Musk Duck surfaced holding the duckling by the legs and proceeded to shake the captive round until it was gripping it by the head. By this time the duckling was only making very feeble kicks with its legs. The Musk Duck then submerged, coming to the surface again some distance away from the initial location of the incident. It then proceeded to swallow the duckling whole - quite a meal. There was no sign of the adults or the other duckling by now.

Searching the literature, I have only found one reference to the taking of Hardhead ducklings by Musk Duck, (Frith et al 1969, p. 1154), who are quoted in HANZAB.

I have not observed this phenomenon previously and it appears uncommon.

P. Sandilands

Reference: Frith H J, Braithwaite W, McKean J L (1969)  
*CSIRO Wildlife Research* 14: 17-64.

## PELICAN POINT UP-DATE

In the fifty two weeks to June 30, 1993 the Reserve, which is part of the Swan River Marine Park, was visited in forty three of them and not less than twice in each month. Fifty two species were recorded.

Only for the second time in the last ten years were Bar-tailed Godwit not seen and neither were Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. Curlew Sandpiper were recorded on two visits only. Variegated Fairy-wren were seen or heard every month. White-cheeked Honeyeater is now resident and seen regularly, but the New Holland Honeyeater has been seen only once in ten years. Of the four species of cormorant, somewhat surprisingly the Great Cormorant was present most frequently.

A Western Rosella seen in December was a new species for the Reserve.

M. Bailey

## MORE SOUTHERN EMU-WREN

The article on Southern Emu-wren (J. Hunt, WABN No. 67 September 1993), prompted me to set down my own observations.

Over the past 8 years I have observed Southern Emu-wren on the Darling Scarp at Gosnells on three occasions and also adjacent to Coalmine Beach Caravan Park, (in the Walpole-Nornalup National Park), on four occasions.

All these sightings have been associated with sparsely

distributed eucalypt species (up to 3 m high) within a heath community.

The three Gosnells sightings were January and November 1987 and October 1991, from a total 84 surveys of this locality commenced in April 1985. The Gosnells heath is approximately three hectares, and directly below a 330 KV power line ascending the scarp. Emergent eucalypt here is *Eucalyptus calophylla* and *Eucalyptus wandoo*, which SECWA periodically lop to near ground level.

Coalmine Beach sightings were mainly December to January; once in October. The sighting area, between Coalmine Beach Caravan Park and Walpole Inlet, is a *Pimelea longiflora* heathland community, with probable *E. marginata* and other eucalypt species.

C. Marston

# Notices

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre on Monday 7th February 1994 at 8 p.m. All Committee positions will be declared vacant and office bearers will be elected for 1994-1995.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the office and must be signed by the proposer, seconder, and the person nominated, all of whom should be paid-up members. The completed form should be sent to the Secretary or handed in prior to the commencement of the A G M.

## PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

Any WA RAOU members who are keen bird photographers and are interested in forming a photographic group within the WA RAOU please contact —

Gordon Tozer (09) 446 7696 after 6 pm.

## WADER WATCHERS WANTED

The Australian Wader Study Group has been co-ordinating bi-annual wader counts throughout Australia since the early 1980's. The aim of this monitoring programme is to record trends in wader numbers, both across Australia and at individual sites. Results are regularly reported in *The Stilt*, the specialist journal produced by AWSG.

Members interested in assisting with the monitoring programme, either by taking on a new site or assisting at an existing one, are asked to contact Mike Bamford, the AWSG representative in WA, on: (09) 309 3671 or at his very appropriate address, 23 Plover Way, Kingsley. WA. 6026.

# Observatory News

## BROOME

As the new Wardens (Rebecca Hayward and Jon Fallaw) of the Broome Bird Observatory, we would like to say hello to all W.A. Group members. We look forward to meeting those of you who travel to Broome or keeping in touch through W A Bird Notes. We have emigrated from Melbourne, where we were involved with wader monitoring and banding on Westernport Bay.

We had a busy changeover week, learning the ropes and observing many new bird species.

Our first cannon netting was on the shores of Roebuck Bay on 30th October with Vaughan and Martina, Doug Watkins, Alastair Cuthbert and many willing hands from Denmark, Poland, Victoria and Broome! We caught 186 waders of 8 species, including one Mongolian Plover and 17 Little Terns. Of the 103 Red-necked Stint, nearly 20% were juvenile, as was one of the three Grey-tailed Tattlers.

With the build up to the wet in progress, temperatures have soared into the 40's, which has resulted in high usage of the Observatory bird baths - Zebra and Long-tailed Finches, doves, honeyeaters, Great Bowerbird and Little Friarbird, all of which come to drink when dew is not available from the surrounding Pindan woodland. All these thirsty birds quickly depart when the Brown Goshawks come to drink. One female in particular has a really good splash and leisurely bath.

We have also been fortunate enough to see the resident Grey Falcon, albeit a three second glance, which we are assured is the maximum viewing time for this raptor here.

We are looking forward to more exciting experiences with birds of the Kimberley and to sharing these with you.

**J. Fallaw & R. Hayward**

## EYRE

The Bird Banding and Malleefowl Studies courses ran concurrently and were well supported, (see report) and on a recent trip to Twilight Cove 26 Wedge-tailed Eagles were observed. Raptor numbers seem to have increased lately, perhaps in response to the large numbers of rabbits in the area. At the Observatory Wedge-tailed Eagles are seen almost daily and we have had recently sightings of Square-tailed Kite, Whistling Kite, Australian Kestrel, Brown Falcon and Brown Goshawk. On the Tableland, Black-shouldered Kite were seen on three occasions. They are unusual in this area. Some visitors said they had seen six Australian Kestrel nests in Cocklebidy Cave, all with chicks, - one with five.

Both the number and variety of waders in our weekly Beach Count have increased in the last month. We have seen Ruddy Turnstone, Grey Plover, Red-capped Plover, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Sanderling, Red-necked Stints, Red and Great Knot and Greenshank.

White-fronted and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater left the immediate Observatory area but are still plentiful at the "9-mile", where the Banding group netted 67 one day.

We were surprised to see a Buff-banded Rail at the drinking bowl recently, but on checking the records, found one was seen briefly last year. This year the rail stayed two weeks.

On the Tableland, Blue Bonnets and Ground Cuckoo-shrikes are being recorded. Budgerigar have returned and they and Chestnut Quail-thrush, Striated Pardalote, Yellow-rumped Pardalote, Welcome Swallow, and Red-capped Plovers are all nesting. A Fan-tailed Cuckoo has been observed being fed by White-browed Scrub-wren.

From 5th to 11th December, "Field Techniques for Bird Study" (leader Stephen Davies), will be held, followed by "Star Gazing" (Trevor Keates). December 23 to 29 will be "Christmas at Eyre". January 9 to 22 will be "Greening the Dunes" with "Going Batty on the Nullarbor", (leader Doug Watkins). March has "Birding for Beginners" with the Wardens.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas, especially those

who we have met at Eyre in the past twelve months and look forward to meeting more of you in the next twelve months.

**R. and G. Watkins**

## MALLEEFOWL/BANDING REPORT

The first two-week combined Bird Banding/Malleefowl Studies course at Eyre Bird Observatory proved to be productive, enjoyable and extremely well dined. Participants were offered the choice of taking part in the activities of either course as well as joining the wardens in bird census work in the mallee, on the Hay Plain or on the beach. All activities were well supported and we thank everyone for their enthusiasm, diligence and good humour.

Two Malleefowl were banded; a young Red-capped Plover caught on Kanidal Beach during the beach count was a retrap record, having been banded two weeks earlier; a day trip by the banding group to 9 Mile was most fruitful whereas an excursion to Burnabbie was not - the total number of birds processed outnumbered the banding party by one!

Some mist-netting time was lost due to the vagaries of Eyre's erratic weather patterns but the workforce then directed their efforts to searching for new Malleefowl mounds or relocating and making observations on previously-recorded mounds. Most was done in the study areas below the escarpment. Four mounds are currently active there and one other active mound is located above the escarpment. Each of the twenty six known mounds in the mallee sandplain was examined and the active ones monitored. The total monitoring time was 21.5 hours, which with the many kilometres walked, indicates the enthusiasm of the members of the course.

Items of greatest interest were: the first bird to be banded, a Malleefowl, caught early before the course officially commenced.

Rita Watkins banded the first Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo ever caught at the Observatory. The three previous banding records, in 1982, 1985 and 1990, were made at Twilight Cove.

Many of the New Holland Honeyeaters retrapped on the 6th October had been banded as a cohort of young birds on the 1992 banding course. This year we again caught many juveniles in "clusters" in the same position and expect to encounter some of these birds during the course next year.

The only retrap at 9 Mile was a White-browed Scrubwren banded in November 1984. It was the first time that this bird had been retrapped, 8 years 10 months and 22 days later.

This age record was extravagantly outdone by Purple-gaped Honeyeater 122-40113, banded 6 February 1980 and retrapped 3 times during this course, the last time on the Friday before we left E B O. It fell into a net, probably as a farewell gesture, to record its 43rd retrap! It was then not less than 13 years, 8 months and 6 days.

A Silveryeye and a Purple-gaped Honeyeater were each recorded as moving 1.5 km in a day between banding sites.

The combined Bird Banding/Malleefowl Studies course will run again in 1994. It will soon be booked out. Put your name on the list now if you would like to join us at Eyre and are willing to take part in both sections of the course.

The banding and retrap figures for the 24 species processed and the new longevity records for the Observatory banding programme are shown.

**Alma de Rebeira, Perry de Rebeira** (Regional Organiser, Australian Bird Banding Scheme WA), **Rod Smith** (Co-ordinator, Malleefowl Studies, Eyre BO)

Species	banded	re-traps	total
Malleefowl	2		2
Red-capped Plover		1	1
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1		1
Welcome Swallow	19	22	41
Tree Martin	1		1
Jacky Winter	1		1
Grey Shrike-thrush	4	2	6
White-browed Babbler	6	2	8
Weebill	4		4
Inland Thornbill	2		2
White-browed Scrub-wren	16	10	26
Blue-breasted Fairy-wren	7	6	13
Yellow-rumped Pardalote	5	1	6
Silvereye	75	19	94
White-fronted Honeyeater	75		75
Brown Honeyeater	23	11	34
Singing Honeyeater	74	45	119
White-eared Honeyeater	5	1	6
Purple-gaped Honeyeater	12	11	23
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	1		1
New Holland Honeyeater	176	58	234
Red Wattlebird	1		1
Grey Currawong	7		7
Striated Pardalote	2	2	11
24 species	526	191	717

#### Longevity records

Species	Age	re-traps
Purple-gaped Honeyeater	13 yrs 8 m 6 days	43
White-browed Scrubwren	8 yrs 10 m 22 days	1
Grey Shrike-thrush	7 yrs 0 m 10 days	1
Blue-breasted Fairy-wren	6 yrs 4 m 10 days	3
New Holland Honeyeater	5 yrs 9 m 0 days	2
Silvereye	5 yrs 1 m 13 days	1

## BBCBQ

Being towards the end of the breeding season, Big Bird's questions are about breeding matters.

- 1) What is the Fraser Darling effect ?
- 2) Can birds communicate with their young in the egg before hatching ?
- 3) Can chicks in eggs communicate with each other ?
- 4) The two feeding advantages of colonial nesting are ?
- 5) How many communal breeding species are in most of South West WA ? under 11, 11-14, 15-18, 19-22, 23+.
- 6) Most Australian communal breeders are ground feeding insectivores in dry woodland. How does this effect communal breeding ?
- 7) What is thought to be the single most important factor in determining monogamy in birds ?
- 8) Parasitic cuckoos often remove an egg from the host nest. Is this to prevent the host counting and rejecting the extra egg ?
- 9) There is a strong correlation between body size and fledging periods. True or false ?
- 10) Who first described imprinting in birds ?

## Excursion Reports

### WUNGONG GORGE 26 Sept

Eighteen bird-watchers gathered at the car park, Wungong Gorge, on what promised to be a glorious day. That promise was fulfilled, beginning with the sighting of a Pacific Heron in the trees high above the spill-way below the dam. In all, forty-four species of bird were sighted. We had prolonged views of Splendid Fairy-wrens in brilliant breeding colour, of Red-eared Firetails at their nest, of the Red-Winged Fairy-wren, of the Grey Fantail, the Horsfield's and the Shining Bronze Cuckoos, and a pair of Western Gerygones building their nest. It was, as one member put it, "an absolutely delightful day". Special thanks to our leader Bill McRoberts and to the other experienced bird-watchers in the group, for their help and advice.

D. Johnson.

### NARROGIN 2-4 Oct

Extremely adverse weather conditions prior to the long weekend of October 2 - 4 failed to deter eight RAOU members from meeting at the Narrogin farming property of Barry and Dorothy Hardie. We were fortunate to have the use of their well equipped shearers' quarters. The weather improved and a most enjoyable few days of birding was experienced.

The group walked through several areas of bushland on the Hardie properties and also an adjoining reserve. In the past mallet has been cut from these areas for use in tanning, but regeneration has occurred.

The habitats varied and included Wandoo, Brown Mallet, Casuarina, Marri and Jarrah with mostly low, sparse under storey. We also walked through an area of salt affected land that has been planted with Salt River Gum, Casuarina and Lupin tree. The environs of the homestead and a nearby creek bed also provided a number of birds for our list.

In all, a total of 62 bird species was recorded. Parrots were seen and heard in profusion in all areas. These included Port Lincoln Ringneck, Western Rosella, Red-capped and a small number of Regent Parrot. Three species of robin were seen by some of the group — Scarlet Robin were numerous and some Red-capped Robin and Western Yellow Robin were observed.

We enjoyed excellent sightings of a Peregrine Falcon, both in flight and perched and a pair of Tawny Frogmouth with young, in a tree overhanging the entrance to the property.

Other species identified as breeding included Red-capped Robin, Mistletoebird, Australian Magpie, Western Rosella, Grey Teal, Banded Lapwing and Red Wattlebird. The latter had recycled the nest of a Magpie Lark.

Many thanks to Bill McRoberts for leading the group, Robert Hardie for showing us the good birding spots and to the Hardie family for permission to visit their properties.

P. Bentley

### KALAMUNDA 9 Oct

Some 14 members walked along the track beside the Piesse Brook in fine sunny weather for a half-day's outing. Although the walk produced only 28 species, it was rewarding in that the "quality" was good. There were several excellent sightings of male Golden and Rufous Whistlers, likewise Varied Sittella, and a Peregrine Falcon that flew around before settling on a bare branch to be admired.

An Australian Raven was pursued by Tree Martins and a Fan-tailed Cuckoo called from an invisible position before finally coming out in the open. Within 5 metres of the group, two Port Lincoln Ringnecks had a furious fight, with feathers flying everywhere. At the end of the walk, a Sacred Kingfisher appeared and the bird count had to be temporarily abandoned to view a Variegated Fairy-wren.

BD. Wilson

## **TWITCHATHON 30 Oct**

This year we had only four teams in the Twitchathon: The "Kimberley Kuckoos", led by Gail Wells; "The Flighty Frogmouths", led by John Blyth, "The Golden Whistlers", led by Brian Wilson, and "Spot 'til You Drop", led by Bill McRoberts.

The overall winners were the "Kimberley Kuckoos", with 126 species, winning the perpetual prize of the engraved telescope. Their three best birds were a Garganey, a Yellow Wagtail and a Peregrine Falcon, a bird which is not often seen in the East Kimberleys.

The winners of the South of the 26th parallel section were "Spot 'til You Drop", with 104 species. These were all seen within the Perth Metropolitan area, with a Square-tailed Kite and nesting Black-shouldered Kites being "best birds".

Next were the "Golden Whistlers", with 100 species, again all seen within the Perth Metropolitan area. An Arctic Jaeger and an Osprey were of special interest.

Last, but not least, were the "Flighty Frogmouths", with 98 species, beginning in Dryandra Forest for the Malleefowl weekend and ending in Perth: a Rufous Songlark their "best bird".

We finished the event with an enjoyable BBQ at Perry House.

K. McRoberts

## **Coming Events**

### **No December Evening Meeting.**

#### **Sunday 5th December — Half day excursion to Alfred Cove**

Meet at 8.00 am at the car park in Troy Park, Burke Drive, Attadale (by the radio mast). Bring your telescope for wader watching.

Leader: Bill McRoberts

#### **Sunday 9th January 1994 — Full day excursion to Flynn Road.**

Meet at 8:30 am on the corner of Flynn Road and Great Eastern Highway, about 1 km on the Perth side of The Lakes turnoff (i.e. the York road turnoff). We will look at several areas of wandoo woodland where 3 species of robin are usually seen.

Leader: Bryan Barrett

#### **Sunday 16th January — Half day excursion to Lake Gnangara**

Take the Gnangara Road off Wanneroo Road to the junction of Alexander Drive and turn left. Meet at the picnic area at 8:30 am. We will look for waders and bush birds. Don't forget hat, sunscreen, and water.

Leader: Graham Little

#### **Monday 24 January Meeting — Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, 8.00 pm**

Dr Andrew Burbidge, the Director of the Threatened Species and Communities Unit at the WA Wildlife Research Centre at Woodvale, will speak on the birds of the Gibson Desert.

#### **Sunday 6th February — Half day excursion to the Wellard Wetlands**

Meet at 8.00 am at the corner of Zigzag Road and St. Alban's Road, Baldivis. The Wellard Wetlands are artificial wetlands that were once clay pits. In 1983 RAOU members sank knee-deep in clay to plant paperbarks in an effort to make the area more attractive to birds. Come and see the result 11 years later.

Leader: Bill McRoberts

#### **Monday 7 February — Annual General Meeting Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, 8.00 pm**

See Notices.

#### **Sunday 13th February — Full day excursion to Lake McLarty, Pinjarra**

Meet at 8.00 am at the intersection of Southwest Highway and the Old Bunbury Road, approximately 5 km south of Pinjarra - turn right into the parking area. We'll look for waders, ducks, etc. Wellington boots are recommended, plus hat, insect repellent and water.

Leader: Les Harris

#### **Monday 28 February Meeting — Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, 8.00 pm**

Professor Brian Collins, Head of the School of Environmental Biology at Curtin University and currently President of the RAOU, will have as his topic "The Gouldian Finch - is it an endangered species?".

#### **Saturday 5th March to Monday 7th March — Dwellingup Campout: Jan and Rob Hill's property**

Meet at 11.00 am at the property entrance. Head east from Dwellingup for 1.5 km on the Pinjarra to Williams Road. Turn right into Vandals Road and travel 2.7 km. Turn left into River Road (not signposted, but look for the RAOU sign) and travel 1.2 km. Turn right into the property when you see the RAOU sign.

Come and enjoy some Jarrah forest birding, a swim in the river and some pleasant company. Basic bush toilets and water available. There will be room for tents and some caravans. Bring bathers, towels and gas stoves (due to the fire danger at this time of year, no fires please.)

Leaders: Jan and Rob Hill

#### **Sunday 13th March — Half day excursion to Thomson's Lake**

Meet at 8.00 am in the car park off Russell Road, between Pearse and Hammond Roads. A good area for bush birds, waders and waterbirds.

Leader: to be announced.

#### **Monday 28 March Meeting — Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre 8.00 pm**

A panel of experienced birders chaired by Dr Allan Burbidge

will discuss the identification of several difficult bird species and answer questions from the floor about aspects of bird identification.

Although members have already suggested several groups of birds which cause them problems, Jeremy Talbot would welcome details of other birds which members have trouble sorting out. His address is:- 29 Joyce Road, Lesmurdie, WA 6076, and his telephone numbers are 09 291 6563 (home) and 09 264 6076 (work).

# **Monday 18 April Meeting — Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre 8.00 pm**

Malleefowl numbers seem to be dwindling throughout their range in this State. Jean-Paul Orsini and Rod Smith will describe the efforts being made by volunteers from rural communities, the RAOU and elsewhere to find out what is happening.

Try Your Way

Nominate for the RAOU  
Committee 1994

How to Do it  
is  
in  
Notices  
p 4

## **B B C B Q Answers**

- 1) Synchronous breeding in colonial nesters — to reduce egg and chick predation, after Frank Fraser Darling who first described it. (p 274)
- 2) Yes, some at least. It may be a foundation of call recognition. (p 274)
- 3) Yes, usually precocial species where eggs are laid on different days to ensure synchronous hatching. (p 242)
- 4) Central placement in good feeding area, transfer of information on food locations. (p 275)
- 5) Lack of variation in the quality of territory. (p 260)
- 6) 11 to 14. (p 267)
- 7) In such circumstances best way to provide for the young. (p 267)
- 8) No, it is to ensure the total egg number can be incubated efficiently. (p 255)
- 9) False. There is a weak correlation, but species of the same body weight vary between 3 & 15 weeks to fledging. (p 252)
- 10) Konrad Lorenz (1903-1989) in 1935. (p 253)

All questions derive from Brooke M & Birkhead T (Eds) (1991) *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Ornithology*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge to which the page references refer.

## **Publications**

Select your Christmas present here

Australian Waterbirds- Fieldguide	Kingsford	\$15.00
Beach Patroller's Guide	Rowe & Plant	\$7.00
Birders Guide to Japan	Robinson	\$15.00
Birding Sites around Perth	Van Delft	\$10.00
Birdlife of Murdoch	Porter	\$6.00
Birdlife of Rottnest	Saunders & de Rebeira	\$8.00
Birds of Australia-Logbook	Simpson & Day	\$11.00
Birds of WA	Serventy & Whittell	\$12.00
Check List of Birds of W.A.	10 for	\$1.00
Field Guide to Birds of Australia	Pizzey	\$23.00
Field Guide to Birds of Australia	Simpson & Day	\$25.00
Field Guide to Australian Birds	Slater	\$25.00
Field Guide to Birds of W.A.	Storr & Johnstone	\$20.00
Great Australian Birdfinder	Morecombe	\$55.00
Guide to the Flora and Fauna of the Rockingham Offshore Island and Cape Peron	W.A. Naturalists	\$10.00
Attracting Birds to a W.A. Garden		.50
Methods of Censusing Birds in Australia	Davies (ed)	\$5.00
National Photographic Index Books		
Parrots and Pigeons		\$71.00
Seabirds		\$61.00
Shorebirds		\$61.00
Honeyeaters and Allies		\$64.50
Wrens and Warblers		\$51.00
Robins and Flycatchers		\$68.00
Waterbirds of Australia		\$61.00
Parrots of the World	Forshaw	\$60.00
Pocket List of Australian Birds	Schodde	\$1.50
Portrait of a Peninsula	Smith	\$9.00
Save that Song	Hutchinson	\$25.00
Seabirds- Identification Guide	Harrison	\$64.00
Shorebirds in Australia	Lane	\$45.00
The Action Plan for Australian Birds	Garnett	\$20.00
Threatened & Extinct Birds of Australia	Garnett (Ed)	\$15.00
W A Bird Notes	per issue	\$3.50
Index to WA Bird Notes		\$7.00
Waterbirds in Nature Reserves of S.W. Australia 1981-85	Jaensch Vervest & Hewish	\$15.00
Waterbirds at Remote Wetlands Parts 1 & 2	Jaensch & Vervest	\$12.00 each
Where to Find Birds in Australia	Bransbury	\$25.00
Other Items for Sale		
Audubon Squeakers		\$9.50
Bird-call tapes		\$11.50
Blue Wren (good gift for children)	Brooker	\$9.50
RAOU Emu badges		\$3.00
Car stickers - Splendid Fairy-wren		\$2.00
Gift Items are also available —	including	
tea towels		
gift packs		
all purpose cards	for 8	\$6.00
1994 Calendar		\$5.00

NB - postage extra. Eg - Simpson & Day \$3.40 locally, Calendar \$ 1.50

# Waterbirds of South-Western Australia:

## Highest Numbers Counted, 1981 – 1992

### Introduction

This document is a compilation of information on waterbird numbers at wetlands in south-western Australia, from surveys conducted by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (RAOU) and the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) in the period 1981-92. During this period, several joint RAOU-CALM projects were undertaken where hundreds of volunteer observers under professional direction counted waterbirds at both protected and un-protected wetlands throughout the region.

The resulting data, most of it stored on CALM computer, gave the first broad-scale indication of the abundances of waterbird species in south-western Australia. Some of the information has been published (e.g. Jaensch et al. (1988), Jaensch and Vervest (1988); Halse et al. (1990, 1992), but few if any attempts have been made to present summary information for all species over the whole period. The following lists present the highest numbers counted for each waterbird species recorded in the region in the period 1981-92.

The purpose of the compilation is to give the best possible contemporary insight to the *relative abundances* of species and the *most important sites* for each species in terms of numbers counted. Future work, possibly under different wetland conditions, may reveal greater importance of unlisted sites. Some sites which ranked highly for particular species after the first year or two of surveys continued to rank highly for most of the period 1981-92 and large important wetlands such as Peel-Harvey Estuary and Dumbleyung Lake may never be replaced as the best sites for certain species.

The lists at least provide a measure that enables the significance of future counts to be realised. They also enable local and interstate researchers to quickly grasp, in a general way, the status of each waterbird species in south-western Australia. Indeed some species, such as the Musk Duck, are probably as abundant or more abundant in the south-west as in any other part of Australia, whilst numbers of some other species, such as Glossy Ibis, are not significant compared with highest numbers recorded elsewhere.

### Study Area

The study area, south-western Australia, is the South-West and western Eucla Land Divisions of Western Australia. This is roughly that part of Australia south-west of a straight line joining Kalbarri and Cape Arid.

### Sources

The principle source of data was the expanded "waterbird usage of nature reserves" database, covering the seven years from mid 1981 to mid 1988. Data for 1981-85 related only to nature reserves (285 wetlands) and were summarised in an RAOU report (Jaensch et al. 1988). In the following three years 1985-88, data from non-reserve wetlands were added as well as further data from many reserves, such that 603 wetlands were included in the 1981-88 database. Print-outs by wetland and by species are held by the RAOU.

The second and third sources were databases from the "Great Duck Counts" of March in 1986, 1987 and 1988 (summaries published in Jaensch and Vervest 1988) and the "Annual Waterfowl Counts" of November in 1988-91 and

March in 1989-91 (Summarised in Halse et al. 1990, 1992). (Data from the "Annual Waterfowl Count" of March 1992 was not available when the greater part of this document was prepared.) These two projects covered 1000+ wetlands of all types throughout south-western Australia and dealt only with ducks, swans and coots.

The final source of primary data was the "Observations" column in *Western Australian Bird Notes*, where interesting bird sightings have been published (quarterly) since 1981. Compilers of the column were Graeme Chapman, Roger Jaensch, Rodney Vervest, Allan Burbidge and others. The latest issue scanned was December 1992.

Data from the *Waterbird usage of wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain* (SCOPEWEST) project (Storey et al. 1993) were not readily accessible and were therefore not included when this document was first compiled. One of us (JR) subsequently scanned the SCOPEWEST data and significant new information is appended to this document in a separate list.

Note that none of the projects covered all wetlands in south-western Australia. However, most of the wetlands known to be important for waterbirds were included. The surveys of ducks, swans and coots comprehensively covered all wetland types throughout the region.

### Rankings

Rankings follow the system where sites with equal numbers are given equal rank and the next site is ranked according to the number of sites above it (e.g. ranks 1, 2, =3, =3, =3, 6, 7 etc.). Generally the top 5 sites are given but sites holding at least 1000 birds are listed up to rank 10. The top 10 sites are given for each of the (intensively surveyed) waterfowl. If a species occurred only in very low numbers, then sites with less than 10 birds were generally omitted after the first (except for some rarer species).

The document was originally prepared to provide rankings that would illustrate the relative importance of wetlands included in the Western Australia chapter of *A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia* (ANCA 1993).

### Locations

Most of the wetlands in the lists are well known and are shown in *Travellers Atlas of Western Australia* or a Perth metropolitan Street Directory. Other sites are described in the gazetteer at the end of this document. As a general rule, lakes and swamps apparently named after persons are written as follows: e.g. "Lake McLarty", whereas lakes named after objects or places are written as: e.g. "White Water Lake".

### Numbers

Count data refer to the number counted over all or part of the wetland, to the observer's best ability, on a particular day. Only the highest number from a site is mentioned, even if there were other high counts from that site that exceed the highest count from any other site. Aerial survey data are included, notably many of the duck numbers and are numbers as observed rather than extrapolated totals.

Discrete parts of the Peel-Harvey Estuary (e.g. Creery Marshes, "Peel Inlet East and South") and Swan-Canning Estuary (e.g. Alfred Cove, Milyu) were surveyed separately but rarely simultaneously. Therefore, in each case numbers

from parts of the one wetland were not combined. Both wetlands are large and are managed by several agencies, so it is useful to draw attention to the various important parts.

Vagrant and rare resident species are considered at the end of the list.

#### Abbreviations

An asterisk \* against a species name indicates there is additional data in the Appendix and L = Lake, Ls = Lakes.

#### Acknowledgements

The original compilation was made possible by funding from the Australian Nature Conservation Agency. Inclusion of SCOPEWEST data was made possible by funding from the Australian Heritage Commission.

Jim Lane and Stuart Halse of CALM and Rodney Vervest (formerly of RAOU) were helpful in arranging access to datasets.

Ultimately the credit for the information lies with the hundreds of volunteer observers and several professional workers who conducted the numerous field surveys.

R. Jaensch, J. Merrifield, J. Raines

#### References:

ANCA (1993), *The Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia*, Australian Nature Conservation Agency, Canberra.

Halse SA, Jaensch RP, Munro DR and Pearson GB (1990), *Annual waterfowl counts in south-western Australia—1988/89*, Western Australian Department of Conservation & Land Management, Technical Report 25.

Halse SA, Vervest RM, Munro DR, Pearson GB and Yung FH (1992), *Annual waterfowl counts in south-western Australia—1989/90*, Western Australian Department of Conservation & Land Management, Technical Report 29.

Jaensch RP and Vervest RM (1988), *Ducks, swans and coots in south-western Australia: the 1988 count and recommendations*, RAOU Report No. 46.

Jaensch RP, Vervest RM and Hewish MJ (1988) *Waterbirds in nature reserves of south-western Australia, 1981–85: reserve accounts*, RAOU Report No 30.

Storey AW, Vervest RM, Pearson GB and Halse SA (1993), *Wetlands of the Swan Coastal Plain, Vol. 7: Waterbird usage of wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain*, Water Authority of Western Australia and Environmental Protection Authority.

Rank	Wetland	No. Counted						
<b>Great Crested Grebe</b>			<b>Great Cormorant *</b>			2	Benger Swamp	425
1	L Clifton	190	1	Milyu (Swan Estuary)	210	3	Bodey's Swamp	300+
2	Jerdacuttup Ls	108+	2	Booragoon L	200	4	McLarty L	300
3	Broke Inlet	55	=3	Eneminga Pool	150	5	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	250
4	Mortijinup L	50	=3	Guraga L	150	<b>Great Egret</b>		
5	Joondalup L	41	5	Peel Inlet East & South	137	1	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	237
<b>Hoary-headed Grebe*</b>			<b>Pied Cormorant</b>			2	Chittering L	218
1	Bibra L	4900	1	Peel Inlet East & South	519	3	L McLarty	182
2	Dumbleyung L	3400	2	Styx Marshes	328	4	Peel Inlet East & South	161
3	Guraga L	3000	3	Creery Marshes	258	5	Gwelup L	75
4	Forrestdale L	1890	4	L Clifton	228	<b>Cattle Egret</b>		
5	L McLarty	1692	5	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	212	1	Jerdacuttup L	12
6	Yangebup L	1550	<b>Little Black Cormorant</b>			2	Peel Inlet East & South	8
7	Thomsons L	1500	1	Booragoon L	5000	3	Joondalup L	7
8	L Gore	1000	2	Carraburmup Swamp	3000	<b>Little Egret</b>		
<b>Australasian Grebe *</b>			3	L Clifton	2007	1	Creery Marshes	21
1	Chittering L	524	4	Wilson Inlet	1470	2	Peel Inlet East & South	8
2	Wannamal L	358	5	Alfred Cove	1000	<b>Rufous Night Heron</b>		
3	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	350	<b>Little Pied Cormorant *</b>			1	Hilliup L	250+
4	Forrestdale L	180	1	Carraburmup Swamp	1000	2	Coolinup Swamp	100
5	Grasmere L	119	2	L Clifton	906	3	Caris Park Swamp	70
<b>Australian Pelican</b>			3	Peel Inlet East & South	716	=4	Kogolup L	60
1	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	750	4	Creery Marshes	405	=4	McCarley's Swamp	60
2	Indoon L	500	5	Broke Inlet	330	<b>Little Bittern</b>		
3	Peel Inlet East & South	471	<b>Pacific Heron</b>			1	Yamup Lagoon	7
4	Guraga L	120	1	Karakin North L	183	=2	Jandabup L	4
5	Styx Marshes	111	2	Benger Swamp	26	=2	Kulunilup Swamp	4
<b>Darter *</b>			=3	Forrestdale L	25	<b>Australasian Bittern</b>		
1	Goodale Sanctuary	30	=3	Yellilup L	25	1	Benger Swamp	8
=2	Booragoon L	20	5	Jandabup L	17	=2	Kulunilup Swamp	5
=2	Byenup Lagoon	20	<b>White-faced Heron</b>			=2	Owingup Swamp	5
=2	Harvey Estuary & Delta	20	1	Dumbleyung L	455			
=2	Lower Harvey River	20						

=2 Pleasant View L	5	5 L Preston	8965	<b>Pink-eared Duck</b>	
<b>Glossy Ibis</b>		6 Guraga L	8000	1 Dumbleyung L	8280
1 L McLarty	29	7 Peel Inlet East & South	7691	2 Coyrecup L	6393
2 Thomsons L	24	8 Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	6108	=3 Bullingarra L	2500
3 Chandala L	21	9 L Warden	5500	=3 Eganu L	2500
4 Herdsman L	20+	10 Kubitch L	5000	=3 Pinjarrega L	2500
5 Forrestdale L	18	<b>Cape Barren Goose</b>		6 Guraga L	2300
<b>Australian White Ibis</b>		1 Windabout L	8	7 Yangebup L	2200
1 West Corio Swamp	300	<b>Pacific Black Duck</b>		8 Peel Inlet	2000
2 Benger Swamp	200	1 L Muir	18450	9 Bokaring Swamp	1500
3 Booragoon L	150	2 Cooloongup L	7000	10 Coomelberrup L	1250
4 Clifton Road Swamp	80+	3 Forrestdale L	5500	<b>Hardhead</b>	
=5 McCarley's Swamp	80	4 Thomsons L	4500	=1 Eganu L	2000
=5 Milyu (Swan Estuary)	80	5 L Clifton	4308	=1 Walyomouring L	2000
<b>Straw-necked Ibis</b>		6 Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	4264	3 Benger Swamp	1500
=1 Chandala L	5000	7 Bullingarra L	3450	4 Forrestdale L	1053
=1 West Corio Swamp	5000	=8 L Mears	3000	5 Parrup Ls	800
3 Karakin North L	1300	=8 Peel Inlet East & South	3000	6 Wannamal L	636
4 McCarley's Swamp	1000	10 Irwin Inlet	2436	7 Tordit-Gurrup Lagoon	550
5 Alcoa Baldivis L	934	<b>Grey Teal</b>		=8 Moodiarrup Swamps	500
<b>Royal Spoonbill</b>		1 Dumbleyung L	16850	=8 Pinjarrega L	500
1 Peel Inlet East & South	8	2 L Muir	16002	10 Chittering L	414
<b>Yellow-billed Spoonbill *</b>		3 Peel-Harvey Estuary	15435	<b>Maned Duck</b>	
1 Mealup L	220	4 Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	14000	1 Reinscourt Farm L	919
2 L McLarty	163	5 Coyrecup L	13972	2 Emu L	600
3 Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	140	6 Guraga L	12000	3 Coyrecup L	540
4 Barraghup Swamp	80	7 Brown L (Yeal)	10667	4 Cummingup Pool	460
5 Chittering L	78	8 Forrestdale L	9000	5 Millard Pool	443
<b>Black Swan</b>		9 Wannamal L	8040	6 Waneragup L	400
1 L Muir	3873	10 Beverley Ls	7930	7 McCarley's Swamp	308
2 L Warden	3500	<b>Chestnut Teal</b>		8 Peel Inlet East & South	302
3 Wilson Inlet	3250	1 Charles Bay Inlet	1550	9 Busselton Pool	301
4 Dumbleyung L	3000	2 Beaufort Inlet	1099	10 Chittering L	280
5 Guraga L	2900	3 Lower Pallinup River	1005	<b>Blue-billed Duck *</b>	
6 Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	2855	4 Stokes Inlet	872	1 Peel Inlet East & South	1200
7 Peel Inlet East & South	2402	5 Lower Fitzgerald River	790	2 Yangebup L	865
=8 Flagstaff L	2000	6 Gordon Inlet	646	3 Namming L	614
=8 Mullet L	2000	7 Oldfield Estuary	452	4 Dumbleyung L	522
=8 Pinjarrega L	2000	=8 Bannitup L	400	=5 L Monger	370
<b>Freckled Duck</b>		=8 Wheatfield L	400	=5 Towerinning L	370
1 Toolibin L	600	10 L Warden	328	7 Thomsons L	367
2 Chittering L	145	<b>Australasian Shoveler</b>		8 Bibra L	338
3 Coomelberrup L	130	=1 Forrestdale L	2000	9 Bambun L	302
4 East Bryde L	88	=1 Thomsons L	2000	10 Mortjinup L	300
5 Barrett-Lennard L	83	3 Peel Inlet East & South	1500	<b>Musk Duck</b>	
6 Mortjinup L	54	4 Parriup Ls	1000	1 L Clifton	2302
<b>Mute Swan</b>		5 Wannamal L	800	2 Broke Inlet	635
1 Northam Pool	74	6 The Broadwater	700	3 Dumbleyung L	630
<b>Australian Shelduck</b>		=7 Nowergup L	600	4 Mortjinup L	535
1 Dumbleyung L	31423	=7 White L (Narrogin)	600	5 L Preston	435
2 L Clifton	13782	=9 Eganu L	500	6 Guraga L	400
=3 L Gore	12000	=9 Grasmere L	500	7 Woody L	360
=3 Tordit-Gurrup Lagoon	12000	=9 Guraga L	500	8 Bibra L	330
		=9 Herdsman L	500	9 L Warden	328
		=9 Mortjinup L	500	10 L Monger	250
		=9 Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	500	<b>Marsh Harrier</b>	
				1 Thomsons L	8

**Buff-banded Rail**

1	Alfred Cove	13
=2	Canning Estuary	7
=2	Garratt Rd Marshes	7

**Baillon's Crake**

1	Thomsons L	22
2	Shark L	4

**Australian Crake**

1	Thomsons L	20
=2	L McLarty	8
=2	Mealup L	8

**Spotless Crake \***

1	Forrestdale L	51
2	Grasmere L	25
3	Benger Sw	20
=4	Owingup Sw	19
=4	Thomsons L	19

**Black-tailed Native-hen**

1	Streets Swamp	200
2	Coomelberrup L	140
3	Wannamal L	130
4	Moodiarrup Swamps	122
5	Chandala L	107

**Dusky Moorhen \***

1	Lower Canning River	232
2	Perry Ls	82
3	Lower Murray River	76
4	Nicholson Rd Swamp	65
5	Bibra L	60

**Purple Swampphen \***

1	Thomsons L	451
2	Benger Swamp	100
3	Forrestdale L	87
4	Perry Ls	61
5	Bibra L	53

**Eurasian Coot**

1	Jerdacuttup Ls	10597
2	Dumbleyung L	10500
3	Muir L	9628
4	Culham Inlet	9307
5	Forrestdale L	7670
6	Thomsons L	7000
7	Guraga L	4500
8	Joondalup L	4436
9	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	4000
10	Wannamal L	3600

**Pied Oystercatcher**

1	Creery Marshes	60
2	Alfred Cove	55+
3	Woodman Point	41
4	King River Mouth	35
5	Pelican Point (Swan)	34

**Banded Lapwing \***

1	Cook's Ls	32
2	Ninan L	31
3	Forrestdale L	14
4	L Grace South	10

**Grey Plover**

1	Creery Marshes	600
2	Alfred Cove	101
3	Goegrup L	70
4	Rushy Point	50
5	Mandurah Harbour	30

**Lesser Golden Plover**

1	Creery Marshes	85
2	Hardy Inlet	50
3	Rushy Point	49
4	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	24
5	Guraga L	10

**Red-kneed Dotterel**

1	White Water L	150
2	Mealup L	100
3	Mungala L	90
4	Gooninong Swamp	76
5	Murray's Swamp	60

**Hooded Plover**

1	L Warden	539
2	L Gore	393
3	Karbul L	260
4	Gidon L	237
5	White L	140

**Large Sand Plover**

1	Emu Point	25
2	Creery Marshes	15
3	Rushy Point	10

**Red-capped Plover**

1	Jandabup L	3000
2	Milyu (Swan Estuary)	1500
3	Forrestdale L	1300
4	Peel Inlet East & South	1158
5	Thomsons L	1000

**Black-fronted Plover**

1	Grasmere L	85
2	Joondalup L	75
3	Amarillo Pool	67
4	Kogolup L	54
5	Ibis Swamp	53

**Black-winged Stilt**

1	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	5000
2	Forrestdale L	3840
3	Thomsons L	3000
4	Peel Inlet East & South	2703
5	Billy L	2050
6	L McLarty	1200

**Banded Stilt**

1	Culham Inlet	44000
2	L Gore	20000
3	L Grace North	12000
4	Walyormouring L	10700
5	L Warden	10000
6	Creery Marshes	9000
7	Hinds L	8000
8	Kwornicup L	7000
9	Peel Inlet East & South	6394
10	Dumbleyung L	6000

**Red-necked Avocet**

1	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	4000
=2	L McLarty	3000
=2	Thomsons L	3000
4	Wilson Inlet	2870
5	L Clifton	2210
6	Grasmere L	1560
7	Hinds L	1502
8	Robert Bay	1500
9	Joondalup L	1200
=10	Amarillo Pool	1000
=10	Guraga L	1000

**Ruddy Turnstone**

1	L Warden	24
2	Alcoa Baldivis L	22
3	Woodman Point	12

**Eastern Curlew**

1	King River Mouth	23
2	Peel Inlet Entrance	12
3	Creery Marshes	11

**Whimbrel**

1	Creery Marshes	7
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**Wood Sandpiper \***

1	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	72
2	L McLarty	64
3	Kogolup L	60+
4	Amarillo Pool	40
5	Mealup L	35

**Grey-tailed Tattler**

1	King River Mouth	12
2	Peel Inlet Entrance	10
3	Kalgan River Mouth	9

**Common Sandpiper**

1	Peel Inlet Entrance	18
2	L Gore	14
=3	Coramup Creek	8
=3	L Warden	8

**Greenshank**

1	Peel Inlet East & South	213
=2	Creery Marshes	200
=2	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	200
4	Gidon L	158
5	Mullet L	153

**Marsh Sandpiper**

1	Creery Marshes	284
2	L McLarty	142
3	Forrestdale L	60
4	Thomsons L	30
5	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	17

**Terek Sandpiper**

1	Creery Marshes	7
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**Black-tailed Godwit**

1	L McLarty	65
2	Wilson Inlet	34
3	Amarillo Pool	28
4	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	18
5	Thomsons L	15

**Bar-tailed Godwit**

1	Peel Inlet East & South	629
2	Creery Marshes	500
3	Peel Inlet Entrance	440
4	Alfred Cove	250
5	Hardy Inlet	200

**Red Knot**

1	Peel Inlet East & South	542
2	Alfred Cove	200
=3	Creery Marshes	100
=3	Rushy Point	100
5	L Warden	95

**Great Knot**

1	Creery Marshes	850
2	Alfred Cove	340
3	L Warden	100
4	Peel Inlet East & South	98
5	Lower King River	90+

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**

1	Creery Marshes	2381
2	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	2300
3	Peel Inlet East & South	2119
4	Thomsons L	1000
5	L McLarty	900

**Pectoral Sandpiper**

1	Mealup L	12
=2	L McLarty	7
=2	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	7
=4	Karakin North L	6
=4	L Warden	6

**Red-necked Stint**

1	Alfred Cove	10000
2	Peel Inlet East & South	8063
3	Creery Marshes	3246
4	Forrestdale L	3000
5	Thomsons L	2500
6	Milyu (Swan Estuary)	2200
7	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	2000
8	Yangebup L	1500
9	Rushy Point	1000

**Long-toed Stint**

1	L McLarty	96
2	Forrestdale L	80
3	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	49
4	Kogolup L	45
=5	Amarillo Pool	24
=5	Herdsmen L	24
7	Thomsons L	20
8	Yangebup L	15

**Curlew Sandpiper**

1	L McLarty	3000
2	Peel Inlet East & South	2804
3	Cooloongup L	2600
=4	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	2500
=4	Thomsons L	2500
=6	Creery Marshes	2000
=6	Forrestdale L	2000
8	Alfred Cove	1078

**Sanderling**

1	Garden Island	485
2	Gordon Inlet	79
3	Mandurah Harbour	60
4	Woodman Point	37
5	Milyu (Swan Estuary)	15

**Ruff**

1	L McLarty	5
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**Silver Gull \***

1	Perry Is	3500
2	Peel Inlet East & South	3330
3	Bibra L	2040
4	Alfred Cove	2000
5	Woodman Point	1600
6	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	1531
7	L Monger	1360
8	L Clifton	1086
9	Creery Marshes	1000

**Pacific Gull**

1	Wellstead Estuary	14
2	Stokes Inlet	12

**Whiskered Tern**

1	Peel Inlet East & South	827
2	Creery Marshes	200
3	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	180
=4	Indoon L	100
=4	L Warden	100
=4	Wheatfield L	100

**White-winged Tern**

1	Thomsons L	150
2	Yangebup L	110
3	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	70

**Gull-billed Tern**

1	L Hinds	31
2	Yarra Yarra L	9

**Caspian Tern**

1	Peel Inlet	60
2	Gordon Inlet	34
3	Leschenault Inlet	31
=4	Alfred Cove	30
=4	Fitzgerald Inlet	30

**Common Tern**

1	Mandurah Harbour	21
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**Roseate Tern**

1	Mandurah Harbour	20+
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**Fairy Tern**

1	Alfred Cove	102
2	Boundary Island	100+
3	Garden Island	97
4	Mandurah Harbour	65
5	L Clifton	50

**Crested Tern**

1	Gordon Inlet	113
2	Woodman Point	96
3	Mandurah Harbour	65
4	Peel Inlet East & South	31
5	Leschenault Inlet	30

**Clamorous Reed-Warbler \***

1	Forrestdale L	77
2	Benger Swamp	46
3	Wannamal L	32
=4	Kulunilup Swamp	20
=4	Pleasant View L	20

**Little Grassbird**

1	Benger Swamp	56
2	Thomsons L	51
3	North Sister Swamps	35
4	Cooloongup L	20
5	Creery Marshes	18

**Vagrants and Rare Residents**

The following list includes vagrants, resident species rarely found in the set of wetlands surveyed and two wetland raptors.

Eastern Reef Egret—1: Black Bittern—2: Wandering Whistling-Duck—2: Plumed Whistling-Duck—2: Northern Pintail—1: Osprey—2: White-bellied Sea-Eagle—2: Painted Snipe—3: Sooty Oystercatcher—2: Masked Lapwing—2: Little Ringed Plover—1: Mongolian Plover—4: Double-banded Plover—1: Oriental Plover—1: Inland Dotterel—6: Little Curlew—2: Common Redshank—1: Pin-tailed Snipe—1: Gallinago sp.—2: Little Stint—1: Broad-billed Sandpiper—2: Red-necked Phalarope—1: Oriental Pratincole—5: Australian Pratincole—1: Franklin's Gull—1: Arctic Tern—1.

## APPENDIX:

## Significant data from the SCOPEWEST Project

Hoary-headed Grebe	1531	Thomsons L
Australasian Grebe	580	Bambun L
	203	Bibra Lake
	157	Thomsons L
Darter	45	West Corio Swamp
	30	L McLarty
	25	Alexander Island
Great Cormorant	350	Booragoon L
	270	Blackwatch Swamp
Little Pied Cormorant	500	Rosamel Swamp
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	115	Chittering L
Blue-billed Duck	412	Bibra Lake
Spotless Crake	23	Thomsons L
Dusky Moorhen	244	Lower Canning River
	179	Bibra L
	104	L Monger
Purple Swamphen	88	Herdsmen L
	76	Bibra L
Banded Lapwing	18	Emu L
Wood Sandpiper	45	Thomsons L
Silver Gull	3490	Claremont L
	3000	Bibra L
	3000	L Monger
Clamorous Reed-Warbler	35	Bibra L
	22	Claremont L

Gazetteer

Most of the following names are unofficial, but "(n)" indicates that the name does appear on some maps.

Alcoa Baldivis Swamp - small artificial lakes on Zig Zag Rd, Baldivis.

Alexander Island - Collie River, 3.5 km SE of Australind.

Amarillo Pool - broad pool on Serpentine River, NE of Mandurah.

Australind Swamp - in small nature reserve adjacent of E side of Leschenault Inlet, Australind.

Barragup Swamp - in Shire reserve on S side of Mandurah-Pinjarra Rd, between Serpentine and Murray Rivers.

Barrett-Lennard L - c. 3 km N of Beermullah L.

Beverley Ls = Yenyenning Ls (*Travellers Atlas*).

Billy L - (n) the second small lake downstream from Taarblin L, on the Arthur River system.

Blackwatch Swamp - c. 8 km WSW of Coolup.

Bodey's Swamp - a swamp 400 m W of Wannamal.

Bokaring Swamp - S of Gundaring L, and about mid-way between Wagin and Dumbleyung L.

Boundary Island - artificial island in N part of Peel Inlet, near S end of channel connecting Inlet to ocean at Mandurah.

Brown L - (n) immediately SE of White Water L; of similar size.

Bullingarra L - freshwater lake 2.5 km W of Wannamal L.

Caris Park Swamp - small swamp 5 km SSW of Pinjarra.

Carraburnup Swamp - (n) in nature reserve adjacent S side of

## Peel Inlet.

Charles Bay Inlet - lake immediately inland from Point Charles Bay; also known as "Lake Nameless".

Clifton Rd Swamp - immediately N of Clifton Rd; S of Harvey Estuary.

Coodanup Shore - N shore of Peel Inlet, at Coodanup.

Cook's Ls - suite of open lakes several km NW of Moora.

Coramup Creek - (n) creek flowing into Wheatfield L, Esperance.

Crackers Swamp - most western swamp in wetland suite in N of Namming Nature Reserve, S of Nammegarra Rd.

Creery Marshes - tidal marshes and mudflats around Creery Is, other islands and adjacent land in far N of Peel Inlet.

Cummungup Pool - (n) pool on Brockman River in the Chittering Valley.

East Bryde L - c. 8 km E of Lake Bryde; in a nature reserve.

Emu L - (n) modified lake in urban area, Ballajura.

Emu Point - (n) tidal mudflats and marshes in Oyster Harbour at Emu Point.

Enemunga Pool - (n) c. 8 km NNW of Guraga L; in a nature reserve.

Garratt Rd Marshes - tidal marshes around Garratt Rd bridge, Swan River, Perth.

Goodale Sanctuary; - swamps 9 km WNW of Coolup.

Gooninong Swamp - c. 5 km SSE of Wannamal, upper Brockman Valley.

Ibis Swamp - eastern swamp in wetland suite in N of Namming Nature Reserve, S of Nammegarra Rd.

L Saide - (n) 5 km WSW of Youngs siding; near Wilson Inlet.

McCarley's Swamp - between Capel and Ludlow, SE of the highway = "Ludlow Swamp".

Millard Pool - (n) on Avon River between Northam and Toodyay.

Moodiarup Swamps - swamps adjacent to Towerrinning L.

Mungala L - (n) immediately SE of Nambung L; in Bambun group.

Murray's Swamp - (n) between Beverley and Brookton; SW of Mt Kokeby siding.

Needonga L - (n) wooded lake on Brockman River immediately upstream of Chittering L.

Nicholson Rd Swamp - winter-wet area near Nicholson Rd (metro Perth), just SW of bridge over Canning R.

North Sister Swamps - two large swamps in the nature reserve that includes North Sister hill, N of Manypeaks.

Parriup Ls - suite of lakes c. 5 km W of L Shaster.

Peel Inlet East & South - wetland covered by contiguous nature reserves in the E and S of the Inlet.

Reinscourt Farm L - suite of small wetlands ESE of Busselton near Vasse Highway.

Rosamel Swamp - swamp between Bunbury-Mandurah road and N end of Leschenault Inlet.

Rushy Point - (n) spit and associated mudflats and marshes near Little Grove, SW side of Princess Royal Harbour.

Streets Swamp - wooded swamp c. 5 km NW of Moora.

Styx Marshes - tidal marshes and mudflats at NNW side of Peel Inlet, beside the outlet channel, opposite the Creery Marshes.

Waneragup L - (n) between Boyanup and Bunbury.

West Corio Swamp - c. 10 km N of Pinjarra.

Windabout L - (n) part of the L Warden wetlands, Esperance; between Woody L and L Warden.

Yarnup Lagoon - (n) swamp c. 7 km ESE of Kulunilup L.