

Western Australian Bird Notes

Quarterly Newsletter of Birds Australia - WA Group
(a division of Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union)

No 84 December 1997

NORTHERN SHOVELER (*ANAS CLYPEATA*) AT LAKE MCLARTY

On 16 Feb 1997 we observed an unusual shoveler at Lake McLarty. Observers present were T Kirkby, C Davis, M Darnell and J Darnell. The following notes contain details of our observations and subsequent conclusions.

Weather conditions: Light breeze, sunny (only about 1/5 cloud), with good visibility. At the time of observations there was no heat haze or refraction.

Observations: The bird was picked out from a mixed flock of ducks and coots feeding in open, fairly shallow water. Although the initial impression was that of a female Australasian Shoveler (*Anas rhynchos*) — some 40-50 of which were in the vicinity — it differed from them in that it appeared slightly larger, was of a markedly lighter, warm buff, shade of brown (this particularly evident on the head and neck), showed obvious white sides to the closed tail and had a larger and heavier bill which showed an extensive area of orange (especially basally).

This combination of features allowed this bird to be readily and repeatedly picked out and distinguished from the darker and duller brown, dark-billed female Australasian Shovelers.

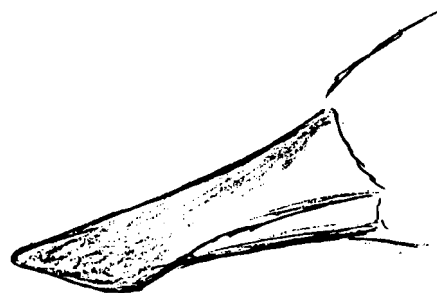
Description: Because of the range of the observations (80-100 m), the description of plumage is less one of fine detail as of overall impressions. Details of the bird as seen on the water were as follows:

Head and neck: Light (slightly greyish) buffy brown, somewhat darker on the crown, lacking any definite or bold pattern although appearing slightly

paler on the cheeks and lores (adjacent to bill) down to the chin area. A darker line was seen extending a little before and behind eye (though it did not appear to reach the bill). Breast similar to neck, etc, but noticeably paler. Flanks somewhat darker and with a slightly rufous cinnamon wash (not obviously patterned). When up-ending the central belly area appeared an even more deep and rich brownish rufous. Area at rear of flanks (base of tail) less warm brown-cinnamon and cloacal area much paler, lateral under-tail coverts dullish warm brown. Central under-tail coverts (visible when up-ending) were a darkish sepia brown.

Upperparts: Mantle and centre back dull blackish brown with obvious contrast between this area and scapulars (most obvious as bird seen up-ending and head-on but not quite so evident when bird seen in profile). Rump, upper tail coverts as back, etc. Scapulars dull greyish buff (of a darker shade than neck, etc, but still with a warmer and paler shade than an Australasian Shoveler). Closed primaries: dark sepia/blackish. At some angles a thin white line was noted (edge to tertials?). Sides of the tail were white and very obvious, extending back to rear of flanks.

NB: Overall the plumage impression was rather uniform. The lack of a mottled pattern could be due in part to the range, although in some adjacent (equidistant) female ducks the



Northern Shoveler bill



Australasian Shoveler bill

mottled (dark feather centres/pale edged type pattern) could be seen.

Iris: tawny/amber-brown.

Bill: Decidedly larger and heavier than that of any of the Australasian Shovelers. The bill shape differed from that of the typical Australasian birds in looking more bevelled at the tip and angular at the point where its broadest part of upper mandible overhangs the lower one. (This area is much more rounded and less obvious in Australasian.)

The ridge of the upper mandible and almost all the spatulate tip were dark brownish black. Sides of the upper mandible, for approximately 2/3 length and broadening to cover all but its narrow central ridge at base and all of the lower mandible dullish, but very obvious orange; underside of the bill appeared entirely orange (except very tip). (The bill was very broad towards the tip when seen head-on.)

Feet and legs: Bright orange almost scarlet (a more fiery shade than in any of the Australasian Shovelers (male or female).

In flight (not seen well — only short flight and that in tight flock, mixed group): Forewing dull bluish grey, separated from dark and dull trailing edge (no colour to speculum noted) by narrow whitish line (this broadest towards outer wing). Primary coverts and primaries were blackish. The tail looked predominantly whitish (in contrast to the darkish rump and upper tail coverts). The underwing was not seen well — its appearance was whitish.

Structure: Appeared slightly larger than the accompanying Australasian Shovelers. Bill appeared more massive, heavy and angular (see notes above). Primaries/wing-tip extended up to (or at some angles slightly beyond) the tip of the tail. The wings were noted to be almost always held well clear of, above, the tail. This contrasted with the normal attitude of the Australasian Shovelers. In those birds the wing appeared slightly shorter than the tail tip and the primaries usually lay on the upper tail coverts and tail or only slightly raised above them.

Behaviour: During the whole 15-20 minutes of observation, this bird fed in only a very restricted area (probably no more than a 20 m radius). Even when disturbed by a Swamp Harrier, it only flew (in a mixed flock of other ducks and coots) a short distance and almost immediately swam back to the original area.

Whereas the adjacent Australasian Shovelers were seen to surface filter feed as well as up-end, this individual was only seen to feed by up-ending. When doing this, it was noted that (when viewed from behind) the primary tips extended and crossed well beyond the line of the tail. In this respect it differed from (similarly viewed) Australasian Shovelers; in those the primaries appeared to project far less, and frequently did not cross over at all.

Although this bird did not carry the neck extended or stretched, the head was usually held well above its "shoulders". In contrast the Australasian Shovelers very frequently had the head and neck tucked onto the back.

Whilst attempting to round the lake for better views, the whole of the duck and coot population was disturbed (by a White-bellied Sea-Eagle), many not returning including, apparently, this individual.

Comments: The combination of buffy-brown plumage, heavy and extensive orange markings on the side and base of the bill, combined with the predominantly white tail, etc,

indicate that this bird was a Northern Shoveler.

The plumage suggested that it was a first year male, and was partially acquiring adult first year plumage type usually referred to as "Adult male supplementary" (eg, the darker zone down mid back area, the paler shade to the breast, the rufous cinnamon wash to the flanks, etc).

This species is well known to three of us, with one (JD) having had regular opportunities to see this species (in the UK) over a period of several months only some 18 months earlier.

John Darnell

Observations

Compiled by the Observations Committee. Shires are in brackets.

Names and order follow Christidis, L. and Boles, W. (1994) *The Taxonomy and Species of Birds of Australia and its Territories*. RAOU Monograph 2.

Observers are reminded that, for rarely seen or difficult to identify species, adequate documentation is required for inclusion in WABN. For example, new records, or records of species rarely recorded in the south-west should be accompanied by a description of what was *actually seen* and reasons for the identification. Note that a statement to the effect that what was seen fitted a description in a field guide is a statement about what is in a field guide, and does not tell the editors what you actually saw. Providing extra details also assists the editors to provide extra information to readers.

SOUTH-WEST (Shark Bay to Cape Arid)

Australian Shelduck - 9432, 22/10/97, Lake McLarty (Murray) - MC (moulting?)

Black-browed Albatross - 30+, 21/8/97, Eclipse Island, near Albany (Albany) - AM

Yellow-nosed Albatross - 70+, 21/8/97, Eclipse Island, near Albany (Albany) - AM * at various times, maximum 20+ in 4 hrs, 12/7/97, Point Dalling, Dunsborough (Busselton) - RP

Sooty Albatross - 1, 21/8/97, Eclipse Island, near Albany (Albany) - AM

Red-tailed Tropicbird - 14, 2/11/97, in air over Sugarloaf Rock (Busselton) - PC, BC

Australasian Gannet - seen over several months; max. no. 50+ in 2 hrs, 1/7/97, Point Dalling, Dunsborough (Busselton) - RP

Little Egret - 1, 2/10/97, Wellstead Estuary, Bremer Bay (Jerramungup) - BN (rare on the south coast)

Square-tailed Kite - 1, 17/8/97, Mt Cook (Wandering) - LK

White-bellied Sea-Eagle - 1, 7/10/97, hunting a Mallard at Forrestdale Lake (Armadale) - FO

Painted Button-quail - 1, 9/6/97, Point Dalling, Dunsborough (Busselton) - RP

Black-tailed Godwit - 8, 29/8/97 to 7/9/97, Thomson's Lake (Cockburn) - MS

Ruddy Turnstone - 6, 28/7/97, at unnamed salt lake 12 km N of Jurien Bay (Dandaragan) - BKM (unusual on salt

lakes except at Rottnest) * 10, 16/9/97, Point Malcolm, Nuytsland Nature Reserve (Esperance) - AR (few records from this area)

Hooded Plover - 12 adults and 2 juveniles, 20/9/97, Yarra Yarra Lakes, on the west side of the southern lake (Carnamah Shire) - BN * 44 (including 6 immatures), Sandy Bight Beach, Cape Arid National Park (Esperance) - AR

Laughing Turtle-Dove - 1, 2-3/9/97, Little Grove, Albany (Albany) - AM (possibly the first record for Albany)

Crested Pigeon - 1, 31/8/97 and 2, 1/10/97, southern end of Hammond Road, near Thomsons Lake (Cockburn) - MS

(Eastern) **Long-billed Corella** - 1, 23/10/97, North Lake (Cockburn) - RD * 5, 8/11/97, Carine open space (Stirling) - MC

Little Corella - 1, 22/10/97, Lake McLarty (Murray) - MC (escapee?)

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo - 1, 10/10/97, c. 5 km S of Carnamah on Midlands Road (Galaha and Western Corellas common in this area) (Carnamah) - MaB, MBa, JaB, JoB

Black-eared Cuckoo - 1, 28/7/97, Dryandra State Forest (eastern block) (Cuballing) - SN

Fork-tailed Swift - 2, Cape Pasley (Cape Arid National Park) (Esperance) - AR

Splendid Fairy-wren - 3+ albino birds, 29/8/97, near Wilga (Boyup Brook) BF, BB

Gilbert's Whistler - 2 males, 27/7/97, Chiddarcooping Nature Reserve, E of Mukinbudin (Mukinbudin) - SN

Crested Shrike-tit - 2 males, 14/9/97, near Julimar Brook, Julimar Conservation Park (Toodyay) - AB *et al.*

Ground Cuckoo-shrike - 2, 27/7/97, 'Forty six gate Road', NE of Mukinbudin (Mukinbudin) - SN

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

Malleefowl - 2, 16/8/97, 5-10 km N of Billabong Roadhouse, NW Coastal Hwy (Shark Bay) - TS * tracks, near Nerren Nerren HS on NW Coastal Hwy, N of Kalbarri (Shark Bay) - JB, JBe * 1, 11/10/97, near turnoff to Nerren Nerren HS on NW Coastal Hwy, N of Kalbarri (Shark Bay) - JH

Musk Duck - 5, 17/9/97, Nallan Lake (Cue) - FO

Black-necked Stork - 1, 18/8/93, Shaw River, Hillside Station (East Pilbara) - MB * 1, 24/8/97, NW of Milgun Station (Meekatharra) - MB

Square-tailed Kite - 2 at a nest, 24/8/97, Coolyia Creek on Hillside Station (East Pilbara) - MB (uncommon in the Pilbara - this is apparently only the second breeding record for the Pilbara area)

Black-breasted Buzzard - 2, with nest, 15/8/93, Three Rivers Station at Gascoyne River (Middle Branch) crossing (Meekatharra) - MB * 2, 24/8/97, Milgun Station (Meekatharra) - MB

Grey Falcon - 1, 22/8/96, Rudall River NP (East Pilbara) - MB

Peregrine Falcon - 2 plus nest with C/3, 24/8/96, Rudall River NP (East Pilbara) - MB

Australian Spotted Crane - 1, 10/97, soak near Twilight Cove, E of Eyre Bird Observatory (Dundas) - DBr, JBr

Little Curlew - 2, 28/9/97, Kanidal Beach, Eyre Bird Observatory (Dundas) - EBO

Laughing Turtle-Dove - 1, 19/8/97, Babbage Island,

Carnarvon (Carnarvon) - TS (very few records from north of Shark Bay)

Regent Parrot - 5, 4/9/97, Warne River crossing on Paynes Find - Sandstone Road (Sandstone) - MC

Bourke's Parrot - c. 40, 16-18/9/97, Nallan Station (Cue) - FO

White-browed Treecreeper - 3 individuals, 17-18/9/97, in mulga on Nallan Station (Cue) - FO

Shy Heathwren - 2, 4/9/97, 51 km N of Wubin on road to Paynes Find (Dalwallinu) - MC (long way N for this species)

Rufous Fieldwren - 2, 18/9/97, Lake Austin (22 km S of Cue) (Cue) - FO (scarce in this area)

Slender-billed Thornbill - 3, 17/9/97, Lake Annean (Meekatharra) - FO (now scarce in this area)

Banded Whiteface - 6, 16/8/97, Bibbingoona (Milgun Station) (Meekatharra) - MB

Grey Honeyeater - 2, 21/8/97, NW of sewage works at Tom Price (Ashburton) - TS * 2, 15/9/97, 32 km S of Paynes Find on road to Beacon (Yalgoo) - FO * 1, 22/9/97, Nallan Station (near Cue) (Cue) - per RJ

Orange Chat - pair nesting, 17/9/97, Lake Annean (Meekatharra) - FO * 20+, 18/9/97, Lake Austin (22 km S of Cue) (Cue) - FO

Grey-crowned Babbler - 11 (6 and 5), 17/9/97, Nallan Station (Cue) - FO (near southern limit in WA)

Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush - 2, 17/9/97, c. 9 km E of Cue (Cue) - FO * 1, 25/8/97, Mulgul Station (Meekatharra) - MB

Barn Swallow - 5, 12-17/11/97, Onslow (Ashburton) - MC (few records from this area)

Clamorous Reed-Warbler - 1, 5-10/10/97, calling from *Typha*, Charfcutter's Spring, Kennedy Range (Carnarvon) - JH

KIMBERLEY

Orange-footed Scrubfowl - mound, 18/8/97, edge of vine thicket at top of beach, Steep Head Island, Port Warrender area (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - GS, FO

Green Pygmy-goose - 300, 11/9/97, Lake Eda (Broome) - BBO (high numbers for this area)

Cape Petrel - 1 beachwashed (alive, but died next day), 10/9/97, Willy Creek (Broome) - BBO (N most record for WA)

Great-billed Heron - 1, 19/8/97, Point MacGregor (Port Warrender area) (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - GS, FO * 1, 21/8/97, Rail Creek (Port Warrender area) (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - GS, FO

Pied Heron - 1, 22/9/97, Roebuck Bay (Broome) - BBO (unusual near Broome)

Cattle Egret - 12, 26/9/97, Lake Eda (Broome) - BBO (unusual near Broome)

Grey Falcon - 1, 1-2/9/97 and 2, 4/9/97, Roebuck Bay (Broome) - BBO (unusual near Broome)

Chestnut Rail - 2, 15/8/97, Kimberley Coastal Camp, Port Warrender (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - GS, FO * 4, 21/8/97, Rail Creek, Port Warrender area (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - GS, FO

Common Redshank - 2, 3-4/9/97 and 3, 15-16/9/97, Roebuck Bay (Broome) - BBO

Broad-billed Sandpiper - 4 in cannon net, 21/9/97,

Roebuck Bay (Broome) - BBO

Comb-crested Jacana - 1, 13-14/9/97, Lake Campion (Broome) - BBO (see WABN 83: 11 for the first record for Broome) (this is the most south-westerly record in WA)

Oriental Plover - 1, 24/9/97, Argyle Diamond mine airport (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - FO (this bird, a first record for the Argyle lease, was hit by a plane)

Caspian Tern - nest, 8/9/97, Myres Island (Port Warrender area) (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - GS, FO

Little Bronze-Cuckoo - 1 juvenile, 15/8/97, being fed by a pair of Mangrove Gerygones, Kimberley Coastal Camp, near Port Warrender (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - GS, FO

Barn Owl - 1, 8/8/97, dead on highway; 1, 1/9/97 and 5/9/97, Roebuck Plains (Broome) - BBO (not often recorded near Broome)

Red-browed Pardalote - 1, 21/8/97 and 2, 1/9/97, Kildo Station (Broome) BBO (at or near its northern limit of range)

Western Gerygone - 1 immature, south-western subspecies, 6/6/97, Quarry Beach near Broome (Broome) - CH (caught in mist net, photographed, measured and description taken - see details elsewhere in this issue)

Yellow Chat - 2 males, 10/9/97, Lake Argyle (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - RJ

Rufous Fantail - 2, 19/8/97, vine thicket near Walsh Point (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - GS, FO

Black Butcherbird - 1, 10/10/97, Cambridge Gulf (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - REJ, GLo * 1, 24/10/97, Tanmurra Creek (False Mouths of the Ord), Ord River Nature Reserve (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - GG (rarely recorded in Western Australia)

ADDENDUM

In WABN 83, the date for observation of the Lesser Crested Tern seen by Tony Kirkby at Woodman Point should have been given as 26/5/97.

OBSERVERS

AB = Allan Burbidge	JB = John Blyth
AM = Alex Morrison	JBe = Joe Benshemesh
AR = Allan Rose	JBr = James Brownlie
BB = Brad Bourke	JH = Judith Harvey
BBO = Broome Bird Ob'y	LK = Laurie Knight
BC = Brian Clay	MaB = Mandy Bamford
BF = Brett Fitzgerald	MB = M. Bougher
BKM = Bernie Masters	MBa = Mike Bamford
BN = Brenda Newbey	MC = Michael Craig
CH = Chris Hassell	MS = Marcus Singor
DBr = Debbie Brownlie	PC = Pauline Clay
EBO = Eyre Bird Ob'y	RD = Robert Davis
FO = Frank O'Connor	RJ = Richard Jordan
GLo = Geoff Lodge	REJ = Ron Johnstone
GS = George Swann	RP = Ross Payton
JaB = Jake Bamford	SN = Simon Neville
JoB = Josh Bamford	TS = Teet Sirotkin

Letters to the Editors

Dear Sirs,

On 27 July, I saw a Collared Sparrowhawk make a kill of a Laughing Turtle-Dove on the roof of a suburban home in Leeming.

The sparrowhawk made the strike on the roof, struggled along an enclosed pergola (below which I was working), tumbled into the back garden and sat for about 30 seconds. I had an excellent view from 7-8 m away before the sparrowhawk struggled to fly over the back fence and flew off downwind.

Also, an article by Stewart Houghton in *WA Bird Notes* (82 June 1997) concerning Little Eagles in Fremantle: I have noted Little Eagles 3-4 times throughout the year over the last 5-6 years over the Causeway Bridge/Heirisson Island area (I work nearby) so they presumably are frequent visitors to the metropolitan area.

Tim Blake

Obituary

JEREMY TALBOT

With the sudden and unexpected death of Jeremy Talbot on 15 August 1997, the Birds Australia WA Group lost one of its most active and hard-working members. Jeremy had broad interests in natural history, but was particularly interested in birds. He joined the RAOU in 1978, when he first came to Australia. The inaugural meeting of the WA Wader Study Group was held in the home of Jeremy and Val and, specially in his early years in Western Australia, Jeremy organised and participated in many wader banding activities. He was a strong supporter of the Western Australian Naturalists Club, and a foundation member of the Western Banders Association. He was also a foundation member of the Kimberley Society, and assisted greatly in drawing up their constitution. Birds Australia members, however, will remember Jeremy more for his erudite and friendly companionship in the field and the array of speakers he organised for monthly meetings of the WA Group of the RAOU/Birds Australia over a number of years. Jeremy gently and politely persuaded a varied and interesting array of speakers to talk to us, covering the full breadth of members' interests, and always with an interesting story to tell. Because of his own broad interests and impressive memory, Jeremy was often the one, in question time, to ask the more interesting or searching questions of the speaker.

Jeremy was born in Dorking, Surrey on 12 January 1940, the eldest child of Isabella and Denis Talbot. Jeremy was educated in Nyasaland and at boarding school in England, and subsequently, with the assistance of a scholarship, studied law at Kings College, Cambridge. Jeremy practised as a Prosecutor in Rhodesia, and later drafted Parliamentary Bills, first in Africa and subsequently in Western Australia, where he became Deputy Parliamentary Counsel. In this latter post he was instrumental in the design of some very important Bills concerned with land management, conservation, public sector

management and Native Title. While in Rhodesia, Jeremy was also for some time Editor of *The Honeyguide*, magazine of the Rhodesian Ornithological Society, later the Zimbabwean Ornithological Society.

From an early age, and encouraged by his mother, Jeremy developed broad interests in natural history. Growing up in Nyasaland, where his father was a District Commissioner, provided a rich array of experiences and opportunities to develop these interests. It was through their mutual interests in birds that Jeremy and Val met in Rhodesia in 1966, leading to their marriage in 1970.

When discussing the finer points of communication between Europeans and indigenous Africans, Jeremy was noted to say "My mother always told me '...when first meeting anybody, always have a smile on your face'...". No doubt we would all agree that Jeremy upheld that principle throughout his life.

Jeremy was a man of gentleness, politeness, dedication, of great integrity and with an active mind and a considerable skill with words, being competent in several languages. He was a genial, good-natured fellow, often with an interesting story to tell, but just as often with a whole series of questions, reflecting not only his interests in natural history but also his interests in his fellow man.

The Birds Australia WA Group extends its sympathy to Val, their children Clare and Richard, and Jeremy's brother Giles. Jeremy will be sorely missed by his many friends in the several natural history organisations of which he was an active member.

(Thanks to Val Talbot, John Blyth, Perry de Rebeira, Kevin Coate, Simon Nevill and John and Helen Start for their contributions to this obituary).

Allan Burbidge

WA Group Reports

The WA Group Committee and the WABN staff extend the compliments of the season to all members

BIRDS AUSTRALIA-WA GROUP COMMITTEE

Meetings of the WA Group Committee are held on the third Wednesday of each month at Perry House.

It is through the committee that the business of Birds Australia-WA Group is managed. Matters for consideration by the committee should be communicated to the office with adequate time for distribution to committee members.

Recent committee meetings have dealt with the following:

Death of Jeremy Talbot — a tribute was paid to Jeremy who died suddenly on 15 August 1997; Michael Craig has now taken on the role of guest speaker organiser which was so ably carried out by Jeremy.

Ramsar Sites in WA — John Blyth has provided a copy of the list of the 1990 WA nominations for nine sites for inclusion

on the list of Wetlands of International Importance, ie, Ord River Floodplain, Lakes Argyle and Kununurra, Roebuck Bay, Eighty-mile Beach, Forrestdale and Thomsons Lakes, Peel-Yalgopus System, Lake Toolibin, Vasse-Wonnerup System and the Lake Warden System; and advised that CALM was now investigating further nominations of sites, eg, Lake Gore, Millstream, for inclusion on the Ramsar list.

Byenup Lagoon/Lake Muir/Unicup Wetlands Recovery Plan Coordinating Team — funding has been received by CALM for a recovery plan of the area and at the invitation of CALM, BAWAG has nominated Ms Lee Fontanini as a member of the team, with meetings to be held at Manjimup.

Birds on Farms Project — being progressed by Brenda Newbey.

Hooded Plover Survey — being carried out during January 1998, and coordinated by Allan Rose, Grant Pearson, David Free, Phyllis Bentley, Max Bailey and Allan Jones.

Suburban Birds Survey Project — records now exceed 106,000; Clive Nealon has sent a copy of the quarterly scientific project survey report to Stephen Ambrose of the National Office — see also separate report.

Birding Sites Around Perth Revised Edition — to be launched by the Governor on 26 November at Perry House.

Provision of scholarships for university students to cover course fees at WA observatories — due to revised study commitments, the 1997 scholarships have now been awarded to two students who will be attending the December course at Eyre Bird Observatory; Mike Bamford has been given authority to approve two applications annually without prior referral to the WA Group Committee, until this authority is revoked.

Junior ornithologists — the first junior groups formed south of the river are having their second bird walk on 16 November and a further five classes have had talks and a slide show at Trinity College; there is a group from these classes keen to go on an excursion at Alfred Cove which will take place on 22 November.

Finances — see separate report from the Treasurer.

Conservation — areas under consideration are Amarillo, Lake McLarty, Serpentine River National Park.

CALM Wetlands Coordinating Committee — at the invitation of CALM, BAWAG has nominated Dr Mike Bamford as its representative on this committee.

Booklet on Wader Identification — Bryan Barrett has arranged for the production of 1000 copies of this new brochure.

Proposed No 2 Atlas of Australian Birds — this new national project would be a good opportunity to raise the profile of Birds Australia within universities and the broader community; the WA committee will be giving consideration to a paper prepared by Bill McRoberts on surveys in remote areas, with the possible subsidising of some of the costs of members involved.

Trading Table — volunteers are still being sought to run this vital source of fundraising; new artwork will be required for a different range of bird cards to be printed in the new year.

Database of WA Birds (DABWA) — the value of this database is now being appreciated, with the records regularly being used by commercial and scientific organisations, the latest being CALM.

Excursions — the excursions sub-committee is continuing

to provide a wide range of events for members.

Index of *WA Bird Notes* and Index of Unusual Sightings — these two booklets are being prepared.

Perry House Maintenance — this is being progressed by Max Bailey, with the repainting of the building and garage doors and guttering repair being finalised; items being progressed are a new front entry sign plus main office carpeting and an ergonomic chair for the computer operator.

Clive Napier, CHAIRMAN

TREASURER'S REPORT

PROFIT AND LOSS, YEAR TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1997

Item	\$	\$
INCOME		
Subscriptions — Members	3800	
Subscriptions — Members	40	
Grant — Birds on Farms	5000	
Grants — Birding Sites Around Perth	180	
Grants — Donations	110	
Grant — Hooded Plover Survey	3680	
Grant - Road Verges	7660	
Specific Donations	262	
Non-specific Donations	114	
Interest Received	28	
Members' Activities	628	20 978
Sales	12 693	
Cost of Sales	5559	7134
		28 112
EXPENDITURE		
Accounting and Audit	500	
Advertising and Promotion	300	
Amenities	464	
Bank Charges	79	
Computer Support	346	
Equipment (consumable)	103	
Licences and Subscriptions	75	
Light and Power	173	
Petty Cash	334	
Photocopying	83	
Postage/Courier/Freight	95	
Rent	872	
Repairs & Maintenance - Equipment	114	
Stationery and Printing	842	
Telephone and Fax	1180	
Sundry Expenditure	115	
Birds on Farms Project Expenses	17 142	
BSAP Project Expenses	1080	
Displays & Walks Project Expenses	498	
Brochures Project Expenses	769	
Road Verges Project Expenses	1190	26 355
NET SURPLUS		1757
Plus Cash at Bank 1 Jan 97 b/f		6683
Less Purchase of Fixed Asset (Photocopier)		2290
		6150
Plus Cheque cancelled		100
Cash Book Balance		6250

During the month of September, the WA Group received the sum of \$1560 from the sale of information on the database.

Jane Venter, Hon Treasurer

PERRY HOUSE LIBRARY NEWS

The following reports/journals/books have been received since the last report (May-October 1997):

Narpulungup News, Newsletter, Fitzgerald River National Park Association, April & June 1997

1997 Urban Bushland and Community Group Directory, Urban Bushland Council (WA)

On the Brink, Newsletter, Endangered Species Program, No 9, May 1997

The Greener Times, Conservation Council of WA (Inc), May and August 1997

Rangeflash, Newsletter, Rangeways Project, No 2, May 1997

The Flow, Newsletter, Water Corporation, No 10, May 1997

Understanding the Community Perspective, Rangeways Project, Division of Water Resources and CSIRO, Report No 96/57

Draft Management Plan, Swan Estuary Marine Park and Adjacent Nature Reserves, CALM, 1996

Draft Management Plan, Canning River Regional Park, 1995-2005, CALM

Draft Management Plan, Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks, 1997, CALM

Summary Report, Southern Metropolitan Coastal Waters Study, 1991-1994, Dept of Environmental Protection, November 1996

Inside Planning, Newsletter, Ministry for Planning, No 7, March 1997

River View, Newsletter, Swan River Trust, No 12, March/April 1997

Public Environmental Review, Perth-Bunbury Highway, Peel Deviation, Main Roads, January 1997

The Tattler, Newsletter, East Asian-Australasian Flyway, AWSG, Nos 11 & 12, April & July 1997

The Stilt, Bulletin, East Asian-Australasian Flyway, AWSG, No 30, April 1997

Banders Aid: A Guide to Ageing and Sexing Bush Birds. Rogers, K., Rogers, A., Rogers, D. Rogers, Victoria. 1986

Banders Aid: Supplement No 1. Rogers, K., Rogers, A., Rogers, D. RAOU, Victoria. May 1990

Annual Report, Conservation Council of WA, July 1995-June 1996

Contact Call, Newsletter, Birds Australia North Queensland Group, September 1996, June 1997

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* all donated by Helen Clark

Helen Clark, Librarian



Julimar Conservation Park
drawn by Diane Beckingham

SUBURBAN BIRDS SURVEY

Thanks to all those observers who are still sending in their records regularly. We have now collected well over 100 000 bird observations spread over 221 species. There is a small number of birds that are almost certainly aviary escapees, but the survey certainly confirms that there is a rich variety of species right on our doorsteps.

While the response has been excellent, there are still large gaps in our coverage of the metropolitan area.

We have records from the following suburbs:

Alfred Cove	Dianella	Leeming	Rossmoyne
Applecross	Doubleview	Lesmurdie	Rottneet Island
Ardross	Duncraig	Maddington	Salter Point
Armadale	East Cannington	Maida Vale	Samson
Attadale	East Fremantle	Marangaroo	Sawyers Valley
Balcatta	East Perth	Martin	Scarborough
Baldivis	Edgewater	Maylands	Shelley
Balga	Eglinton	Morley	Shenton Park
Ballajura	Ellenbrook	Mosman Park	Shoalwater
Banjup	Ferndale	Mt Claremont	Sorrento
Bassendean	Floreat	Mt Hawthorn	South Guildford
Bateman	Forrestdale	Mt Helena	South Lake
Bayswater	Forrestfield	Mt Lawley	South Perth
Beaconsfield	Fremantle	Mt Pleasant	Spearwood
Bedforddale	Furnissdale	Mundijong	State Forest 65
Beechboro	Garden Island	Munster	Stirling
Beeliar	Girrawheen	Myaree	Swan View
Beldon	Glen Forrest	Nedlands	Swanbourne
Bellevue	Glendalough	Neerabup	The Spectacles
Bentley	Gooseberry Hill	Noranda	Thornlie
Bibra Lake	Guildford	North Beach	Trigg
Bicton	Gwelup	North Fremantle	Victoria Park
Booragoon	Hamilton Hill	North Lake	Wandi
Bullsbrook	Herdsmen	Northbridge	Wangara
Burswood	High Wycombe	Oakford	Wanneroo
Byford	Hillarys	Orange Grove	Warnbro
Cannington	Hillman	Osborne Park	Wembley
Carine	Innaloo	Padbury	Wembley Dwns
Caversham	Jandakot	Palmyra	West Perth
City Beach	Jolimont	Parkerville	Westfield
Claremont	Joondalup	Pauls Valley	Whiteman
Cloverdale	Kalamunda	Peron	Willetton
Coogee	Kallaroo	Perth	Winthrop
Coolbellup	Karrinyup	Perth Airport	Wungong
Cooloongup	Kenwick	Piesse Brook	Yanchep
Cottesloe	Kings Park	Ravenswood	Yangebup
Daglish	Kingsley	Riverton	Yokine
Dalkeith	Lathlain	Roleystone	

While the list of suburbs may look impressive, some of them only have a very small number of observation reports against them, and so the data from particular suburbs may be quite unrepresentative of the actual bird populations.

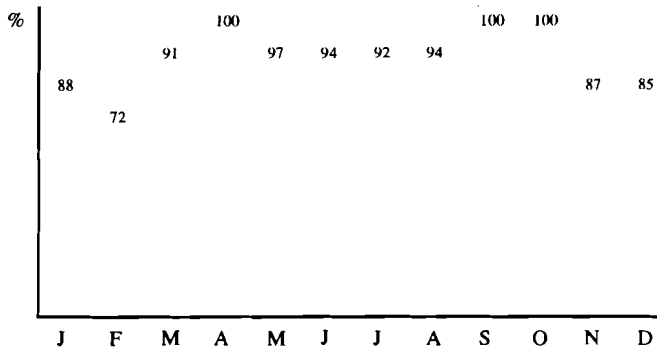
If you, or anyone you know, can help the survey by recording your observations and submitting them for inclusion in the survey, you would be helping expand our knowledge of bird activity around Perth. I am interested in obtaining new observers and new sites even in the suburbs listed above, but especially in any suburb that does not appear on the list.

I am often asked how long the survey will continue. As far as I am concerned, it has only just started. No end date has been considered. I want to know when the Rainbow Lorikeet extends its range past the 30 km radius line from the city centre, and I'm prepared to be patient. So far, there is only a single record of a Rainbow Lorikeet between 30 and 40 km from the city, and no records from further afield.

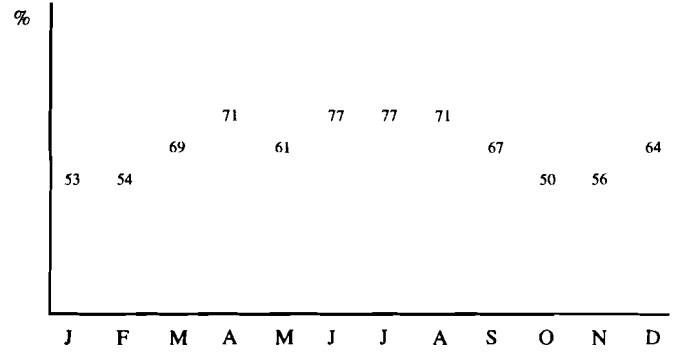
You may find it interesting to see the Rainbow Lorikeet distribution, and compare it with the distribution of the Australian Ringneck. The following graphs show a comparison of the reporting rates of each species. The graphs show the number of record sheets received each month for locations within the radius that record the bird, expressed as a percentage.

Rainbow Lorikeet

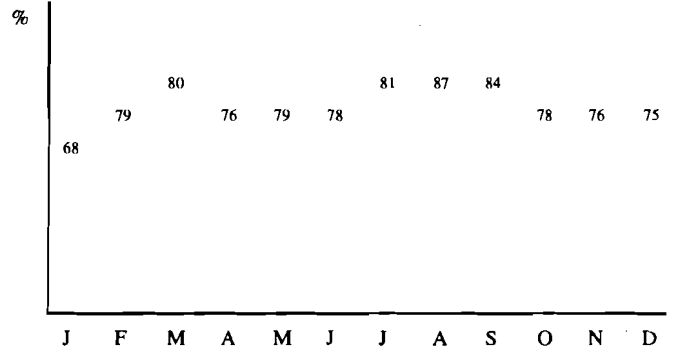
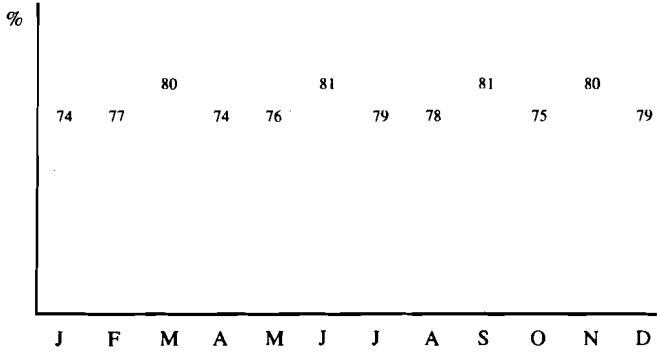
at 5 km



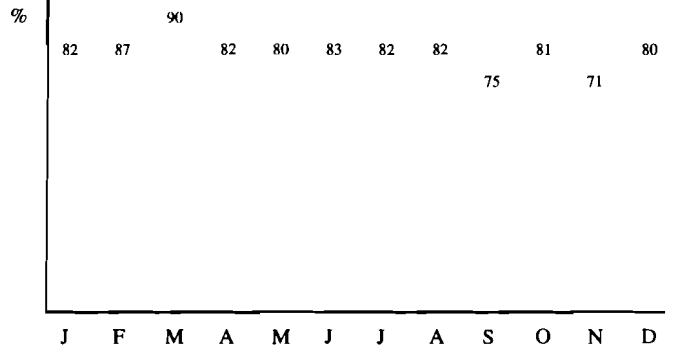
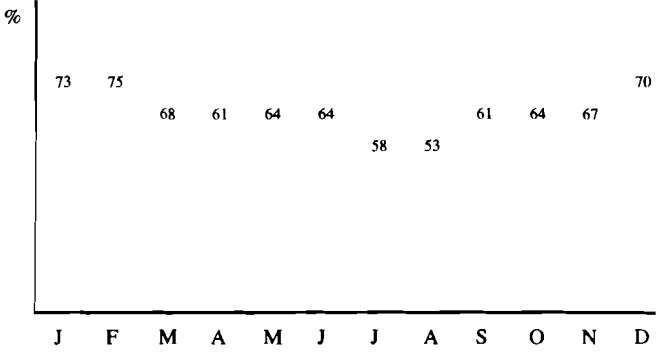
Australian Ringneck



at 10 km



at 15 km



at 20 km

