

Western Australian Bird Notes

Quarterly Newsletter of
Birds Australia Western Australia Inc
(a division of Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union)

No 96 December 2000

MUGGON: A YEAR 2000 ANNOTATED BIRD LIST

In 1998 Muggon Station, a pastoral lease in the Murchison, was purchased by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) for conservation purposes. Since then, the station has been destocked of sheep, with only stragglers remaining, and a goat control program instituted. Following a request by CALM for the establishment of an initial bird list for the station, in September 2000 Birds Australia WA members and atlassers spent six days (10-15 September inclusive) at Muggon, undertaking a total of 53 Atlas surveys and recording a total of 102 bird species.

The Station

Muggon is situated on the western boundary of the Shire of Murchison, 216 km north of the town of Mullewa. On its eastern boundaries it is flanked by the Murchison stations of Yallalong, Mt Narryer and Curbur; its western boundaries are the Gascoyne station of Talisker and the Toolonga Nature Reserve.

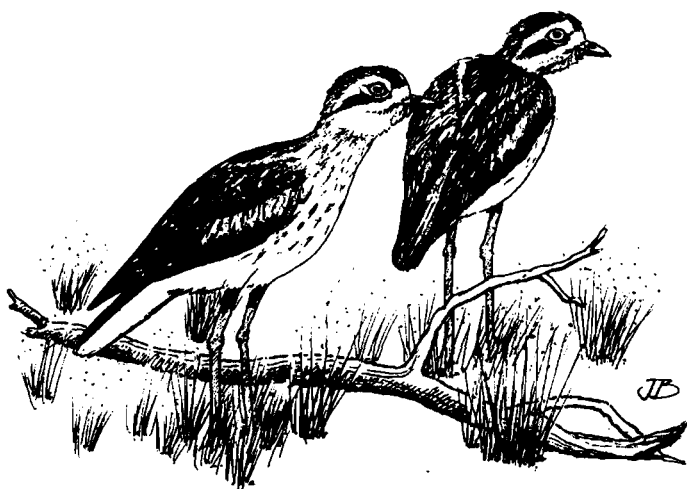
2000's rainfall has been largely unseasonal: March saw 243 mm of rain, largely in the wake of cyclone Steve. The winter months of June, July and August recorded light falls of 8 mm, 19 mm, and 6 mm. In September the central lake system on Muggon was still some 30 km long, and claypans

elsewhere were relatively full. Much of the lake system was inaccessible by road. Following the good rains, most of the station was in excellent condition, although the displays of ephemeral plants such as everlastings were largely missing.

The Surveys

It was easier, more enjoyable and more effective for two groups of people to spread their survey effort out over the station. Many survey points were visited by one group alone. Some of the more attractive sites were visited at different times by both groups, with both groups submitting bird lists for that area. A great deal of friendly rivalry developed, with the day's bird count the high point

of the sundowners at the end of each day. The station was surveyed using the survey methodology of the *New Atlas of Australian Birds* and, in addition to the bird list being supplied to CALM, surveys were contributed to the Atlas and to the Birds Australia WA Database. Because of the logistical difficulty of keeping relatively large numbers of people within very small survey areas, almost all surveys were area searches with a radius of 500 metres or less. Most surveys were completed in under one hour. All broad habitat types were included.



The Near Threatened Bush Stone-curlew has declined greatly in the southern half of Australia since the early 1900s, so it is good that three sightings of the species are reported in this issue of Bird Notes, including that from Muggon.

Drawing by Judy Blyth

The Birds

In analysing the surveys from Muggon, an attempt was made to characterise the habitats in which each bird species occurred. In practice this proved difficult, as many habitats were mixed. Nonetheless, some birds noticeably preferred some habitats to others, and this preference is documented in the notes for each species. Habitats included fresh claypans with fringing melaleucas and/or partly submerged river gums; a fresh lake system which becomes saline as it dries; samphire flats restricted to some lake margins; well-vegetated sandy dunes with hakea, grevillea and mulga species and occasional eucalypts; breakaways; stony plains with few shrubs; and spinifex/grassland with mulga overstorey.

With the exception of waterbirds, no attempt was made to count birds. The number in brackets at the end of each species note refers to the number of times a bird species was recorded on surveys. For example (9) at the end of a species note means that the bird was recorded in 9 of the 53 surveys. Apart from waterbirds, abundance was inferred from the number of times a bird was recorded from a survey. For example, a bush bird recorded only twice would be regarded as uncommon; one recorded 30 times would be common.

Despite the quantity of water in the lake system and the claypans, the numbers of waterbirds recorded were relatively low. With water levels so high, wader numbers were low and there were no migratory waders. There was little evidence of nesting; all breeding records are documented in the species notes.

In 1999, a brief visit to the station by an Atlas excursion through the Murchison recorded six birds not on the 2000 list. These were Stubble Quail, Little Eagle, Red-kneed Dotterel, Whiskered Tern, Cockatiel and Fairy Martin. Pelicans were also reported by the managers to be present on the lake in 1999, and earlier this year an immature Dollarbird was found dead at the station and later lodged with the Western Australian Museum. These bring the station species list to 110. Further visits in the future should extend the number of birds, particularly waterbirds.

Emu All habitat types, but more common around sources of water. (9)

Musk Duck Uncommon on lake system and claypans. Single birds. (3)

Black Swan Common on the lake system; absent from claypans. Two breeding records: two pairs each with three cygnets. (3)

Australian Shelduck Moderately common on lake and claypans. (4)

Australian Wood Duck Uncommon on lake system and claypans. (3)

Pacific Black Duck Common on the lake system and claypans, particularly where there were River Gums present. One breeding record: a pair with six young. (8)

Australasian Shoveler Uncommon in lake and claypans. (3)

Grey Teal Moderately common in lake and claypans. Two breeding records: two pairs with six to eight newly hatched young. (5)

Pink-eared Duck Uncommon in lake and claypans. (5)

Hardhead Uncommon in lake and claypans. (2)

Australasian Grebe Uncommon in claypans (1 record); recorded in low numbers on the lake system. (4)

Hoary-headed Grebe Common in lake system and claypans. Two breeding records: two pairs with young. (11)

Little Pied Cormorant Uncommon on the lake, absent from claypans; single birds only. (2)

Little Black Cormorant Uncommon; single birds recorded on the lake system. (2)

White-faced Heron Uncommon; single birds recorded on the lake and claypans. (4)

White-necked Heron Uncommon; seven birds recorded from a thickly vegetated claypan. (1)

Straw-necked Ibis Common; recorded in low numbers on the lake system. 300 birds were also seen in flight. (4)

Yellow-billed Spoonbill Two birds recorded from a single claypan, and an additional bird in flight over another site. (3)

Whistling Kite Moderately common over lake and claypans. Not recorded from other habitats. (9)

Swamp Harrier Uncommon. Single birds recorded over the lake. (2)

Brown Goshawk Moderately common in thick vegetation with scattered eucalypts; uncommon around water sources. (7)

Collared Sparrowhawk Uncommon. A single bird observed with prey in the sparse vegetation surrounding the shearers' quarters. (1)

Wedge-tailed Eagle Moderately common over all habitats. (13)

Brown Falcon Common in sparsely vegetated habitats; less common elsewhere. Three records of presumed breeding: brooding birds on nests in eucalypts. (15)

Australian Hobby Uncommon across variable habitats. (4)

Nankeen Kestrel Moderately common. Noticeably more common in sparse or stony habitat. One presumed breeding record: a bird brooding on a nest in a tree. (18)

Black-tailed Native-hen Uncommon. A single bird recorded at the lake. (1)

Eurasian Coot Uncommon to common on lake and claypans. (4)

Little Button-quail Uncommon. A single bird recorded in grassland. (1)

Bush Stone-curlew Uncommon. Two birds called each night around the shearers' quarters. Footprints noted close to vehicles, tents and buildings. (1)

Black-winged Stilt Uncommon. Two birds only at a single claypan. (1)

Red-necked Avocet Uncommon. 30 birds recorded at a single claypan. (1)

Red-capped Plover Uncommon. Three birds at a claypan; a single brooding bird on nest in lush low vegetation several hundred metres from the lake. (2)

Black-fronted Dotterel Commonly in low numbers at wetland habitats. (8)

Common Bronzewing Moderately common in various habitats. (8)

Crested Pigeon Common in all habitats, but recorded more often in sparsely vegetated habitats. One breeding record (nest with unknown contents). (28)

Diamond Dove Uncommon around wetlands; one record in sparse vegetation. (4)

Galah Moderately common in all habitats. One possible breeding record, a single bird seen entering a hollow. (19)

Australian Ringneck Uncommon. Absent from sparsely vegetated habitats. (4)

Mulga Parrot Moderately common especially in the vicinity of eucalypts. (19)

Budgerigar Uncommon. In low numbers (3 birds). (2)

Bourke's Parrot Moderately common; less commonly recorded near water. (8)

Pallid Cuckoo Uncommon. Single bird. (1)

Black-eared Cuckoo Moderately common. (8)

Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo Moderately common across all habitats. (15)

Spotted Nightjar Not commonly recorded. Sparsely vegetated areas only. (2)

Australian Owlet-nightjar Not commonly recorded. Several birds flushed from daytime roosts in hollows. A single bird called nightly near the shearers' quarters. (5)

Red-backed Kingfisher Uncommon in drier habitats. (2)

Sacred Kingfisher Uncommon. Recorded near wetlands. (4)

White-browed Treecreeper Uncommon. Recorded on the trunks of rough-barked mulga. (3)

Splendid Fairy-wren Commonly recorded in open and closed shrubland in all habitats. (34)

Variegated Fairy-wren Commonly recorded, particularly in thick shrubland. (24)

White-winged Fairy-wren Moderately common; most commonly recorded in fringing vegetation of the lake system. (17)

Striated Pardalote Uncommon. A single record in eucalypts. (1)

Redthroat Moderately common in many habitat types. (17)

Western Gerygone Uncommon. All but sparsely vegetated habitats. (6)

Inland Thornbill Uncommon to moderately common. All but sparsely vegetated habitats. (8)

Chestnut-rumped Thornbill Common in all habitats. One breeding record; adults feeding young in mulga hollow. (34)

Slaty-backed Thornbill Uncommon. Recorded only in thick mulga near the eastern section of the station. (2)

Yellow-rumped Thornbill Uncommon; recorded in most habitats. (6)

Southern Whiteface Commonly recorded in most habitats. One breeding record; adults feeding young in nest in small hollow in melaleuca overhanging water. (25)

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater Abundant; recorded in all habitats. (45)

Yellow-throated Miner Common in sparsely vegetated dry habitats; one record near the lake system. (9)

Project Officer Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Project

Birds Australia has been advised by the Natural Heritage Trust that funding will be available for the 2001 year to work with CALM on a recovery program for the endangered Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo.

When the contract is signed, applications will be invited from experienced ornithologists for a Project Officer to co-ordinate a Recovery Project for the endangered Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo.

The position will average three days a week from February 2001 to December 2001, requires travel to the wheatbelt and liaison with relevant agencies.

Please phone Allan Jones on 9364 3975 or Liz Walker on 9444 8920, or e-mail birdswa@starwon.com.au for job description and selection criteria, or write to

**Birds Australia WA
71 Oceanic Drive, Floreat WA 6014**

Singing Honeyeater Abundant; commonly recorded in all habitats. (36)

White-plumed Honeyeater Common in eucalypts near water or dry claypans. (9)

Brown Honeyeater Uncommon. Recorded only in vegetation with moderately thick understorey. (7)

White-fronted Honeyeater Moderately common; most commonly recorded in flowering shrubs on dunes. (11)

Pied Honeyeater Uncommon. Several birds feeding in flowering *Eremophila*. (1)

Crimson Chat Uncommon; most vegetation types including sparsely vegetated areas. One breeding record: nest with two young in low samphire. (6)

Orange Chat Common in samphire flats in a single location. (2)

White-fronted Chat Moderately common near the lake and claypans. (8)

Jacky Winter Single bird seen briefly in mulga/eucalypt complex. Unusual sighting this far north in the Murchison. (1)

Red-capped Robin Abundant; commonly recorded in all habitats. Three breeding records: two of adults feeding two downy dependent young and one of adults feeding young in nest (brood size unknown) (39)

Hooded Robin Moderately common away from wetlands. (18)

Grey-crowned Babbler Common in sparsely vegetated habitats and stony plains; single record near the lake. (6)

White-browed Babbler Common in most habitats except stony plain. (32)

Chiming Wedgebill Abundant. Most common in thick shrubland on dunes and near wetlands, but also recorded in sparsely vegetated habitats. (41)

Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush Uncommon. Single bird on stony plain. (1)

Crested Bellbird Common in all habitats. (29)
Rufous Whistler Abundant. All habitats, but most common in thick shrubland. (42)

Grey Shrike-thrush Moderately common; most often recorded in shrubland with eucalypt overstorey. (18)

Magpie-lark Moderately common in open habitats. Absent from surveys on dunes and thick shrubland. (15)

Grey Fantail Uncommon. All records from open or closed shrubland with eucalypt overstorey. (3)

Willie Wagtail Common in all habitats. One breeding record: a single chick fledged from a nest in the shearers' quarters. (28)

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike Moderately common; most common in open or sparse habitats. (14)

Ground Cuckoo-shrike Uncommon. Two birds recorded in stony habitat near dry watercourse. (1)

White-winged Triller Common near wetlands; otherwise common in shrubland and uncommon in sparse habitats. (14)

Black-faced Woodswallow Common to uncommon in sparse open habitats, wetlands and shrublands. (19)

Little Woodswallow Uncommon. Single bird recorded over mulga shrubland, presumably hawking away from breakaways. (1)

Grey Butcherbird Uncommon. Single records in wetlands and stony plain. (3)

Pied Butcherbird Common in stony plains and sparsely vegetated habitats; absent from wetlands and closed shrubland. (8)

Australian Magpie Uncommon. One record near the lake system; all others in sparsely vegetated habitats. (4)

Little Crow Uncommon. More common in open dry habitats. (6)

Torresian Crow Moderately common. More common in open habitat. One presumed breeding record: brooding bird in nest in tree on breakaway. (10)

Corvid species Corvids were recorded as 'Corvid species' if the birds did not call or were only seen at a distance. (3)

Richard's Pipit Moderately common in sparsely vegetated habitats and open shrubland near wetlands. (13)

Zebra Finch Common in all habitats. (31).

Mistletoebird Uncommon. Single bird seen in melaleuca shrubland surrounding a claypan. (1)

Welcome Swallow Moderately common in most habitats. (14)

Tree Martin Common in all habitats where there were eucalypts. Four presumed breeding records: one of adults at entrance and flying into old Fairy Martin nests at the station homestead, and the other three of adults flying repeatedly into hollows. (20)

Little Grassbird Uncommon; recorded from a single location on the lake. (2)

Rufous Songlark Uncommon. Recorded only near wetland systems. (3)

Brown Songlark Uncommon. Single record near wetland. (1)

Cheryl Gole

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Notes for Contributors

The Editors request contributors to note:

- WABN publishes material of interest to the WA Group
- contributions should be written or typed with **double spacing**—a copy on disk of word processed documents would assist, especially if in MSWord format; a style sheet is available from Perry House to guide writers regarding format
- WABN uses Birds Australia recommended English names
- except for Observations, contributions will be published unless the contributor is informed to the contrary.
- the full Editorial Policy is stated in WABN 74:10-12

**Deadline for the March 2001 Issue
1 February 2001 at Perry House**

Advertising Rates

1/4 page \$30.00

1/2 page \$50.00

Full page \$90.00

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BOOK SALE

The Library has recently received generous book donations from several people. A number of the titles are already held or are not suitable for the collection. Consequently they are being offered to members at bargain basement, second-hand book prices.

They will be on sale at the New Members' Night and at the Christmas barbecue.

Funds from the sale of these books will go towards buying new books for the Library.

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)

Southern Fulmar – 1, 10/07/00, Point Dalling, Dunsborough (Busselton) – RP

Kerguelen Petrel – 1, 12/07/00, Point Dalling, Dunsborough (Busselton) – RP

Common Greenshank – 97, 6/10/00, Mandurah Estuary, Chimneys (Mandurah) – MS

Terek Sandpiper – 7, 27/09/00, Lake Walyungup (Rockingham) – MS (equal largest number recorded in SW (this number previously recorded only in the Peel-Harvey system))

Black-winged Stilt – 2 pairs breeding, 22/10/00, corner Welshpool Road and Kewdale Road, at drainage sump (Canning) – MS

(Eastern) **Long-billed Corella** – 2, 25/08/00, feeding on the ground just inside the perimeter fence of the Pearce airbase on the northern side of Bullsbrook (Swan) (farthest record north for this introduced species) – CG, DK

Regent Parrot – 3, 27/08/00, Crossman Reserve, 11 km E of Boddington (Boddington) – GM

Spotted Pardalote – 1 male, 27/08/00 August, in the remnant bush surrounding the Pithara rubbish tip on Sutcliffe Road at 30.24.16/116.39.23 (Dalwallinu) (at N limit for this species) – CG

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

Malleefowl – 1 (roadkill), 24/8/00, 66 km S of Billabong Roadhouse (Shark Bay) – PS

Bar-tailed Godwit – 3, 20/09/00, small claypan (27 25/117 39) on Austin Downs Station (with 14 Common Greenshanks, Pink-eared Duck and Grey Teal) (Cue) – CG, MG (infrequent in this region)

Barn Owl – 2+, 22-23/09/00, Dalgara Station, in eucalypt woodland with sparse understorey, at 27 51/116 57 (Yalgoo) – AP, CG, MG and others.

White-browed Treecreeper – 1+, 18/09/00, Milly Milly Station, on the Bingarra-Cue Road (26 10, 116 27) in tall mulga (Murchison) – VD, BS (description supplied)

Rufous-crowned Emu-wren – 12/07/00, Yeo Lake NR on the Anne Beadell Hwy at 28.10.49/124.36.24 at about 33 km east of the old Yeo Homestead (Laverton) – CG, MG (S limit for this species)

Red Wattlebird – 10/07/00, Edjudina Station at 29.41.35/122.42.40 (Menzies) * 10/07/00, at Barrett Well at Edjudina (29.39.07/122.43.33) (Menzies) * 11/07/00, on the White Cliffs-Yamarna Road at 28.25.16/123.11.00 (Laverton) * 12/07/00, at Yamarna Station at 28.12.41/123.36.50 (Laverton) * 18/07/00, on the Connie Sue Highway 70 km south of Neale Junction, at 28.45.54/125.48.32 (Laverton) * 19/07/00, on the Connie Sue 122 km south of Neale Junction at 29.14.53/125.51.00 (Menzies) – all CG, MG (N and E limit for this species and extension of known range by about 100 km)

Grey-crowned Babbler – one party, 12/09/00, Barnong Station, near the shearers' quarters (28 37/ 116 16) (Yalgoo) – MG * N tip of Lake Monger just off the Yalgoo-Ninghan road (29 09/117 12) (Yalgoo) – CG, MG (unusual this far south-west)

KIMBERLEY

Magpie Goose – 90, 31/10/00, at a swamp 30 km SE of Kalumburu (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – SW (high number for this area)

Green Pygmy-goose – 25, 19/08/2000, Argyle Alluvials reclaim dam (highest count at this dam) (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – FO * 31+, 04/09/2000, Gap Dam at Argyle Diamond Mine (highest count at Argyle) (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – FO

Streaked Shearwater – c.12, 24/7/00, 25 nautical miles off Broome (Broome) – JS

Black Bittern – 1, 04/09/2000, Gap Dam at Argyle Diamond Mine (2nd record for Argyle) (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – FO

Black-breasted Buzzard – 1, 01/09/2000, Argyle Diamonds alluvials ATD5 dam (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – FO * 2 (on nest in boob), 09/09/2000, near Smoke Creek past Argyle Diamonds airport (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – FO

Baillon's Crake – 2, 19/08/2000, Argyle alluvials ATD3 dam (first record on this dam) (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – FO

Australian Spotted Crake – 1, 09/09/2000, Argyle Diamonds alluvials reclamation dam (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – FO (casual visitor to the Kimberley)

White-browed Crake – 1, 19/08/2000, Argyle alluvials reclamation dam (1st record at Argyle - URFF submitted with Atlas form) (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – FO * 1, 09/09/2000, Argyle Diamonds alluvials reclamation dam (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – FO

Purple Swamphen – 1, 31/10/00, at a swamp 30 km SE of Kalumburu (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – SW (unusual in this area)

Comb-crested Jacana – 3, 31/10/00, at a swamp 30 km SE of Kalumburu (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – SW (unusual in this area)

Masked Lapwing – 90, 26/10/00, Kalumburu airstrip (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – SW

Pallid Cuckoo – 1 fledgling (with almost no tail) being fed by Grey-fronted Honeyeaters, just outside nest, 01/09/2000, near Argyle Diamonds alluvials ATD5 dam (1st breeding record for the Kimberley) (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – FO

Little Bronze-Cuckoo – 1, 6/8/00, Miner's Pool, near Drysdale River crossing (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – JS (rare this far inland; calls heard; bright red eye and eye-ringing seen)

White-browed Robin – 1, 31/10/00, at a swamp 30 km SE of Kalumburu (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – SW

Ground Cuckoo-shrike – 3, 24/8/00, Manning Creek near Joint Hill (Derby – West Kimberley) – JS (near N limit)

Little Crow – ~100, 19/08/2000, Argyle disposals yard (URFF submitted with Atlas form – ID on call and flock size – 3rd record for Argyle) (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – FO

Pictorella Mannikin – c. 50 immatures, 19/08/2000, Flying Fox Creek / Lake Argyle near Argyle pump station (highest count and immatures) (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – FO

OBSERVERS

AP = Allyson Paul	MG = Martin Gole
BS = Barbara Stoneman	MS = Marcus Singor
CG = Cheryl Gole	PS = Peter Smith
DK = Dot Kingston	RP = Ross Payton
FO = Frank O'Connor	SW = Simon Wilson
GM = Greg Marston	VD = Viv Dare
JS = Jonny Schoenjahn	

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Book reviews

NEW FIELD GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN BIRDS

On first hearing that a new field guide on Australian birds had been published, I thought, how many guides do we need? Although growing, Australia has a small population of birdwatchers who have access to a number of quality field guides. However, Michael Morcombe's new *Field Guide to Australian Birds* deserves a position on the bookshelf because it contains useful information on the identification and basic biology of Australian birds.

The *Field Guide to Australian Birds* follows the standard format of most bird guides. It begins with a short introduction (13 pp.) that describes how to use the book, the particular features unique to it, a key to families, the basic bird basic plumage, and some of the habitats found in Australia. The body of the guide (339 pp.) lists every species officially recorded in all states and territories of Australia. As with other field guides, the identification of each bird is contained within a two- page spread, with the text (left) describing how to identify illustrated birds (right). The order follows the taxonomy of Christidis and Boles (1994), predominantly using the nomenclature of the current RAOU species list. The number of species per page ranges from one (eg, for the subspecies of the Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen* p. 312) to seven (eg, for the *Puffinus* and *Calonectris* shearwaters p.48). Birds are colour-coded within family groups, and each page has a distinct title that describes the group of birds depicted. Illustrations are paintings, and follow a layout that ranges from 'formal' (where similar looking species are placed in a line vertically to allow easy comparison) through to 'informal' (where no rules are followed, allowing a greater variety of postures to be presented). Maps of the distribution and abundance of all significant subspecies are presented. The main body is followed by this guide's biggest innovation, a comprehensive section (67 p.) describing and illustrating the biology, nest shape and eggs of all species breeding in Australia. The last major section of the book describes species found on Australia's seven remote territories (confining the list to the birds found exclusively to each island groups) located in the Pacific, Indian and Southern Oceans. Small sections (each two pages) on migrant waders, extinct birds and new discoveries follow this, and the book concludes with a standard glossary, bibliography and index.

How useful is the guide in the field? From personal experience, the ease with which information can be attained, the usefulness of the information provided, the quality of the illustrations, and the physical attributes of the book itself are features to consider in choosing a good field guide.

The format of the book allows for rapid access to information, and could be particularly useful for new enthusiasts of birdwatching. The basic bird families have been amalgamated into 26 colour-coded groups that are listed both in the introduction and back cover flap, and help categorise birds within the body of the guide. The key

to the family groups is contained within a two-page spread, allowing comparisons of the basic shapes of birds in one scan. This is an excellent feature, because it allows a less experienced birdwatcher to recognise the shape of particular family groups and then go quickly to the corresponding section, obviating the need to thumb through the entire book.

This guide provides enough detail to confidently observe and identify all but a few of the 800 plus species described (difficult species include prions on p. 50 and *Gallinago* snipe on p.106). The text logically describes the specific features required for identification. Included is some behavioural information, the variation found within a species, a brief description of where subspecies are likely to occur and what species appear similar in the field. A species current status is also suggested, and descriptions of calls are detailed. The text on the illustrations that details distinguishing features of each species is innovative, providing concise visual and factual information with one glance.

The multi-coloured, triple density distribution maps are the most detailed and informative of any Australian field guide. Different colours are used to differentiate the distribution of subspecies. Three tones of a specific colour illustrate the known abundance of each subspecies, the depth of colour corresponding to the density of records of the species. These maps give a birdwatcher a real appreciation of not only the distribution, but also likelihood of observing a particular species when travelling in Australia. Future editions could enlarge the maps for localised species (eg, many species, from Albert's Lyrebird p.214 to Dusky Robin p. 274), allowing for greater appreciation of the patchy distribution of species and importance of certain habitats for particular species.

The illustrations, although not as stylistic as some other guides, are generally very good. Most species are well illustrated, and are positioned so that distinguishing features are revealed (some exceptions include the shearwaters p. 46). Some problems include the fact that there is no way to compare the size of eggs and nests illustrated, and some illustrations of birds really don't aid in the field. For example, illustrations of seabirds sitting are unnecessary because the vast majority of sightings are of birds flying. Illustrations of seabirds should concentrate on the distinguishing features of these birds silhouetted in flight. Furthermore, although useful, the sheer volume of text on some illustrations detracts from their quality. The text not only describes characteristic features of species, but also sometimes describes basic information on the biology of the species. This information isn't necessary for identification and could be included within the main text.

All field guides authors are confronted with the problem of trying to produce a book detailed enough so that birds (and in this case, nests and eggs) can be identified, whilst staying small enough so as not to be left on the bookshelf at home. The size of the book is my biggest concern. It is slightly larger (25 cm x 17 cm) than, and about the same weight (approximately 1.1 kg) as other guides, and may be too large for some to carry in the field. Furthermore, the font is very small, making it difficult to

read and the flow of the book is interrupted by sections that could be placed elsewhere (e.g., the sections on plumage, species distribution maps and habitats could go before the key to family groups in the introduction).

For a recommended retail price of \$44.95, Michael Morcombe's *Field Guide To Australian Birds* is innovative, comprehensive and competitive with other guides. It is another excellent resource that can be utilised by any birdwatcher, including novice, traveller or twitcher.

Michael Morcombe 'Field guide to Australian Birds'. Published by Steve Parish Publishing, Archerfield, Queensland.

Alexander Watson

Editors' Notes:

Price varies considerably between retailers, so you may wish to shop around.

Michael Morcombe is keen to receive notification of any problems or errors in the field guide, so they can be corrected in future editions. Please let him or us know.

THE ACTION PLAN FOR AUSTRALIAN BIRDS 2000

Senator Robert Hill, Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, launched the 2000 Bird Action Plan in October. Environment Australia commissioned the Action Plan, which was prepared by Stephen Garnett and Gabriel Crowley on behalf of Birds Australia. The 2000 action plan replaces the previous one published in 1992.

The Action Plan for Australian Birds 2000 is based on recent taxonomy, especially that of Schodde and Mason (1999) who resurrected many subspecies previously ignored by most earlier reviews as well as defining new ones. The Action Plan lists 25 taxa as Extinct, 32 as Critically Endangered, 41 as Endangered, 82 as Vulnerable and 81 as Near Threatened. Of those taxa known to have been present in Australia when Europeans settled in 1788, 1.9% are extinct and 11.5% are threatened.

The action plan was developed with wide consultation with many Australian ornithologists and conservation biologists. Many Western Australian ornithologists provided extensive input. At 673 pages, the Action Plan is a marvellous source of information on threatened and near threatened birds and will be an extremely useful document for conservationists for years to come.

Some 26.5% of Australia's threatened birds occur in Western Australia. The number of taxa listed under the different categories for Western Australia are:

Extinct	2
Critically Endangered	2
Endangered	7
Vulnerable	32
Near Threatened	31

The two Extinct taxa in Western Australia are the western subspecies of the Rufous Bristlebird and the western subspecies of Lewin's Rail. The habitat of both of these species was dense vegetation, some of which still occurs in areas in which the birds were last known. For the Lewin's Rail in particular there are still many densely vegetated swamps along the south coast and within State forest that could conceivably act as refuges for small numbers of the sub-species. The Rufous Bristlebird was known only from the southern part of the Naturaliste-Leeuwin ridge and has not been reliably reported since 1906.

The two critically endangered WA taxa are the Amsterdam Albatross and Night Parrot. The former breeds on Amsterdam Island in the southern Indian Ocean and is a very rare visitor to seas near WA. The Night Parrot, for which an Interim Recovery Plan was published by CALM in 1997, has not been reliably sighted in WA for some decades, although it is still reported.

The eight Endangered taxa are Tristan Albatross, Northern Royal Albatross, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, Muir's Corella, Ground Parrot (western), Crested Shrike-tit (northern), and Gouldian Finch.

It is notable that, since 1992, some Western Australian birds have had their conservation status improved due to conservation action, including survey and research. These include the Hooded Plover (western) (from Vulnerable to Near Threatened), Noisy Scrub-bird (from Endangered to Vulnerable), Thick-billed Grass-wren (western) (from Vulnerable to Near Threatened), Western Bristlebird (from Endangered to Vulnerable) and Western Whipbird (western heath) (from Endangered to Vulnerable). On the other hand, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo and Muir's Corella have changed from Vulnerable to Endangered since 1992.

Birds Australia members have been involved in actions helping to improve the status of all of the birds named above, and are involved in recovery planning for the two endangered cockatoos. As well as this formal involvement in recovery actions for threatened birds, BA members contribute to recovery planning by improving knowledge of their distribution. CALM is keen to hear of any unusual sightings of threatened birds, especially those classified in the new Action Plan as Extinct, Endangered or Critically Endangered.

Hard copies of the Plan are available from Environment Australia's Community Information Unit on 1800 803 772 or by emailing ciu@ea.gov.au. The Plan will shortly be made available on the Environment Australia website at

<http://www.biodiversity.environment.gov.au/threaten/plans/action/index.htm>

Andrew Burbidge and John Blyth

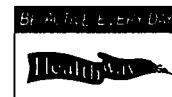
Birds Australia WA Inc reports

THE COMMITTEE

The committee continues to meet on the third Wednesday of each month at Perry House. The committee is charged with conducting the activities of the group on behalf of its members and we welcome any items that you feel should be considered by the committee for action.

The full annual report of activities for the year 2000 will be provided in the March 2001 edition of *WA Bird Notes*.

CARNABY'S PROJECT UP AND FLYING



The first stage of the recovery process for one of Western Australia's endemic birds, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, has been a great success, with the assistance of a \$25 000 grant from the WA Lotteries Commission. Over 500 landholders and country people have responded to the wide publicity

campaign for information on sightings of the cockatoos in known breeding areas.

This information is still coming in, and provides a sound basis for the next stage of the program.

Project Officers and volunteers have attended seven country shows in the Wheatbelt area and this has been successful in raising public awareness of the plight of the bird, and in collecting sighting records on the distribution of the cockatoo within its nesting range. A Healthways grant has helped with travel and accommodation costs.

We were also delighted to receive a \$500 donation from Mr Ian Brumby of "Rainbow Jungle", Kalbarri. He was very active in the Carnaby's captive breeding program in Western Australia, and his experience and knowledge should prove very useful to the project. CALM, the Western



Project Officer Cheryl Gole at Dalwallinu, August 2000

Australian Museum, and Perth Zoo have all been very supportive, and many volunteers are continuing to assist with the project in a variety of ways.

Tamra and Cheryl, the Project Officers, are still very keen to receive information on sightings within the nesting range, and on nesting records. They can be contacted through Perry House on 9383 7749.

Allan Jones

SUCCESSFUL SEPTEMBER SURVEY FOR HOODED PLOVERS

Congratulations to all those who took part in the Hooded Plover Survey in September! It was the most comprehensive survey of the south coast to date, and many other areas were also covered.

Not all results are in at the time of writing. Hooded Plovers have so far been reported from 45 locations. The tally so far is 219 adults and nine juveniles, which exceeds the total in either the 1995 or the 1998 September surveys.

Highlights include:

- More counts of 10 or more adult Hooded Plovers than had previously been recorded in both of the previous September surveys combined. The largest number was 43 at a lake near Pingrup. Other high counts were at Yalgorup, Cranbrook, near Bremer Bay (two) and in Cape Arid National Park.
- Two Hooded Plovers were found in the Lake Austin complex, just south of Cue. Records from this far north are very rare.
- The most detailed record to date, in Western Australia, of a Hooded Plover nesting attempt. At a popular fishing beach at Esperance, several observations were made before the two eggs hatched between 28 September and 2 October. Within a couple of days of hatching one runner vanished. Runners were also found at Yarra-Yarra Lakes and nests with eggs at Yalgorup and a beach near Margaret River. (More breeding records are in the pipeline.)

A 'lowlight' was a record from Norman's Beach, east of Albany. The observer had several times observed two Hooded Plovers there in September. Late in the month he found their nest by following their footprints, but on 5 October the nest, and about two eggs, had been crushed by 4WDs driving on the edge of the vegetation, and the adult birds had gone. This highlights the need for ongoing management and public awareness programmes, such as the current BAWA project.

Volunteer effort has been impressive with over 7000 km travelled and 250 hours spent by more than sixty people in the September search. (And this is not yet the full amount!) As is usual with Hooded Plover surveys, many of the searches did not yield Hooded Plover sightings. However, it must be emphasised that negative results are a very important part of the picture.

If you did survey for Hooded Plovers in September and did or did not find any, please send in results soon.

More detail about the survey results will appear in the March issue of WABN.

Summer/autumn survey cancelled except for Yalgorup

It has been decided **not** to conduct a broad scale survey this summer/autumn season, but to postpone it until late summer or early autumn of 2002.

However a thorough count of Hooded Plovers in Yalgorup National Park is planned for Saturday 17th February to Sunday 2nd March 2001. If you would like to help please contact the local organiser, Dick Rule, on 9581 1894 (telephone) or rjrule@southwest.com.au (e-mail).

Brenda Newbey



Hooded Plovers often nest on beaches, where they are very susceptible to human disturbance.

Drawing by Judy Blyth

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

Library review

From Sand to Ducks edited by R Donnelly and published by RGC Mineral Sands. This resource is shelved at 333.782.

This is an excellent teacher resource package designed for Years 3-12 students. Although it has been developed for the RGC Wetland Centre in Capel, there are many ideas that could be adapted to other environments. For instance, the worksheets on bird watching could be used at any site, as can the activities.

The section on plants is particularly useful, ranging from plant observations through rehabilitation to in-depth studies of particular plants.

The worksheets are clear, simple and uncluttered.

Interstate travellers

The Library receives the equivalent of *Western Australian Bird Notes* from other Australian states and regions plus the journal of The Bird Observer's Club. If you are planning to travel interstate and of course cast the odd glance at a bird or two, it is worth referring to recent editions of the appropriate journal to find out what is likely

to be happening in the area you are visiting and where the best birding sites are.

These journals are in labelled boxes on the shelves with the other resources, under the Dewey number for the state; for example, journals for NSW are shelved at 598.09944.

Additions to the Library since August 2000

- Peel Region Scheme, Vol. 1 Report on submissions
- Peel Region Scheme — EPA, Aug 2000
- *Boobook*, Vol. 20 (1) May 2000
- *Queensland Wader*, Issue 33, Spring 2000
- *Galah*, Sept. 2000
- *Contact Call*, Sept. 2000
- *The Web* — Newsletter of the Threatened Species Network, Sept. 2000
- *Forktail* — Journal of the Oriental Bird Club, No. 16, August 2000
- *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds*, Vol. 4
- Annual Report — CALM, 1999-2000

Newsletters displayed on the display stand

- *Swan Newsletter*, Sept. 2000
- *Birdlife International*, July 2000
- Partners in Action Annual Review, 1999
- *Flyway*, Broome Bird Observatory, Sept. 2000
- *Ecoplan News*, Issue 35
- *The Harrier*, Vol. 2 No 3
- *The Greener Times*, Oct. 2000

Suzanne Mather

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Fri – Sun 10:00 am – 16:30 pm

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the tourist signs)

NEW MEMBERS

The following people joined Birds Australia WA between 1 August and 31 October 2000. We look forward to meeting you at our excursions and general meetings.

F M Bondin, M Kennedy, G M White, C Elliott, S Van Alphen, C E Vaughan, R N Vaughan, T F Chapman, S Harris, R H Van Leeuwen, J Bishop, A N Start, E A Palmer, P G Wilshaw, K Sutton, D Sutton, W Eiby, M Palmer, A Palmer, M J Munro, B Munro, G A Kay, A Scalzo, G S Payne, D Moran, M L Maxwell, C L Tilbrook

Members' contributions

CURRAWONGS INCREASING?

On Sunday 27 August, at the western end of Mandurah traffic bridge, Maureen Francesconi, Kevin Fairbairn and I saw two Grey Currawongs. I thought this was interesting for several reasons. Glenn Storr, in his list of birds of the South West Division, stated that this species is now extinct on much of the Swan Coastal Plain. However, there have been a few other recent records. Not far south of Mandurah, Allan Burbidge and I recorded at least one Grey Currawong on the western side of Peel Inlet in January of this year (WABN 93: 3). During field work at Kemerton, north of Bunbury, in 1999 I had regular sightings of currawongs. There have also been some recent Atlas records of currawongs from the Victoria Park area, in Perth.

In 1980 I never saw or heard currawongs during hundreds of hours of field work around Spectacle Swamp, but I now visit the Spectacles about three times a year and see them on every occasion.

I am getting the impression that the currawongs are moving back onto the Coastal Plain. Has anyone else noticed them in areas where they did not previously occur?

Mike Bamford

WARRAKATTA FARM

A sheep/wheat farm in the northern wheatbelt seems an unlikely place to visit for birds. Most of the farms there have but few trees and little understorey. However the 2000 hectares of Warrakatta farm contains about 1000 hectares of bushland in good condition, the majority of it in one large section, with the advantage of a cleared track through it. The farm also has other good sized bush areas and all come within close proximity to another, such that all may be regarded as interconnected from a birding perspective.

Warrakatta is the better for birds because its largest bush area is contiguous with an even larger bush reserve at Canna, which will be known to Malleefowl fanciers, containing as it does a good number of these birds and their mounds.

Anne and I spent six days in two blocks of three days (6, 7 and 8 August and 7, 8 and 9 September 2000) observing the birds at Warrakatta. The farm lies close to the south-east corner of the 28/115 atlas square, the northern boundary of which is well into pastoral country, so that the list for this square contains species unlikely to be found in the cultivated wheatbelt area.

Our observations totalled 63 species. Only one species, Black-eared Cuckoo, was new to the *Atlas* (1984) square. Four of these birds were in the homestead garden and nearby for all of the first three days. None were seen on our second visit and it is to be presumed they had migrated further. Pallid Cuckoos had a similar pattern, several seen on two of the three days of the first visit (with others calling), but none seen or heard on the second. They too had (presumably) flown on. Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo remained however.

Many Crested Bellbirds were heard and seen. While not a particularly difficult species to see (as males often call from an exposed position) I was pleased to see my second female Crested Bellbird — and be briefly puzzled as to what it was. It was near a male, both running about on stony ground.

Another slightly puzzling sighting was of a Spotted Harrier. All those I had previously seen had been gliding slow and low, such that a harrier at 25 m height, greatly disturbing Galahs, was a momentary mystery, until the barred tail registered.

We also saw a single White-eared Honeyeater, my first sighting for over ten years. This striking bird has an alternate name in Pizzey and Doyle (1980) of 'New Norcia Honeyeater'. Having lived 25 km from New Norcia for some years and visited the area many times without seeing the bird, I found this surprising, but I notice the alternate name is dropped from Pizzey and Knight (1997). The *Atlas* (1984) does not record the White-eared Honeyeater from the square containing New Norcia.

The following 63 species were seen. The number after each species represents the number of days on which at least one bird was seen/heard, with a maximum of six days.

Malleefowl 1, Black-shouldered Kite 1, Spotted Harrier 1, Brown Goshawk 2, Collared Sparrowhawk 1, Wedge-tailed Eagle 3, Little Eagle 1, Brown Falcon 1, Australian Hobby 2, Nankeen Kestrel 4, Banded Lapwing 1, Common Bronzewing 6, Crested Pigeon 6, Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo 6, Galah 6, Little Corella 5, Australian Ringneck 6, Mulga Parrot 4, Pallid Cuckoo 2, Black-eared Cuckoo 3, Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo 2, Southern Boobook 1, Sacred Kingfisher 2, Splendid Fairy-wren 5, Variegated Fairy-wren 5, White-winged Fairy-wren 1, Striated Pardalote 3, Redthroat 2, Weebill 6, Western Gerygone 3, Inland Thornbill 6, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill 6, Yellow-rumped Thornbill 6, Southern Whiteface 2, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater 6, Yellow-

throated Miner 6, Singing Honeyeater 6, White-eared Honeyeater 1, Brown Honeyeater 4, Red-capped Robin 6, White-browed Babbler 5, Crested Bellbird 6, Golden Whistler 4, Rufous Whistler 6, Grey Shrike-thrush 6, Australian Magpie-lark 6, Grey Fantail 6, Willie Wagtail 6, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike 6, White-winged Triller 4, Black-faced Woodswallow 5, Grey Butcherbird 5, Pied Butcherbird 6, Australian Magpie 5, Grey Currawong 4, Australian Raven 6, Little Crow 2, Richard's Pipit 6, Zebra Finch 2, Welcome Swallow 6, Tree Martin 6, Fairy Martin 1, Brown Songlark 1

There is no permanent or seasonal wetland at Warrakatta, so water and shore species are absent. At other times of the year and different seasons, Cockatiel, Budgerigar and other species are known to visit.

Warrakatta is a pleasant birding area, the more so at the time of our visits with many wildflowers in bloom. Our thanks to Chris and Jan Croot for their help and hospitality.

Bruce Buchanan

AN AMBITIOUS BROWN GOSHAWK

On Friday 2 June, I took an evening walk to the sewage ponds at Kalumburu, at the northern tip of the Kimberley. The main intention was to carry out a twenty minute survey for the *Atlas of Australian Birds*. As I approached, a Brown Goshawk flew low over the grass and tangled scrub of the now dried up overflow pool. Pacific Black Ducks with young, and a single Plumed Whistling-Duck were seen at the other end of the ponds. The latter took off, flying around several times.

As I reached the other side of the ponds, I observed a large bird that had been calling from an overflow outlet channel. By now it was becoming dark, but it was light enough to identify the bird as another Plumed Whistling-Duck. As I approached, the duck flew low for only about ten metres, dropping down on the edge of the overflow pool vegetation. I followed to get a better look, and to see if it was injured. Seconds later, a goshawk, presumably a female from its large size, swooped low and fast from nearby Eucalyptus trees and landed on the duck. They were observed together, face to face, before the goshawk saw me and took off, returning to the trees. Less than a minute later, as I moved away, the goshawk attacked again, briefly, without being visible on the ground this time.

I moved towards the area where the conflict had been but there was no sign of the duck, which had presumably moved under cover of some tangled vegetation. As the light was continuing to fail, I moved away to an area where I could observe the scene with better lighting. Hearing movement in the vegetation, I assumed that the duck was breaking cover. However, a Pheasant Coucal appeared and flew off towards the trees. As it did so, the goshawk reappeared and knocked the coucal to the ground from a height of about three or four metres. Due to darkness and sewage channels, I was not able to observe them any further.

A week or so later, another goshawk was seen taking a Bar-shouldered Dove in a garden. As it flew off, a normally rather lazy domestic cat jumped up and snatched

the dove from the claws of the rather ruffled goshawk, which did an undignified crash landing and immediate departure.

Simon Wilson

THE ALBINO WILLIE WAGTAIL?

We read Mary Bremner's article "Thoughts on the Willie Wagtail" in the September issue with particular interest as we had seen a similar bird on 25 July when we visited Monger's Lake. We were on the east side of the lake where there are two parallel paths near an overway. The bird was on the ground between the paths and was not disturbed by five observers (us) or walkers and cyclists who passed by on both paths.

We watched it for more than five minutes and wrote down the following description: 15 to 20 cm, light brown head, white breast, black legs, opened tail like a fantail, grey wing, behaved like a Willie Wagtail, no call.

On the day, we said it was like an albino Willie Wagtail. Perhaps it was the same bird seen by Mary Bremner?

Molly, Barry, Simon, Jesse and Winston Angus

ALBINO RICHARD'S PIPIT AT ALFRED COVE

Sighting One

At the east end of Alfred Cove at 6:15 am on 2 October — an albino Richard's Pipit!

There had been defoliation of sedge and glasswort in this area from spraying and in one place just in from the remaining fringing sedge, new trees had been planted in this defoliated area. Further east (almost adjacent to the new basketball courts) there was a defoliated area of glasswort approximately 4 m in diameter. In this area a 15 cm pale bird was bobbing its tail and feeding. I observed this bird bobbing and feeding for ten minutes only 3 m away. It then hid behind the dead glasswort. Here, although easily seen by myself, it was well camouflaged.

Description:

A 15 cm pale dusky grey bird bobbing its tail and feeding. Pink legs, grey beak, brown eye and white eyebrow. The head and nape were grey but the body and wings were dusky grey.

In the early 1970s pipits were common in the outer metropolitan area but the last time I observed one at Kalamunda (Piesse Brook) was in 1978. At Alfred Cove at this eastern end I have often in the past observed pipit nests deep within the sedge but the sedge layer has always been around 3 m wide. Young have been successfully raised. Sedge of 3 m width is a deterrent to cats and dogs.

Of concern is the defoliation by spraying of this sedge at the eastern end of Alfred Cove where pipits are regularly seen and still breed. The safe nesting habitat is destroyed, allowing in the predatory cats when the sedge layer is less than 3 m wide.

Mary Bremner

Sighting Two

On 2 October 2000 at Alfred Cove I noticed a whitish looking bird. A closer inspection revealed it was a Richard's Pipit.

Its plumage was a light fawn and dirty white, however its general appearance was a dull white. It also lacked the dark streakings of the typical Richard's Pipit.

I also noticed it had food in its beak. It flew to an area of low vegetation and after a very indirect and cautious route, disappeared into the vegetation. It soon reappeared, with a white nestling excreta sac, and flew off.

Within a few minutes, its normal coloured mate made a similar and slow visit to the nest.

Assuming the nestlings fledge, it will be interesting to see if any show any traces of one of its parent's unusual colouration.

Wynton Maddeford

WHITE-CHINNED PETREL

Whilst walking through Mullaloo beach car park at 3:30 pm on 21 June, I noticed a very large all-black seabird, crouched with bill drooping to the ground, on a sand path to the beach. It was totally exhausted and did not even acknowledge my close presence.

Two young men, unlikely birders, with metal body jewellery and a large wheeled black car, offered to take it to the Whitfords veterinary surgery. They tenderly wrapped it in a large pink beach towel. We wrapped a tea towel over its head to keep it calm and the beautiful creature was put on the back seat. The tea cloths slipped and it looked like something out of Beatrix Potter as they drove slowly off.

The bird was a large petrel type, pure black, matching black feet and legs with a white bill, classic petrel shape and a very faint bluish tinge.

Two days later I phoned the vet. CALM had picked up our tired bird and taken it to a special refuge. Three phone calls later, I spoke to the man concerned and had my identification confirmed. The bird was indeed a White-chinned Petrel, approximately 12 months old, therefore no white marking as yet.

I had been interested in its bands. It was an Argentinian bird and last banded in the Falkland Islands.

I spoke to the lady, Karen Price, at the refuge and it was eating mullet with gusto, walking and preening, and they expected to release it off Garden Island in two weeks.

What an incredible journey to Mullaloo, with no other landfall; it was quite an awesome experience to be so close to such a traveller.

Jenny Duckworth

ERONG SPRINGS STATION

Erong Springs Station is adjacent to the northern boundary of the Murchison Shire, but is actually within the Shire of Upper Gascoyne. It has an annual average rainfall of 203 mm (eight inches) and by the standards of most of the Murchison/Upper Gascoyne sheep/cattle stations is small at 93 373 hectares (230 730 acres). It was the last station in the area to be developed, being commenced in the 1920s, a

factor attributable to the country of the station being mainly comprised of a range of low hills that rise some 60 m above the plains to the north and south. Mt Erong (not the highest of them) is among the hills. The result is that the station country is notably stony and possessed of many creek lines, often with the presence of river gums (*Eucalyptus victrix*).

Anne and I surveyed the bird species at Erong during the four days 28 to 31 July inclusive. March 2000 was unusually wet because of a cyclone and Weedarra Creek to the east of the homestead still contained a shallow pool of fair size, although diminishing noticeably each day. To this pool can be attributed the sighting of a White-faced Heron and also of two Grey Teal, the latter being a first for the *Atlas* (1984) square. The teal only remained for 24 hours, the heron for 48. Erong Spring itself contained some water, but its associated creek bed was dry sand. It was in this dry bed that we saw three Spinifex Pigeons (*ferruginea*) — my first sighting of this sub-species, despite the field guides claiming them to be 'common'.

Two other sightings new to the *Atlas* (1984) were a Collared Sparrowhawk, which perched conveniently near the homestead one morning and a White-browed Treecreeper, observed at 116.40/25.31, some distance from the nearest *Atlas* (1984) report, but consistent with Storr, G M (1985) *Birds of the Gascoyne Region*, WA Museum.

One advantage of the stony surroundings was the presence of many Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush, such that I saw more of these in two hours than I had seen previously in 20 years. Six pairs were seen one morning (and on other days more) and many males were heard calling in several parts of the station (particularly in the early morning).

In all 61 species were seen, which seemed a reasonable result for rather unprepossessing country. Most species were found by walking along or next to the dry creek beds. Species observed were:

Emu, Grey Teal, White-faced Heron, Whistling Kite, Collared Sparrowhawk, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Brown Falcon, Australian Hobby, Nankeen Kestrel, Crested Pigeon, Spinifex Pigeon (*ferruginea*), Diamond Dove, Galah, Little Corella, Cockatiel, Australian Ringneck, Mulga Parrot, Budgerigar, Bourke's Parrot, Pallid Cuckoo, Black-eared Cuckoo, Southern Boobook, Sacred Kingfisher, White-browed Treecreeper, Splendid Fairy-wren, Variegated Fairy-wren, Striated Pardalote, Western Gerygone, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Slaty-backed Thornbill, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Southern Whiteface, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Yellow-throated Miner, Singing Honeyeater, White-plumed Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Crimson Chat, Red-capped Robin, Hooded Robin, Grey-crowned Babbler, Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush, Crested Bellbird, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Magpie-lark, Willie Wagtail, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, White-winged Triller, Black-faced Woodswallow, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Little Crow, Torresian Crow (determined by wing action on settling and call), Rufous Songlark, Brown Songlark, Richard's Pipit, Zebra Finch, Mistletoebird, Welcome Swallow, Tree Martin.

Help Wanted with Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Database

Do you have Excel Spreadsheet skills and a little spare time? We need you!

The Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Project needs help for observations data to be entered into the database on an occasional basis over the next few months. Cockatoo observations are entered into the database to help us map the current breeding distribution of the bird.

Most of the project's data is already entered. However, as sightings records are still arriving, we would like to keep up with them as they come in.

The job

- is not onerous
- can be done at home or in the BA WA Perry House office
- needs Excel spreadsheet skills
- will contribute greatly to the project

Contact **Cheryl Gole** for more information.

Tel/Fax: 9293 4958;

email: gole@starwon.com.au

My thanks to the station owner Chris Graham and managers Lindy and Bruce Russell for their help.

Bruce Buchanan

SOME AVIAN MIMICRY

One of the joys of birdwatching is learning and knowing all the calls and songs of the birds which one is familiar with. One only has to hear a call or song to know the species of bird, and it is sometimes a better identification than a sighting. And apart from the aesthetic appreciation of the songs they save the birdwatcher considerable time and effort.

As I have aged I have become accustomed to rely on these calls and songs more than the sighting of many species. However the knowledge seems to be acquired when one is young — as it was with me — because in recent years I have been unable to learn the calls and songs of many Philippines birds, and any that I do learn there does not remain in my memory until my next visit. Therefore I have to actually see many of these birds in order to identify them.

The next step in the direction of the birdwatcher is to learn, master and recognise the art of mimicry in our feathered friends. For instance, I have previously recorded (Stranger 1969) the various species of birds which were being mimicked by a Redthroat near Jingymia in April of 1963. But I now find that I had made almost identical observations of the Redthroat near Latham in 1961, that town being 120 km north-west of Jingymia. The only differences between them was that at Latham I did not record mimicry of the White-browed Babbler, which occurs there, and did record mimicry of a woodswallow, presumably the Black-faced Woodswallow which also occurs there. Both localities are situated in the mallee belt

of WA and have a comparable avifauna, and it could perhaps be expected that different Redthroats in different localities mimic species of birds common to both.

Other species of passerines can correctly attribute the call of another species to its caller, similar to the birdwatcher. For example, the European Jay has been known to mimic the call of another species at the sight of it (Derek Goodwin, ex-Bird Room of the British Museum of Natural History, personal communication).

One doesn't need to travel to far flung places to hear mimicry, for in the Perth metropolitan area the humble Silvereye can mimic the calls and songs of birds as diverse as the Australian Ringneck, Sacred Kingfisher, Grey Butcherbird, Striated Pardalote and even the domestic Canary. A single Silvereye can even mimic the sounds of a flock of Silvereyes in flight. The Silvereye mimics the calls of other birds in a "whisper song" but it is nevertheless well-defined mimicry.

The Common Starling is also an accomplished mimic and mimics the calls of a great variety of other birds. One day at Balcombe, in Victoria, I could hear the calls of a Masked Plover (Spur-winged Plover then), seemingly overhead and very high, as often it is when calling, only to trace the call to a lone Starling merrily whispering and warbling nearby. Our local magpie has even been known to mimic the neighing of a horse. Possibly the best known mimic, and greatest of all, is the Superb Lyrebird. It mimics not only the calls and songs of other birds, but other sounds within the forest and machinery, too. An extreme example was shown on TV by David Attenborough: a lyrebird imitating the sounds of a camera with a motor-drive.

Some of this mimicry can, however, lead one into error and confusion. Is it the call of a particular species? or mimicry? With the exception of the lyrebird, however, the mimicry is usually in whisper-song which sounds as if the mimicked bird is far away. Such an example currently exists at Maylands. A Silvereye will perch in a Native Peppermint, just off my balcony, and mimic, among other species of course, the Striated Pardalote, of which there is an irruption or influx in Maylands at present (late August through to the end of September 2000, at least). But, as already mentioned, the Silvereye mimics in a muted voice and has a repertoire of many other species, some or all of which may be voiced in just a few minutes, whereas the Striated Pardalote calls loudly throughout the day and from different locations. This is also important because the Silvereye's mimicking all comes from the one direction or place. Thus I am able to differentiate between the pardalote and the Silvereye's mimicry.

Does this mimicry in birds have a meaning or biological purpose? To me it seems not; perhaps it is just that the bird is a bit bored with life and amuses itself with mimicry. Also, it seems simply to be a regurgitation of sounds learnt and acquired from the environment, probably when it is young, as is the case for birdwatchers.

References:

Stranger, R.H. 1969. Mimicry in the Redthroat. WA Nat. 11:97

Robert H Stranger

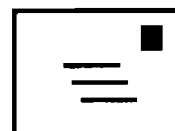
IS THE FAN-TAILED CUCKOO MIGRATORY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA?

Movements of the Fan-tailed Cuckoo, *Cacomantis flabelliformis*, in south-western Australia are not yet well understood. In the latest edition of Serventy and Whittell (1976: 295) it says: "What movement there is appears to be a seasonal dispersal from the lower south-west, where many birds remain throughout the year, radiating towards the periphery of the geographical range. It begins in mid-March and early April. After breeding the birds retire south and south-westwards again". Storr (1991: 89) is even more explicit: "Migrant, spending summer in the far south ... moving north from April to June (rarely in late March) and returning from September to November ... breeding on mainland south to Busselton, Bridgetown ...". This is repeated in slightly different words by Johnstone and Storr (1998: 312). Other recent works (Blakers *et al.*, 1984: 297; Saunders and Ingram, 1995: 140-141; Higgins, 1999: 696) paint a similar picture.

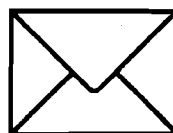
The above citations suggest that in the lower south-west, the species should be commonest in the summer months, and (due to dispersal) scarce in winter and spring. From Storr one even gets the impression that these cuckoos do not breed in the extreme south, only over-summer there.

Our observations at 'The Colonel's', Callcup, near the mouth of the Warren River, indicate differently. To begin with, the species certainly breeds here. On 19 October 1999 a fledgling was seen being attended to and fed by an Inland Thornbill, *Acanthiza (pusilla) apicalis* (VJM) and on 28 December 1999 another one was encountered, in a flock of small birds, including Inland Thornbills, but no feeding was observed this time (VJM).

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Rocky Bay
Royal Flying Doctor Service
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When not singing, these cuckoos are inconspicuous. At Callcup, trilling and whistling begins in April and ends in January. Towards the end of the season, the song becomes erratic and restricted to the early morning twilight. The birds are very common and conspicuous in late winter and spring, their breeding season here. This is the period in which, according to the literature cited above, the species should be scarcest. We do not suggest that during the summer months the birds are absent (we have observations from this period), but they do not sing and therefore are easily overlooked. On the other hand, if there was a considerable increase, due to the arrival of birds from farther north and north-east, we think that we would have noted it.

There are no banding results. Information received from Ms E B Dettman, of the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme, is that 162 Fan-tailed Cuckoos have been banded in Western Australia since 1984, but as yet without a single recovery. Scanning of earlier reports of the banding scheme (Hitchcock, Purchase) did not yield any relevant data either.

The preceding notes do not actually disprove the current concept of seasonal movements (conclusive negative evidence is notoriously difficult to obtain), but they are suggestive and make it clear (we hope) that there is not a shred of published evidence in support of it either. In other words, the concept appears to be based on no more than assumption.

Finally, as a contribution to establishing the limits of its distribution: our most northerly observation is of a male trilling in light woodland ca. 3 km NE of Tamala Homestead, near the southern shore of Shark Bay (Freycinet Reach), on 12 July 1968.

References:

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G F Mees and V J Mees-Balchin

SMALL LAND BIRDS IN SALT AFFECTED AREAS IN THE NORTH-EASTERN WHEATBELT

It has always been exciting to do birding around the big salt lakes and salt channels in the Murchison, with the prize of sighting the Orange Chat as often seen at Lake Austin, Cue and on the Lyndon River.

At the salt affected areas in the north-eastern wheatbelt between 118° to 119°E and 31° to 31°40'S the scene varies greatly in the many habitats but with fewer small land birds

(less than 20 cm) in the samphire immediately surrounding salt lake and channels. At the end of August 2000 four sites were surveyed: two receiving extensive run-off of fresh water from a large granite rock/hill, one in woodland immediately surrounding a large salt lake just beyond the low sand dune surrounding it and the fourth a 30 m by 15 m 'early' samphire area surrounded by degraded crops on two sides, and shrubs of less than 2 m on the other sides graduating into woodland.

The two sites receiving fresh run-off from the granite hills yielded many small birds in the fringing shrubs 1.5 m to 2.0 m high: Western Gerygone, Grey Fantail, Singing Honeyeater, White-eared Honeyeater and Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo. The woodland surrounding the salt lake consisted of very old trees of Salmon Gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) and York Gum (*E. loxophleba*) with numerous nesting holes and large fallen logs. There was very little undergrowth but the *Olearia* was flowering. The only small bird seen was the Singing Honeyeater. The fourth area, which I felt was probably more recently salt affected, was a hive of activity, with Red-capped Robins, White-fronted Chats and Splendid Fairy-wrens. Birds of prey flying overhead were two Nankeen Kestrels and one Black-shouldered Kite.

At Mt Hampton (a large granite rock at 31°44' 119° 05') were canthium shrubs (family *Rubiaceae*) 1.5 m high covered in green fruit. These shrubs I am told can survive saline conditions with the occasional flush of fresh water.

The tall woodland surrounding the large salt lake consisted of old trees (at least 150 years old) with no growth of young trees. Both Salmon and York Gum may have some salt tolerance but the future does not look good with no new generation of trees. Why the paucity of bird life? Although the eucalypts were not producing nectar there should have been plenty of insects.

The fourth small glasswort area was a hive of bird activity and also possibly other small animal life (three raptors circling). It was the junction of four vegetation habitats, which is an ideal condition for producing a 'birdos' paradise.

The salinity action plan commenced in 1997. Are we as 'birdos' taking enough interest in these saline areas?

Mary Bremner

A SEARCH FOR THE GOULDIAN FINCH

Years of hearing about this beautiful bird, seeing it in aviaries, and knowing it was a threatened species, was sufficient incentive to make the sighting of it a top priority in a Kimberley trip in 1999.

Brains were picked, 'phone calls made, articles gathered and read, all to identify likely sites. "You can always go to Timber Creek and see them in the caravan park" was often the stock answer. Somehow this equated with seeing them in the Perth Zoo or the Port Smith aviary.

Camping in some most unfriendly sites proved not only uncomfortable but unbelievably frustrating. Pumpkin Springs just west of Kununurra was a classic example. The Springs had been fenced off by CALM and the small enclosed area was lush with pandanus and melaleucas hanging over and secluding small pools. However, the

surrounding area for kilometres had all been recently burnt. The prior research on burning suggested therefore that this wasn't a likely Gouldian spot. Yet, every other finch imaginable came into the area. The pandanus was literally alive with Crimson Finches. But it was certainly not a top spot to camp.

Moochalabra Creek was another recommended site. Massive earthworks were under way as the dam was heightened and the spillway built. Moochalabra Creek became inaccessible. Lots of crocodiles and birds but no Gouldians.

Ellenbrae Station, another recommended location, proved unfruitful in spite of billabongs full of wondrous sightings. British ornithologists come in here all the time I was told. But there seemed to be some uncertainty about what they actually found in there.

In the end it was decided that if for no other reason the Kimberley would have to be revisited just to find the fabled Gouldian.

Determination had not waned when the 2000 trip began. More brain picking, 'phone calls, unlikely suggestions such as Timber Creek again. Serious searching began up the Duncan Road. Again many finches, with Star Finches in abundance. Camping on Stockdale Creek, on an unbeaten track, seemed promising. Again an abundance of Star, Double-barred and Long-tailed Finches but no Gouldians.

Finding ourselves quite close to Wyndham it was decided to give Moochalabra another try. Phoning Billy at Digger's Rest, I was told that yes, they should be up the creek. Feeling more than a little sceptical we made our way into territory that had been inaccessible the previous year. There we met Billy who had just come for a look: "Are you the lady what rung up? Well, they're there." But just where was all a bit vague. Once again lots of finches in and out of a melaleuca edged, waterlily bedecked creek. Very little evidence of the massive earthworks occurring the previous year. However, early the next morning, on a short pre-departure stroll up to the dam, lo and behold. Along a little side creek, a trickle really, sitting on a small boab, were four unmistakable immature Gouldians preening and socialising with contact calls. 'Pizzey and Knight' was out and all details checked. Then, in the pool below, a flash as the adult came in for a drink. More contact calls, then silence. A 15-minute experience, which left me spellbound. Had I actually seen what I saw?

All was confirmed near Kalumburu. One mid-morning after visiting a few top bird sites, then wandering along a creek near the ocean, the accompanying failed bird watcher asked, "What's that funny looking little green-backed bird over there?" How could a failed bird watcher actually pick it up

before I did? Fortunately we were with Simon Wilson, a local Atlasser, and he was as excited as we were. Another new bird for the area he told us. We watched as the adult and two immature birds came down for a drink and preen, a general muck around, then left.

The adult bird in all its glory. No wonder it has been so prized for generations. We saw the black-headed version, with its brilliant purple breast and glossy green back. The length of the tail surprised me.

The interesting detail picked up from *The Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds* was that the Gouldians move to the coast as grasses dry off inland, that is during the dry winter months in the Kimberley. Perhaps if this had been read more closely earlier the search may have been easier.

The Kalumburu area has had a mission for almost a century and along with this are cats which become feral, a cattle station involving regular burning, ready access from the sea and in recent years a more accessible community. So it was heartening to make this sighting there. Could the numbers of the species be increasing?

So what excuse can I use to visit the Kimberley again? Maybe the red-headed Gouldian next time.

Suzanne Mather

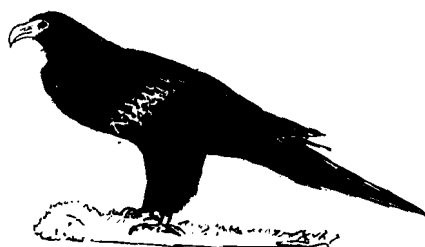
MT SANDIMAN AND BEYOND

After taking part in a recent campout at Carnarvon, I decided to take a little used route, north from Gascoyne Junction, which connects with the North West Coastal Highway about 60 km south of the Nanutarra Roadhouse. Overnight, I camped at the northern end of the Kennedy Range National Park at the Mt Sandiman Homestead which is run as a tourist venture.

Because of the lack of water, bird life in the area is rather sparse. On the night I stayed there, however, I was woken by the mournful cry of a Bush Stone-curlew very close to the tent. It was immediately answered by several others further off. Similar 'conversations' occurred several times throughout the night but, unfortunately, I never saw the birds.

North of Mt Sandiman, the road winds through some remote and beautiful country, noteworthy for the number of raptors it supports. Over the next 135 km, I counted nine Nankeen Kestrels, three pairs of Wedge-tailed Eagles, six Whistling Kites and four Brown Falcons. However, the character of the country changes rapidly beyond Lyndon Station. Although in good condition after recent cyclones, the coastal plain is flat and relatively uninteresting and, in the next 150 km to Giralda Station at the southern end of Exmouth Gulf, I saw only a single bird of prey — a Nankeen Kestrel — near the homestead.

Stewart Houghton



Wedge-tailed Eagle
Drawing by Charlie Davis

THE BIRDS ON THE BOAT

I own a small yacht that spends winter hibernating on its mooring on the Swan River. Well, at least I think I own it. I have a receipt and registration papers to say that I do. However, others have recently claimed it as their own.

After returning from several weeks in the Eastern States I found a winter storm had blown off the yacht's usual protective tarpaulins. A bird quick to see the advantage had built its nest in a sheltered corner of the cockpit and laid two eggs. It was no rare and endangered species, just the very common Silver Gull. Nonetheless, I didn't have the heart to fling the nest and a future generation overboard. And so for the following weeks I watched my boat deteriorating — ornithocopris filling its cockpit and the varnish flaking due to exposure to sun and rain.

There was no doubt that the gulls saw it clearly as their possession. As one sat on the nest in the cockpit another adult stood on the cabin acting as sentinel. I noticed that if other people walked along the beach they paid no attention but as soon as I arrived and launched my dinghy into the water to paddle out to the yacht the guardian adult was soon swooping at me and screeching threats. As quick as a flock swoop on a chip thrown on the beach, the sky was filled with screaming gulls. I dared not set foot on the boat that I thought was mine and they knew was theirs.

Over the following months I watched as the mottled eggs turned into fluffy grey chicks that huddled together against the bulkhead. The parents dropped steak and chicken bones on board, apparently from riverside picnics. The young covered the decks in their smelly droppings.

As I paddled out on my last visit to the boat a solitary adult made a half-hearted swoop in my direction. As I stood in the dinghy and peered over the gunnels one chick had flown the nest. The other, white with olive-brown speckles, lay dead on the floor of the cockpit, relatively fresh blood trickling from a wound in its chest. Having disposed of the body I went about the efforts of cleaning and reclaiming my property — at least until next season.

George Barnes

WARDENS URGENTLY NEEDED FOR EYRE BIRD OBSERVATORY

If you are interested, or know anyone who might be interested, in being Wardens at the Eyre Bird Observatory please contact

Shapelle McNee (9433 1372)

or Rod Smith (9447 3804)

(see Eyre report this issue)

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE ON THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COAST

While travelling between Boodie and Airlie Islands on 27 October at S21°09'40" E115°13'04" during a recent Landscape expedition to the Montebello Islands and other islands off the Pilbara coast, I noticed a small group of birds, too distant to identify, and the skipper of our charter obligingly changed course for closer observation.

It soon became apparent that it was a flock of 33 Red-necked Phalaropes. We approached to within about 20 m before they flew a short distance. The birds did not seem unduly alarmed as we approached a second time and I was able to take a number of photographs.

**"... not uncommon to
see flocks ..."**

A short time later one of our party, Frank O'Connor, spotted another flock (of between 70–100) flying and landing on the water some distance away. As far as I am aware these sightings represent the highest number of Red-necked Phalaropes recorded in Western Australia. They breed in the northern hemisphere and spend much of their non-breeding time at sea along the South American coast, northern Africa and areas south of Lombok, Timor, the Moluccas and Arafura seas.

In Western Australia they are regularly recorded in small numbers at Port Hedland saltworks and other coastal salt works. An occasional bird turns up at Rottnest Island, and they have been recorded at the Eyre Bird Observatory.

Little is known of their distribution, numbers, or what influences their occurrence off the Pilbara coast. Not surprisingly, there have been few reports from birdwatchers as this coast is an area seldom visited. Our skipper informed me that, when operating fishing trips out of Dampier, it was not uncommon to see flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes around schools of long-finned tuna that were rounding up small bait fish. The birds would usually retreat out of the way if the tuna became too frenzied in their attacks.

During their non-breeding season Red-necked Phalaropes have been recorded congregating around ocean slicks and upwellings that produce a high biomass of food organisms in other parts of the world. On our Landscape expedition the seas were generally calm with just a slight swell. Over the whole area from the Montebellos to Exmouth there were extensive slicks of floating debris (possibly an alga/cyano bacteria) and according to fishermen, common in the area at this time of year. These slicks of alga in Western Australia could well be associated with the Leeuwin current, which comes down the entire west coast from the north of Australia. With further research it could explain the incidence of phalarope sightings as far south as Rottnest Island.

Being aware of these slicks and when they occur, birdwatchers may be able to record interesting sightings of Red-necked Phalaropes in the future.

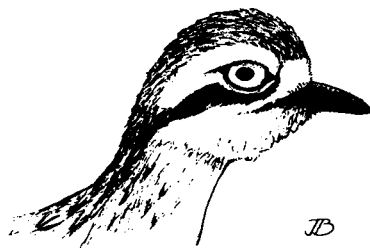
Kevin Coate

BUSH STONE-CURLEWS NEAR MECKERING

A few small birds had flown in front of the car and we had stopped to see whether they were of interest, when we saw two large, somewhat ungainly looking, birds over 50 m away lurking around the base of a small tree. On investigation through binoculars they proved to be Bush Stone-curlews. The habitat was a rather degraded paddock near an old shed, with sparse, low barley grass and a small amount of fallen timber. The birds appeared to be trying to hide in the low grass, but their heads remained emergent like small periscopes, while the accompanying portrait was taken of one of them.

This is the first time we have seen the species in the wheatbelt outside Dryandra and it is heartening to see that they are still hanging on in a very modified part of the agricultural area. With the continuing expansion of fox-baiting throughout much of the wheatbelt, it is possible that this fascinating bird, with its spine-tingling call, will once again become a common feature of the south-west of Western Australia.

John and Judy Blyth



Bush Stone-curlew
Drawing by Judy Blyth

Sunday 10 December ~ Christmas Function

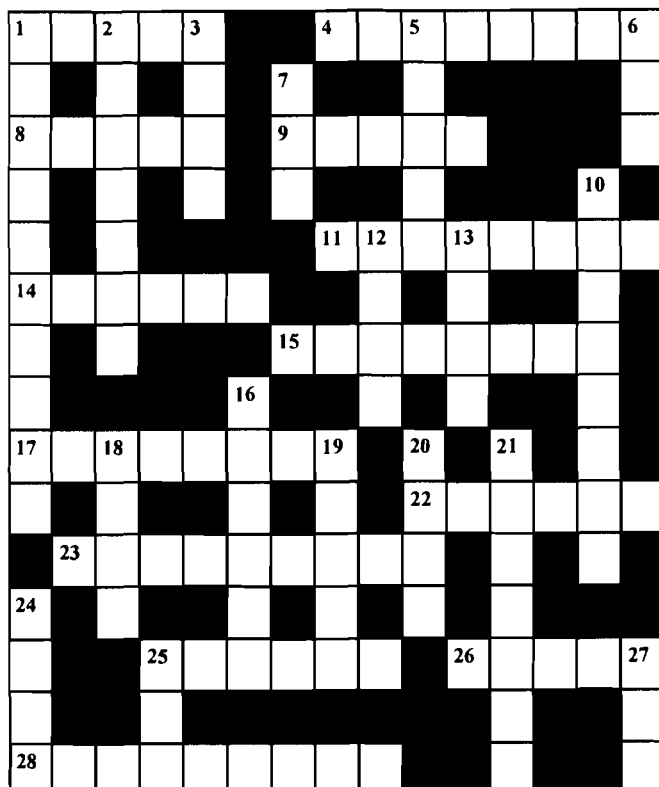
A barbecue will be held on Sunday 10 December
commencing at 6:30 pm at Perry House.

BYO meat and drinks. All members welcome.

PS: Mosquito repellent is likely to be useful!

Crossword no 23

By Pam Agar



Clues Across

1. Making a lot of noise!
4. Form of fishing, dangerous to albatrosses.
8. Crown colour of a wren of northern WA.
9. A cuckoo chick will attempt to do this to nest mates.
11. Form of quail-thrush seen in southern WA.
14. Shank of bird's leg.
15. Stiff comb-like membrane on inner edge of duck's bill.
17. A quality of sound.
22. Almost.
23. Covered with water.
25. Formed by feathers of back, upper wing-coverts and scapulars.
26. Skilled.
28. Shoulder feathers.

Clues Down

1. Willing helpers.
2. Male and female of a species often have different ones.
3. An element of this is useful in birdwatching.
5. Place within an ecosystem.
6. Observatory initials.
7. Female bird.
10. Young bird.
12. Swallows may make yours theirs.
13. Seabirds are able to eliminate this through the sulcus.
16. French explorer who gave his name to a cockatoo species.
18. Identifying feature of many birds.
19. Usually greater if there are many observers on the day.
20. Commonly patterned areas of eggs.
21. Family name of gulls, terns, skuas, etc.
24. Generic name of Brolga.
25. Useful inclusion on an excursion.
27. Often a useful food source for gulls.

Notices

CAMPOUT at KINGSTON REST, 11 to 18 JULY 2001

Kevin Coate is planning a trip to Kingston Rest during the school holidays of July 2001. Kingston Rest is east of the Bungle Bungles on the WA/NT border and Kevin recently spoke about the area at one of the Monday night meetings. He plans to have available a fully catered Coate's tour with others able to join with their own vehicles (self catering) and is looking at the possibility of a fly/drive/fly option from Kununurra. It is intended that 8 days will be spent in the area. Organizations involved are the Kimberley Society, Birds Australia, The Naturalist Club and The Wildflower Society. Further details later.

Sue Abbotts

Editors' note: Sue has kindly offered to act as a liaison person for Birds Australia Western Australia during the organising of this trip. Please contact her after 4 December 2000 if you are interested in going.

BA 2001 MEMBERS DAY AND AGM IN PERTH

The 2001 Birds Australia Members Day and Annual General Meeting will be held in Perth on Saturday 26 May 2001. The proposed venue is the CSIRO Auditorium, Underwood Avenue, Floreat.

A registration form and program will be included in the March 2001 issue of Wingspan. For further information contact Michael Brooker, CSIRO, Private Bag 5, PO, Wembley, 6913. Phone 08 9293 4757, 08 9333 6454. Email LesMikeBrooker@bigpond.com

WARDENS URGENTLY NEEDED FOR EYRE BO

If you are interested, or know anyone who might be interested, in being Wardens at the Eyre Bird Observatory please contact Shapelle McNee (9433 1372) or Rod Smith (9447 3804). (see Eyre report this issue).

HOODED PLOVER SURVEY

A thorough count of Hooded Plovers in Yalgorup National Park is planned for **Saturday 17th February to Sunday 2nd March 2001.**

If you would like to help please contact the local organiser, Dick Rule, on 9581 1894 (telephone) or rjrule@southwest.com.au (e-mail).

Country groups

ALBANY BIRD GROUP

On 8 August, 14 members of the Albany Bird Group met at the Narrikup store at 8:00 am. It had been raining heavily in Albany as we left, but the day improved as we reached Narrikup.

Five cars were involved. Tim Hunt organised an Atlas site for each car.

After the first surveys were completed, we visited Piper Farm, a future wine making project. Further Atlas surveys were taken with a view to providing the owners with a bird list.

We had lunch in the future wine shed. At this stage the rain had started, so ended the outing.

Our thanks go to Tim for a happy day's birding and he has another seven or eight red squares to add to the map.

The bird call for the day numbered 47.

Vivian McCormick

Excursion reports

HERDSMAN LAKE, 17 August, 2000

Nine people, including two visitors from the UK, gathered at the southern end of Herdsman Lake on what turned out to be a beautiful morning. Walking west along the edge of the lake, there were many waterbirds, Black Swans, Eurasian Coots, Dusky Moorhens, Purple Swampheens, Pacific Black Ducks in breeding mode, and shelducks. On the water were Blue-billed Ducks, Musk Ducks, Hardheads, Australasian Grebes, and several elegant pairs of Great Crested Grebes.

A dozen Glossy Ibis clustered on the shore, and there were Yellow Spoonbills, Australian White Ibis, Great Egrets, and on the bushes just in the lake, were Great and Little Black Cormorants, Little Pied Cormorants, and a Darter. Two raptors, a Whistling Kite and a Swamp Harrier, were seen.

Plenty of bushbirds too, including Silvereyes, Weebills, Grey Fantails and Willy Wagtails, Singing, Brown, and New Holland Honeyeaters, Yellow-rumped Thornbills. Swallows and Tree Martins, Rufous Whistler, and Clamorous Reed-Warblers added to the list and, of course, the ubiquitous Rainbow Lorikeet, making a total of 48 species seen in the course of a fairly short but very pleasant and productive morning's birding. Many thanks to Nora Brockman, an able and well organised leader.

Liz Walker



Muggon Campout participants enjoying the evening light during the group's sundowner at Marlu Swamp south of Butchers Track.

Photo courtesy Sally Vigilante

MUGGON STATION CAMPOUT, 9-17 September

Twenty-six bird surveyors flocked to CALM's Muggon Station in September. Our purpose was to make a comprehensive survey for CALM, the Bird Atlas and Birds Australia.

In glorious spring weather each of the two "A" groups undertook 4/5 daily surveys to cover a good range of land, water and vegetation types. Cyclone Steve had filled the lake system and waterholes, with water birds still present, though not in large numbers. We enjoyed the varied wildflowers, calling on Sylvia to identify them — of note the Eremophilas, Parakeelya, native cornflower and 'snow flower'. In total we observed 102 bird species including the elusive Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush, seen only by one group. Highlights (for us) were spotting Crimson, White-fronted and Orange Chats in samphire country at the northern end of the 30 km lake system.

Our camp base was Muggon's 75 year old shearing shed and quarters where cooking was a bit of a challenge on the old Metters No 6. Plenty of hot water made those end-of-day ablutions special — as well, no ants, flies or other creepy-crawlies were there to offer a challenge. At night a stone-curlew woke us (not seen) as well as a Spotted-Nightjar — that we saw briefly. We learned some of the history and lifestyle from co-manager Jenny Mitchell and daughter Tessa, who joined us one evening and also learned that CALM plans to return the land to its original state by removing introduced animals (the sheep have been sold), decommission windmills and remove fences. The station will become either a national or conservation park.

We all particularly enjoyed each day's 'Happy Hour' where group rivalry was most evident. Of special note was the sundowner trip to Marlu claypan to observe waterbirds and enjoy the sunset. The Goles' chocolate frog tradition was upheld with Bryan Barrett picking the species total, and Viv McCormick the campsite total.

Each of us appreciated Cheryl and Martin Gole's leadership and along with Clive and Wendy Napier leading the "Other A Group" it was a great week of learning and achievement, and of high social value. A special thanks to all those who pitched in and, top of the pops — the 4WD drivers who took us on those challenging station tracks — "Thanks".

Sally Vigilante and Jan Checker (Geraldton)

ACOURT ROAD, BANJUP, CALM RESERVE, 8 October

A lovely walk along an old limestone track and perimeter firebreaks presented many wildflowers and birds, one of the reasons for the land's inclusion into the Jandakot Botanical Park.

Unfortunately, Sunday is obviously a popular day for aeroplanes from the adjacent Jandakot airport. Constant noise made it difficult to hear birds but nonetheless 13 of us recorded 33 species of birds, typical of banksia woodland.

Thank you to Bryan Barrett for organising the morning.

A copy of the list of birds seen will be sent to CALM and a record sheet sent into the Atlas project.

David James

GARVEY PARK, REDCLIFFE, 12 October

About a dozen bird lovers turned up on this nice but fresh morning. Most had not been to this area before, and for these people the beauty and variety of the surroundings was a pleasant surprise. Although the bush areas were not very extensive the number of bushbirds was good. In all we recorded 47 species including three raptors: a Black-shouldered Kite, two Brown Goshawks and a Nankeen Kestrel.

A Magpie-lark and a Willie Wagtail were spotted sitting on their nests and a Striated Pardalote and a Rainbow-Lorikeet were each occupying a hole in a tree.

It was a delight to see so many wood ducklings, about 15, made up of two broods.

Hank van Wees

MUNDARING STATE FOREST, 14 October

The necessary permit was obtained from the Mundaring CALM office — being a 'dieback' protected area, inspection of the vehicle 'washing down' ramp and 'boot cleaning' area was carried out. A key was obtained for the gate on Allan Road.

Les Harris, as usual, was early. We had our two vehicles washed down, before a further five arrived, receiving the same treatment. There being only 11 people

we rationalised the vehicles to five. We brushed down our boots, then through the gate, off we went five kilometres down the track, parking off the road in a cleared area at the Mann's Gully waterway measuring station.

Proceeding along the Bibbulman Track (SW) we had a good start to the day with many bushbird sightings (including Red-winged Fairy-wrens, White-naped Honeyeaters, etc). The area was not conducive to waders or waterbirds. There was some jarrah and marri, but mostly wandoo. After such a good start the overall number of sightings was a little disappointing. The walk looked like having great potential, perhaps better earlier in the day. However, the walk, the company and what we saw was most enjoyable. There was a section that tested the stamina, but all came through like heroes. It was from there, all down hill, back to the base, along Allan Road. We enjoyed a snack and off home at a reasonable time.

Returned the key and sent a copy of the count to CALM.

Eric Pyatt

RAY MARSHALL PARK, VIVEASH, 22 October

Beautiful weather made for a great bird watching excursion at Viveash on Sunday 22 October. Sixteen members were joined by two members from the FROGS — Friends Restoring Our Green Spaces — group who were thrilled to share the wetlands walk with us and told us of the developers' plans for this area. A total of 48 species was seen, the most exciting being the White-winged Triller that sang for us several times during the walk.

Thanks to the sharp eyes of Tom we were able to spot a Tawny Frogmouth sitting on a nest looking just like a part of the tree. Many other birds were busy building nests and looking for hollows in the tall eucalypts. We also spotted three probable aviary escapees — a Crimson Rosella and a pair of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos.

Thank you, Jan, for a great morning's walk.

Lyn Sellers



A group of members enjoyed a 6.5 km walk led by Martin Gole on 27 August on the new Quenda Circuit at Paruna Sanctuary.
Photo courtesy Cheryl Gole

Observatory reports

EYRE BIRD OBSERVATORY

Eyre Bird Observatory provides an opportunity to work in a peaceful, pristine wilderness, well away from the stresses of making and spending a living, such as in the busy, somewhat noisy cities or in the more gently paced, but often environmentally stressed agricultural areas. Over the years, more and more people have become interested in working at a place like Eyre.



Without the work and dedication of our Wardens, Eyre Bird Observatory would cease to exist. During 2000, Eyre has had the support of a number of different Wardens, including Relief Wardens. Sadly, twice this year our Wardens have had to suddenly leave Eyre. Yes, we are looking for Wardens again!

Margot and Leighton Martin had to quickly depart Eyre when Margot became seriously ill. Margot is doing well and is recuperating in Adelaide. However, Margot and Leighton (following Doctors' advice), 'reluctantly and with heavy hearts' tendered their resignation. They said that they had been very happy at Eyre and were glad of the opportunity to work there. We are sad that their time at Eyre was so brief. I know they worked very hard at Eyre and with great dedication and enthusiasm. They did a great job. We wish them the very best on their future journeys.

Chris and Dave Johnston came down from Cape Leveque to act as Relief Wardens. They had been interested in working at Eyre a few years ago. On a 'whim?' Chris and Dave rang Eyre Bird Observatory to find out what the job situation was — on the very day Leighton was packing to leave Eyre and join Margot who had been flown to Kalgoorlie Hospital. Chris and Dave responded by coming down to Eyre to help. They made the move in less than a week!

Chris and Dave say that they have been very happy to be at Eyre. They have met fabulous people and learnt heaps about the stars, birds, weather and more. They have had some exciting highlights. One was a Scarlet-chested Parrot, seen on 1 November 2000.

Chris recounted to me how when they and their visitors were checking out a young woodswallow (presumably a Dusky), near the base of the dunes behind the observatory, a parrot with a red chest alighted on a dead branch next to the woodswallow. I think a lot of jaws dropped as this parrot also had a 'dark blue head'. It was a Scarlet-chested Parrot. Apparently two Scarlet-chested Parrots have recently been 'spotted' on the Nullarbor. However, there has not been a record of this species down in the mallee near the observatory before. In June 1985, Nick Diamond, while he was Warden at Eyre, found three adult males and three female/immature birds in thick mallee along Haig Track (which is above the scarp south of Eyre Highway). Also, John Martindale reported seeing a pair in April 1978 near the Microwave Tower (again above the scarp). A beautiful bird by all accounts and one that

does not often come so far south as the Eyre Highway in Western Australia.

Chris and Dave have done a great job looking after Eyre, its visitors and its vehicles. They are returning to Cape Leveque and to their travelling-working lifestyle on 19 November as planned (we really believed Margot and Leighton would be able to return!). We are fortunate that people have responded to Eyre's need, yet again, for Relief Wardens by making themselves available at very short notice to work at Eyre. A big 'thank you' to you all for keeping Eyre going while we search for new Wardens.

**"... 'thank you' to you
all for keeping Eyre
going ..."**

I would also like to take this opportunity for thanking the several Relief Wardens who looked after Eyre at its time of need when Sharon Johnson and Robert Threadgold (travellers from the UK) unexpectedly had to leave. I know that they all enjoyed their time at Eyre, but this was not always without some personal sacrifice. They were Verna and Jim Howell, Alex Bisgrove and Rob Stogdale (yes, they returned, from Gluepot, before venturing back to Queensland across the deserts!), Debbie Sullivan, George Agar, and Trish and Russ Calverley.

People's enthusiasm as Wardens at Eyre is infectious and their hard work and commitment is heart warming. This is I think a reflection of all those who support Eyre.

The raffle-fundraiser for Eyre's photocopier was a success. We achieved our goal and raised \$1218. A good effort was made by quite a few people in selling tickets. Every ticket sold counted! A big thank you to all those who sold and/or bought tickets. The raffle was drawn on 25 September at the General Meeting of Birds Australia WA Group. First prize went to Steve Easton, second prize to Matt Barrett and third prize to M Hemsley. Special thanks to Rod Smith and Joyce Hegney for organising the raffle and to Debbie Sullivan, Clive Napier and Pam Agar for donating the prizes.

Eyre has also been successful in raising enough funds for the Buy A Battery for Eyre (BABE) campaign to purchase the 24 new batteries, including the cost of GST (~\$8,700). Over 100 people contributed funds towards this campaign. As an indication of our appreciation all contributors will be listed on a plaque to go on the solar power plant building. John Eyre from the UK had suggested to Alex and Rob a contact to approach BP Australia for funds. Alex and Rob took this up and BP Australia responded with just the amount (\$2,500) to bring us to our goal to buy 24 new batteries. Credit for the success of this campaign go to Alex Bisgrove and Rob Stogdale, and the wardens who kept the momentum of the campaign going during 2000.

Shapelle McNee
Chairperson, Eyre Management Committee

Coming events

Important note re campouts

Members anticipating attending campouts **must** notify the BA office of the number in their party and when they will arrive. With this information we will be able to make sure the group will be together and when to expect people.

Saturday 2 December — Full-day excursion, Neerabup National Park

Meet at 8:00 am at the shelter in the parking area for the 10th Light Horse Heritage Trail (look for the tourist sign off Wanneroo Road on the western side). This is 4 km north of Burns Beach Road lights.

This area is mixed forest with some Tuart trees. We have not looked here for quite a few years but there could be some interesting birds to be seen. Bring your lunch.

Leader: Rod Smith

Thursday 7 December — Mid-week excursion, Star Swamp, North Beach

Meet at 8:00 am at the Hope Street entrance. Star Swamp has Tuart woodland, mixed Banksia woodland, and heath. A variety of bushbirds and raptors has been seen here.

Leader: Tom Delaney

Saturday 9 December — Half-day excursion, Woodman Point, Munster

Meet at 8:00 am at the entrance to the Woodman Point Recreation and Nature Reserve at the end of O'Kane Court, off Cockburn Road, south of the caravan park. We will walk in the reserve first, and later look for waders and seabirds on the point, so bring your telescopes.

Leaders: Bryan Barrett and Sue Abbotts

Sunday 17 December — Full-day excursion, Amarillo Pool, Baldi

Meet at 9:00 am at the entrance to Amarillo Farm on the Serpentine River. Travel south on Mandurah Road, turning left into Paganoni Road. Travel several kilometres then turn right into Vine Road. Look for the BA sign.

Please be punctual as the gate will be locked after us!

We will search for waders along the mudflats of the river. Long-toed Stints and Wood Sandpipers are usually seen here as well as plenty of waterbirds. Long trousers and boots or wellingtons are recommended as snakes have been seen in the area. Hat, insect repellent and water should be carried. Bring your lunch.

Leader: Les Harris

Sunday 10 December — Christmas Function

A barbecue will be held on Sunday 10 December commencing at 6:30 pm at Perry House. BYO meat and drinks — all members welcome.

NOTE

No meeting in December

Sunday 31 December — Half-day excursion, Canning River Regional Park, Wilson

Meet at 8:00 am at the Kent Street Weir car park, near the Canning River, to explore the varied birdlife of the Canning wetlands.

Leader to be announced

Saturday 6 January 2001 — Half-day excursion, Pelican Point, Crawley

Meet at 7:30 am at the gazebo opposite the Mounts Bay Sailing Club at the end of Australia II Drive, off Hackett Drive, Crawley. We will look for waders that inhabit this area each summer, and for the Variegated Fairy-wrens that can sometimes be seen in the adjacent bush.

Leader: Max Bailey

Saturday–Tuesday 13–16 January (inclusive) — Campout, Lake Unicap area

This campout will explore some of the wetlands in nature reserves in this interesting wetland area north of the Muirs Highway between Manjimup and Rocky Gully. We will camp on a local farmer's property on the border of the Lake Unicap Nature Reserve. Nearby Lake Muir will also be visited, and we may have a couple of canoes available. We are hoping to record some of the more elusive wetland birds. The endangered southern subspecies of the long-billed Western Corella (Muir's Corella) is common in the area.

There are no facilities, so you must be self-sufficient for camping. All roads and tracks are accessible to 2WD vehicles.

Call Peter Taylor (9777 1341) by Sunday 7 January, and a mud map will be sent to you.

Leaders: Peter Taylor and Cheryl Gole

Wednesday 17 January — Mid-week excursion, Ascot Waters, Belmont

Meet at 8:00 am in the car park at the end of Tidewater Way. To reach the area from Great Eastern Highway, turn into Stoneham Street, then into Resolution Drive, and left into Tidewater Way. Continue through two roundabouts, cross the bridge, and up to the car park at the top of the rise.

We hope to see Buff-banded Rails, waders and perhaps a Black-shouldered Kite that has nested in the area.

Leader: Tom Delaney

Sunday 21 January — Half-day excursion, Alfred Cove, Attadale

Meet at 7:30 am at the car park in Troy Park (by the radio mast) off Burke Drive. This is an opportunity to look for migratory waders so bring your telescopes. It is also a good area for bushbirds and a variety of raptors could also be seen.

Leader: Les Harris

Monday 22 January Meeting — State Tennis Centre, Burswood, 8:00 pm

John Dell, formerly of the WA Museum and now an Environmental Officer in the Department of Environmental Protection, will speak on "Land birds of the Swan coastal plain — decline and conservation implications".

Friday–Sunday 26–28 January — Australia Day campout, Albany

The Albany group of Birds Australia is very keen for us to join them again. We have arranged to stay, as previously, at the Rotary Youth Camp. The camp is situated on the picturesque Frenchman Bay Road, approximately 15 km from Albany, and is set in a mainly native bush area which has prolific bird life. There is a variety of accommodation, all of which includes showers, toilets, a fully equipped kitchen with cooking utensils, a dining room and two undercover BBQs. There is ample space for tents and caravans, a large dormitory, and several small chalets. The charge is \$4.00 per person per night for any booking.

Those intending to join this campout should let the Office know and also make their own bookings, as early as possible, by ringing 9844 4162.

Leader: Viv McCormick

Saturday 3 February — BBQ and evening visit to the Zoo

A great opportunity to visit the Zoo in the evening and see the birds and other animals after dark. Meet at the main gate at **5:00 pm sharp** and Neil Hamilton, Curator of Birds at the Zoo, will lead us. Gas BBQs will be available so bring your own food, drink and chairs. A small donation will be collected from participants.

Leader: Neil Hamilton

Sunday 11 February — Mid summer wader count

People taking part in this survey **MUST** contact Colin Davis (9330 1482) **before** 16 January.

Wednesday 14 February — Mid-week excursion, Woodman Point, Munster

Meet at 8:00 am at the entrance to the Woodman Point Recreation and Nature Reserve at the end of O'Kane Court, off Cockburn Road, south of the caravan park. We will walk in the reserve first, and later look for waders and seabirds on the point, so bring your telescopes.

Leader: Bryan Barrett

Sunday 18 February — Full-day excursion, Peel Inlet Boat Trip

It is essential to **book early** for this trip as the boat has a maximum capacity of 29 people and past experience illustrates the day's popularity. The Birds Australia office (9383 7749) must be notified by 12:30 pm Friday 9 February, giving name and number of people attending.

The boat will leave the Boardwalk Jetty, just north of the old Mandurah bridge, at 9:15 am and we should be back by 2:30 pm. Bring your own lunch and sunscreen.

Coffee is available on the boat and drinks can be purchased at the Hotel where we stop for lunch. Cost will be \$22 per head (including GST) provided the boat is full. Waders and waterbirds abound in the inlet and good numbers of bushbirds can be seen while in the river area.

Leader: Clive Napier

Saturday 24 February — Late afternoon excursion, Herdsman Lake

Meet at car park at southern end of Lakeside Road at 4.00 pm. (Enter Falcon Avenue off Pearson Street, then turn right at the T intersection into Lakeside Road and go to the end of road.)

We will look at the varied waterbirds usually present along the water's edge in Maurie Hamer Park, then walk north to a spot where, if water levels are right, we might see secretive birds such as crakes and rails. Stout boots, sunscreen and insect repellent are essential. If the mosquitoes are not too bad we could have a picnic dinner and listen for Little Bitterns as it gets dark.

Leaders: John and Judy Blyth

Monday 26 February Annual General Meeting and General Meeting — State Tennis Centre, Burswood, 8:00 pm

Eleanor Russell, formerly of the CSIRO, will speak on "Parental care of Australian passerines". The Annual General Meeting will follow on immediately after the guest speaker.

NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED FROM MEMBERS FOR POSITIONS ON THE COMMITTEE.

Saturday–Monday 3–5 March — Campout at Leschenault Inlet, Australind

We will be based at the Leschenault Inlet Caravan Park, 2 Cathedral Avenue (Scenic Drive), approximately 10 km north of the Australind post office. The park has chalets and on-site vans as well as places for tents and caravans. Book your own accommodation by ringing 9797 1095 and advise that you are from Birds Australia. **Book early** as this is a holiday weekend! Please also ring the Birds Australia office (9383 7749) to let us know how many will be in your party. Bring your telescope as there should be excellent birding on the estuary and at other diverse habitats.

Leaders: Clive and Wendy Napier

Sunday 11 March — Full day excursion, Lake McLarty, Pinjarra

Meet at 7:00 am at the gate into the Lake McLarty Reserve — look for the BA sign. Travel on the South West Highway through Pinjarra, turning right along the Old Bunbury Road (5 km south of Pinjarra), then right into Mills Road (fourth road). Continue along Mills Road for approximately 10 km until you see the BA sign.

Take your lunch, wellington boots/old shoes, sun hats, insect repellent, water and telescopes. There should be a variety of waders at the lake, as well as many waterbirds and bushbirds.

Leader: Colin Davis

Thursday, 15 March — Mid-week Excursion, Bayswater Bird Sanctuary

Meet at 8.00 am at the Swan River end of King William Street, Bayswater. Parking is available in Slade Road, off King William Street.

This reserve was created in 1977 by Eric Singleton in conjunction with the Bayswater Council. It consists of waterways, paved paths (suitable for wheelchairs), a bird hide and an artificial island. Many waterbirds breed in the reserve, and we could see crakes and rails, as well as some raptors. The total species list is about 100.

Leader: Gordon Elliott

Saturday 17 March — Half-day excursion, Wellard Wetlands, Baldavis

Meet at 8:00 am at the entrance to Wellard Wetlands on the northern side of Zigzag Road, 1 km from St Alban's Road, Baldavis.

There should be plenty of bushbirds and waterbirds, and several species of raptors are often seen here.

Leader: Bryan Barrett

Sunday 25 March — Half-day excursion, Lake Joondalup

Meet at 8:00 am at Neil Hawkins Park, in the car park at the end of Boas Avenue. Lots of waterbirds and bushbirds can be seen on and around this large lake.

Leader: Tom Delaney

Monday 26 March Meeting — State Tennis Centre, Burswood, 8:00 pm

Dr Ian McLean, consultant zoologist, will speak about the birds of Kings Park.

Sunday 1 April — Half-day excursion, Big Carine Lake

Meet at 8:00 am in the car park off Beach Road, Carine. Over 80 species of birds have been recorded in this area, including the three ibises, eight species of ducks, Buff-banded Rail and several raptors. Don't forget to bring your telescopes.

Leader: Clive Nealon

Crossword answers no 23

Across

1 vocal, 4 longline, 8 lilac, 9 evict, 11 chestnut, 14 tarsus, 15 lamellae, 17 resonant, 22 nearly, 23 inundated, 25 mantle, 26 adept, 28 scapulars

Down

1 volunteers, 2 colours, 3 luck, 5 niche, 6 EBO, 7 hen, 10 juvenile, 12 home, 13 salt, 16 Baudin, 18 song, 19 total, 20 ends, 21 Laridae, 24 Grus, 25 map, 27 tip.