

Western Australian Bird Notes



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



No 120 December 2006

ISSN 1445-3983

Contents

Observations	p3	Notices	p21	Coming events	p31
BAWA reports	p4	New members	p24	Crossword answers	p35
BAWA projects	p5	Country groups	p25	Opportunities for volunteers	p36
Members' contributions	p9	Excursion reports	p26	Calendar of events	p36
Crossword	p20	Observatories	p30		

WESTERN GROUND PARROT RECOVERY PROJECT: UPDATE FROM FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK



Since mid July, we have been monitoring the breeding activities of Western Ground Parrots with the intention of finding a nest and increasing our knowledge of their breeding biology. It has proven once again to be quite a challenge and to date we have not found a nest. Despite this, we have gained a wealth of information on the movements, home range size, breeding behaviour, vocalisations and food preferences of these elusive birds. Through daily listening sessions morning and evening, we have been able to catch glimpses into their secret lives. One bird in particular has given us more than just a



Western Ground Parrot
Photo courtesy Brent Barrett

glimpse and we have recently been able to get video footage and photographs of him feeding, roosting, crossing the track and even feeding his mate! (See photos below — taken from recent video footage by Brent Barrett.)

It is suspected that the female does all the incubating and the male feeds her during the 21 days to hatching. Through close observation, we have discovered that the male feeds the female every evening at a meeting area of low vegetation away from the nest. The birds call to each other, they meet, the exchange takes place with the female emitting begging “scree” calls between feeds and then the female disappears silently off to the nest in the darkness of dusk. The male then makes his way to one of a few favourite nearby roost sites. The whole process is over within five to ten minutes. This strategy of feeding her away from the nest makes it difficult for us (and predators?) to locate the nest. At this stage, eggs should be hatched or hatching and it is suspected that the male birds feed the young chicks up to and after they fledge at about 2 – 3 weeks post hatching. We are hoping the male birds will lead us to the nest. In any event, we’ll keep monitoring and learning as we go!

For information or if you’d like to assist, please contact:
Mike Barth – Project Leader
ph. (08) 9842 4519, mobile (04) 2984 2451
or e-mail: michael.barth@dec.wa.gov.au >

The Western Ground Parrot Recovery Project is funded by the Natural Heritage Trust through a partnership between the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and the South Coast Regional Initiative Planning Team (SCRIPT).



A selection of photographs from video footage of the Western Ground Parrot, taken by Brent Barrett.

TTFN Travel

Unit C3, 118 Railway Parade,
West Perth WA 6005

PO Box 1756, West Perth WA 6872

T: 61 8 9321 2127 F: 61 8 9321 2987

E: Kathleen@ttfn.com.au

Lic. 9TA 807 ABN 97 063 989 088

BIRDING IN SOUTH AFRICA **KwaZulu Natal**

14 day Tour with Qualified Guides

October 2007

Come and join us on a birding tour
of a lifetime!

Highlights include:

Durban

Kenneth Steinbank Nature Reserve
Durban Botanical Gardens
Shongweni Nature Reserve

St Lucia Wetland Park Reserve

Lake St Lucia Estuary
Nyalazi River

AmaKhosi Private Game Reserve

5 Game Drives with Birding

Fugitives Drift Private Lodge

Birding &/or Lectures on the
Anglo/Zulu Battles

Drakensberg Mountains

Monks Cowl National Park
Champagne Valley
Drakensberg Boys Choir

Dates for 2007

October 6th - October 19th 2007
or October 13th - October 26th 2007

Costs: \$6495 per person twinshare
land only - 2007

**Contact Michael Hancock on
(08) 9448 0378 for details**

This list has been compiled by the Observations Committee. Metropolitan suburbs or shires are in parentheses. Please report interesting observations to Frank O'Connor (9386 5694 or preferably <sightings@birdswa.com.au>) or to the BAWA office (9383 7749). Sightings are included on the BAWA web site <birdswa.com.au> as soon as possible, and the most interesting are selected for inclusion in the next WABN.

The names and order follow Christidis, L. and Boles, W. (1994) (The Taxonomy and Species of Birds of Australia and its Territories. *RAOU Monograph No. 2*).

Highlights. This period has a number of outstanding records. A Fiordland Penguin was taken into care in Albany and later released. A Sabine's Gull created great excitement around Australia when it was found near Derby and stayed for several weeks. A Grey Wagtail seen at Lake Eda near Broome is the 5th record for WA, all within the last few years. A Spotted Redshank also seen at Lake Eda is the third record for Australia, and the second for Broome and WA.

There have been early returns to the south west of several migratory species including Rainbow Bee-eater and several species of waders. A Little Ringed Plover seen at Rottnest Island is the 2nd record for the island.

METROPOLITAN (UBD Street Directory)

Spotted Harrier – 1, 12/08/06, Great Eastern Highway (Herne Hill) – BW * 1 youngish bird just coming into adult plumage, 21/10/06, Lexia – MB (unusual on Swan Coastal Plain)

Little Ringed Plover – 1, 16/09/06, Government House Lake (Rottnest Island) – RE (uncommon in the south west)

Australian Owlet-nightjar – 1, 26/08/06, garden (Casuarina) – RD (rare in Perth Metropolitan Area)

Rainbow Bee-eater – 3, 15/09/06, Herdsman Lake (Herdsman) – WM (first reported return)

SOUTH WEST (Shark Bay to Cape Arid)

Brown Quail – 4, 04/10/06, behind Mt Barker museum (Plantagenet) – FO *et al.* (inland limit in this part of range)

Black Swan – 2518, 30/09/06, northern end of Leschenault Inlet (Harvey) – BB (high number for this wetland)

FIORDLAND PENGUIN – 1, 17/08/06, Salmon Holes Beach (Albany) – per JP (rare in WA; taken into care and then released)

Great Egret – 29, 30/09/06, northern end of Leschenault Inlet (Harvey) – BB (high number for this wetland)

Spotted Harrier – 1 (1st year), 22/09/06, Waychinicup NP (Albany) – FO *et al.* (south of normal range)

Pectoral Sandpiper – 2, 16/09/06, Lake McLarty (Murray) – MC (early return)

Masked Woodswallow – 2+, 02/10/06, Dryandra State Forest (Cuballing) – FO (very uncommon in the south west; in flight with many Black-faced Woodswallows and Tree Martins)

ARID ZONE

Pheasant Coucal – 1 in breeding plumage, 7/10/06, dunes 25 km NE of Warrawagine HS (East Pilbara) – AHB (rare in the Great Sandy Desert)

Pictorella Mannikin – 5, 28/07/06, Pardoo Creek (East Pilbara) – MAN (uncommon in the Pilbara)



Spotted Redshank, Lake Eda, October 2006
Photo courtesy Adrian Boyle

KIMBERLEY

Pied Heron – 1, 22/08/06, Derby Sewage Ponds (Derby – West Kimberley) – MCA *et al.* (unusual in the West Kimberley)

SPOTTED REDSHANK – 1, 01-02/10/06, Lake Eda (Broome) – AB *et al.* (2nd record for WA; see photograph)

SABINE'S GULL – 1, 19-30/08/06, Munkayarra Claypan (Derby – West Kimberley) – PB *et al.* (rare for WA; several photographs)



Sabine's Gull at Munkayarra Claypan, 26 August 2006
Photo courtesy Rohan Clarke

Orange Chat – 3, 28/09/06 to
01/10/06, Lake Eda (Broome) –
CH *et al.* (1st record for Broome
since 1990; photographs available)

GREY WAGTAIL – 1, 04-05/09/06,
Lake Eda (Broome) – per BBO
(rare in WA; see photograph)



Grey Wagtail, Lake Eda, September 2006
Photo courtesy Adrian Boyle

OBSERVERS

AB = Adrian Boyle
AHB = Allan Burbidge
BB = Bruce Buchanan
BBO = Broome Bird Observatory
BW = Brice Wells
CH = Chris Hassell
FO = Frank O'Connor
JP = John Pridham
MAN = Michael & Ada Nield
MB = Mike Bamford
MC = Michael Craig
MCa = Mike Carter (Vic)
PB = Peter Barrand (Vic)
RD = Ron Dibbens
RE = Rob Elvish (NSW)
WM = Wynton Maddeford



Birds Australia WA Inc reports



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Welcome to another great edition of *WA Bird Notes*. Once again summer is upon us and we can finally look forward to some interesting birding as many of our shorebirds return to our little patch of the continent.

Well, there have been some busy times for BAWA in the lead up to summer. In September BAWA member Eggy Boggs organised our display at the Kings Park Wildflower Festival. By all accounts it was a great success with volunteer BAWA members talking to many thousands of people over the course of the event. A big thank you to Eggy and all those who assisted her with this fantastic opportunity for BAWA.

Following the Wildflower Festival was of course the Birds Australia Congress and Campout in Albany. This was very well attended, exceeding our expectations with around 140 attendees. There was a good mix of Albany members and locals, BAWA members from throughout the state as well as a good number of students from other states and even some international visitors. I received very positive feedback on the event from a number of attendees and would like to express my gratitude to Bruce Haynes and his committee (Graham Wooller, Lorraine Marshall, Clive Napier and Anne Bondin) for organising such a large event. The

planning and organisation certainly paid off in a superbly run and enjoyable Congress. Clive Napier was instrumental in organising the campout and I thank him for his considerable efforts in co-ordinating what was, at times, a very difficult task!

One of the major comments I received was how much attendees enjoyed the scientific program and how much they had learned on a variety of topics. People really viewed the Congress as a non-threatening, informal atmosphere with the opportunity to speak freely to a general audience. It is this sort of open communication that makes the Congress so unique and it provides one of the few opportunities for birdwatchers, scientists and interested persons alike to come together and share their knowledge and passion for birds.

The Congress was topped off by an excellent dinner that was very well attended, giving ample opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Graeme Hamilton, our CEO even managed an excellent post-dinner address despite having had no sleep for several days after flying straight to Albany from a Birdlife International meeting in Slovenia!! We are grateful to Graeme and President Allison Russell-French for attending.

All in all, the Congress seemed to be greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all who attended. It was a great opportunity to showcase the work that Birds Australia is doing and to take a big picture look at how we work together as a national organisation to achieve our common goal of "Conservation through Knowledge". I was particularly proud of the job WA did in hosting the Congress and we can now throw out the challenge to the next regional group to do as well! Until next time, happy birding.

Rob Davis

FRIENDS OF THE WESTERN GROUND PARROT

Surveys are continuing — please contact Brenda Newbey or Anne Bondin.

Note new email address for Brenda Newbey:

<wgparrot@westnet.com.au>

LIBRARY NEWS

New additions

P. de Rebeira, *Banders Guide to the Birds of Western Australia* (598.072320 deR)

Auditor General for WA, *Management of Ramsar Wetlands in Western Australia* (333.782 AUD)

B. Newbey *et al.*, *Search for the Western Ground Parrot in Nuytsland N.R.* (598.71 NEW)

S. Dennings, *Malleefowl on the Nullarbor* (598.64 DEN)

C.A. Gole, *Bird Surveys in Selected Metropolitan Reserves* (598.09941 GOL)

P. Slater, *Photographing Australia's Birds* (778.9 SLA)

As usual, the library continues to stock a range of field guides, tapes and DVDs available for purchase by members at discounted prices.

Library Hours: Mon - Fri 9.30 am - 12.00 noon.

Stewart Houghton
Hon Librarian



BAWA projects



ROTTNEST ISLAND WADER AND BUSHBIRD SURVEY, 10–12 JUNE 2006

Fourteen Birds Australia members conducted the bi-annual wader and bushbird survey during 10–12 June. The 12 wader survey sites were those that have been monitored since 1998.

The 12 revegetated sites have been surveyed more recently at the request of the Rottne Island Authority. Recorded also were the non-wading species at the wader sites plus two sites that appeared significant. One of these, the revegetated Site 14, was dominated by *Templetonia retusa* in flower and providing a feeding habitat for Singing Honeyeaters.

Species	Sites												Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Ruddy Turnstone	40		53	24	14								131
Red-necked Stint	56		54		20	11	20						161
Curlew Sandpiper	1		1	5									7
Pied Oystercatcher			2		4	2				1	3		12
Black-winged Stilt	2				2		14						18
Banded Stilt					43								43
Red-necked Avocet					2			2	2				6
Grey Plover										2			2
Red-capped Plover	13		13	7	7		9						49
Banded Lapwing					3								3
Total	112	0	122	36	95	13	43		2	3	3	0	429

Site 1: Government House Lake

Site 2: Garden Lake

Site 3: Serpentine Lake

Site 4: Causeway/Pearse Lake

Site 5: Herschel Lake

Site 6: Lake Bagdad

Site 7: Lake Vincent

Site 8: Oval/Golf Links/Airstrip

Site 9: Pink Lake/Lake Negri

Site 10: West End Bays

Site 11: Porpoise Bay

Site 12: Salmon Bay

Site 6: 1 Red-necked Stint with orange flag on right tarsus

Table 1: Rottne winter wader count, 10 June 2006

Presence only was recorded for non-wading species at some sites. It was noted that the water level in the lake system was lower than in 2005. For instance there was little more than a puddle in Bickley Swamp (Site 13), and the water level appeared lower than at the February 2-5 2006 count. At the request of Marion Massam from the Department of Agriculture and Food a search was made for House Crow as there had been a recent incidence of this invasive vagrant on the island. None were sighted.

The 12 wader sites surveyed encompassed all the island's lakes and the coastline habitats used by waders (Table 1).

The results show a change in the relative density of Red-necked Stint, Ruddy Turnstone, Red-capped Plover, Pied Oystercatcher and Banded Lapwing when compared with the June 2005 survey (Table 2).

Species	June 2005 survey	June 2006 survey
Ruddy Turnstone	20	131
Red-necked Stint	55	161
Red-capped Plover	22	49
Pied Oystercatcher	55	12
Banded Lapwing	31	3

Table 2: A comparison of the density of waders showing a significant change between June 2005 and 2006.

These differences in abundance could be the result of the low winter rainfall to that date. The lower lake levels resulted in the exposure of more mud for foraging for the first three of the above listed species. The predominantly grassed area, Site 8, where the last two of the above species were found in June 2005 is significantly drier, and therefore less suitable for ground/grassland foragers.

The bushbird surveys (Table 3) showed, through the species richness of Sites 1, 2 and 5, the value of larger and older revegetated sites, particularly to Red-capped Robin and Golden Whistler. Both these species appear to be expanding their populations to the revegetated sites east of Bulldozer Swamp and around Barker Swamp. Painted Button-quail were seen at three locations outside the survey sites confirming the continued presence of this species on the island. The density of Silvereyes (105 +) was noted at 10 of the 12 sites surveyed and of White-browed Scrubwren at 9 of the 12 sites highlighting the value of this revegetation, particularly as it matures. Population density was difficult to establish in dense, monoculture revegetated sites such as Site 9. Fan-tailed Cuckoo recorded at two sites confirm the continued over-wintering pattern on the island of this species, although there were not as many seen or heard as in 2005.

In spite of active searching, neither the Roseate Tern nor the resident Rock Parrot was seen. The latter was not recorded in June 2005 or February 2006. It is suggested that its foraging niche may have been impacted on by Galahs that have become recent residents on the island.

Species	Sites											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Common Pheasant	*	2			*					2		
Nankeen Kestrel											1	
Laughing Turtle-Dove	*	*				*						
Fan-tailed Cuckoo					1		1					
Sacred Kingfisher	*				1		1					
White-browed Scrubwren	*	5			3	*	*	*	*		2	2
Western Gerygone	*	1			1	*		1				
Singing Honeyeater	*	4		*	3		4	*	*			
White-fronted Chat		20							*	2		
Red-capped Robin	*	7		*	6		1	4	*			
Golden Whistler	*	2			2		2					
Grey Fantail		1										
Australian Raven		4			6	*	6	*	*		30	6
Richard's Pipit					1	*						
Welcome Swallow	*	12			18	*	20		*	10	*	
Tree Martin												
Silvereye	*	16			63	*	*	*	*	40	5	10
Species richness	10	12	0	2	12	7	9	6	7	4	5	3

* = Presence only recorded.

Site 1: Anniversary Park
 Site 2: Kingston
 Site 3: East of Barker Swamp/north side of centre line fence.
 Site 4: East of Barker Swamp/south side of centre line fence.
 Site 5: Fire site
 Site 6: Beekeepers block
 Site 7: West of Oliver Hill, Old Barracks/Lighthouse swamp/NW corner 30 00'27". 115 30' 20"

Site 8: Forbes Hill area/32 00' 13". 115 30' 59"
 Site 9: Forbes Hill area/32 00' 10". 115 31' 04"/NE corner adjacent to refuge area
 Site 10: Forbes Hill area
 Site 11: Forbes Hill area
 Site 12: Forbes Hill area

Table 3: Rottnest winter bushbird count, 10-11 June 2006

The results of non-wader sightings at the wader sites have been included in Table 4 because some of the species seen and their abundance are considered worth recording. For example there were 220 Australian Shelduck recorded at 9 sites. These were mostly in pairs and were seen to be defending territories in some instances. This suggests the continued importance of Rottnest Island as a breeding site for this species. The Australian Pelican, a vagrant to the island, is now recorded all year at different bays on the island. The importance of Sites 6 and 7 for breeding Crested Terns is noted with the population of >1500. The Australian Magpie and Willie Wagtail were recorded around the settlement. A new site was included in this survey, Site 14, (32° 00' 10": 115° 31' 26"), because of the possibility that the flowering *Templetonia retusa* may have attracted species other than the resident Singing Honeyeater and Silvereye. Thirteen bird species were recorded at Site 8, which includes grassed areas, as well as mature melaleuca and eucalypt species, suggesting

that a diversity of plant species and structure is of value in supporting a diverse bird community.

Whilst the growing value of the revegetated bushland sites is being demonstrated with each survey, the tip area continues to present problems, both aesthetically and for breeding resident birds. There were plastic bags blowing around and little evidence of the rubbish in the tip being covered or contained within the tip area. The large numbers of Australian Ravens and breeding Silver Gulls would suggest that they could create a predation problem for breeding birds.

Birds Australia Western Australia would like to acknowledge and thank the Rottnest Island Authority and the School of Animal Biology at the University of Western Australia for their assistance with information and facilities.

Suzanne Mather

Species	Sites													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Common Pheasant	**							2	1					
Australian Shelduck			41	11	2	19	15	20	106		2		4	
Pacific Black Duck									4					
Grey Teal									5					
Australasian Gannett												1		
Pied Cormorant										1	50	3		
Australian Pelican												1		
White-faced Heron									1					
Eastern Reef Egret												1		
Osprey										1		2		
Silver Gull			250				**							**
Caspian Tern										**		6		
Crested Tern					2	350 *	1200*			**		**		
Galah			2					5						
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo								2						
Sacred Kingfisher							1					1		
Western Gerygone														**
White-browed S-wren								**					**	**
Singing Honeyeater								**						**
White-fronted Chat								**					**	
Red-capped Robin								**	1					
Black-f Cuckoo-shrike								2						
Australian Magpie								**						
Australian Raven								**						**
Welcome Swallow								**					**	
Silvereye								**						

* Breeding

** Presence only recorded

Site 1: Government House Lake
 Site 2: Garden Lake
 Site 3: Serpentine Lake
 Site 4: Causeway/Pearse Lake
 Site 5: Herschel Lake
 Site 6: Lake Bagdad
 Site 7: Lake Vincent/Lake Sirius

Site 8: Oval/Golf Links/Airstrip
 Site 9: Pink Lake/Lake Negri
 Site 10: West End Bays
 Site 11: Porpoise Bay
 Site 12: Salmon Bay
 Site 13: Bickley Swamp
 Site 14: *Templetonia* site-s of lakes

Table 4: Rottnest winter survey, 10-11 June 2006: species not included in wader count.

BIRDS AUSTRALIA 2006 CONGRESS AND CAMPOUT, ALBANY



Sponsored by Healthway



We were very pleased to welcome 136 people to the Congress held in the Albany Town Hall from 18 to 20 October. Jim Sharp (Deputy Director General, DEC) opened the public session on Wednesday evening and we enjoyed Ray Garstone's photographs and commentary, BA President Alison Russell-French's address and Dr Tony Higgs' presentation of current information on avian influenza. An interesting forum on conserving bird habitats featured Jim Sharp, Anne Burchell (Twin Creeks), Dr Jacqui Richards (AWC) and Sylvia Leighton (Land for Wildlife).

The high quality scientific program of 32 papers and five poster presentations was assembled by BAWA President Dr Rob Davis and was well attended throughout the Congress. While the focus was on birds of southern Western Australia there were presentations related to other areas as well. See the BAWA website for details.

The civic reception given by the City of Albany and the Congress dinner at a local motel were most enjoyable. Many people welcomed the opportunity to speak to people from a range of agencies and activities involved with birds.

As could only be expected, with Clive Napier as leader, the Campout was a great success and enjoyed by 82 people. Some 37 of the more hardy (foolhardy?) souls ventured out on the pelagic trip and were rewarded by good sightings of birds and a memorable trip. In all, the Campout recorded 155 species sighted and many who had made the trip to Albany particularly to see the more rare endemics, were rewarded and satisfied.

BAWA and the Congress and Campout Committee deserve congratulations for this most successful event.

Healthway sponsored the Congress but also provided funds for first aid equipment and active life style promotional material for the campout.

Bruce Haynes
Congress Convenor

"HAVE-A-GO-DAY"

Bank West Seniors Week – 25 Oct

With more than 150 events to choose from, BankWest Seniors Week offered a fun-filled entertaining and informative week for their 21st anniversary. Every interest and ability from dancing, canoeing, climbing walls, archery to birdwatching was catered for.

Thanks to the Executive Committee we now have a brand new shade tent giving us more space and making setting up our display so much easier. Our media

display was in operation with John Hutchinson's new DVD showing birds singing and David Stewart's new CD, sound only, of the birds of southwestern WA, playing for all to watch and hear. The static display "Land of Parrots" was much admired by birdwatchers. Bird walks were taken along the river and lakes. We were kept busy all day talking to people about birds they had seen or wanted to identify in their gardens. Lots of handouts of bird information from plants for birds to 'birding what is it all about', were distributed.

Have-a-Go Day is designed to provide opportunities to explore/experience the varied activities and services available to seniors in WA. We were pleased to find a great interest shown for the birds.

Many thanks to Brice Wells, Bill Fitzgerald, Dorothy Kingston, Merrian Kuerschner and Ian Rudd for your help and expertise on the day.

Elsa Dabbs
Secretary, Community Education Sub-committee

BIRDS AUSTRALIA STALL AT THE TOODYAY HEALING FESTIVAL, SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

It was my first experience of a Birds Australia stall and I soon learned that SOMEBODY has to do a lot of work before and after the day to make the actual event a success.

This time (and I suspect on many occasions) the hard work of collecting and transporting the tables, display boards, photographs, books, slide projector, etc, for the stall and then setting it all in place was done by Brice Wells. He arrived at Toodyay at 7:00 am — the time that Barry and I left home. Most of the display was in place when we arrived but we were useful at the end of the day (about 3:30 pm) when everything had to be repacked into Brice's 4WD.



BAWA stall at Toodyay; Brice and Barry at the rear of customers.

Photo courtesy Molly Angus

Was the stall a success? Lots of people looked at the photographic display, many took copies of handouts, bought cards and talked to us about birds in their gardens or on their farms or wanted birds identified from rather vague descriptions. We sold \$184 worth of goods — cards, books, CDs and DVDs.

In all, a positive result and a good way to raise public awareness of BAWA.

Molly Angus

DARLINGTON ARTS FESTIVAL November 2006

What is it about the weather? Some days are sublime, but start unpacking the BAWA tent and display board, and all the

fans in creation function at full speed, at any angle and in any direction. Particularly in the direction of the BAWA tent. This weekend, the wind brought as companions, showers and lightning.

There seemed to be fewer people at this event than last year, no doubt due to the weather, but the friendly, cheerful atmosphere prevailed.

Our birds sang repeatedly from the DVD player and our volunteers chatted and answered as many queries as possible. Identifying a bird can always be a challenge but with a remote and sketchy description is particularly tricky. Cards and books were sold, and hopefully birds will benefit.

Many thanks as usual to all the volunteers, and special thanks to Ed Paull who supplied the power for the sight and sound of the birds.

Stella Stewart-Wynne



Members' contributions



NEWHAVEN WILDLIFE RESERVE, 5–10 August

Newhaven Reserve is 330 km north-west of Alice Springs and covers 2626 square km. It was purchased by Birds Australia and is currently managed by Australian Wildlife Conservancy. In dry and fine conditions 16 members of Birds Australia toured the varied habitats of grasslands, woodlands, rocky ranges and salt pans to see a total of 64 species. There are currently some 138 on the Newhaven list.

Near our campground (with hot showers and pit toilets) we saw Major Mitchell's Cockatoos eating the green seed cases of Needlewood (*Hakea leucoptera*) and so intent on doing so they were observed at close range.

At Freshwater Bore, which has a functioning water trough, a pair of Mulga Parrots was seen feeding on the red fruits of Climbing Saltbush (*Einadia nutans*). Zebra Finches, Budgerigars and Banded Whitefaces were also seen.

On Hillside Drive (tracks are well signposted) a variety of honeyeaters were attracted to the flowering Honey Grevilleas (*Grevillea eriostachya*). There were Black, Pied, White-fronted, Grey-headed, Brown, Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters. Here we also saw Masked Woodswallows.

At the rocky base of Warnapi mesa we happened to flush two Spotted Nightjars which circled around us several times. A pair of Painted Finches was also seen here.

At Lake Bennett, beside a vestige of salty water we had excellent views of Orange Chats and White-winged Fairy-wrens. No other water was present so we recorded no waterbirds.

Kestrels and Brown Falcons were common but we saw no other raptors within the reserve. Several Black-breasted

Buzzards were seen on the road north of Alice Springs.

The visit became interesting from the point of view of what birds were not seen, in spite of our full day searches and combined experience.

Crested Pigeons, Hooded Robins and Black-faced Woodswallows were common and Crested Bellbirds and Red-backed Kingfishers were recorded. Six Bustards were seen on the plains.

Our trip ended on a very high note in Alice Springs — in the Botanical Gardens we watched two Western Bowerbirds at their bower, just near the car park. While the female inspected the recently 'tweaked' bower, the male hopped robustly around it with a green quandong in its bill.

Diane Beckingham

YELLOW-THROATED MINERS

There is quite a large, hopefully permanent, colony of Yellow-throated Miners in Madeley, a north-of-the-river suburb of Perth. As far as I know this is the only colony in the metropolitan area.

If anybody is interesting in seeing and hearing these beautiful birds, you can find them north of the soccer ground at the Kingsway Reserve between Kingsway and Hepburn Avenue, Madeley. Enjoy!

Hank van Wees

Editors' note: Yellow-throated Miners do appear to be rare in the metropolitan area. There are some in the Butler-Iluka area, and in the Kingsley-Hepburn Heights area. Are observers aware of any others?

MONITORING MALLEEFOWL MOUNDS AT EYRE



To consolidate the work of the mound survey carried out in June 2005, largely through the efforts of the MPG and supported by BAWA, a follow-up activity was conducted in early October 2006.

A group of nine of us set out to examine 71 Malleefowl mounds to record activity in the 2006 breeding season. Only one of the mounds was active. In earlier years, up to six mounds in the same area have been active at one time. Plenty of plant litter was now available but other factors must have been at work. Perhaps the rain arrived at the wrong time, or it was insufficient. Perhaps the severe cold in June and July was an influence. It was noted that large patches of bush appeared to be dead; several species of bushes, including acacia and some new mallee growth, were badly damaged by the frost.

A single Malleefowl was seen (close to the active mound) and footprints were noted in the general vicinity. We hope that the tracks were made by Malleefowl other than the one seen!

Searching on the second afternoon became very uncomfortable with a 42°C maximum. This was exceeded the next day by a 43.4°C maximum but we decided to avoid problems by staying at the building. Luckily we had the opportunity to admire a flock of about 200 Masked Woodswallows which appeared over the observatory, some even venturing to the perches near the house. A few were still there the next day.

Cooler days followed (0° C minimum on Friday), providing encouragement to venture forth once more and complete the mound monitoring, and to take part in the weekly beach count. Ross had brought his guitar so we were entertained with quality live music in the evenings.

Gina provided beautifully for our appetites. Both Norm and Gina made the week at Eyre a very welcoming one. It is obvious that they make a positive contribution. Further renovations by John Hanrahan and his team in September have added to Eyre's charm.

We thank the other seven team members who were prepared to go to the trouble and expense of travelling so far to assist in this study of Malleefowl.



Masked Woodswallows at Eyre
Photo courtesy Rod Smith

Rod Smith and Joyce Hegney

CHRISTMAS ISLAND BIRD WEEK

The Bird Week was organised by the Christmas Island Tourist Board and took place in September 2006. It was attended by 30 birdwatchers from Australia, USA, UK and Denmark.

Christmas Island is located 2300 km off the Western Australian coast (still part of Australia, though) and 400 km from Java. The island is without doubt one of the world's great seabird islands. It is the only breeding place of the endangered Abbott's Booby and Christmas Island Frigatebird and the beautiful Golden Bosunbird, a race of the White-tailed Tropicbird.

It is the major breeding ground in the Indian Ocean for the Brown Booby and has a large population of Red-footed Boobies. Common Noddies and the Greater Frigatebird also breed on the island.

Abbott's Booby was named after the American naturalist W L Abbott who collected a specimen of the bird in the Indian Ocean in 1892. It is a large booby, about 79 cm long with a snow-white head, neck and underparts, black and white back and black wings and tail. The harsh throaty call of the juveniles is one of the distinctive sounds of the Christmas Island rainforest. Dr Janos Hennicke from Hamburg University showed us the work he was doing fitting microelectronic transmitters and a data logger to the birds at a cost of \$3000 each! A French satellite then tracks the birds. The birds nest 20m or so up in the rainforest canopy, so attaching the transmitters calls for considerable climbing skills.

A previous programme using a satellite transmitter to track a Christmas Island Frigatebird revealed that one particular female bird flew over 4700 km to the Java Sea and back, over the mountains of Java, to Christmas Island, remaining aloft for an astonishing 26 days.

The Brown Booby is found in tropical areas across the world. Christmas Island is one of the bird's major strongholds. Its main food is flying fish, caught by

plunging into the water, usually from ten to fifteen metres up, and spending up to 40 seconds underwater.

The Red-footed Booby is the smallest booby and is creamy white except for a yellow head and neck and dark brown feathers on the rear third of the wing.

The Christmas Island Frigatebird is a large black and white bird. The male inflates a striking red pouch below its throat during courtship. Its diet consists largely of fish and squid robbed from boobies and bosunbirds returning to land. The frigatebirds pursue their victim with great flying skill until the prey vomits its catch. This is then scooped from the sea or amazingly caught on the wing.

The star of the seabird show is probably the Golden Bosunbird, an apricot tinted tropicbird with long golden tailstreamers.

The local school participated in the Bird Week with bird models displayed around the settlement. An article on the week will appear in a future *Wingspan*. The week is likely to be repeated in 2007.

Graham Wooller

JACKY WINTERS — NOT SO COMMON DUROKOPPIN NATURE RESERVE, 22 September

This wheatbelt reserve of dry woodland some 25 km north of Kellerberrin is always worth a rest stop. On the west side there is a car park, information board and walk trail.

While doing a 2 hectare survey here I was pleased to record a pair of Jacky Winters (Brown Flycatchers) as I had not recorded them here since 1999, though I visit this spot annually.

I watched the pair sally up and around among dead branches, showing the white sides to their wagging tails. They were quite vocal but I couldn't locate any nest, which I knew would be small and finely made.

The Jacky Winter is aptly described by Graham Pizzey as a "small confiding grey-brown bird of much charm".

Diane Beckingham



Jacky Winter

Drawing by Diane Beckingham

THE CUCKOO STORY

In the grounds of the New Norcia complex at 1730 on 23 September, frantic chirping of a juvenile bird sitting on a branch high up in a eucalypt tree was heard. Flying around at speed were two Red Wattlebirds devouring insects and returning to feed this juvenile bird with approximately six regurgitations each feed. But the juvenile continued to chirp loudly.

This juvenile bird was not a Red Wattlebird. It was a Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo.

M H Bremner

SHARK BAY BIRDING (2006)

Maureen and I enjoyed the experience during the second week of the August school holidays. We are pretty sure some of our enthusiasm rubbed off on our visitors and we would do the job again if required.

Bill McAtee

When some folk go on holiday
They like to lie out flat
But our holiday started with a question
"I say, what bird is that?"

When we went up to Shark Bay
On behalf of Birds Australia
We took the daily bird tour
On the track at Monkey Mia
We saw the Crested Bellbird
And the Variegated Wren
Thick-billed Grass-wrens were in the car park
And we saw Welcome Swallows again

A flock of swallows and Tree Martins
Landed on a little dead tree
Our group thought it was sensational
And really, so did we!

Chiming Wedgebills were under the bushes
As we listened for a clue
A Crested Pigeon caught a lady's eye
It was amusing "what interested who"

The Irish liked the Willie Wagtail
The Dutch liked the White-winged Wren
I liked the Chiming Wedgebills
While one bloke enjoyed the walk in the sun

Down on the beach there were waders
Bar-tailed Godwits galore
Red-capped Plovers, Caspian Terns
And many we had seen before

Then out on the Peron Station there were Emus
And flocks of Zebra Finches
The Chiming Wedgebills were road runners
While the Little Crows sat on the fences

Please put my watch on said Maureen
Oops, it's upside down
Now here is another group of locals
Visiting from the town

They sometimes arrive at midnight
And sometimes 2 am
They drink and shout in the hot tub
And leave a trail of rubbish behind them

Then Andy and Merril pick up the stuff
That has been left behind
Like shirts and towels and cans of beer
And even undies they find

It happens nearly every morning
As we jumped into the artesian tub
When Andy and Merril came to clean up
The best hosts in the scrub
We hope that birding continues
On Peron and the Monkey Mia track
Because we'd like to hear that question again
"I say, what bird is that?"

Bill McAtee

A "STARVED" BUFF-BANDED RAIL OBLIVIOUS OF ITS SURROUNDINGS

On the south side of Herdsman Lake at 1300 on 11 September, following a rather wet morning, it still being cloudy, a Buff-banded Rail with constant twitching of its tail was wandering along a partly submerged, linear, soggy island on which the grass was still visible. Every five seconds, with twitching tail, it grabbed a worm which it immediately swallowed; every 5 seconds another worm swallowed until it came to the end of this 10 metre island. Then it strolled across a section of water to the lawn at the high water mark of the lake. But with no worms there it quickly strode back to the soggy 10 metre linear island and continued the 5 second worm feeds, all the time twitching its tail, and quite oblivious to its surroundings, even when returning to the grassy edge of the lake.

This continued for 15 minutes when down flew a Common Greenshank in full breeding plumage. But of course with feeding conditions unsuitable for a greenshank, it soon flew off.

A week later, this Buff-banded Rail was behaving in a more usual manner, racing along its patch of grass, very secretive, grabbing a worm, only an occasional tail flip and running for cover before swallowing its prize. On another occasion this bird with a long worm dangling from its beak was being chased by a Dusky Moorhen, but it finally managed to gain cover in a dense *Melaleuca* to consume its prize.

The surrounding lawn was a hive of activity with two Black Swan families of two and five cygnets respectively, a Dusky Moorhen feeding its chick, and a family of Australian Wood Ducks with nine fluffy chicks being protected from the wind by mother duck who was standing making a tent with her wings touching the ground, father duck standing next to her. At the water's edge was a Great Egret, in full breeding plumage, with green face and red legs.

M H Bremner



Striated Pardalote in the same nest hole,
5 September 2006.

Photo courtesy Maris Lauva

SHORT TERM APARTMENTS

Whilst on a BAWA excursion to Lake Monger on 9 July some of the group observed two Rainbow Lorikeets engaged with a chick inside a nesting hollow. It was virtually above the footpath, not much more than head high. I returned several times over a period of a couple of weeks and took a few more snaps whenever the youngster showed its head.



Rainbow Lorikeet observed at Lake
Monger 9 to 22 July 2006.

Photo courtesy Maris Lauva

I did not see any more activity at the hollow until 5 September when I was attracted by the sound of a chick. I set up my camera and within a couple of minutes a Striated Pardalote commenced flying in and out. It too seemed unfazed by the cyclists and pedestrians passing below.

Incidentally, during one of my visits, I noticed a couple of Galahs higher in the same tree, acting suspiciously. Sure enough, they were going in and out of another nesting hollow in the same tree. (See photograph elsewhere in this issue.)

Since this report was originally written, I have noticed that this same hole has been taken over by bees!

Maris Lauva

RESPONSE TO "WHERE HAVE ALL THE SILVEREYES GONE" (WABN 119, pp 13)

In one respect it was wonderful to read the praise of Robert Stranger in the last issue of WABN. I too, am a Silvereye appreciator, and have crossed many a detractor's path (from what I can gauge Silvereyes are generally considered to be a 'weed' bird by most).

While it is considerably disheartening to hear of their demise on the coastal plain, I'd like to let Robert know that the Silvereyes are still alive, well and abundant in the Darling Range. I have been running a bird banding project on a rose farm in Carmel since 1999. My banding effort in the three years between the summers of 1999/2000 and 2001/2002 was considerable and reasonably regular, although since then it has been a little more erratic and opportunistic (largely dictated by study and work commitments). Even so, it is clear that the Silvereye is still thriving in the orchard belt (adjacent to my banding site). Of my 2398 captures (including recaptures) to date, 1286 have been Silvereyes (nearly 54%). These comprised 897 individual birds. My recapture rate for Silvereyes is a very healthy 30.3%. The oldest bird (so far) was at least seven years old. It was first caught in January 2000 and recaptured again in March this year. The most times I have captured the same individual is eleven, but I have caught 687 birds only the once.

The Silvereyes arrive in force in mid to late spring and are the most abundant bird at my banding site (irrespective of whether I catch them or not) through until late summer or

early autumn. They are much less common through winter and early spring. I'm not sure where most of the birds go, but I understand that some subspecies or populations of Silvereyes are thought to be migratory (particularly the Tasmanian form). It seems that movement of this species is very complex and highly variable throughout its range. Other local bird banders have observed coastal plain birds with well-developed fat stores at certain times of the year, a feature often indicative of migration. I would love, one day, to investigate this further (at least in a local context) but, for now, I will simply have to remain intrigued.

It may also interest Robert to know that there is a patch of wild blackberries in the creekline near my banding site, that Silvereyes love eating blackberries and that I regularly finish a bird banding session with purple-stained fingers. My clothes line has, so far, escaped lightly but my bird holding bags have been distinctly Silvereye-dyed, permanently.

Wes Bancroft

Silvereye Appreciation Society (member number 002)

PELICAN POINT: A DOG, SOME WADERS AND ME

Having read Mike Bamford's article "Do dogs disturb waterbirds?" (WABN 79: 15) I was prompted to relate an experience of mine. In the late 1950s and early to mid 1960s we trapped waders on Pelican Point with automatic traps, that is, the birds could enter the trap at any time but then had difficulty escaping from it. Dogs and people were rare on Pelican Point in those days but obviously dogs posed a threat to trapped birds.

Thus one weekend in the early 1960s I attacked a large dog terrorising some trapped birds by throwing driftwood at it, and then tried to scare it away with a large stick. The dog's owner then arrived on the scene, was somewhat in a huff and demanded to know who I was and just what did I think I was doing. Calmly I explained that I was working for CSIRO Wildlife — but didn't mention in a voluntary capacity — and that his dog was a nuisance and interfering with my work — and on a C-class reserve! This didn't placate him, however, and he launched into a tirade of insults and abuse and, now even more huffy, he sternly said that if I continued to harass his dog — I was trying to kill it actually — or, horror of horrors, actually hit it, he would report me to the police.

So I promptly hit 'Fido' on the head with the stick and it promptly took flight in the general direction of Steve's Hotel, and the owner did too, in an even greater huff. But the rest of the day passed quietly and I thought the matter at an end. Not so! On Monday morning Dr Serventy received a telephone call from one very irate dog owner and he was still threatening to report the matter to the police. But the good Doctor hated dogs on Pelican Point, too, and I have no doubt that the dog's owner was told what he could do with his dog and advised of the sanctity of the Point. And no, the police never arrived or even telephoned.

I notice too, that Mike refers to wader numbers at three locations on the Swan Estuary reducing from thousands to hundreds after the early 1980s. But even by the mid 1960s Pelican Point had seemingly lost its attraction to waders. The



Galahs at Lake Monger.

Photo courtesy Maris Lauva

birds were no longer feeding voraciously for sustained periods, and therefore were not as easily trapped. The flocks were flighty and instead of settling not far away when disturbed, they often departed completely. Perhaps the birds were being disturbed more frequently then, and at one time the waders were being seen more often and in greater numbers along the Kwinana Freeway foreshore. But logistics ruled out trapping them there.

The Red-necked Stint had been the commonest species trapped and Curlew and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were perhaps caught in equal numbers but less commonly than the stint. It was difficult to assess numbers because the flocks disperse into smaller groups during the day and re-assemble towards evening. But if my memory serves me correctly, flocks of 500–1000 Red-necked Stints would have been notable and similarly for flocks of 50–100 Curlew or Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. Red Knots were uncommon and therefore of interest, and Great Knots decidedly rare. A Grey Plover or two and their calls were a feature of the Point as were small numbers of Red-capped Dotterels, which were also sometimes trapped. Other waders were decidedly casual or vagrant.

Actually my introduction to trapping and banding waders was quite brutal. Upon returning to Perth for two weeks' furlough over Christmas of 1959 I visited the CSIRO laboratory to see what was happening, and was simply instructed to proceed to Pelican Point and trap waders. So I found the traps, set them, and returned to the lab. About one hour later I returned to the Point and indeed there were several birds in the traps. These were taken to the lab, where eyebrows were raised. Obviously beginner's luck! But Lexie Nicholls set about banding, weighing and measuring the birds and showed me how to describe any moult they had, and I dutifully recorded all of such. I then released the banded birds at the Point, cleared the traps and reset them. This was great fun! Much more so than the fishing I had done on the northern side of the Point when younger, where the yacht clubs now are.

Upon returning to the lab eyebrows were raised again — twice successful! Again the birds were banded, etc, I returned

to the Point, released them, cleared the traps and reset them, the latter being necessary to allow for the rising or falling tide. Back at the lab nothing was said but this time Dr Serventy drove me to the point and released the banded birds himself, just to make sure, I now suspect, that I wasn't removing the bands from the birds and re-presenting them at the lab. But there were even more birds in the traps, so his suspicions were allayed and he beamed at my success, for I had already caught more birds than Lexie did in a week.

Thus in the following two weeks I learnt how to trap, band, weigh and measure the birds and how to describe their moult, and when Lexie was busy with other matters the good Doctor recorded the data for me. But I had banded birds before, on the poultry farm of Alf Hampton in Kewdale. Part of my job had been to trap the fowls when they laid, band them, weigh their eggs and record the frequency with which they laid, because Alf was intent on proving that his methods of selection, learnt in Yorkshire, England, were superior to the application of modern genetics.

But now I was working on wild birds and must have trapped several hundred in that magical two weeks, and clearly remember the excitement of arriving at the Point and seeing the waders jumping around in the traps, and the devastating disappointment if the traps were empty. On one occasion I was late and though there was a good catch of Sharp-tails in one trap they were up to their necks in water and thoroughly drenched, for the rising tide had its own timetable. We had to dry the birds before weighing them and smooth their feathers before releasing them. A Red-necked Stint was a retrap that had been banded the previous year, and Dr Serventy was especially elated by that.

In subsequent years though and up until 1965 I never repeated my success of that two weeks. Conditions were never as good again, and I guess that disturbance of the birds by others may have increased too. But one day there were only four Red-capped Plovers on the entire Point, and by judiciously setting the traps and cautiously shepherding them, I caught three of them. The fourth had entered the trap but then, after a short, seemingly thoughtful pause, exited through the entrance funnel in the other side. I don't think I trapped anything of note other than the Red-necked Stint banded in the previous year but several of "my" birds were retrapped in subsequent years. My best daily catches were 60, 55 and 50, but 20 or so would have been the daily average.

Robert Stranger



Malleefowl road sign
Photo courtesy Diane Beckingham

MINI MYSTERY

On 7 August at about 9:00am I was driving along a track in the Fitzgerald River National Park. Ahead was a Wedge-tailed Eagle apparently feeding. As I drew close, it rose with something dark brown and furry clutched in one foot. A thickish short tail dangled down. The little creature was dropped as the eagle gained height, and it fell with a bang onto the roof of the vehicle then slid to the ground. I stopped immediately and rushed to see what it might be. My number one guess was a Dibbler. Wrong. To my surprise, all I could find in the right spot, was a dead banksia flower spike, about the size of a Dibbler, brown and hairy-looking and with a stem just as long and thick as the tail I had seen. The stem was cut diagonally and there was a bare patch on the cone where some dead flowers had been.

Brenda Newbey

WEIRA NATURE RESERVE, NORTH EASTERN WHEATBELT, 23 September

This was the first time I've recorded a Malleefowl sighting within the first five minutes of a 2-hectare 20-minute survey. And it wasn't the Malleefowl on the nearby road sign, though that prompted me to stop and walk in the scrub of the Weira Nature Reserve, 13 km south-east of Mukinbudin, on the Mukinbudin to Southern Cross Road.

It was sunny but windy at 9:00 am. The Malleefowl was squatting relaxed under some low scrub about 3 metres from a disused track. I had one good look through binoculars before it shimmered away and vanished, as they do.

Then I chanced upon a freshly scratched nest mound a few metres further on. It was great to see what appears to be a successful breeding area for these vulnerable ground-nesting birds.

Not far away there was the inevitable fox print in the sand. Foxes remain a threat, even though the Malleefowl chicks 'can fly and fend for themselves within several hours' (Graham Pizzey).



Malleefowl nest mound
Photo courtesy Diane Beckingham

The day before, just north of Kellerberrin, I had seen the fresh carcasses of 47 fat foxes that a farmer had strung up on his fence (with three feral cats for good measure).

The Landcare Representative from Westonia told me there is currently funding available for farmers in these areas to obtain fox baits for biodiversity protection. In view of the evidence of the numbers of such pests, we can only hope that more baiting is done.

Diane Beckingham



Fox carcasses strung up on the Kellerberrin to Trayning Road – unpleasant but has impact!

Photo courtesy Diane Beckingham

KINGFISHER AND BUTTON-QUAIL AT DRYANDRA

On 22 October after a weekend Astronomy Camp at Lions Dryandra Village, I stopped for a last look at the birds near the Old Mill Dam. I was watching two Painted Button-quail feeding quietly together when a Sacred Kingfisher flew down, pecked the female button-quail on the head, then flew up to perch on a tree branch and look down at the pair on the ground.

Both button-quail continued feeding completely undisturbed by this. I would not have thought these two species would have any interaction at all. Any suggestions?

Christine Wilder

COURAGEOUS MAGPIE

The persistent alarm calls of New Holland Honeyeaters made me look up to see if there was a raptor about. When I saw one of our resident Australian Magpies jump about excitedly, I decided to investigate the cause of the disturbance. A good-sized tiger snake was coiled up tightly on the front lawn ready to strike at the magpie. However, the bird was not to be intimidated and started to peck repeatedly at the snake and would not even stop when the snake began to strike back. I have observed this behaviour with a Laughing Kookaburra, but never with magpies.

Our courageous magpie isn't quite as brave when it comes face to face with the aggressive Red Wattlebirds in our backyard. It has been known to run away from its ferocious attackers.

Fred Bondin

CORELLAS EXPANDING THEIR RANGE?

Over the last decade or so, Eastern Long-billed Corellas have been common around the Wanneroo area, and this has been the only species recorded here during the corella counts of recent years (see earlier editions of WABN). As a consequence, I was surprised recently to find Little Corellas in the area.

What first caught my attention was the fact that there were dozens of corellas feeding in a row of 25 Coast Sheoaks, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, that had been planted as street trees along Scenic Drive in Wanneroo, south of the recreation centre and adjacent to playing fields near Lake Joondalup. There were also corellas feeding on the ground under the trees, where there were many small branchlets that appeared to have been dropped by the birds in the trees. All 25 trees had been affected in this way. The trees had many fruiting cones, and the birds seemed to be eating the seeds from the cones. The reason this caught my attention was that Eastern Long-billed Corellas in this area are normally seen in eucalypt trees, or foraging on the grassy playing fields and other similar areas. Once I stopped to take a closer look, I realised that the birds in and under the sheoaks were actually Little Corellas.

The first time I noticed the Little Corellas was on the 5th of April 2006, when there was about 200 birds, about half feeding on sheoak cones and the remainder foraging on the lawn. Over the next week I noticed similar numbers of birds, usually in both the trees and on the lawns. Sometimes about five Eastern Long-billed Corellas were accompanying the Little Corellas, but during this time I didn't notice the flocks of dozens of Eastern Long-billed Corellas that usually occur around Wanneroo. I don't know how long they stayed, as I couldn't continue my observations, but the Little Corellas had gone by a couple of months later.

It is not clear why the Little Corellas suddenly turned up in Wanneroo, but perhaps it was because they had become locally nomadic in response to the dry conditions this year, or perhaps they were being persecuted elsewhere. In any case, such behaviour would need to be taken into account in any measures to assess population sizes of corellas in Perth, or in any attempts to control numbers. It would be interesting to know if other observers have noted any unusual occurrences of corellas this year.

Allan Burbidge

EGGS ON A COW PAT

On 5 September we were driving slowly alongside Lake Annean, with an icy gale blowing across the water which was higher than usual. At 7:25 am we saw a Red-capped Plover in front of us outdoing itself with its broken wing trick, eventually lying completely prone with outstretched wings in the middle of the track. We looked out of the window and there beside the vehicle were two eggs neatly positioned on a cow pat.

With the chilling wind — just time for a quick photo and on our way.

Michael and Ada Nield



Red-capped Plover eggs on a cow pat.
Photo courtesy Michael Nield

A LEG-TREMBLING DISPLAY IN THE RED-KNEED DOTTEREL

On 18 May 1985 there were three Red-kneed Dotterels in the southern clay-pit of the Maylands Peninsula. Two were seemingly a pair and the other was, I think, an adult male who had been resident there for a few months. I had named him 'The Loner' because he never mixed with others.

On this occasion he was standing in shallow water and was engaging in a leg-trembling display, which I assume was intended to stir up the mud or water and bring food to the surface. Only one leg was trembled at a time but he may have used it four or five times in succession before changing to the other. There was a short pause between each display and on a few occasions he pecked at the water.

The entire leg was trembled fairly quickly and the display may be similar to "puddling" in Silver Gulls (Stranger 1970), but was much less vigorous. In the case of the dotterel it was only done when the entire "leg" (tarso-metarsus) or most of it was in the water, depending on its depth. Despite observing the bird on subsequent days the display was not seen again until 22 May, and the bird was not seen subsequently. This behaviour seems to be not well known — HANZAB only provides one reference to leg trembling in this species.

Reference

Stranger, R.H. (1970). Feeding of the Silver Gull on the Blowfish *Spheroides pleurogramma*. *Western Australian Naturalist* 11: 101.

Robert Stranger

INTRODUCED DOVES IN THE NORTH-WEST

In recent months (winter-spring 2006), there have been reports of Spotted Turtle-Doves (*Streptopelia chinensis*) in Karratha. Some photographs were subsequently obtained. Further investigations have revealed that local wildlife carers

have had a number of nestlings in care in recent years, suggesting that the species may have been present for several years. Also, at least two Eurasian Collared Doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*) have been located in the wild in the town.

Curiously, there were no records of Spotted Turtle-Doves from about the Perth area northwards in either the first or second BA Atlas. On the other hand, there are records of Laughing Turtle-Doves from the Shark Bay area in both the first and second Atlas, and it is known that they began colonising the Shark Bay area by about 1960. Unpublished records held by the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Western Australian Museum indicate that the Laughing Turtle-Dove was first recorded in Carnarvon in 1986, and is now established there in small numbers (Johnstone *et al.* 2000). It will be interesting to see if they expand into the Pilbara.

Karratha is about 1000 km north of other known occurrences of Spotted Turtle-Doves, posing the question of how they might have colonised over such a distance. Presumably they have been assisted in some way, either by hitching a ride on shipping, or by more direct intervention.

It is not known whether either of the turtle-doves or the Collared Dove will establish in natural areas in the Pilbara. However, Spotted Turtle-Doves have colonised much of the east coast of Australia as far north as about Cairns, and do utilise native vegetation. In Karratha, it is likely that they will compete with the native Bar-shouldered Dove, which does occur in urban areas in the Pilbara. It seems to us that Pilbara towns will lose some of their local character (and biodiversity) if these introduced doves do displace Bar-shouldered Doves, as we suspect will happen.

We would guess that the introduced doves are often overlooked by many birdwatchers, or perhaps few birdwatchers fill out Atlas sheets for towns and cities away from the Perth metropolitan area. However, we would encourage all observers to look out for these species — there is much to learn about their colonising abilities and possible impacts on native fauna.

We would be pleased to hear about any further information that BA members might have about Spotted Turtle-Doves



Spotted Turtle-Dove at Karratha.

Photo courtesy Brett Lewis, Dept of Environment and Conservation

away from the Perth metropolitan area or any other unusual bird species.

NB. It is hoped that all exotic dove species in the wild in Karratha can be live-trapped and placed safely back in captivity over the next few weeks.

Reference

Johnstone, R.E., Burbidge, A.H., and Stone, P. (2000). Birds of the southern Carnarvon Basin, Western Australia: distribution, status and historical changes. *Records of the Western Australian Museum Supplement No. 61*, 371-448.

Allan Burbidge and Marion Massam

SANDERLING SIGHTINGS IN SOUTH-WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Birds Australia WA members have been involved in Hooded Plover surveys for more than ten years. During this time, much information has been gathered on Hooded Plovers, but other data have also been gathered. For example, records of the occurrence of Sooty Oystercatchers were examined in a previous issue of *Western Australian Bird Notes* (Singor 2006).

The Sanderling, *Calidris alba*, is another species for which we have collected information on distribution and numbers along the south west coast. This article presents an overview of these observations and related information on the Sanderling. The data are not conclusive and there are bound to be sites that have been overlooked, but the following notes are a summary of progress to date.

Most Sanderling sightings were made from late September till April. Many observations coincided with the major February surveys. A few winter sightings were mentioned from places such as Esperance, Bremer Bay, Augusta,

Mandurah and Perth, and most number below 15 birds. Often these birds show traces of breeding plumage with the occasional one in full breeding plumage.

Sites where Sanderlings have been recorded in the current surveys are shown in Table 1. Generally speaking, Sanderlings were seen in small flocks (< 50) along the beaches of the south west coast. The largest concentrations were observed in the Esperance region. The largest group reported was 550 at Yokinup Bay, Cape Arid National Park in January 2000.

Besides the coastal beaches, Sanderlings showed up at some inland lakes, in particular those around Esperance. However, a sighting in 1991 came from as far away as Laverton and another observation was made at Miripin Lake Nature Reserve near Woodanilling in 1983.

Coastal distribution of the Sanderling from Perth to Eyre

Perth

Sanderlings can be found at a number of locations around Perth. The main season for sightings runs from September till April although some rare winter sightings have been made in the metropolitan area.

Rottneest Island has proved to be a reliable location for sightings as is reflected in the summer wader counts. The highest counts on Rottneest Island were at Salmon Bay and Porpoise Bay and they were seen less frequently and in smaller numbers on the inland salt lakes such as Lake Baghdad (North), Government House Lake, Herschel Lake and Pearce Lake. An overview of the summer Sanderling counts made on Rottneest from 1998 to 2006 shows that numbers on Rottneest have remained stable over the years (Fig. 1).

Woodman Point Nature Reserve used to be a trusted site for a small flock of Sanderlings but in recent years the numbers in the flocks have declined. The reserve has seen an increase in recreational activities and dogs. A considerable amount of historical data is available from Woodman Point, and observations made there between 1984 and 2005 are summarised in Table 2.

Large numbers of Sanderlings were recorded on Garden Island in a past survey, for example 484 in November 1982, although only 15 were recorded during the February 1997 survey. Sanderling sites on Garden Island are Cliff Head and Gilbert Point. Recent information from Garden Island is lacking, probably due to the access restrictions.

Historically Sanderlings were reported from Halls Head Beach south of the Mandurah Estuary. For example flocks of up to 70 birds were sighted at Halls Head into the early nineties but these are no longer seen. Re-development of the area and its use as a dog beach were probably contributing factors.

Further south, sightings have been made north and south of the Dawesville Cut. At the Preston Beach foreshore small numbers have been recorded, mainly of 1- 4 birds. Sporadic sightings were made at salt lakes in Yalgorup National Park, including Lake Preston north and Lake Yalgorup.

Location	HC	Shire	Location	HC	Shire
Boullanger Island, Jurien	32	Dandaragan	Peaceful Bay	7	Denmark
Lancelin Beach		Gingin	Freddies Beach	1	Denmark
Ledge Point Beach	50	Gingin	Nanarup Beach	1	Albany
Alfred Cove		Perth	Cheyne's Beach	48	Albany
Pelican Point	1	Perth	Wongerup Creek	13	Albany
Rottnest	125	Perth			
Garden Island	484	Perth	Pallinup Estuary	10	Jerramungup
Woodman Point	63	Perth	Yandy Beach	20	Jerramungup
Secret Harbour Beach	18	Rockingham	Reef Beach	80	Jerramungup
Halls Head	70	Mandurah	Foster Bay	35	Jerramungup
Dawesville Cut, North	23	Mandurah	Bremer Beach	9	Jerramungup
Tim's Thicket, White Hill	12	Mandurah	Peppermint Beach	1	Jerramungup
			Doubtful Island Beach	12	Ravensthorpe
Lake McLarty	1	Murray	Tooregullup Beach	50	Ravensthorpe
Preston Beach	7	Waroona	Gordon Inlet	60	Ravensthorpe
Lake Yalgorup	1	Waroona	Trigalow Beach	50	Ravensthorpe
Lake Preston	2	Waroona	Point Anne Beach	13	Ravensthorpe
Leschenault Inlet	1	Harvey	Salmon Holes	25	Ravensthorpe
			Twelve Mile Beach	6	Ravensthorpe
Cape Clairault	3	Augusta/Margaret River	Mason Bay	20	Ravensthorpe
Cowaramup Bay	7	Augusta/Margaret River	Munglinup Beach East	30	Ravensthorpe
Gracetown	14	Augusta/Margaret River			
Gnoocardup Beach	20	Augusta/Margaret River	Stokes Inlet	40	Esperance
Kilcarnup Beach	13	Augusta/Margaret River	Lake Gore	13	Esperance
Prevelly/Grunters Beach	28	Augusta/Margaret River	Lake Warden	210	Esperance
Gnarabup	20	Augusta/Margaret River	Benji Benjenup	100	Esperance
Boodjidup Beach	8	Augusta/Margaret River	Helms Lake		Esperance
Redgate Beach	1	Augusta/Margaret River	Station Lake		Esperance
Cape Freycinet		Augusta/Margaret River	Wylie Bay Beach, CLG	3	Esperance
Hamelin Bay	7	Augusta/Margaret River	Dunn Rock Bay, CLG	50	Esperance
Deepdene	15	Augusta/Margaret River	Alexander Bay	19	Esperance
Hardy Inlet		Augusta/Margaret River	Barrier Anchorage	1	Esperance
			Yokinup Bay, CANP	550	Esperance
White Point	5	Nannup	Cape Arid Beach	5	Esperance
Callcup Dunes Beach	3	Manjimup	Thomas River mouth CANP	20	Esperance
Yeagerup Dunes system	50	Manjimup	Poison Creek mouth, CANP	25	Esperance
Windy Harbour/Gardner Riv.	6	Manjimup	Nuytsland Nature Reserve		Esperance
Gardner River/Broke Inlet		Manjimup	Kanidal Beach	38	Dundas
Coodamurrup Beach		Manjimup			
Nornalup Inlet	3	Denmark	Laverton	1	Laverton
Rame Head	1	Denmark	Woodanilling	1	Woodanilling

Table 1: List of sites in southern WA where Sanderlings have been recorded; most, but not all, of these sites had Sanderlings on them during Hooded Plover surveys.

HC = highest count for site; CANP = Cape Arid National Park; CLG = Cape Le Grande

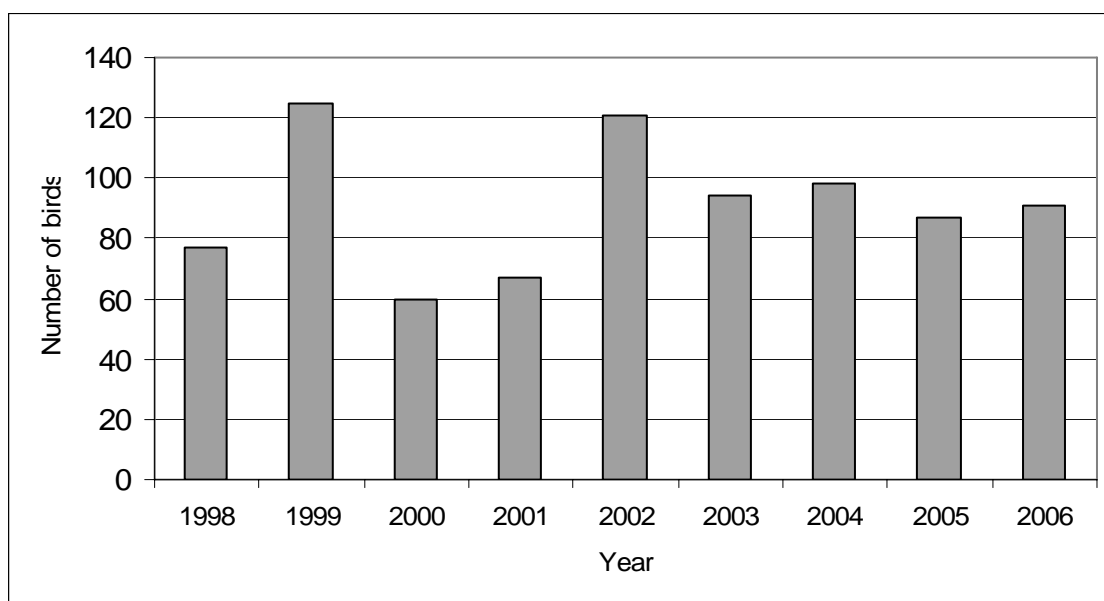


Fig 1. Mid-summer counts of Sanderlings on Rottnest Island 1998-2006.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1984									1			63
1986				2	7							54
1987	52	30	12			2						37
1988	36	40	3									
1989	18										11	
1990												12
1991				14								24
1992					3						25	
1993				16							10	17
1994		10	11	1								2
1995	8				2				15	19	27	25
1996	20	13	11	6			2	1		2	12	13
1997	8	11	8	7						4	7	11
1998	6	7	6	6		1	1			2	5	6
1999	3	2	4						2			
2000	10									4	1	5
2001	5	8	5	3		2				1	1	1
2002	2			1								1
2003												
2004											1	1
2005	1											

Table 2. Highest monthly counts of Sanderlings from Woodman Point 1984-2005.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1978										3	3	5
1979	2		19	38	9					6		2
1980				1						1	3	3
1981	1		4	4	2					5	3	4
1982			1	1	1	2			1		7	6
1983	18			1	2	12				1		1
1984	1		3	4					2	6	7	4
1985				2	3	2				4	4	4
1986	1		1								2	1
1987						14			1	1	4	8
1988			1	1	2	1				1		1
1989		1		1	3	1			1	3	1	2
1990		1				1					1	1
1991			1		2	1				2	4	7
1992			7	2					1	2	3	2
1993			3							6	6	
1994	3	1	1	1		1					2	2
1995											3	3
1996					1	1				1		1
1997	1						4					2
1998										1	2	3
1999		2			5							7

Table 3. Highest monthly counts of Sanderlings from Kanidal Beach, Eyre, 1978-1999.

Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin

The sandy coastal beaches between Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin had a number of regular Sanderling haunts. Small groups were the norm and varied between 6-28 birds. Most sightings came from the beaches to the north and south of the Margaret River Estuary, in particular the coastal strip between Gracetown and Cape Freycinet. Jane Scott mentioned that she had only ever seen small groups of Sanderlings on the Capes beaches regularly since the 1970s (<10 birds or so). The Sanderlings are invariably seen on open sandy beaches that are exposed to sea-swell, scurrying just beyond the reach of waves.

Augusta to Walpole

Sanderlings were reported from few sites between Augusta and Broke Inlet. The beach area 20-30 km to the east of Augusta, near White Point, was the location of a few sightings of small groups of less than five birds. There was a report of 50 Sanderlings in February 2006 from Yeagerup Beach where they were also observed in 2004. There were regular sightings of Sanderlings reported from the beaches between Windy Harbour and the Gardner River but no numbers were recorded.

Walpole to Albany

Few records come from this area. The only two Sanderling sites near Walpole were Nornalup Inlet and Peaceful Bay and numbers were usually less than five.

Albany to Hopetoun

There were few reports of Sanderlings along the coast from Albany to Pallinup estuary. However, a number of sightings came from the beaches west and east of Bremer Bay, where groups were generally between 20 and 50 birds. The highest count (80) came from Reef Beach, which is 25 km west of Bremer Bay.

Small groups of 4 to 30 birds were recorded on beaches east of Hopetoun, such as Salmon Holes, Mason Bay and Munglinup.

Esperance and surrounds

The annual wader count produced a number of Sanderling sightings from the beaches around Esperance, but sightings from the surrounding lakes were not as common. Groups were quite large at Lake Gore (13), Lake Warden (210) and Lake Benje Benjenup (100).

The Esperance region holds the record for the largest group of Sanderlings both on the beach (550) and at an inland lake (210).

A survey conducted along the beach from Wattle Camp to Israelite Bay on 14 December 1986, a distance of 42.5 km, counted 142 Sanderlings (Newbey, 1988).

Eyre

Past wardens of Eyre Bird Observatory, Alex Bisgrove and Rob Stogdale, were kind enough to extract data regarding Sanderlings from observation sheets and Eyre Bird Observatory reports. This information relates to Kanidal Beach, which runs west from Eyre Bird Observatory.

The period covered was 1978 to 1999 (Table 3). Sanderlings were generally seen in small numbers (1-4) and rarely in groups of more than 10 birds. The highest count was 38 birds in April 1979. Sanderlings were seen throughout most of the year with the exception of July. The months when they were most frequently sighted were September to December then April and May. One Sanderling was almost in breeding plumage in June 1997.

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge the contributions made by our Hooded Plover surveyors. Particular thanks go to Bryan

Barrett, Les Harris, Bill Russell, Tony Kirkby and the Esperance Bird Observers for their input, and to Eyre Bird Observatory for the supply of observatory data.

References

Goodreid, G. and Goodreid, G. (1996). *Eyre Bird Observatory Report No 6, 1988-1992*. RAOU Report No 97.

Newbey, B. (1988). Waders at Wattle Camp - Israelite Bay. *Stilt* 12:58.

Singor, M. (2006). Sooty Oystercatcher sites in south western Australia. *Western Australian Bird Notes* 117: 1-5.

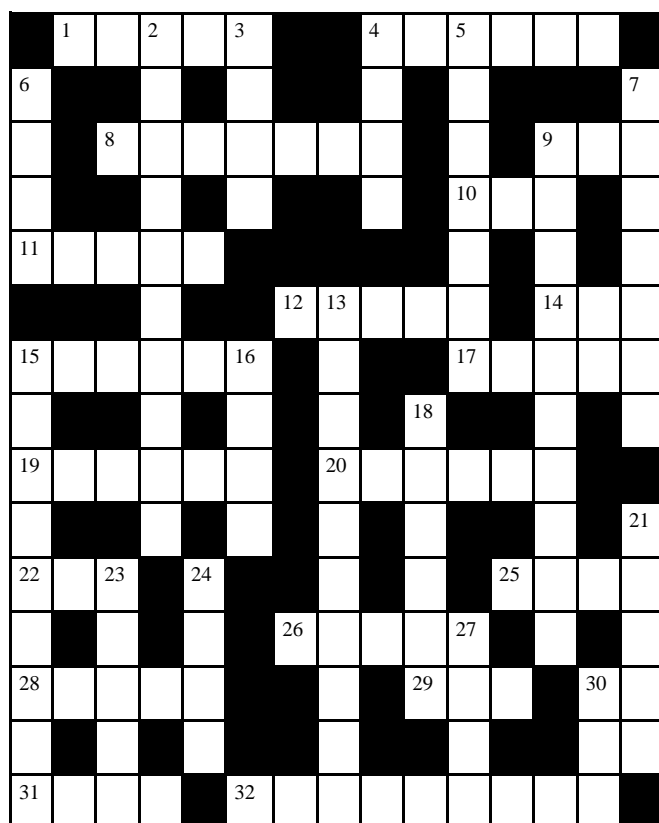
Marcus Singor



Crossword No 47



By Pam Agar



Clues across

1. Important length in binoculars.
4. Cross-breed.
8. Dove of northern WA.
9. To incubate.
10. Colour marking.
11. May determine presence of swans.
12. To seek food among leaves.
14. Developing feather.
15. Oceanic bird.
17. No birds? Enjoy this instead.
19. Young wader.
20. Longest, strongest feathers.
22. Digestive tract.
25. To clap bill.
26. A threat to NZ birds.
28. Inappropriate.
29. Allow.
31. Not difficult.
32. Rate is high among young birds.

Clues down

2. Excursion venue N of Perth.
3. Useful nest site.
4. Structure to conceal watchers.
5. Black cockatoo of south west WA.
6. Early attempts to do this may be clumsy.
7. State of waterbird eggs.
9. Bush excursion site south of Perth.
13. Ground cover (two words).
15. Part name of BAWAG office.
16. Alaudidae family.
18. Much noise by honeyeaters may be one.
21. Unusual bill shape.
23. Rains heavily.
24. Area of survey.
27. Widespread waterfowl.
30. To speak.

Sunday 17 December: BAWA Christmas barbecue



A barbecue will be held on
Sunday, 17 December
at Peregrine House,
commencing at 5:00 pm.
BYO meat, drinks, and salads - all members are
welcome!

For members and guests only.

REMEMBER!

Our Peregrine House office is closed for
the Christmas holidays from Saturday
23 December 2006 to Sunday 7 January
2007 inclusive.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Birds Australia
WA Inc. will be held on Monday 26 February
at 7.30 pm at the Tamala Hall, Environment
Centre, Floreat.

Nominations for positions on committee are
invited and can be lodged by contacting the
office.

Western Ground Parrot Recovery Project



The Department of Environment and Conservation
(DEC), together with the Friends of the Western
Ground Parrot, a community group dedicated to the
recovery of the subspecies, are continuing surveys
and monitoring for this critically endangered parrot
of the South Coast.

Volunteers are needed to assist with survey work at
remote field sites.

Training will be provided along with food and group
camp equipment.

Good hearing is essential and bush camping
experience would be useful.

Survey trips are typically ten days.

We are also conducting occasional evening listening
surveys to Waychinicup NP/Cheyne's Beach leaving
from the DEC Albany office.

For details, please contact:

Mike Barth (DEC) 9842 4519
e-mail <michael.barth@dec.wa.gov.au>



12th Annual Hooded Plover Survey

**Saturday 17 February 2007
and Sunday 18 February 2007**

Co-ordinators and surveyors needed.

For details please contact: Marcus Singor Tel: 9362 2742
or e-mail <msingor@iprimus.com.au>

Survey sheet is enclosed in this issue.



Important Bird Areas in WA

The Important Bird Areas (IBAs) project aims to identify and protect a network of critical sites for the conservation of Australia's birds. Some IBAs - mostly offshore islands important for seabirds - have already been described for WA, but we need assistance to describe more. IBAs are key sites for the conservation of birds and biodiversity, places of international importance that meet global criteria and practical targets for conservation action.

Identifying IBAs and IBA Criteria

IBAs must meet particular criteria in order to be accepted:

- Globally threatened species: the site must have a regular presence of Critical or Endangered species or at least 10 pairs or 30 individuals of a Vulnerable or Near Threatened species, as categorised by the IUCN Red List. (In WA, examples are Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, listed as Endangered, and Blue-billed Duck - listed as Near-threatened).
- Restricted-range species: the site forms one of a set protecting all *restricted-range species*. '*Restricted-range species*' are birds with a global range of <50,000 km². Examples in WA include Partridge Pigeon in the NW and Noisy Scrub-bird and White-breasted Robin in the SW.
- Biome-restricted species: the site forms one of a set protecting all species restricted to a given biome. For this purpose, Australia has been divided into seven biomes. Examples in WA include Slaty-backed Thornbill in the arid zone and Red-capped Parrot and Baudin's Black-Cockatoo in the SW.
- Congregatory birds:
 - The site supports > 1% of the biogeographic population of a waterbird or the global population of a seabird
 - The site supports >20,000 waterbirds or seabirds)
 - The site supports threshold numbers of migratory species at bottleneck sites (there are probably few, if any, of these in Australia).

Some additional criteria ensure that IBAs are practical and effective.

Help by nominating Important Bird Areas or by atlassing anywhere

Do you know of sites that may be Important Bird Areas? To find out, check the documents from the BA website (follow the links through Study Birds and Research Projects), or contact Cheryl Gole, WA IBA Coordinator (08-9293 4958; <cgole@westnet.com.au>). If you're not sure if you can help: please ask.

Atlassing is also an important way to help as we use the Bird Atlas data to help identify possible sites of significance. If you do a survey at a wetland, please include counts of all waterbirds and waders with your surveys.

If you're not an atlasser, or you used to be an atlasser and want to start again, contact Cheryl Gole. Atlas surveys are for the birds!

WHY A NAME CHANGE

The Public Relations Sub-committee has changed its name to the **COMMUNITY EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE** with the approval of the BAWA executive committee.

This more accurately reflects our role in BAWA. The main objective of the committee is to support the role of the Community Liaison Officer, Brice Wells. To be a public relations media committee, which the name may indicate, is beyond the scope of our small committee of four members.

A more important role is to concentrate on creating awareness for BAWA in the community. This we are doing with community talks, school visits, bird seminars, library displays and attendance at shows locally and in the country areas close to Perth.

In our third year of operation we find ourselves sometimes overloaded with opportunities and requests from the community for talks and displays. Therefore, if any member would like to join us, please get in touch through the

office 9383 7749
or Brice Wells 9255 3710
or Elsa Dabbs 9351 8446

We would welcome any time you can spare whether it is to join our committee or just a few hours of your time to give talks, help with displays, school visits or attend shows.

Elsa Dabbs, Secretary
Community Education Sub-committee

GRANTS AND PROJECTS

Are you planning to apply to the General Committee for permission to commence a project, survey, research work or need to purchase items for your project?

Then call at the office and see the file GRANTS INFORMATION which contains information on over 150 grants and projects procedure.

FIRST ACTION is to apply to the General Committee with an outline of your proposal on the form, copies of which can be found in the GRANT file.

Once you have the committee's written authority, then you can apply for a grant and commence working towards your project.

Cheers
Allan K Jones

DEC Station Surveys Project for 2007

In August 2006 BAWA members surveyed the former pastoral leases of Muggon (54 surveys and a total 80 species), Woolgorong (40 surveys and a total 83 species), Narloo and parts of Twin Peaks and Yuin (37 surveys and a total of 64 species). Clive Napier coordinated the surveys with plenty of cooperation and enthusiasm from the other participants. Sightings included the Bush Stone-curlew and the Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush.

In 2007 it is planned to undertake surveys of Earraheedy and Lorna Glen, which adjoin each other about 150 km north-east of Wiluna. For much of the time it is likely that we will be based at Lorna Glen, where good facilities are available for camping, caravans and limited station accommodation. To survey the northern portions of Earraheedy however, it will be necessary to camp out with no facilities. Participants are expected to arrive on Sunday 10 June and be ready to start surveying the following morning. We plan to finish surveying about 26 June.

The stations to be surveyed may change due to weather events or other circumstances beyond the control of BAWA.

Participants are expected to provide their own four-wheel drive transport, to be experienced in outback birding and to be self-reliant. Vehicle pooling is encouraged to reduce both damage to tracks and fuel use. Vehicles should carry a range of spares including a minimum of two spare tyres. A puncture repair kit is one of the essentials. UHF CB radio is desirable.

Further details and information are available from:

Pam and George Agar (9457 2293)
Ruth and John Luyer (9384 2098)
or Ed and Alyson Paull (9299 6283).

Numbers are strictly limited, so contact one of the above as soon as it is practical, the closing date being 27 April 2007.

John Luyer

CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF WA FOCUS

The current focus of your Conservation Council includes:

Halt the Salt – Working to prevent a huge environmentally damaging salt mine being established on Exmouth Gulf.

Mid West Mining Mania – Seeking to temper the damage being caused by the massive mining boom to many unique ecological communities in the Mid-West.

Gorgon Gas Project on Barrow Island – Backing up the EPA's decision **not** to approve this huge project on an island that has so far been saved the devastating effects of extensive development and the inevitable risk of feral fauna and flora establishment and habitat destruction.

Save Yarragadee – Working towards turning Water Corp and the Government away from the environmentally hazardous mining of this south-west aquifer to more sustainable water conservation, recycling and other systems to supply water to a burgeoning population with ever-increasing demands for this resource.

The Council is the State's foremost non-profit, non-government conservation organisation to which over 70 groups including BAWA are affiliated. For nearly 40 years they have been an outspoken advocate for conservation in WA. Their role is to educate, campaign and lobby on environmental issues.

For information on these or other conservation issues contact the CCWA on 9420 7266 or visit <www.conservationwa.asn.au>.

New Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo South Coast Project



Birds Australia WA now has a new project on the South Coast. The Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Recovery Project was successful in acquiring funding from the South Coast Regional Initiative Planning Team (SCRIPT) to employ a Project Officer based in Albany to run the South Coast Project.

The project aims at identifying Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo habitat, feeding and nesting areas and working with the community on protecting and increasing the habitat available for these endangered birds.

For more information on the project please contact **Raana Scott** at <r.scott@birdsaustralia.com.au> or call the BAWA office on 08 9383 7749.

Birds Australia Postgraduate Research Awards



Thanks to the generosity of the family of the late Stuart Leslie AM, former Fellow of the RAOU, the Stuart Leslie Bird Research Award will be going ahead in 2007, and Birds Australia is calling for applications. The award is available to postgraduate researchers working in Australia. Stuart Leslie passed away in 2005, but his contribution to Australian Ornithology leaves a lasting and ongoing legacy through his support of students and researchers.

See <<http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/postgrad/intro.html>> to download an application form.

Applications close on Friday 30th March 2007.

The Professor Allen Keast Research Award will also be available to postgraduate researchers from 2007.

See <http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/postgrad/keast.html> for more details and to download an application form.

WA WETLAND MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2007

**World Wetlands Day, Friday 2 February 2007
Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre**

The Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre invites all interested persons to contribute oral and poster presentations to its 3rd Annual Wetland Management Conference to be held at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre on World Wetlands Day, Friday 2 February 2007. World Wetlands Day marks the signing of the Convention on Wetlands in the Iranian city of Ramsar on 2 February 1971.

The primary objective of the Conference is to provide an annual opportunity for the exchange of information and ideas between wetland practitioners with a focus on the latest developments about how to effectively manage and restore wetlands.

This year's theme follows the Ramsar theme for 2007 of "Wetlands and Fisheries". Sub-themes include wetland management and restoration, wetland education and wetland policy.

Proposed Format The conference will include a combination of plenary and concurrent sessions. It will feature keynote presentations, contributed papers and poster presentations, workshop sessions and interpretive tours of local restoration sites. Groups are encouraged to contribute displays and other information. The conference program will be prepared in early December and speakers will be notified of their time slots and any other relevant information.

Contributed papers will consist of poster presentations which provide an opportunity to discuss your wetland project and allow for greater interaction between the presenter and the audience. Contributed presentations will take the form of a 3-minute oral presentation (optional), combined with a poster display throughout the day. Time will be allocated for authors to attend their poster stand for an informal discussion session with interested conference participants. Groups are encouraged to make shared presentations. Advice and assistance is readily available from the Centre if you are not familiar with this format. All accepted papers will be published in the proceedings. If you choose to present a paper please submit an abstract by Friday 24 November 2006. Abstracts should include a title, author(s) names, affiliations(s) and address, and a maximum 1-page summary of the content of the poster. The maximum size for posters is AO in portrait orientation (110mm high x 80mm wide) and A1 in landscape orientation (50mm high x 80mm wide). Alternatively, equivalent-sized posters may be presented as a combined series of A3 (297mm x 420mm) and/or A4 (210mm x 297mm) sheets. Free laminating services for A3/A4 posters are available through the Centre.

Workshops Expressions of interest are sought for presenters and facilitators for up to three concurrent workshop sessions featuring issues that address the wetland theme. Some possible topics include restoration techniques and case studies, education programs and policy issues. Proceedings Papers and posters will be published in the conference proceedings on CDROM. One copy will be provided to all delegates. Hardcopies will be available at additional cost.

Audience The Conference is intended to bring together community conservation volunteers, landowners, local and State Government officers and private sector environmental officers involved with wetland management.

Registrations A call for registrations will be issued in December. It will include details of the conference program and registration fees. Every endeavour will be made to keep the fees to a minimum to facilitate community participation.

Further details contact Denise Crosbie, Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre, 184 Hope Road, Bibra Lake WA 6163 Ph/ fax: (08) 9417 8460 Email: <wetlands@iinet.net.au>.



Malleefowl Forum and First Western Australian Megapode Symposium

Katanning Leisure Centre
and Yongergnow Australian Malleefowl Research
Centre

September 7-10, 2007

For information and registration contact:

Stephen Davies
PO Box 9

Mount Helena 6082 Western Australia
Phone (08) 9572 1074

e-mail <S.Davies @exchange.curtin.edu.au>



NEW MEMBERS

The following people joined Birds Australia between 1 August to 31 October 2006. We look forward to meeting you at our excursions and general meetings.

C Barlowe, M Blythman, D Bolton, S Browne, K Chan, P Davies, T Fleming, A Georgiou, L Gilleran, R Gleadell, L Grant, A & T Holland, D & M Hughes, M Jefferson, K Jones, A Leung, R Marshall, S Marshall, J Moss, R & A Mullins, J E Ralls, A Roberts, A Smith, B Southgate, A Spencer, J K St Jack, B St Jack, L Unwin, J Van Blommestein, E J Wearing-Smith, P White and B Wingrave

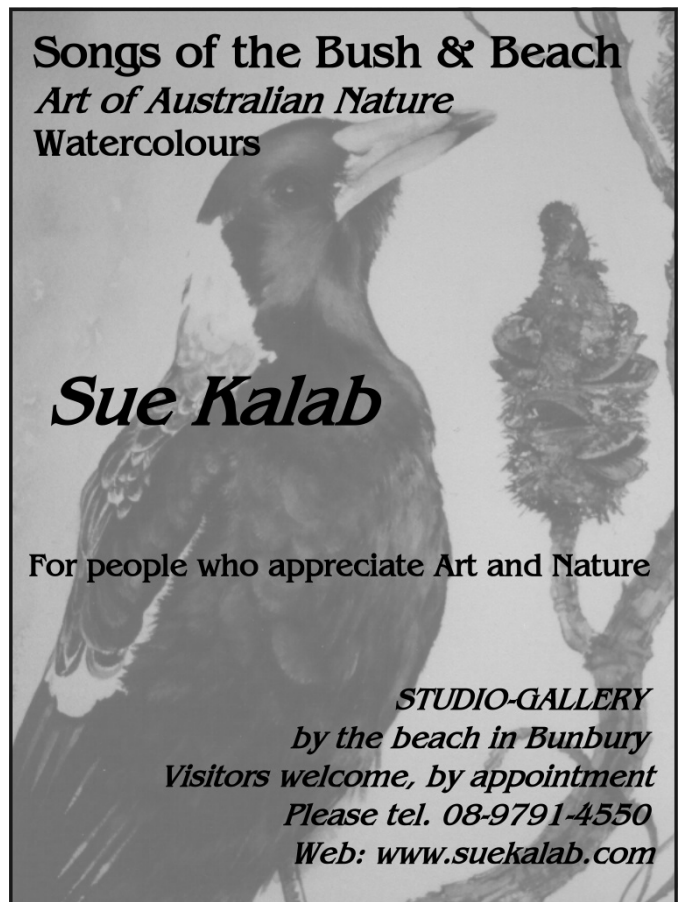


Songs of the Bush & Beach *Art of Australian Nature* Watercolours

Sue Kalab

For people who appreciate Art and Nature

STUDIO-GALLERY
by the beach in Bunbury
Visitors welcome, by appointment
Please tel. 08-9791-4550
Web: www.suekalab.com





Country groups



ALBANY BIRD GROUP

August outing

On another rather dismal day, 13 stalwarts hoped to manage a bit of birdwatching before the rain came. We decided not to go too far, and walked round the nearby River View Golf Course. There were only a few light showers, and we had excellent views of all three local robins — Western Yellow, Scarlet and White-breasted. A visit to a reserve on Bon Accord Road revealed a Whistling Kite which was eating a rabbit and flew up almost at our feet.

A total of 50 species for the day was not bad, considering the weather.

Charlie Davies

Porongurup Range, September

A rather miserable looking morning had us wondering whether it was worth travelling to the Porongurups. However, being a hardy lot, we were unable to resist the opportunity to visit the release site of the Noisy Scrub-birds at Millinup Pass. By the time we reached the area the sun was out and a Western Yellow Robin greeted us. With Purple-crowned Lorikeets screeching overhead, we all listened intently, and we didn't have to wait long - a Noisy Scrub-bird started to call from a creek line in the karri forest.

Other highlights included good views of Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos and a Rufous Treecreeper. A Brush Bronzewing was observed along Angwin Park Road.

The south side of the Porongurup Range was much cooler and windier yielding only a few birds. Luckily, we found a sheltered spot for lunch at Miraflores.

Anne Bondin

Stirling Range, October

Visiting the Stirling Range has become a bit of a tradition this month of the year. Even with many of our regulars absent, we still had quite a large turnout including visitors from the US. A brief stop at the parking area near the southern boundary offered us glimpses of a Rufous Fieldwren and good views of Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters. Our destination near the Bluff Knoll turnoff proved to be alive with birds. We quickly found Regent Parrots, Rufous Songlarks and Sacred Kingfishers.

Our best find, however, turned out to be Wayne Zadow who was conducting bird walks at the Stirling Range Retreat. Needless to say, we got to see a lot of nests including that of a Little Eagle, Square-tailed Kite and Varied Sittella. We also spotted several hollows occupied by Purple-crowned Lorikeets and observed White-naped and Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters feeding their recently fledged offspring.

The owners of the Retreat were kind enough to allow us to visit their resident Australian Owlet-nightjar, which obligingly looked out of its hollow. Three hungry Restless Flycatcher babies were waiting to be fed nearby. A final look at the Rainbow Bee-eater flying overhead and we headed back to Albany.

Anne Bondin

CAPE TO CAPE BIRD GROUP

Over the last couple of years the idea of forming the Cape to Cape Bird Group in the South West has slowly evolved. We held our first walk at Ten Mile Brook Dam in October 2005. This was well attended by 15 people and 22 species of birds were seen.

Initially it is planned to hold several morning walks throughout the year and the first modest program based around the Margaret River area is as follows:

In January 2007 there will be bird walks conducted at Conto's Campground as part of the Department of Environment and Conservation's Christmas School Holidays Program.

For more information contact Christine Wilder.

Reminder: 26–28 January – BAWAG campout – Flinders Bay Caravan Park, Augusta.

(See Coming Events in this publication.)

Wednesday 14 February – Half-day excursion, "A" Class Reserve, Margaret River Township
Meet at 8:00 am in car park at Rotary Park (near Old Kate) just north of the Margaret River Bridge.
For members and the general public.

Saturday 24 March – Half-day excursion, grounds of Ellensbrook Homestead including Meekadarabee Falls and the beach.
Meet at 8:00 am in car park at Ellensbrook Homestead (via Caves Road and Ellensbrook Road).
For members and the general public.

For further information on any of the above, please contact Christine Wilder on 0427 312 848 or email at <cwilderone@yahoo.com.au>.

PIPIDINNY ROAD, 12 August

On a day that threatened to be more suitable for scuba diving than birdwatching, we were pleasantly surprised to have 29 participants not only arrive but arrive fairly well on time. This included a small contingent from the Chittering Landcare Group. Thirteen of the 29 were non-members. Several of the others were new members, including some who had joined after previous Pipidinny excursions.

In spite of the wet, cold start, we were pleased to find a total of 52 species, including White-winged and Splendid Fairy-wrens, White-backed Swallows, Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters, White-breasted Robin and five raptor species. We had the pleasure of a “fly-over” consisting of 500 Carnaby’s Black-Cockatoos on two occasions and three cuckoos either seen or heard. The Prickly Moses was delightful to see, but painful to walk through. After the bulk of us went home, several members decided to stay on and continue birding under the aegis of Paul Marty. Paul and Elsa Dabbs helped me as co-leaders as we spread out across the heath and their help was greatly appreciated.

Brice Wells

BURSWOOD, 17 August

Ten walkers joined Tom Delaney for the morning walk at Burswood Lakes on Thursday 17 August. For two ladies it was their first walk with BAWA.

It was a cold, clear morning; we were dressed in warm coats and scarves and the birds were keeping warm by constant activity. In particular, the Welcome Swallows and Tree Martins were flying constantly in and around the group, often taking evasive action as they darted about. Another large group of active birds were the Little Black Cormorants — at least 150 birds were sighted on the river diving for fish, after which they flew low overhead and landed on the first Burswood Lake, where they squabbled among themselves before climbing onto the grass bank where they rested. In among all these little blacks was a solitary Great Cormorant — did it have an identity problem?

Moving on to the second lake we saw a Little Egret and a Great Egret in close proximity — the difference in their relative sizes was very obvious. Both a Little Grassbird and a Clamorous Reed-Warbler were seen as well as heard and then a Black-fronted Dotterel appeared on a grassy bank with a second ‘skittering’ on the mud nearby. Two Darters sunning themselves on separate rocks posed very patiently for the photographers among the group.

In all we saw 45 species despite the absence of several types of ducks usually seen in this area. During morning tea, we enjoyed seeing bird photos taken by Maris with his digital camera and additional lens. Another ‘thank you’ to Tom for his friendly leadership.

Molly Angus

HILLARYS PELAGIC TRIP, 27 August

The conditions were very good for this rescheduled trip. The highlights were a Kerguelen Petrel, Little Shearwaters and a dark morph Soft-plumaged Petrel. We also had good views of Humpback Whales and good conditions to photograph several of the species. The diversity was excellent with 11 pelagic species plus Great Skua and Australasian Gannet.

For details of future trips contact Frank O’Connor on <foconnor@iinet.net.au> or (08) 9386 5694.

Frank O’Connor

SERPENTINE NATIONAL PARK, 3 September

A sunny day with no wind made for an excellent day to be out birding. About 24 people met and walked the two kilometres from the top of Scrivener Road along the ridge to Baldwins Bluff and return. The usual birds for the area were also making the most of the fine weather and a highlight was the discovery of a cryptic Scarlet Robin’s nest beautifully disguised with bark “shingles”. From the Bluff we had panoramic views of Serpentine Falls and across the plains to the sea. A total of 36 species was seen.

After a late morning tea Paul Marty took some of the group to Webbs Lease where they had good views of the White-breasted Robin, probably nesting in bracken fern, and Red-winged Fairy-wren amongst a number of birds not seen in the morning. There was a lot of pig activity noted in the area.

Sue Abbotts

WUNGONG GORGE, 10 September

Only ten members, low numbers for a Sunday, took up the chance for a walk through Wungong Gorge. Perhaps the poor weather forecast and the fact that the walk was advertised (mistakenly) as being all day contributed to the low turnout. Nevertheless, 39 species were recorded, and all agreed it was well worth while. We had the opportunity to closely observe the feeding behaviour of Baudin’s (long billed) Black-Cockatoo, which really helped some of us to positively differentiate it from Carnaby’s in the future. Peregrine Falcon, Brown Goshawk, Red-eared Firetail, Western Wattlebird, juvenile Splendid Fairy-wren and a variety of other bushbirds helped fill out the list. Just as the card was being read and we reached Australian Raven, as if on cue, the first of this species for the day flew by.

Six members, having planned for a full day, went on to Bungendore Park. Twenty-seven species were counted there including several not seen in the morning. Highlights were a pair of Rufous Treecreepers, a pair of Western Spinebills feeding an impossibly fluffy chick clinging desperately to a branch, Western Rosella, many Red-capped Parrots and two

Elegant Parrots, the female of which disappeared down its nesting hollow. We also closely observed Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos feeding on Jarrah nuts, an interesting comparison to the morning's Baudin's feeding behaviour.

AND IT DIDN'T RAIN!

Maris Lauva

WONGAN HILLS CAMPOUT, Queen's Birthday weekend, 30 September – 2 October

Many White-winged Trillers greeted the 30 campers as they arrived at the excellent caravan park at Wongan Hills. On Friday evening, Pam gave us an idea of the programme that she, together with George, Ruth and John, had planned. It promised to be a busy and exciting birding experience.

On Saturday, all packed up with morning teas, lunches, binoculars, cameras, chairs and other paraphernalia we set off soon after 8:00 am for our first stop near the railway line just north of the town. Spreading out in all directions, the bird list mounted slowly with good sightings of White-backed Swallows, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos, Galahs and corellas.

The convoy of 12 cars moved on to the Gathercole Nature Reserve, south-east of Wongan where we had morning tea and Darryl shared out the traditional campout fruit cake made by her mother. Four local people had joined us and one of the local girls casually mentioned that she had seen a Barn Owl in this area a month earlier. Lo and behold, it was still there and all eyes, binoculars and cameras had an excellent view of this magnificent bird!

Next stop was at Dingo Rock, a picnic area with a mighty granite rock rising out of the ground. A two-metre diameter water hole called Gnamma Waterhole was still in evidence. It had been quite deep but is now filled in 'for your safety' according to the notice. Here we had our first look at the Granite Kunzea — a large shrub with brilliant red flowers growing directly out of the granite rock. The main birds sighted here were the Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, a Brown Goshawk and a Chestnut-rumped Thornbill.



Darryl shares out her mother's fruit cake, morning tea time at Gathercole Nature Reserve, Wongan Hills campout.

Photo courtesy Barry Angus

After lunch with the flies at this picnic area, we moved north to the Reynoldson Flora Reserve where a majestic Wedge-tailed Eagle was being chased by an Australian Raven, White-fronted Chats perched on a fence line for our benefit and at the far end of the reserve, in the middle of a disused sand pit, we had a very clear view of a Red-backed Kingfisher. At our last stop, near the Kondut Lake, birding was interrupted by the last ten minutes of the football final but some intrepid members found White-winged Fairy-wrens and Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters.

That night the bird count reached 56, which meant a concerted effort would be required on Sunday to reach the totals that had been entered in the record book.

Our route on Sunday took us more west of the town and onto a private property where we wended our way along a farm track between fields of crop. We parked near the bush land on Mt Matilda, the highest of the three Wongan Hills. A track took us through breakaway country where Western Yellow Robins were sighted, as also were White-eared Honeyeaters and some Varied Sittellas which were feeding their young. Morning tea was followed by a walk in gimlet country where the Golden Whistler was added to the list.

Driving to our next stop, Monk's Well picnic area, we had excellent sightings of several Elegant Parrots. This area boasts the remains of a large well, reputedly built by the monks of New Norcia for watering their sheep in days gone by. Two more brief stops at O'Brien's Lookout and Elphin Reserve completed the day, the count climbing to 70 at bird count that evening.

On Monday morning we walked the Christmas Rock track near the caravan park. The early group added a Sacred Kingfisher and Rainbow Bee-eaters to the list. The later group was not so lucky but did see a Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater perching on a dead branch silhouetted against the morning sky. Of interest was the stone work drain that had been built 100 years ago to channel water to a dam near the railway line. It is still working today! After treatment the water is used on the local oval and public gardens. During this time, Chris and Diana visited the local sewerage ponds and added five to the list, much to the excitement of the leaders. Michael and a small group returned to the area near the railway and, whilst walking north along the line, found a White-browed Scrub-wren and a Crested Bellbird.



Barn Owl at Gathercole Nature Reserve, Wongan Hills campout
Photo courtesy Barry Angus

After morning tea, most people were packed up and the group headed to Roger's Reserve for the final bush walk and final bird count. A Red-capped Robin posed nicely for us while George was busy counting the species. A final total of 78 gave the prize to Graham Kuerschner.

A great weekend, enjoyed by all! We were grateful to the three local land owners who gave us permission to drive through their properties to reach remnant bush areas. Our thanks to Pam and George for all the preparation and leadership and to Ruth and John for their moral support.

Molly Angus

DARLING SCARP, KELMSCOTT, 1 October

David welcomed 19 of us and we headed out from the car park on a beautiful morning. Visitors from New South Wales and Adelaide had joined us and although there weren't large numbers of birds, we enjoyed good views of 38 species.

A pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles riding the thermals entertained overhead and the wildflowers were really superb. Splendid and Red-winged Fairy-wrens displayed in the thickets, while a pair of White-browed Scrubwrens sang their scratchy song.

The views from the top of the Darling Range escarpment are amazing, making for a varied and pleasant outing.

Many thanks to David and Joyce from all of us.

Maureen Cawley

COLLINS RD, 8 October

Seventeen keen members attended the Collins Road site in Flint State Forest on 8 October. We found that the western side of Collins Rd had been subject to a controlled burn recently. Despite this, 33 species were recorded, which represents more than half of the number recorded there over the long term. A new species was added to the long-term list — a Carnaby's (Short-billed) Black-Cockatoo sitting next to a nesting hollow.

Of note were a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles, Restless Flycatchers, Rufous Treecreepers, Western Yellow Robins and a pair of nesting Blue-breasted Fairy-wrens. However the highlight was a clear view (thanks to the eagle eye of Merriam) of a Crested Shrike-tit, which sat obligingly on an open branch until all had admired and some had even photographed it.

Michael and Lesley Brooker

WALLISTON, 12 October

The small group looked like a camera club with digital cameras, long focus lens and tripod. Starting with a Guinea Fowl — resident at the playing field — the party then moved to photograph Western Yellow Robins at three different places, plus the first Rainbow Bee-eaters for spring 2006 in this area.



Roger's Reserve: "And the final count is — 78!"

Photo courtesy Barry Angus

Overcast conditions and some drizzling rain lessened the opportunity to see more species in this reserve. The overall count came to 24, and we didn't include the Wedge-tailed Eagle that was thought to be in the next county.

Michael J Hancock

DENNIS DE YOUNG RESERVE, 15 October

Eighteen members, under the leadership of Sue Keogh, gathered at this sandy reserve, with its banksias and medium-sized shrubs. Up to half a dozen Rainbow Bee-eaters flew around, calling repeatedly and showing a lovely rufous tinge as the sun shone through their outstretched wings. The usual range of bushbirds was seen, including two male Scarlet Robins in full breeding plumage. An Australian Hobby flew over, and another not fully identified raptor.

A total of 40 species was a reasonable bag for a fine, sunny day.

Brian Wilson

CONGRESS CAMPOUT, 21-24 October

Over 80 people had booked in for the four-day campout following the Birds Australia Congress, so it was quite a difficult task to arrange for everyone to see as many as possible of the local species in the time. The participants were divided into four groups and this meant four different leaders each day. Birds Australia is fortunate in having so many knowledgeable and willing people who gave generously of their time to lead the groups to different birding areas each day. These included Anne and Fred Bondin, Ray Garstone, David Secomb and Wayne Zadow, as well as Clive and myself. Each group had a chance to visit Waychinicup and Cheyne Beach in search of the Noisy Scrub Bird and the Western Bristlebird. The former was heard and glimpsed by many and the Western Bristlebird seen by most

people. The search for these birds necessitated a 5:30 am start from the Emu Point meeting place, so some dedication was necessary.

Other areas of interest were Prideaux Road and the Kalgan River, the Twin Creeks Reserve, the Porongurups and Kamballup where a good variety of species were seen. Clive and I led our groups to a delightful reserve near the Torbay Hall and later to Rushy Point in Princess Royal Harbour where many of the migratory waders had arrived from their northern hemisphere breeding grounds.

The situation was also complicated by the uncertainty of the day for the pelagic trip to look for seabirds. We were completely dependent on the decision of the skipper of the *Silver Star* as to the best weather for the trip. Monday proved to be the chosen day and 37 people took the trip out to sea and around Eclipse Island. There were some rough patches and a few people succumbed to sea sickness, but a good number of different species were seen. These included four species of albatross, a Southern Giant Petrel, a Great Skua, Fleshy-footed, Short-tailed and Hutton's Shearwaters, and a Fairy Penguin was glimpsed on a rocky island. White-breasted Sea Eagles were seen perched on the trees of Eclipse Island and Wedge-tailed Eagles were soaring above the island.

As well as the four days of the campout the leaders took groups early in the morning before the Congress sessions began on walks at Lake Seppings and Mount Clarence. The total count for the Congress was 155 species.

The campout was sponsored by Healthway who provided funds for first aid equipment and promotional material on the value of an active lifestyle.

Wendy Napier



Lunch by the Kalgan River, Congress campout, October 2006

Photo courtesy Molly Angus



Torbay bushland, Congress campout, October 2006

Photo courtesy Molly Angus



Fourth Biennial AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE



Ornithological Society of New Zealand

Call for Papers and Expressions of Interest

The Fourth Biennial Australasian Ornithological Conference will be held in Perth, Western Australia on 3rd to 5th of December 2007. This conference provides a regular forum for the exchange of information and ideas between avian researchers and conservationists throughout the Australasian region. The venue will be the University of Western Australia, and the Western Australian group of Birds Australia (RAOU) will host the conference.

Post-conference field excursions will be available.

An Invitation

You are invited to express your interest in attending this conference, and presenting a paper by visiting

<http://birdswa.com.au/aoc2007> or by writing to the conference co-ordinator:

S. Mather

Birds Australia Western Australia, 167 Perry Lakes Drive, Floreat, WA 6014, Australia

Email: aoc2007@birdswa.com.au Telephone: +61 (0)8 9389 6416

Other conferences in Perth at this time:

- The Australian & New Zealand Society for Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry 1st and 2nd December 2007. <http://www.zoo.latrobe.edu.au/anzscpb/>
- The Ecological Society of Australia 2007 26th to 30th November 2007. <http://www.ecolsoc.org.au/>



BROOME BIRD OBSERVATORY

The build up to the wet season has begun in earnest with the promise of rain that never arrives. This cannot be said for the waders, which are back in large numbers to the delight of birders visiting the bay at this time of year. The first year birds have now been joined by the breeding population and the juveniles on their first visit to Australia. Some of the sights are very spectacular, with huge flocks wheeling in the sky to avoid the plethora of raptors, ranging from a Hobby that probably wouldn't take a wader, to Sea-Eagles that undoubtedly would.

Little Curlews were a bit late arriving this year and unusually some of the Oriental Plovers had retained some breeding plumage. Other waders of note include over 100 Broad-billed Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers and several Ruff on the freshwater lakes. However the wader of the year was undoubtedly the Spotted Redshank, which stayed long enough to delight the 'Birds of the Broome Region' course participants. Two courses were run during September and October; the first group saw 156 species but the second group out-scored them with 168. The birdwatching experience of both groups varied enormously, but everybody had a lot of fun catching up with some of the more elusive species, and even the less elusive ones.

"... a noteworthy bird here was the single Yellow-throated Miner on Roebuck Plains..."

It has been quiet for ducks and other waterbirds but the Yellow-billed Spoonbill on Lake Eda was a good find for the area. The lakes were on particularly good form this year as a Grey Wagtail was found there in September and Flock Bronzings were seen straying onto the dry, open areas during October. A small flock of Orange Chats was found in the same area, which made for an excellent comparison with the Yellow Chats that were seen by the course participants the previous day. Perhaps not unusual in other parts of Australia but a noteworthy bird here was the single Yellow-throated Miner on Roebuck Plains. Barn Swallows are dribbling back in small numbers.

It seems that as the humidity increases some species begin to breed; the local Brown Goshawks, for example, are busy feeding three large chicks at the moment. The Restless/Paperbark Flycatcher and the Rufous Whistler are also rearing young. Recently fledged Singing Honeyeaters are elbowing huge numbers of immature Rufous-throated Honeyeaters out of the bird baths. They all move aside when the Little Friarbirds and Great Bowerbirds come for a dip.

A lively cyclone is likely to generate fantastic birding; the Asian field guides are being polished off already.

Pete Collins and Holly Sitters



EYRE BIRD OBSERVATORY

Volunteer Caretakers' Report

It's good to be back at this very special place called Eyre.

This report will be short, as it's only three weeks since we returned. There's been a constant stream of wonderful people visiting - most staying more than one night.

Birding has been inconsistent with the changeable weather, with daily maximum temperatures ranging from 16°C to 43°C, and minimums down as low as -1°C. There's been just over 7 mm of rain, which continues from the very low winter rains, as is the case over much of the country.

Starlings have been on the move. Five have been trapped here at Eyre, in five weeks, and we saw four more at Cocklebidy. The Dept of Agriculture and Food came out and set up traps in the Cocklebidy area, but we understand that so far they have only trapped one bird there, compared to many closer to Eucla. Good relations and contact are maintained with the agriculture officers stationed at Eucla, so that we all know what is occurring.

At the beginning of October, a group of nine enthusiastic people braved the warm weather to monitor the Malleefowl mounds of the area. Only one mound was found to be active and one bird sighted, but tracks of others were seen and more have been observed since.

Around the house, sightings have been mostly of the regulars: New Holland, Singing, White-eared, Bown and Brown-headed Honeyeaters, Australian Ravens, Grey Currawongs, Grey Shrike-thrush, Brush Bronzings, Red Wattlebirds, a small flock of about 40 Major Mitchell's Cockatoos, a couple of Southern Boobies, Blue-breasted Fairy-wrens by the score, White-browed Scrub-wrens, a few Rainbow Bee-eaters just arrived, Spotted Pardalotes, five Yellow-throated Miners reported in the flowering mallee just to the west of the Observatory, White-browed Babbler, and a few Willie Wagtails. The Grey Butcherbirds have a fledgling near the house, and the Welcome Swallows are breeding in the shed, but in very small numbers. We haven't seen nests but think the Red Wattlebirds may be in breeding mode, as they are very noisy and some very aggressive. On the very hot day a flock of about 50 Tree Martins was seen over the house and 200 Masked Woodswallows were around all day, with a number seeking refreshment at the birdbaths. Silvereye numbers are down, but were boosted by a count of 200 visiting the birdbaths on the hot day along with an estimated 1000 New Holland Honeyeaters. One banded racing pigeon arrived on the hot day and stayed in the area for a couple of days.

In the mallee between the Observatory and the scarp Tawny Frogmouths were seen with one downy young.

One Fairy Tern stayed on the Crystal Ponds at Cocklebidy for two or three weeks.

On the beach is a healthy population of Red-capped Plovers, but no runners this month and only 12 in September. Is it the poor season, or the many dogs, cats



and foxes whose prints are all around us, or is it just a low breeding year? The Pied Oystercatchers also don't appear to be breeding. Maybe they'll pick up later in the year. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Red-necked Stints are in residence, three Grey Teal have been around for a couple of weeks, an Eastern Reef Egret for a month, a Little Pied, a Little Black and Pied Cormorants, Common Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderlings, a Grey-tailed Tattler, a Red-Necked Avocet, Pacific Gulls, a flock of about 80 Silver Gulls, and Caspian, Crested and Whiskered Terns in small numbers, have all been recorded.

Reptiles are moving on the warmer days. Several dugites have been seen near the house and a big carpet python was at the old Madura ruins.

With no ground water available and the vegetation very dry, grey kangaroos have become less nervous and are drinking from the birdbaths, even while people are quietly moving around. Most of the females have pouch young.

Norm and Gina Gregory



Masked Woodswallows visited Eyre Bird Observatory on 11/10/2006.
Photo courtesy Rod Smith



Coming events



Important Note re Campouts

Members anticipating attending campouts must notify the BA Office (9383 7749) of the number in their party and when they will arrive. When members arrive without notice it makes it difficult for leaders who have made arrangements only for the people on the list, so, if you are unsure, put your name down. You can always cancel, and then we can advise the next person on the waiting list. With this information we will be able to ensure the group will be together and will know when to expect people.

New Members

Please let the leaders know that you are a new member and don't hesitate to ask for assistance with bird sightings.

Sunday 3 December: Beermullah Lake, Gingin

Full day excursion

Meet at 8:30 am at the Beermullah Road West turnoff, approximately 13 km north of the Dewar Road turnoff into Gingin. This is the northern entry to Gingin from the Brand Highway. The turnoff is just past the Bootine Road turnoff which will be familiar to those who have been on the Bootine Road excursion. Bring lunch and drinks as there are no facilities at the lake. If time permits, other lakes in the vicinity may be visited. Tracks around the Lake are sound and should be suitable to all types of vehicle. At the last visit Freckled Ducks were seen as well as a good list of water birds.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Ian Rudd

Thursday 7 December: Waterford Foreshore, Salter Point, Manning

Half-day excursion

Meet at the Curtin University boatshed at

8:30 am. To reach the parking area travel along Manning Road and turn into Elderfield Street, which is on the western side of the Trinity College playing fields. Proceed to the end of this street and the parking area is on the right side. The walk will proceed along the river front for about 1 km and return via a nearby park. Several species of water and bushbirds have been seen. Bring morning tea. If time permits, we will move on to Salter Point, where other species can be seen.

For members and the general public.

Leaders: Barry and Molly Angus

Sunday 10 December: Rottnest Island

Full day excursion

Meet at 8:15 am on Rottnest at the Tourist Bureau at the end of the jetty. The Rottnest Express leaves at 7:30 am from 'C' Shed, Victoria Quay, Fremantle. Advice from the ferry companies is to make your own booking before September.

Rottnest has a variety of habitats,

including the shallow salt lakes, the coast, fresh water swamps, woodland and heath. Over the last few years, a Red-necked Phalarope has been seen here regularly about this time. There are 49 species that are regularly seen and more than 112 when vagrants are included.

We will walk down to the salt lakes where we should have good views of the waders, then across the golf course where pheasants and Red-capped Robins are often seen. We will return to the Settlement for lunch, after which we will walk to Bickley Swamp, near the Barracks, for more waders and one of the better chances to see the Rock Parrots.

Most ferries leave the Island about 4:00 pm.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Alan Collins

Saturday 16 December: Alfred Cove, Melville

Half-day excursion

Meet at 8:00 am in the car park in Troy

Park (by the radio mast) off Burke Drive, Attadale. There should be plenty of migratory waders and waterbirds round the river, and there are always bushbirds in the park. Buff-banded Rails have been seen here.

For members and the general public.

Leader: Clive Napier

Sunday 17 December: BAWA Christmas barbecue

A barbecue will be held on Sunday 17 December at Peregrine House, commencing at 5:00 pm. BYO meat, salads and drinks. All members are welcome.

For members and guests only.

There will be no monthly meeting in December.

Sunday 31 December: Bibra Lake, Cockburn

Half-day excursion

Meet at 8:00 am in the first car park at the northern end of the lake off Progress Drive. Bibra Lake is a part of the Beiliar Wetlands chain and a large number of bushbirds and waterbirds can be seen here. Bring water, hats, suitable footwear, etc. Snakes have been seen around here.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Hank van Wees

Sunday 7 January: Lake McLarty, Murray

Full day excursion

Meet at 7:30 am at the gate into Lake McLarty Reserve – look for the BAWA sign. Travel on the South West Highway through Pinjarra, turning right along the Old Bunbury Road, 5 km south of Pinjarra. Turn right into Mills Road (fourth turning) and continue along for about 10 km until you see the BAWA sign on the right. Take your lunch, wellies/old shoes, sun hat, insect repellent, water and telescopes. There should be a variety of waders at the Lake, as well as many waterbirds and bushbirds.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Allan Collins

Saturday 13 January: Woodman Point, Cockburn

Half-day excursion

Meet at 8:00 am in the car park at Woodman Point on Jervoise Bay. Turn right off Cockburn Road, into O'Kane Court, then left into Jervoise Bay Cove, and almost immediately right into Woodman Point Road. Drive to the end of the road into Woodman Point car park.

We will walk along the beach to Woodman Spit, and back along the other side to Cockburn Cement Jetty to look for waders and seabirds. Bring your telescopes.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Paul Marty

Thursday 18 January: Pelican Point Sanctuary, Crawley

Half-day excursion

Meet at 8:00 am at the entrance to the Sanctuary west of the Mounts Bay Sailing Club, at the end of Australia 11 Drive, off Hackett Drive, Crawley. We will look for waders which visit this area each summer, and for the Variegated Fairy-wrens that can sometimes be seen in the adjacent bush.

For members and the general public.

Leader: Max Bailey

Sunday 21 January: Lake Joondalup, Joondalup

Half-day excursion

Meet at 7:30 am at Neil Hawkins Park, in the car park at the end of Boas Avenue. Sixty-nine species of birds have been seen here. There are always lots of waterbirds and bushbirds to be seen around this large lake, and there could be waders as well. Bring your telescope if you have one.

For members and the general public.

Leader: Tom Delaney

Monday 22 January: Tamala Hall, Environment Centre, Floreat Meeting, 7:30 pm

John Blyth (member and former chairman), together with Allan Burbidge (of DEC) will give an illustrated talk entitled *Identifying some difficult groups of inland birds*.

Friday-Sunday 26-28 January: Australia Day campout, Flinders Bay, Augusta

During the weekend we will look at

forests of Karri, Marri and Jarrah, heathlands and beaches around Cape Leeuwin, Hardy Inlet and Scott River. More than 100 species of birds have been recorded on previous campouts with specials including Red-winged Fairy-wren, Southern Emu-wren, Red-eared Finch, Rock Parrot, plus various seabirds and shorebirds.

Please book your own campsite with Lorraine or Andrew at the Flinders Bay Caravan Park, Albany Terrace, Augusta on 9758 1380 mentioning you are with the Birds Australia Group. There are only nine campsites available (one unpowered \$22 per day for two persons and eight powered \$25 per day for two persons) so early bookings are essential. A deposit will have to be sent to them in advance to secure your site.

If you wish to participate in this campout, please notify the office (9383 7749) of the number in your party and when you expect to arrive.

For members and guests only.

Leaders: Sue Abbotts and Christine Wilder

Friday 26 to Sunday 28 January: Long weekend campout at Woodanilling, Shire of Woodanilling

Woodanilling is approximately 250 km south-east of Perth, in the Great Southern. Travel down the Albany Highway and turn left at Arthur River to Wagin. At Wagin turn right to Katanning, and drive a further 30 km to Woodanilling. We will be staying at the Avalon Caravan Park, which is 100 m south of the turnoff to Woodanilling township. An extensive lake system often offers favourable conditions for large congregations of waterbirds. After the big wet of 2005, when all the lakes filled, 2006 is the big dry. In early November 2006 the large lakes still held significant water that should still be present for the campout. The contrasting years will provide an interesting comparison. New owners of the caravan park have extended the park, particularly the power supply. The cost is \$20 per night per caravan site. Unpowered and tent sites are cheaper. Make your own bookings. Phone 9823 1681.

If you wish to participate in this campout, please notify the office (9383 7749) of the number in your party and when you expect to arrive.

For members and guest only.

Leader: David Secomb

Sunday 28 January: Herdsman Lake, Stirling

Half-day excursion

Meet at 7:30 am in the Maurice Hamer car park. Turn off Pearson Street into Falcon Avenue, then right into Lakeside Road. The car park is on the left, opposite Heron Place. This is one of the waterbird refuges that never dries up. Bring your telescope if you have one.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Claire Gerrish

Saturday 3 to Sunday 4 February: Rottnest wader count

This campout is fully booked as the accommodation available restricts the numbers to experienced members who have previously attended this wader count.

For members only.

Leader: John Lauri

Saturday 3 February: Peel Inlet, Mandurah

Full day excursion

Meet at 7:30 am in the car park at the western end of the Mandurah Estuary Bridge, under the bridge. We will first look around the bird hides, and the board walk associated with them. The shore at Coodanup may also be visited by those wishing to extend the excursion after lunch. Bring hats, water, insect repellent, old shoes/wellies, and lunch. Bring your telescope and come and learn about waders.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Dick Rule

Sunday 11 February: Alfred Cove, Melville

Half-day excursion

Meet at 7:30 am in the car park at Troy Park, off Burke Drive, Attadale (by the radio mast). There should be plenty of migratory waders and waterbirds round the river, and there are always bushbirds in the park. Buff-banded Rails may be seen as they sometimes breed here.

For members and the general public.

Leader: Sue Abbotts

Wednesday 14 February: Garvey Park, Ascot

Half-day excursion

Meet at 8:00 am in the car park, next to the Rowing Club, at the western end of Fauntleroy Avenue, off Great Eastern Highway. This area has a good variety of waterbirds and bushbirds. Species recorded here have included Buff-banded Rail, Spotless Crane, and Mistletoebird.

For members and the general public.

Leader: Hank van Wees

Saturday 17 February: Wellard Wetlands, Baldivis

Half-day excursion

Meet at 8:00 am at the entrance to Wellard Wetlands on the northern side of Zigzag Road, 1 km from St Albans Road. Coming from Perth, turn left off the Freeway into Mundijong Road, then right

into St Albans Road. There should be plenty of bushbirds and waterbirds here, as well as several species of raptors.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Charles Merriam

Sunday 18 to Saturday 24 February: Starling Search, Bremer Bay

This special campout has been organised by the Department of Agriculture and Food, and aims to determine the presence of Common Starlings in the Bremer Bay area. About 20 people are required; experienced birders are preferred. Participants will need to arrive on the Sunday afternoon for a welcome BBQ to be held on that evening.

The camp will be based at the Bremer Bay Beaches Tourist Resort Caravan Park on Wellstead Road, Bremer Bay (formerly Fisheries Rd Caravan Park). The cost of accommodation will be met by the Department of Agriculture. Available options include chalets, cabins and on-site vans, or powered sites for those who prefer them. Visit the Park's website on <<http://www.bremerbayaccommodation.com>>

Birdwatching and surveillance for starlings will begin on the Monday morning, and the plan is to have two bird watching sessions per day, with the last session on the afternoon of Friday 23 February. This will allow for a leisurely departure on Saturday or Sunday.

It is intended to cover high risk sites where starlings have been previously removed in 1988-91, to ensure that the



George Swann,
P O Box 220, Broome. W A 6725
Ph/Fax: (08) 9192 1246

Email:-
info@kimberleybirdwatching.com.au

www.kimberleybirdwatching.com.au

*Offering the most authoritative birdwatching tours
in North Western Australia.*

BEST OF THE KIMBERLEY
17 July—1 August 2007
BLACK GRASSWREN TOUR
2-11 July 2007
6-15 August 2007
Princess Parrot Quest
24 June—7 July 2008

*Brilliant birding with experienced guide.
Cruises, 4WD safaris, camping & accommodated trips.*

Plus many more exciting trips for 2007/2008

area remains free of starlings in the face of their greater presence in the Munglinup-Jerdacuttup area. Transport to the targeted surveillance areas will be provided by Department of Agriculture vehicles.

BAWA will offer \$100 per vehicle to assist with the cost of transport to the venue.

Bookings can be made directly with the Resort on 9837 4290, but please advise the Department of Agriculture of your intention to participate.

For members only.

Contact: Garry Gray, Dept of Agriculture
9366 2338

ggray@agric.wa.gov.au

Sunday 25 February: Blackwall Reach, Bicton

Half-day excursion

Meet at 7:30 am at the junction of Kent Street and Blackwall Reach Parade. A pleasant walk along the Swan River along a bush track which is noted for its population of White-cheeked Honeyeaters. We will also look for waders along the Point Walter Beach.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Eric Pyatt

Monday 26 February: Tamala Hall, Environment Centre, Floreat Meeting, 7:30 pm and Annual General Meeting

Leading members, Frank O'Connor and Clive Napier, will give a multi-media presentation on *Honeyeaters of the South West and their recognition*.

This meeting also includes the Annual General meeting of the WA Group. See Notices in this edition for details.

Friday 2 to Sunday 4 March: Mount Barker

Long weekend campout

The Mount Barker Caravan Park has campsites, cabins and chalets, and will suit members who prefer good accommodation. Opposite the Caravan Park is an excellent motel with views of the Porongurups, and there are two other hotels with motel style accommodation.

The excursion will radiate from Mount Barker to several lakes and a variety of habitats, including a day trip to the Porongurups. Various woodland areas will be visited ranging from White Gum to

Karri, and sandplain areas should provide further variation.

Members should book their own accommodation: phone 9851 1691. The leaders know the area well, and can find the best birding spots. If you wish to participate in this campout, please notify the office (9383 7749) of the number in your party and when you expect to arrive. For members and guests only.

Leaders: Clive and Wendy Napier

Sunday 11 March: Yangebup Lake, Cockburn

Half-day excursion

Meet at 8:00am on the new road near the Lake Yangebup entry point. Turn into Hammond Road from North Lake Road, drive along about 600 metres, then turn right into Yangebup Road. Travel 400 metres to the Lake Yangebup entry point, and park along the new road beside the newly developed industrial area.

There may be muddy areas so wear rubber boots if possible and bring 'scopes if available. There should be good varieties of waterbirds and waders, and three species of crane have been sighted here. If time permits we will visit Kogolup Lake.

For members and guests only.

Leaders: Jan and Dave Crossley

Saturday 17 March: Canning River Regional Park, Wilson

Half-day excursion

Meet at 7:30 am at the Kent Street Weir car park. The walk follows a 5 km circuit along the Canning River, viewing a large selection of bushbirds and waterbirds, hopefully with sightings of the elusive Spotless Crane.

For members and guests only.

Leaders: George and Pam Agar

Thursday 22 March: Heirisson Island

Half day excursion

Meet at 9.30 am at the Heirisson Island car park that can only be entered when travelling from the city on the left hand side of the causeway. We will walk around the island then visit the two newly developed lakes on the Swan River where the Woodside building used to be. Expect a variety of both water and bush birds. Bring morning tea.

For members and the general public.

Leader: Robina Haynes

Sunday 25 March: Bibra Lake, Cockburn

Half-day excursion

Meet at 7:30 am in the first car park at the northern end of the lake off Progress Drive. Bibra Lake is a part of the Beelair Wetlands chain and a large number of bushbirds and waterbirds can be seen here. Bring water, hats, suitable footwear, etc. Snakes have been seen around here.

For members and the general public.

Leader: Wynton Maddeford

Monday, 26 March: Tamala Hall, Environment Centre, Floreat Meeting, 7:30 pm

Jacqui Richards, Regional Ecologist of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, will speak on the work of the Conservancy in relation to birds.

Sunday 1 April: Lake Monger, Cambridge

Half-day excursion

Meet at 7:30 am in the most westerly car park off Lake Monger Drive. This is a good opportunity to see many species of ducks, waterbirds, and some bushbirds.

For members and the general public.

Leader: Sue Abbotts

Friday-Monday 6-9 April: Easter Campout at Lake Grace

A campout is being planned for Lake Grace if the water from the floods earlier in 2006 is still present. There are also some interesting areas of bush land at old town sites and some large rocky areas to explore.

Leader: David Secomb

Monday 23 April: Tamala Hall, Environment Centre, Floreat Meeting, 7:30 pm

Dr John Dell, Ecologist in the Department of Environment and Conservation, will give a talk entitled *Conservation of declining birds on the Swan Coastal Plain*.



Kingfisher Gallery's

North and South

A collection of limited edition prints by nature photographer Stuart Miller from his 2006 photographic expeditions in Western Australia.

From 3rd December until January 25th.

Please note gallery closed for Xmas from 20th December and reopens on the 17th January.

Kingfisher Gallery 2nd Floor, 51 Colin Street, West Perth

Gallery hours Wed – Friday 1-5 pm, Sunday 1-4 pm

Ph 9486 9822, Mob 0408 511 723

kingfishergallery@inet.net.au

www.kingfishergallery.com.au



Crossword answers No 47

Across

1 focal, 4 hybrid, 8 Diamond, 9 sit, 10 dye, 11 depth, 12 glean, 14 pin, 15 petrel, 17 scene, 19 runner, 20 flight, 22 gut, 25 snap, 26 stoat, 28 inept, 29 let, 31 easy, 32 mortality

Down

2 Chittering, 3 limb, 4 hide, 5 Baudins, 6 land, 7 stained, 9 Serpentine, 13 leaf litter, 15 Peregrine, 16 Lark, 18 signal, 21 spoon, 23 teems, 24 site, 27 Teal, 30 say

Birds Australia Western Australia (Inc) (A DIVISION OF ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION)

Western Australian Bird Notes

Subscription Form

Are you joining Birds Australia for the first time, or renewing your membership?

Do you wish to receive *Western Australian Bird Notes*?

If so, please complete the section below and send the appropriate fee to the national office with your membership application.

Title: First name:	
Last name:	
Address:	
	Postcode:
Phone (H):	(W):
Email:	

WABN subscription rates per annum

(please cross out whichever is inapplicable)

WA Members	\$12.00
Interstate Members	\$15.00
Overseas Members	\$20.00

Note: WABN subscription is only available with a Birds Australia membership. For membership rates contact Birds Australia.

Payment Details

I enclose a cheque/money order payable to 'Birds Australia'
OR

Debit my ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

...../.....
Expiry date Signature

*Concession card number(s)
(Full-time student, Health Care or Pension card)

Post to: Birds Australia Membership
415 Riversdale Rd, Hawthorn East, Vic 3123

11/2006



Opportunities for volunteers



This section gives members an avenue to advertise for voluntary assistance with projects, surveys, initiatives, office.

- ◆ **Atlas** – surveys for this are continuing – contact Cheryl Gole 9293 4958, e-mail <cgole@westnet.com.au>
- ◆ **Monthly Meeting Speakers** – contact Brian Wilson 9293 1094
- ◆ **Excursion Leaders** – contact Sue Abbotts 9444 1607, e-mail <suechat@bigpond.net.au>
- ◆ **Community Education Sub-committee** – members willing to visit schools, set up displays, attend shows and help with administration – contact Elsa Dabbs e-mail <dabchic5@bigpond.net.au>
- ◆ **Western Ground Parrot Recovery Project** - DEC, together with the Friends of WGP, are continuing typically 10 day surveys and monitoring; also conducting occasional evening listening surveys to Waychinicup NP/Cheyne's Beach leaving from DEC Albany office – contact Mike Barth (DEC) 9842 4519, e-mail <michael.barth@dec.wa.gov.au>
- ◆ **Starling Search**, Bremer Bay, 18-24 February; see Coming Events for details – contact Garry Gray, Dept of Agriculture, 9366 2338, e-mail <ggray@agric.wa.gov.au>

Calendar of events

Birds Australia Western Australia Inc

Office: Peregrine House

167 Perry Lakes Drive, Floreat WA 6014

Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30 am to 12.30 pm
Telephone: (08) 9383 7749
Facsimile: (08) 9387 8412
Email: mail@birdswa.com.au

Birds Australia WA Home Page:
<http://birdswa.com.au>

Chairman: Dr Rob Davis
8 Ridgeway Place, Mahogany Creek WA 6072
Tel: (08) 9380 1493 (w)
Tel: (08) 9295 3319 (h)
Mob: 0429 702 973
E-mail: robjen@iinet.net.au

Joint Editors: Allan Burbidge
Tel: (08) 9405 5109 (w)
Tel/Fax: (08) 9306 1642 (h)
Fax: (08) 9306 1641 (w)
E-mail: allanb99@bigpond.net.au

Suzanne Mather
Tel: (08) 9389 6416
E-mail: sma12577@bigpond.net.au

Production: Margaret Philippon

Distribution: Rod Smith

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 or emailed would assist, especially if in MSWord as a document **without** styles; **do not** embed pictures or graphics in MS Word.
- WABN uses Birds Australia recommended English names
- except for Observations, contributions will be published unless the contributor is informed to the contrary.
- Full Editorial Policy is stated in WABN 74:10-12

Printing Deadlines (at the BAWA Office)

March 2007 issue: 1 February
June 2007 issue: 1 May
September 2007 issue: 1 August
December 2007 issue: 1 November

Advertising Rates

1/4 page	\$30.00
1/2 page	\$50.00
Full page	\$90.00

- Sun 3 Dec:** Beermullah Lake, Gingin, Full day excursion
Thu 7 Dec: Waterford Foreshore, Salter Point, Manning, Half-day excursion
Sun 10 Dec: Rottneest Island, Full day excursion
Sat 16 Dec: Alfred Cove, Melville, Half-day excursion
Sun 17 Dec: BAWA Christmas barbecue, Peregrine House, Floreat
There will be no monthly meeting in Dec.
Sun 31 Dec: Bibra Lake, Cockburn, Half-day excursion
2007
Sun 7 Jan: Lake McLarty, Murray, Full day excursion
Sat 13 Jan: Woodman Point, Cockburn, Half-day excursion
Thu 18 Jan: Pelican Point Sanctuary, Crawley, Half-day excursion
Sun 21 Jan: Lake Joondalup, Joondalup, Half-day excursion
Mon 22 Jan: Tamala Hall, Environment Centre, Floreat, Meeting
Fri-Sun 26-28 Jan: Australia Day campout, Flinders Bay, Augusta
Fri 26 to Sun 28 Jan: Long weekend campout at Woodanilling, Shire of Woodanilling
Sun 28 Jan: Herdsman Lake, Stirling, Half-day excursion
Sat 3 to Sun 4 Feb: Rottneest wader count
Sat 3 Feb: Peel Inlet, Mandurah, Full day excursion
Sun 11 Feb: Alfred Cove, Melville, Half-day excursion
Wed 14 Feb: Garvey Park, Ascot, Half-day excursion
Sat 17 Feb: Wellard Wetlands, Baldivis, Half-day excursion
Sun 18 to Sat 24 Feb: Starling Search, Bremer Bay
Sun 25 Feb: Blackwall Reach, Bicton, Half-day excursion
Mon 26 Feb: Tamala Hall, Environment Centre, Floreat, Meeting and Annual General Meeting
Fri 2 to Sun 4 Mar: Mount Barker, Long weekend campout
Sun 11 Mar: Yangebup Lake, Cockburn, Half-day excursion
Sat 17 Mar: Canning River Regional Park, Wilson, Half-day excursion
Thu 22 Mar: Heirisson Island, Half day excursion
Sun 25 Mar: Bibra Lake, Cockburn, Half-day excursion
Mon 26 Mar: Tamala Hall, Environment Centre, Floreat, Meeting
Sun 1 Apr: Lake Monger, Cambridge, Half-day excursion
Fri-Mon 6-9 Apr: Easter Campout at Lake Grace
Mon 23 Apr: Tamala Hall, Environment Centre, Floreat, Meeting

Printed by Executive Press: Tel (08) 9275 8044