

Western Australian Bird Notes



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 (a division of Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union)



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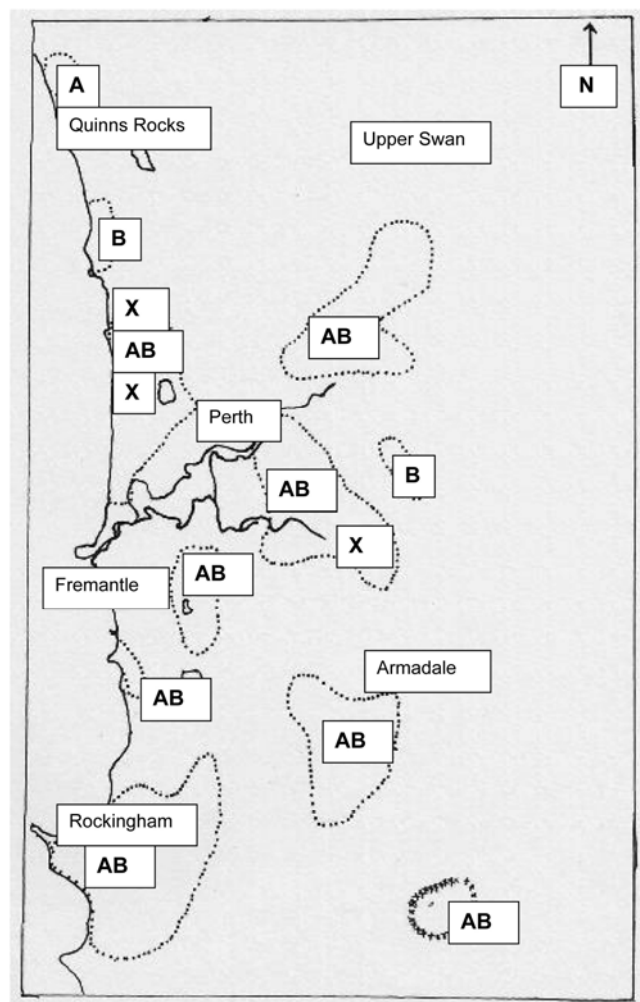
COMPARISON OF HABITAT SELECTION OF THE NANKEEN KESTREL AND BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE IN THE PERTH METROPOLITAN AREA

Introduction

The aim of this project was to describe the environment used by two species of small raptor, the Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*) and the Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus axillaris*), in suburban and near suburban Perth. These two species are of similar size and have similar hunting patterns. In the course of the project it became clear that these birds were being displaced by suburban development because their hunting areas were being removed. With the help of members of Birds Australia it was possible to identify areas over which the birds used to hunt, but no longer do so, because housing has replaced vegetated open land. This has helped to clarify the environmental requirements of the birds, and differences between the needs of the two species.

The Nankeen Kestrel is the smallest Australian falcon, the total length ranging from 30-35 cm. Males, with a mean weight of 165g, are smaller than females - mean weight 185g (Marchant and Higgins 2002). Their hunting behaviour involves the use of concealed and exposed perches, winnowing and hovering, seeking such prey as small birds, reptiles, rodents, insects and terrestrial invertebrates.

Figure 1. Distribution of Nankeen Kestrels and Black-shouldered Kites in the Perth area in 2007. A – Nankeen Kestrel; B – Black-shouldered Kite; X – Nesting site. The areas in which the raptors were sighted in 2007 are encircled in dotted lines. An area where sightings have been made in the past is encircled with crosses.



The Black-shouldered Kite is larger than the kestrel, with a mean total length of 35 cm. The mean weight of males is 260g and the mean weight of females is 300g (Marchant and Higgins 2002). The bird hunts mainly by quartering the landscape, hovering at intervals, but will also spend time surveying the surrounding areas from elevated perches. It preys on small rodents, grasshoppers and other insects.

Both species are diurnal, the kestrel tending to hunt early in the day (Aumann 2001a) and the kite hunting early in the morning and in the afternoon (Marchant and Higgins 2002). Both species are solitary but in their breeding seasons hunt within established home ranges, defending the area of the nest (Marchant and Higgins 2002). Both species prefer to hunt in open country, with low and sparse vegetation, sometimes with patches of tall grass (Marchant and Higgins 2002).

Land use can have an effect on the availability of suitable environment for many species of animal, including birds. Natural agents or human intervention, such as urbanization and agriculture can cause decreased availability of suitable environments. Raptors appear to select home ranges on the basis of vegetation, availability of prey and availability of nesting sites. Raptors may forage over several different types of vegetation and their home ranges often include a water body, especially where the home range includes urban areas (Sergio *et al.* 2003; Aumann 2001a). Water bodies may increase the carrying capacity of the land to support prey and thus increase the density and diversity of food for raptors (Aumann 2001b).

Methods

The study area included the Perth Metropolitan area from Port Kennedy in the south to Quinns Rock in the north and inland east to Mundaring, approximately 31°40'–32°40'S; 115°35'–116°15'E. The study was conducted from May to September 2007. With the help of volunteers from Birds Australia WA, locations of the birds seen hunting, perching, nesting or flying over were gathered. All these locations were visited and data recorded about the environment using a standard recording form. Recordings were made of the location, the species of raptor reported, the dominant vegetation, the size of the trees in the vicinity, the presence or absence of dead trees, the distance between trees, presence or absence of water, presence of light poles or power lines, land use and the

topography. Qualitative data, such as weather conditions, were also collected.

The data were analyzed using a chi-squared test to examine the significance of the various environmental factors recorded.

Results

There were 122 sightings of the two species reported, including 118 within the study area. Of these 118 more reports were received of Black-shouldered Kites (88) than of the Nankeen Kestrel (30). From 14 of the locations both species were reported.

The results are presented in Table 1. Both species were reported significantly more often from areas with large trees, than areas without large trees. The Black-shouldered Kite preferred areas with reserves to suburbs without reserves and areas with light poles and power lines, but the Nankeen Kestrel showed no such preferences. Neither species showed a preference for areas with dead trees or with water bodies. Figure 1 shows the areas within the study area from which the two small raptors were reported.

While the X^2 values were not high enough to be significant, the values for water presence and tree distances 0–20m were higher for the Nankeen Kestrel than for the Black-shouldered Kite. Both Sergio *et al.* (2003) and Aumann (2001a) indicated that water bodies could be important in selection of home ranges in urban areas. This suggested a further analysis of the importance of water bodies in the distribution of the raptors. To undertake this analysis a 5 x 5 km grid was overlain on the study area, as shown in Figure 1. Of the 137 grid squares, 84 contained substantial water bodies. Of the 14 grid squares used by both raptors, 13 contained a substantial water body, the X^2 of the difference being 6.30; $P < 0.05$. The 55 grids that included all or part of the home range of one or both raptors were examined to see if there was a substantial water body within the grid square, even if it was outside the boundary of the home range. Forty of the 55 contained substantial water bodies, a result that gave a X^2 of 5.99; $P < 0.05$, indicating that the presence of a water body was probably an attractive element in the selection of home ranges by both species.

The suburbs in which each species was observed and the number of observations of each are listed in Table 2.

Discussion

The results (Figure 1) show both species to be relatively common and widespread in the Perth Metropolitan area. Both species favour areas with large trees and these tend to disappear when an area is developed for housing. The Nankeen Kestrel, at least, has nested on man-made structures, and the Black-shouldered Kite favoured areas with power poles, so that both species are willing to exploit some kinds of development. Both species also tend to select home ranges within the vicinity of a water body and fortunately Perth is well provided with these. The Black-shouldered Kite favoured areas where there were reserves, so it will probably disappear from densely settled suburbs, but remain in many areas, especially along the rivers and streams and near large lakes. These results suggest that both raptors should remain part of Perth's avifauna even though development is likely to continue, turning more land into high-density housing. Overall, the prospect for the survival of both species is encouraging.

Parameters used	X^2 values for Black-shouldered Kite (88 sites)	X^2 values for Nankeen Kestrel (30 sites)
Tree size (small/medium to large)	35.37; $P < 0.05$ (large)	11.43; $P < 0.05$ (large)
Dead tree (presence/absence)	0.570; n.s.	1.086; n.s.
Water (presence/absence)	0.805; n.s.	1.714; n.s.
Location (suburb/reserve)	3.93; $P < 0.05$ (reserve)	1.714; n.s.
Tree distance (0–20m/20+)	1.121; n.s.	3.455; n.s.
Topography (flat/sloped/hill)	0.091; n.s.	0.067; n.s.
Power lines/light poles (presence/absence)	19.825; $P < 0.05$ (presence)	0.606; n.s.

Table 1. Results of the X^2 analysis of the raptors' habitats and significant factors in their choice of home ranges. The character favoured is shown in brackets after the probability level where the X^2 is significant.

Armadale (4 N, B)	Glendalough (3 B)	Oakfield (2 N)
Baldivis (5 B)	Gosnells (2 B)	Ocean Reef (B)
Baldivis/Cooloongup (B)	Hazelmere (2 N, B)	Osborne Park (2 B)
Ballanup (B)	Henderson (2 N, B)	Parkwood (B)
Baskerville (B)	Herdsmen Lake (2 B)	Port Kennedy (5 N, B)
Baskerville/Millendon (B)	Herne Hill (2 B)	Quinns Rocks (4 N)
Bayswater (B)	High Wycombe (N)	Scarborough (N)
Beckenham (B)	Hillarys (2 B)	Shenton Park (2 B)
Beechboro (N)	Kenwick (7 B)	Singleton (B)
Belmont (4 B)	Kogolup Lake (Beelair) (B)	Stirling (B)
Bibra Lake (B)	Kwinana Beach (B)	Swanbourne (2 B)
Big Carine Swamp (2 N, B)	Lake Claremont (2 N, B)	Wandi (B)
Brigadoon (2 N, B)	Lake Gwelup (2 B)	Warnbro (N)
Burswood (B)	Lake Richmond (12 N, B)	Wellard (2 N, B)
Byford (B)	Leeming/Murdoch (B)	Welshpool (B)
Carine (B)	Lesmurdie (B)	Wembley (B)
Caversham (N)	Maddington (3 B)	Wembley Downs (B)
Churchlands (B)	Millendon (B)	West Swan (B)
Cooloongup (B)	Mosman Park (B)	Wilson (2 N, B)
East Cannington (N)	Murdoch/Bateman (B)	Woodlands (2 N, B)
East Victoria Park (B)	Munster (2 B)	Piney Lakes (Winthrop) (B)
Forrestdale (3 N, B)	North Lake (3 N, B)	Yangebup Lake (4 N, B)

Table 2. The suburbs in which Nankeen Kestrels (N) and Black-shouldered Kites (B) were observed. The numbers and letters in brackets after each suburb name indicates the number of observations and the species observed. For example (2 N, B) means one observation of each species.

Acknowledgements

This study was conducted as a third year project by M. Williams in 2007 in Environmental Biology at Curtin University of Technology, to whom we are grateful for funding it. We are very grateful to the following Birds Australia WA members who contributed observations: George and Pam Agar, Wes Bancroft, Alan Brewster, Laura Brown, Simon Cherriman, Linda and Bob Cronin, Jason Crooks, Wayne Eddy, Graham Fulton, Claire Gerrish, Liz and David Grant, Greg Harewood, Colin Heap, Jenny Heap, Valerie Helmsley, Andrew Hobbs, Annette Holland, Megan Jefferson, Peter Johnstone, Merrian Kuerschner, Ted Leach, Bev Lunt, Laurie Martin, Johan Martins, Brenda Newbey, Frank O'Connor, Jean Paul Orsini, Graeme Osborne, Margaret Owen, Kathy Phillips, Robyn Pickering, Diane Robinson, Cassandra Rowles, Jonny Schoenjahn, John Scotford, Marion Shaw, Helen Sibree, Dave Taggart, Mary Vaughan, Debbie Walker, Kristel Wenziker, Gregory Froomes Wylie and Linda Wotherspoon.

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M. Williams and S.J.J.F. Davies
Curtin University of Technology

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ROSALIND DENNY

It is with deep regret that Birds Australia Western Australia records the death of Rosalind Denny, one of its longest serving members.

Rosalind had enjoyed a full and interesting life, being a distinguished leader and educator in her chosen profession of nursing and an active worker for equal pay and opportunity for women. In these fields she was honoured with several awards. This tribute however will only deal with her interest in birdwatching and her support of BAWA.

Roz joined the Western Australian division of RAOU in 1977 when Stephen Davies was recruiting bird lovers in Western Australia to record sightings for the proposed Atlas of Australian Birds. From the beginning of this ambitious project Roz participated enthusiastically in collecting data on the organised day trips in the Perth municipal area and most of her holidays were spent on RAOU field expeditions, so that there were few of the Atlas grids which she had not visited with her binoculars and notebook. These included the first excursion to the Pilbara in August/September 1978 which was followed in August 1979 by the RAOU Congress in Kalgoorlie and the trip along the service road of the railway across the Nullarbor with detours along rabbitters' tracks.

After she retired as Director of Nursing at KEMH she continued in the eighties and nineties to record sightings for the various surveys that followed the completion and subsequent publication of the Atlas in 1984. These included

the South West Waterbird Project, the Metropolitan Bird Project, the Great Duck Count and the Suburban Birds Project.

In 1984 Roz was elected Vice-Chairperson of the WA Division, a position she held until she became Chairperson in 1988 and 1989. The eighties were a period of great activity in the association. Apart from the above-mentioned surveys there was the setting up of the Broome Bird Observatory, the expansion of the facilities at Eyre and the Art Exhibition which lead to the printing of the bird cards for fund-raising purposes.

Because of her great interest in Australian wildlife it seemed only natural that Roz should also be a member of the WA Naturalists Club, of the Kimberley Society and a founding member of the Lake Meallup Preservation Society. She supported all four

of these associations by going on their various excursions and campouts as well as the Landscape expeditions arranged by CALM and the University Extension. Members will remember her wholehearted enjoyment of these, her insistence on a daily birdcall each evening and her recounting of stories of past ones.

In recent years her lack of mobility prevented her full participation in birding excursions but she enjoyed sitting quietly in the bush waiting for the birds to come to her while others would venture further afield. Even in hospital she made sure she had her binoculars near her.

Barbara Hale



Rosalind Denny
Photo: Ian Denny

ALLAN JONES

Sadly, Birds Australia has lost one of its most valued members. Allan passed away on 2 August 2008 after a very short time in hospital. His contribution to Birds Australia Western Australia was often unnoticed by many who have joined more recently but to those of us who were privileged to work with him on many projects his efforts will be long remembered.

Wendy and I first met Allan and his wife and companion of 57 years, Rose, while on an excursion to study and record birds on outback wetlands in 1986. We camped together at various places including Lake Gregory and the backwaters of Lake Argyle. Since then we have enjoyed many campouts and excursions together as well as working on various Birds Australia projects.

Allan had taken to birding after retiring from a career in education that concluded with his position as principal of Rossmoyne Senior High School. As most will be aware this school was and still is one of the most highly regarded schools in WA. Previous postings had been at numerous country schools and as principal of the Esperance High School. His strength in education stood him in good stead in BAWA where he ran numerous courses and projects with schools around Perth and country areas. Art and environment projects got many young people interested in preserving our country's natural heritage.

As it became more difficult for Allan to take part in the active aspects of our organisation he took over other roles such as leading the Grants Committee. In earlier days we

spent much time raising funds to finance our conservation efforts but in recent years grants and donations have reduced our dependence on these. This committee has the major task of firstly putting together the application in the form which will appeal to the donor and then ensuring that the money is spent and recorded as per the plan. Not an easy task, but one that they have done most successfully.

One major role Allan made his own was the creation of the Bird Guides. Like the man from Snowy River — alone and unassisted — he set out to provide these well known pamphlets to educate tourists and locals on the local birdlife. Over 62 have been published and while the first were very simple single sheets the later models are much more glossy brochures. I remember Allan and myself sitting down with the Environmental Officer from a large local council who when asked what format the council would like for their bird guide, replied “Anything as long as it’s better than ... Council’s.”

Allan naturally had numerous assistants in his endeavours but none more skilled and constant than Rose. Whether it was helping at a stall at any of the numerous places we used to attend to raise money or doing the typing or answering the phone, Rose was his rock and we extend our most sincere sympathy from the committee and members to her and their family at this sad time.

Clive Napier



Allan Jones
Photo: Rose Jones



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

Western Australian Bird Notes is an excellent publication providing members with almost all the information that WA birders require to pursue their favourite spare time or professional activity.

The members' contribution section is always an interesting read, and is a source of knowledge on a whole range of birding experiences and observations, as well as giving members the opportunity to share them with a wider audience.

The article on page 17 of the June 2008 edition, “An Albino Night heron” aroused my interest. The contributor’s interest in albinism may have got the better of her on this occasion, the description of the “Night Heron” seems to me to be an excellent and accurate description of a Cattle Egret in breeding plumage.

What else could it be? “With a hint of chestnut on the scapulars, the whole head, upper chest and bill chestnut, and legs green”. The authors of the four field guides in common use have difficulty in reaching consensus on leg colour, but Simpson and Day think they are green.

For a period of at least two weeks in March this year, two Cattle Egrets were present at Lake Monger and were kind enough to show themselves for the BAWA walk on Easter Sunday 23 March, when one of the birds was in breeding plumage.

It is possible the squat and hunched appearance of the Cattle Egret as the field guides state, could confuse an observer preferring perhaps to see an albino specimen of a night heron.

All birdwatchers I am sure, have been in situations where we have wanted the bird in front of us to be something that critical observation says it is not. We need to be aware of the observation by Richard Dawkins, the Professor for Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University – “Human psychology has a near universal tendency to let belief be coloured by desire” (Dawkins 2006, p. 221).

Reference

Dawkins, R. (2006). ‘The God Delusion’. (Houghton Mifflin: Boston).

Max Bailey

Dear Editors

It all started with a letter I read in a local Fremantle newspaper a few weeks ago on the apparent demise of the black cockatoo in Perth. A reference was made about Birds Australia and before I knew it I was a member. Next I bought a good pair of binoculars and found myself down at the Woodman Point Reserve where on a quick stroll I spotted among many other species, a Golden Whistler and a Shining Bronze-Cuckoo with its metallic green wings blazing in the late afternoon sun. Whilst it took a good 15 minutes to locate the cuckoo only going on its voice in the tree the bird stayed put in its perch for a long time continually calling, maybe looking for a suitable nest to sneak her eggs into or a mate? All this in the space of an hour or so. What a joy!

Rob Middleton

Editors: Welcome to Rob, a new member.

This list has been compiled by the WA Rarities 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. (2008) (Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds, CSIRO Publishing).

Highlights. This has been a period of extraordinary sightings. The **Dollarbird** is only the second record for the south west. The first record was in Geraldton in May 1981. An **Intermediate Egret** was photographed in full breeding plumage. This is very rarely reported in the south west, and many reports have actually been of juvenile Little Egrets. There have been two **Rockhopper Penguin** and one **Fiordland Penguin** records from the Esperance area. A juvenile **Grey-headed Albatross** was photographed at Albany, and another was brought into care in Perth but died. A **White-capped Shy Albatross** (ssp. *steadi*) banded on Auckland Island was found beach washed at City Beach, and this is the first record of this subspecies for WA. More **Campbell's Black-browed Albatross** (ssp. *impavida*) were seen off Albany. This is only the second record of this subspecies in WA. These were all seen in the deeper waters, and the number and different ages indicate that this is likely to be a more common visitor. A **Dusky Moorhen** is the first record for the Kimberley and is well out of range.

This has been an excellent season in the Shark Bay area with several reports of large numbers of nomadic species in July such as Budgerigar, Cockatiel, Crimson Chat, Pied Honeyeater, Black Honeyeater, Masked Woodswallow, Brown Songlark, Rufous Songlark, nesting Spotted Harrier, etc.

As briefly reported in WABN 126, Cyclone Rosie brought a host of major rarities to Christmas Island in late April. The "**Acrocephalus** sp. reed-warbler" was identified by the call to be a **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** (actually a *Locustella* species which has a call that, to some people, is reminiscent of the calls of reed-warblers). The orange billed tern appears to be an **Elegant Tern** but this is subject to a BARC decision to be confident it wasn't a Lesser Crested Tern. The all dark swiftlets are **Mossy-nest Swiftlets** and this needs a BARC submission to confirm distinction from Himalayan Swiftlets, which are larger. These will all be new species for Australia if accepted by BARC.

Edible-nest Swiftlets were relatively common. This has been reported several times before in small numbers, but the identity has not previously been confirmed. The **Tiger Shrike** was the first live record for Australia. Another shrike was seen at the rubbish tip but the identity could not be determined with confidence. The previous record was found very dead at Fremantle wharf. **House Swift**, **Masked Lapwing**, **Bridled Tern** and **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo** are all new records for Christmas Island. A **needle-tail** species (possibly Silver-backed) was also seen at the rubbish tip.



Intermediate Egret in full breeding plumage, Baldvis.

Photo: Rob Dibbens

METROPOLITAN (UBD Street Directory)

Brown Quail – 1 female, 21/07/08, Thomsons Lake (Beeliar) – MCa (scarce in the metropolitan area)

Shy (WHITE-CAPPED) Albatross (ssp. *steadi*) – 1 adult, 31/07/08, City Beach (City Beach) – per WAM (1st record of this sub species in Western Australia; banded at Auckland Island; museum specimen)

GREY-HEADED ALBATROSS – 1 (3rd year), 31/05/08, Burns Beach (Burns Beach) – per WAM (rarely reported in Western Australia; museum specimen)

INTERMEDIATE EGRET – 1 breeding plumage, 06/07/08, St Albans Road (Baldvis) – RD (scarce in the south west; photograph)

Hooded Plover – 1, 21/06/08, Floreat Beach (Floreat) – MW (rare in the metropolitan area)

DOLLARBIRD – 1 sub adult, 30/05/08 to 07/06/08, Blue Gum Lake (Mt Pleasant) – VH *et al.* * 1 sub adult, 09-17/06/08, Booragoon Lake (Booragoon) – VH *et al.* (2nd record in the south west; see article and photo elsewhere in this issue)

Restless Flycatcher – 1, 27/04/08, Herdsman Lake (Herdsman) – GCM (uncommon in the metropolitan area)

White-winged Triller – 1, 27/05/08, ALCOA Wellard Wetlands (Baldvis) – CH * 1, 24/07/08, Star Swamp (Waterman) – MH (scarce in the metropolitan area in winter)

SOUTH WEST (Shark Bay to Cape Arid)

Black-browed Albatross (ssp. *impavida*) – 5+ all ages, 20/07/08, pelagic trip (Albany) – DJ *et al.* (2nd record for Western Australia of this sub species; photographs)

Grey-headed Albatross – 1 juvenile, 20/07/08, pelagic trip (Albany) – DJ *et al.* (rarely reported in Western Australia; photographs)

Flesh-footed Shearwater – 12,
20/07/08, pelagic trip (Albany) –
DJ *et al.* (scarce in winter;
photographs)

Rockhopper Penguin (ssp. *moseleyi*) –
2, 21/06/08, near Esperance
(Esperance) – per JP (rarely seen in
Western Australia; photographs)

Fiordland Penguin – 1 juvenile,
21/06/08, West Beach (Esperance)
– per JP (rarely seen in Western
Australia; photographs)

Red Knot – 120, 01/06/08, Lake
Pollard (Waroona) – BR (high
count for winter)

Fairy Tern – 3, 20/07/08, outer
harbour (Albany) – DJ *et al.*
(scarce in winter)

White-winged Triller – 2, 27/07/08,
Darkan River Flats (Beverley) – JD
(scarce in winter)

ARID ZONE

Grey Falcon – 4, 02/06/08, 27 km E of
Warburton (Ngaanyatjarraku) – KB
(uncommon)

Australian Painted Snipe – pair,
25/07/08, McNeil Claypan
(Carnarvon) – LG

Pictorella Mannikin – 6, 19/05/08,
Maree Pool, Maitland River
(Roebourne) – NW * 15, 28/06/08,
Old Onslow (Ashburton) – BJ
(scarce in the Pilbara)

KIMBERLEY

Spotless Crane – 5, 06/07/08, near
Argyle Diamond Mine (Wyndham
– East Kimberley) – GD (1st record
for Argyle; uncommon in the
Kimberley)

DUSKY MOORHEN – 1, 06/07/08,
Argyle Diamond Mine village
sewage ponds (Wyndham – East
Kimberley) – GD (1st record for the
Kimberley)

Flock Bronzewing – 17, 01/07/08,
Anna Plains Station (Broome) –
NW *et al.* (western edge of range)

Cicadabird – 1 male, 20/06/08,
Koolan Island (Derby – West
Kimberley) – KW (rarely reported
in the Kimberley)

Eastern Yellow Wagtail (ssp.
simillima) – 1 breeding plumage,

30/05/08, Port Smith (Broome) –
BJ (late record)

CHRISTMAS ISLAND

MOSSY-NEST SWIFTLET – 4+, 27-
28/04/08, The Dales Road past
detention centre – FO, TP, MC (1st
records for Australia, subject to
acceptance by BARC; submission
being prepared)

EDIBLE-NEST SWIFTLET – 20+,
23-28/04/08, several locations –
TP, DJ, IM, JP, MC, FO *et al.* (1st
records for Australia, subject to
BARC acceptance; photographs;
BARC submission being prepared)

HOUSE SWIFT – 10+, 23-28/04/08,
several locations – TP, DJ, IM,
MC, FO *et al.* (1st records for
Christmas Island; photographs;
BARC submission)

Cattle Egret – 1 breeding plumage,
28/04/08, Phosphate loading
facility – TP, FO, MC (3rd record
for Christmas Island)

Masked Lapwing (ssp. *miles*) – 3,
06/07/08, golf course – DH (1st
record for Christmas Island)

Red-necked Stint – 1, 23/04/08, near
Lily Beach – ND (rarely recorded
on Christmas Island)

Bridled Tern – 9+, 19-22/04/08,
several locations – ND, IM *et al.*
(1st records for Christmas Island)

Sooty Tern – 2+, 22/04/08, from VQ3
Lodge – IM *et al.* (rarely recorded
on Christmas Island)

White-winged Black Tern – 1,
11/04/08, airport – IM * 1,
19/04/08, Phosphate loading
facility – ND (rarely recorded on
Christmas Island)

ELEGANT TERN – 1, 23-27/04/08,
Flying Fish Cove – TP, MC, FO,
IM *et al.* (1st record for Australia
subject to BARC acceptance;
photographs; submission being
prepared)

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo – 1 adult,
24/05/08, North East Point – IM *
1 sub adult, 26/04/08, near South
Point – MC, TP, FO (1st records for
Christmas Island)

TIGER SHRIKE – 1, 23-27/04/08,
North East Point – JP, DJ, IM, FO,
TP, MC *et al.* (1st live record for

Australia; photographs; BARC
submission being prepared)

**PALLAS'S GRASSHOPPER-
WARBLER** (*Locustella certhiola*)
– 1, 21-28/04/08, North East Point
– IM, TP *et al.* [1st record for
Australia, subject to acceptance by
BARC (submission being
prepared); identified by call
recorded by IM]

OBSERVERS

BARC = Birds Australia Records
Committee

BJ = Brian Johnson

BR = Bill Russell

CH = Colin Heap

DH = Dion Hobcroft (NSW)

DJ = Dejan Stojanovic

FO = Frank O'Connor

GCM = Grant & Claire Morton

GD = Guy Dutson (Victoria)

IM = Ian McAllan (NSW)

JD = John Darnell

JP = Jon Pridham

KB = Kevin Barker

KW = Kobus Wentzel

LG = Les George

MC = Mike Carter (Victoria)

MCa = Martin Cake

MH = Michael Hancock

MW = Maree Weerheim

ND = Nick Dunlop

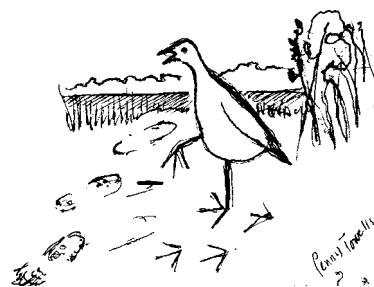
NW = Nathan Waugh

RD = Ron Dibbens

TP = Tony Palliser (NSW)

VH = Valerie Hemsley

WAM = WA Museum



Those humans again, I bet!
Cartoon: Penny Towells



Birds Australia WA reports



CHAIR'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that BAWA has over 70 volunteers (many with multiple roles) who are busily engaged in the many activities of BAWA. Some of these are people who volunteered to take on the new tasks advertised in April.

Maris Lauva, <latvian_maris@hotmail.com> is our Membership Officer and is willing to help you with any enquiries you may have about BAWA and your engagement in our activities. Elsewhere in this issue of WABN you may see all those who have volunteered to help with BAWA Projects, country groups, calendar, website/IT, office and other aspects of the wide range of things BAWA does. I thank all those who have so generously offered their time and effort. Anyone else interested in helping out may either contact the office or Maris and they will assist you.

On a sadder note, Ros Denny and Allan Jones passed away recently and I acknowledge their contribution made over many years to BAWA.

The Community Education Committee and the presenters at the recent Bird ID Workshop are to be congratulated on an excellent event. Many people attended the two day presentation and I have heard several praise the high quality of the organisation and the presentations.

The Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Project has recently received several substantial private donations to help the research and conservation work being done by BAWA to help the recovery of this endangered species. Our two Project Officers, Dejan Stojanovic (Perth) and Raana Scott (South Coast) are both working hard on this project but would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the project or what you may do to help. The Sales Committee has now produced a Carnaby's badge, available from the office for \$5, so you may add that to your wren badge for your collection.

Bruce Haynes
Chair



BAWA projects



"WE'VE COME A LONG WAY"

As Brice uttered this statement, I began to reflect upon the events and journey of the Community Education Committee.

It is five years since I completed a survey sent out by the BAWA committee with questions regarding reasons for joining BAWA and personal skills for volunteer work. A telephone request to attend a meeting with Brice and Allan Jones resulted in my joining the committee. Allan had a way of persuading — you know what I mean. Six people attended the first meeting: Brice Wells, Barry Angus, Sarah Crook, Wes Bancroft, Leonie McMahon and myself. Leonie attended meetings until the Carnaby's project needed more of her attention. Frank O'Connor came in as our liaison with the BAWA committee.

Being a newcomer to Western Australia I felt a little overwhelmed in my new role, but it soon became clear to me that I was working with a man whose passion for birds was inspiring and infectious. "We start out very slowly," said Brice, as if anticipating my apprehension and nothing much happens until about March. This was true. We visited shows, Brice gave talks to groups, and we developed our first Bird Seminar for Beginners. For any newcomer to Birds Australia, involvement increases your own knowledge and confidence. Barry Angus initiated a high school art competition involving three high schools. The following year, for the Western Australia 175th anniversary, we embarked upon a competition for Perth primary schools. This involved conservation work in a bush area near the school, for which they had to prepare a presentation. Fifteen primary schools entered, the presentations were judged by Mike and Mandy Bamford, with Wembley Downs Primary School being the winner.

The following year, a visit to a show at Kalamunda resulted in meeting the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council's environmental team, whose request for us to give bird seminars in the Darling Range hills culminated in a three year partnership and gained us many more friends and members. The following years were increasingly busy as more involvement with schools, bird seminars for beginners and advanced classes, talks and library displays evolved. It was evident we needed more volunteers. Merrian Kuerschner joined us with her invaluable help on computers, desktop publishing, preparing posters and PowerPoint presentations to bring us into the 20th century. With reluctance we have let Merrian go to Queensland where her husband's new job is but as good fortune will have it, we have a new recruit in Georgina Steytler to help with the PowerPoint presentations. Rod Smith thought he had retired from schools until we asked if he would be our Schools Liaison Officer, a job that he has taken on with gusto and inspiration to say the least. Sue Keogh volunteered her experience and proved valuable with a trip to a school in Coorow and visiting Perth local schools. Reluctantly, Sue has now resigned to spend more time with family priorities. Our latest volunteers Julia Wates and Ruth Greble are joining in with office administration, school visits, Bird ID Seminars and help at shows. Margaret Prickett, a new BAWA member, has shown us her organisational skills in reclassifying our image files into the new taxonomic order and improving the equipment-lending schedule.

Our recent collaboration with the City of Cambridge has incurred several projects, one being Garden Week, and others including Arbor Day and a Sustainability Festival in October. Our goals for promoting BAWA include reaching out to rural

areas and this year we have visited Pemberton and Gelorup, with Wongan Hills on the agenda for November. These trips will combine visits to schools, festivals and friends groups and we welcome any interest from the country areas. Volunteers are more than welcome to join us.

Instead of events not happening until March, we are now starting in January and at the end of 2007, we had 18 events scheduled for 2008. This year is surpassing all expectations with requests coming in from all over Perth and nearby areas. We have reached the point where we do not look for events or places to go; the requests are coming to us.

Yes Brice, we've come a long way.

**Elsa Dabbs, secretary
Community Education Committee**

ADVANCED BIRD ID CLASSES, JUNE 2008

The attendance at the Advanced Classes for Bird ID at the Western Australia Eco Centre, on Perry Lakes Drive, Floreat, surpassed all our expectations. Sixty three people attended on Saturday 14 and 47 on Sunday 15 of June. It was a pleasure to see BAWA members from Mandurah, Geraldton and Stirling Ranges attending.

Saturday's schedule provided identification on waders, robins and thornbills.

Bill Rutherford dazzled us in his comprehensive knowledge on waders with a detailed presentation and photographs. Brice Wells gave his usual informative presentation combining knowledge and humour to create a learning atmosphere. Morning tea in-between sessions provided an opportunity for the attendees to peruse our trading table, which resulted in good sales for our fund-raising and the chance for members who rarely get to the office, to buy books and cards.

Sunday's schedule on Bird Sounds had Rod Smith demonstrating his own creative bird imitations combined with a PowerPoint presentation of photographs and sounds of our south west birds. Unfortunately he had to compete with the rain on the metal roof. Frank O'Connor also gave a PowerPoint presentation on raptors, one of the more difficult bird groups to identify, showing once more his tremendous knowledge. I always say if you want to know anything about birds — ask Frank.

Comments on an evaluation sheet completed by the attendees showed that presentations and content were excellent, but that we could consider using microphones, which would have helped when it was raining. More classes were requested for ID on honeyeaters, parrots, sea birds, ducks, pardalotes, 'LBJs', owls, wrens, garden birds (difficult as it would depend on whose garden), bird photography and numerous requests for a repeat, with more ID, on waders. Next year we hope to have a full morning on waders. One member offered to help with a presentation on parrots; we will be in touch.

Thanks to the presenters: Frank O'Connor, Bill Rutherford, Rod Smith and Brice Wells, and to the CEC committee, Ruth Greble, Margaret Prickett and Julia Wates for setting up and

organising the trading table and morning tea. Thanks also to Georgina Steytler, Ray Flanagan, Jeni Muir, and Jan Wainwright for staying behind on Sunday to help pack up.

**Elsa Dabbs
Secretary, Community Education Committee**

CARNABY'S BLACK-COCKATOO RECOVERY PROJECT

With the nesting season fast approaching, the South Coast contingent of the Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Recovery Project is looking forward to locating previously un-recorded nesting sites and monitoring those identified last year. Recently the project area has increased to include the south east Avon Catchment Council NRM region, meaning this year we will be working across sites from Cranbrook to Hyden to Esperance. While I am still working across the regions I am increasing the focus on the little studied south eastern populations and look forward to collecting some useful information on these nesting populations this year.

To date we have located a number of nesting sites, including three significant sites that have been nominated for internationally recognised Important Bird Areas, and we have worked with a number of landholders in protecting nesting sites and associated feeding areas. Additionally we have developed a nesting box trial over five sites in the south coast region and we are hoping to extend this trial to include more sites in the future.

We have two campouts planned for September in Ravensthorpe and south of Kojonup; please see the volunteer opportunities section for more information.

Raana Scott

INLAND WADER COUNTS, OCTOBER 2007



An extensive survey of inland salt lakes was carried out during October 2007 and February 2008 to establish the presence of Hooded Plovers. In the process records were also kept of other waders seen.

In total 31 salt lakes were visited and waders were recorded on 24 (Table 1). One of the lakes, 18 km south of Lake Grace at Beetaloo Road and located along the Pingrup-Lake Grace Road, had four Red-capped Plovers and one runner. There were no waders on Lake Altham, Lake Quarbing, Chinocup Lake or at Anderson Lake Nature Reserve. High numbers of Banded Stilts were seen at Lake Norring and Lake Ewlyamartup.

There were a few waders not expected at inland lakes. For example, Ruddy Turnstones were seen several times at Lake Coyrecup and at the Wagin Sewage Works and a Grey Plover was reported at Lake Coyrecup in 2007.

Birds Australia Western Australia received a grant from Lotterywest to conduct the surveys at inland salt lakes.

David Secomb

[illegible]

Table 1: Waders recorded on inland lakes surveyed in 2007 and 2008.

WOOD SANDPIPERS IN THE SOUTH OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola* is not the most common wader to visit the south of Western Australia and in some years few if any sightings are made. It is not conspicuous in its behaviour or plumage and is easily overlooked. Wood Sandpiper sightings are not restricted to the Swan Coastal Plain as they can be readily seen at inland wetlands, most often over the summer months when fresh water wetlands are drying out.

In the south of Western Australia, Wood Sandpipers prefer fresh water swamps fringed by paperbark, gumtrees or Typha. They like sites where fallen trees or branches litter the river or lake's muddy banks with shallow water to forage. They can be seen earlier in the summer, if the right habitat is available, for example after a dry winter when wetlands have only partially filled.

Jack Hunt (1989) described his experience when he came across some Wood Sandpipers on the Serpentine River: "Generally the area consisted of dark mud with small patches of low grass at intervals. Moving through this we were

completely surprised by the shrill alarm call of ten Wood Sandpipers which we had flushed from behind a small stump." They found a total of 30 Wood Sandpipers dispersed at intervals through the dead timber surrounding a pool on the river.

Results

The information in this article is based on observations made of Wood Sandpipers in the south of Western Australia from 1980 onwards. In total 225 observations were analysed and this figure includes 74 sightings from Lake McLarty.

Sightings of Wood Sandpiper in the Perth wetlands have increased and this is perhaps due to the large number of birdwatchers frequenting metropolitan sites.

Figures 1 and 2 show that the majority of the sightings were made from December to March, coinciding with the drying of the ephemeral lakes. Wood Sandpiper observations where the number exceeds ten birds or more seem less common now than in the eighties and early nineties. There were nineteen sightings of groups over ten during the eighties, eight during the nineties and only two in the first six years

from 2000, although in the past two years some higher numbers have been reported. The Vasse-Wonnerup has in the past had some good sightings of Wood Sandpipers, but less in recent years.

Lake McLarty

The data from Lake McLarty were looked at separately due to the high number (74) of sightings that were available from this site.

The observations from Lake McLarty show that the majority of the sightings were made from December to February. In the past larger numbers of Wood Sandpipers were seen at Lake McLarty, but in recent years the numbers have been considerably lower. This is possibly due to the lake's changing ecology. The extensive *Typha* beds that once covered parts of the lake have disappeared, making the lake less attractive to the Wood Sandpiper.

Location	Shire	Location	Shire
Lake Gwelup	Perth	Wannarnal Swamp	Gingin
Forrestdale Lake	Perth	Mogumber Swamp	Gingin
Lake Claremont	Perth	Hurstview Lake	Dandaragan
Lake Jandabup	Perth	Yanget Lake	Carnamah
Thomsons Lake	Perth	Burnssie Lake	Beverley
Lake Kogolup	Perth		
The Spectacles	Perth	Towerinning Lake	West Arthur
Alfred Cove	Perth	Toolibin Lake	Wickepin
Herdsmen Lake	Perth	Coblinie Nature Reserve	Katanning
Yangebup Lake	Perth	Dumblebung Lake NR.	Wagin
Maurice Hamer Park	Perth	Wagin sewage works	Wagin
Blue Gum Lake	Perth	Dumblebung Lake	Dumblebung
North Lake	Perth	Gundaring Lake	Dumblebung
Floreat Waters	Perth	Bibiking Road Swamp	Dumblebung
Pelican Point	Perth	Wilson Inlet	Denmark
Bertram Road Swamp	Perth	Owingup Swamp	Denmark
Banjup Swamp	Perth	Yakamia Swamp	Albany
Perry Lakes	Perth	Swamp near Manypeaks	Albany
Bayswater River mudflat	Perth	Grasmere Lake Nature Res.	Albany
		Corio Road Wetland	Ravenswood
Alcoa Wellard Wetland	Rockingham	Yellilup Swamp	Jerramungup
Baldivis Waterski Park	Rockingham	Toocalup Swamp	Jerramungup
Amarillo Pool, Serpentine R.	Murray		
Mealup Lake	Murray	Lake Miranda	Leonora
Lake McLarty	Murray	King of the West Lake	Kalgoorlie
Benger Swamp	Harvey		
		Warden Lake Nature Reserve	Esperance
Vasse Estuary	Busselton	Swamps near Lake Gore	Esperance
The Broadwater	Busselton	Dalyup, Coomalbidgup	Esperance (West of)
		Shark Lake Nature Reserve	Esperance
Northam Weir	Northam	Eyre, Kanidal Beach	Dundas
Doopiter Swamp	Gingin	Crystal Ponds	Cocklebidy
Big Bootine	Gingin		

Table 1: Sites where Wood Sandpipers have been seen in the south of WA.

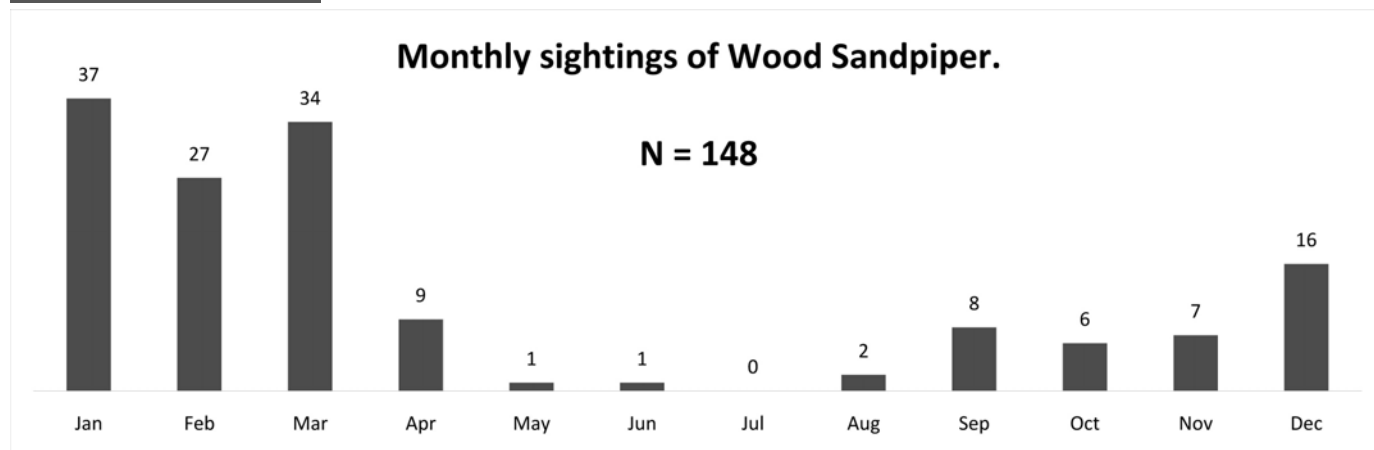


Figure 1: Monthly sightings of Wood Sandpipers in the south of Western Australia, excluding Lake McLarty, from 1980-2008.

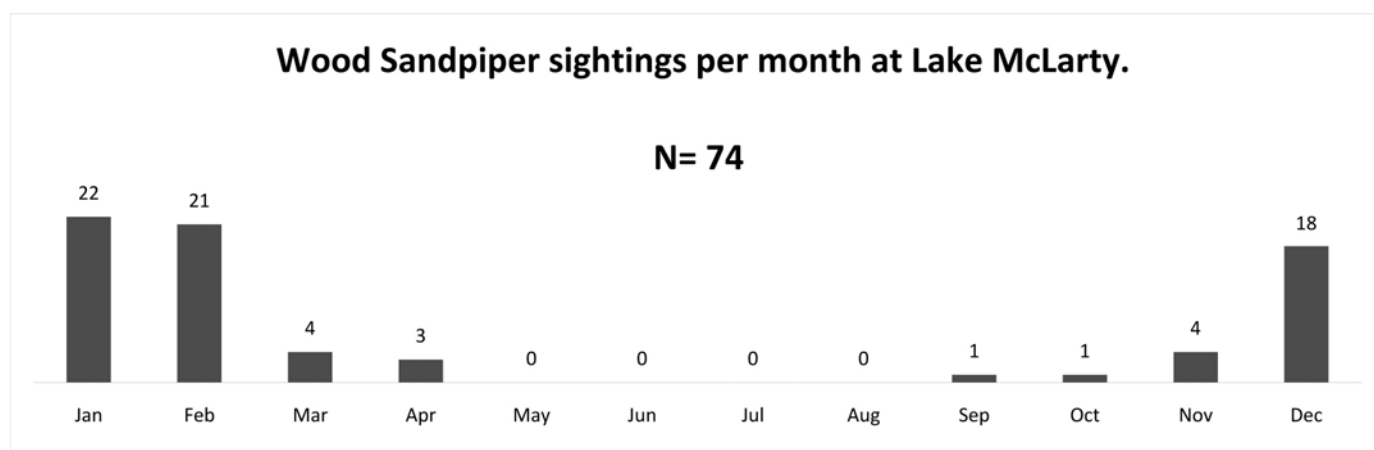


Figure 2: Monthly sightings at Wood Sandpiper at Lake McLarty from 1980-2008.

The future

Threats to their habitat in Western Australia are posed by the lowering of the water table through water extraction and reduced rainfall. These factors are resulting in ephemeral wetlands drying out early. The proliferation of Typha in some small wetlands has resulted in these wetlands becoming overgrown, thus eliminating suitable feeding areas for this species.

Reference

Hunt, J. (1989). Of waterbirds and wetlands. *Western Australian Bird Notes* **50**, 8-9.

Marcus Singor



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FAIRY MARTIN AT WELSHPOOL

Fairy Martins are not often reported breeding on the Swan Coastal Plain. However, on 26 February 2006 Steve Elson reported 12 Fairy Martin nests near Orrong Road /Roe Highway at Welshpool. A visit to the site on 19 June 2008 found 28 empty nests in good condition and a number of disintegrated nests.

The Fairy Martin nests were located in four of the six large concrete culverts that run under the railway track. The culverts allow the Woodlupine Brook to flow under the railway track and into the compensation basins located at the Welshpool Road and Roe Highway intersection. I am not sure if these nests represent the culmination of several years breeding or are from a single breeding season.

There was another breeding record of Fairy Martin found nesting near Perth Airport, Munday Swamp (Megan Jefferson. 19 November 2006).



Fairy Martin nests, Welshpool.
Photo: Marcus Singor

Marcus Singor

PIRATES, BUCCANEERS AND LANDLUBBERS

As summer advances, birding photo opportunities continue to arise in our SW wetlands, highland or lowland. Of course, when I trout-fish one or other of the several Darling Range reservoirs, I give that activity my greatest attention. In any case, I've no intention of taking my precious No. 1 camera to where I am fishing, nor wish to leave it behind in my parked and unattended vehicle during what are usually my long absences. I nonetheless occasionally drag out my cheap pair of mini 10x25 spare binoculars I keep permanently handy in my vehicle's glove box, to check up on some wetland, or other bird sighting anywhere.

I'm a landlubber, or bank fly-fisherman, although I commonly wear chest waders, to provide me greater opportunity for casting reach. It's one late afternoon recently; I set up my fly-rod on a bank of the Harvey reservoir. At a distance, I notice two separate, ankle-deep egrets making as if innocent, whiter-than-white bystanders, as if merely dockside marine chandlers. Two White-faced Herons and lone and shy White-necked Heron quickly depart (guilty consciences?).

Further along the bank, two Darters stand stock still, the lowering sun drying out their spread wings. I know, however, I can expect to see them hunting again late in the evening, when their low bulwarks will be almost entirely hidden at the water level, with only their sinuous, snake-like heads to indicate their darkly lurking, skull-and-crossbones' presence. Nor did I need even those mini binoculars to observe an excited flock of 100 or so black cormorants fly in at one end of my intended fishing beat, land, and begin to hunt there in a noisy, splashy pack; a fleet of bloodthirsty buccaneers.

And if one considers those cormorants as, say, frigate-size among some other water birds, then by contrast, just beyond, two swimming Australian Pelicans present as up-market galleons, capacious privateers, rapacious, silent and stealthy, also engaged upon the same fishy business I was about to embark on at the time.

(By the by: I don't mind sharing our planet with wild life, but I sometimes have misgivings about having to compete with such canny native fishers, with such all-round native experience, such highly mobile, and sometimes underwater experts over sporty, but generally limited, trout stocks in the Harvey district.)

So, it is one of the smaller fresh-water, landlubber shoreline birds I find both the most charming, yet often the most camera shy: the Black-fronted Dotterel. The best photo opportunities for this bird seem to occur at damp, newly

exposed waterline margins, as fresh-water, lowland swamps dry up, also when water from hills reservoirs is periodically released to irrigate crops at the Swan Coastal Plains below.

Only once have I observed a pair mating, a eight-second affair near the waterline. Of course, Black-fronted Dotterels commonly choose to nest on some bare, stony ground well back from the water. But you would have to observe them breeding either very closely over time, or from discreet cover, if you expect to find the nest. I've done so only twice so far. Each time one alarmed sitting parent performed violent distraction displays, including a fully prostrate, cruciform posture, with much quivering throughout. And even though I greatly suspected that several other pairs were breeding elsewhere at the time, those birds kept their distance, scurrying and scooting in circles all around me, until I moved on.

At best, mere happy snaps of those small dotterels might show an amorphous brown job, hardly distinguishable from its surrounds, maybe some puzzling view of its back end, or a smudgy silhouette of some blurred object. To achieve a bright shot that simultaneously and clearly shows the bird's inverted black chest-triangle, the red on its bill, and its red eye-ring calls for special measures, especially because just a highly mobile pair or two is the usual limit in any one restricted location. But I've repeatedly observed loose post-breeding flocks of <30 birds at the long stony shoreline of east Lake Preston, no doubt attracted there by what fresh-water puddles they find lying in shallow limestone hollows. I was pretty confident I would find at least one pair of Black-fronted Dotterels on a friend's cattle property along the waterline of the main pond in the Myalup system.

I thought back on what was once one of my several lives, about a cameraman's ploy I had sometimes used successfully in Maasai cattle country. But, if I expected to use the trick again, even before I sneakily nailed false colours to my mast, I first had to check the location of the Myalup farmer's cattle herd. As luck would have it, the main part of the herd had gathered in a shady tunnel formed by thick melaleuca that

fringes both sides of a low causeway that crosses the Myalup swamp alongside the private property's main pond. I alighted from my vehicle, then crept in with my camera to the blind side of the earthen causeway. Then, sneaking in behind the cover of the cattle, I found a single adult representative of what I was seeking.

Even so, the lone, initially oblivious, Black-fronted Dotterel I found continued to elude my lens and would not present to camera as I wished. When it was almost about to do so, in went the sun behind a cloud, or when all seemed about to be perfect, the peek-a-boo bird scooted behind sparse fringes of pond vegetation. Eventually, I grabbed the best pictures available to me at the time, before the disturbed bird flew off. Although one of its jet-black eyes stripes alone could serve a cunning, but retired, pirate-captain's eye shade, at least it's not one of my expert pirate competitors over any trout-fishing anywhere. Yet that thoroughly charming landlubber, the Black-fronted Dotterel can prove pretty hard to bring to photographic justice.

A F (Tony) France

DOLLARBIRD AT BLUE GUM LAKE

On my way to the shops one afternoon, I noticed a strange bird flying about Blue Gum Lake in Mt Pleasant. At first I thought it must be a parrot because it was green but the white spots on its wings didn't look right. I spent some time memorising its features before hurrying home to ring Margery Clegg, who lives just round the corner. When she could make sense of my breathless description she said it sounded like a Dollarbird — but it couldn't be! Quickly, she joined me at the lake and immediately agreed that it was a Dollarbird. We watched it for some time, hawking for insects across the patches of water from the recent rains, at one point picking something up from the surface.

The next morning was gloomy and wet but the bird was still there, and in the afternoon the weather cleared and it was feeding again. By Sunday, word had got around and it had a succession of visitors, including most of the BAWA members who had been on the Lake Coogee walk in the morning. The Dollarbird was very obliging and patiently sat on a convenient stump while the paparazzi fired off their cameras at it. When they all retreated, it celebrated with an aerial display of loops and soaring. The general opinion was that it was a sub-adult bird as it only had a touch of red on its beak, although it had a bright blue throat.

For a week, the Dollarbird stayed at Blue Gum, delighting the numerous people who came to watch its antics. Then, on Saturday afternoon it vanished, only to reappear at Booragoon Lake, where it stayed for another week. After that the weather turned cold, wet and windy and a couple of days

later there was no sign of the bird, though its call was reported at the Air Force Museum at Bull Creek. A search of the area by Wendy and Clive Napier found nothing.

How did this bird, which should have been wintering in New Guinea or Indonesia, find its way to Perth? Did it simply have a very poor sense of direction and fly south instead of north? However, while it was here, from 30 May to 16 June, it gave a great deal of pleasure to birders and members of the public alike, all being drawn to watch it hawking for dragonflies and fending off the attentions of Laughing Kookaburras, Australian Ravens, a Black-shouldered Kite and a Brown Goshawk. I miss the Dollarbird, and still check its favourite stump every time I pass, hoping that somehow it has survived and that one day I'll see it again, on its way north to the sun.

Valerie Hemsley

MORE ON SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATERS STRANDED ON KANIDAL BEACH

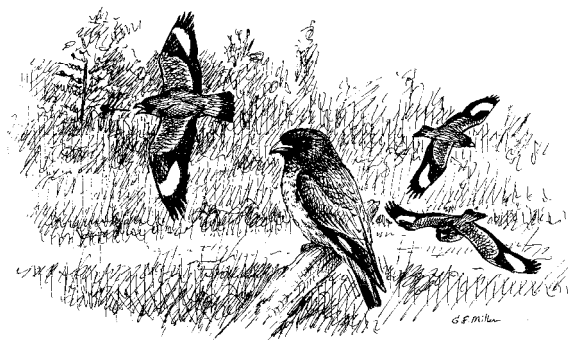
Further to our report and other articles on dead and dying Short-tailed Shearwaters at Eyre Bird Observatory in November 2007 (Kalab 2008; O'Brien *et al.* 2008; Singor 2008), I refer to a paper by Irynej Skira published in *Corella* (Skira 2003). This paper reports a large mortality of these birds along the east coast of Australia from north of Brisbane to southern Tasmania and New Zealand in October and

November 2000, and discusses possible causes for the large mortality. In October 2000 five specimens were collected for autopsy at the School of Veterinary Science in Melbourne and it was found the birds were emaciated and dehydrated. Eight specimens examined at the Taronga Zoo provided similar results. The conclusion from these examinations was that starvation was the most likely cause of death. Discussion followed on krill, which is the diet of these shearwaters in

September and October when they are returning to Australian waters from the Northern Hemisphere. During this period there is a reduction in abundance of krill if the water temperature rises.

To quote from this paper "If Short-tailed Shearwaters are heavily dependent on krill for food immediately on their return to Australian seas, warmer currents which are unproductive for krill and result in food shortages, are most likely the cause of large mortalities".

I don't know whether sea temperatures were warmer around November 2007 in the vicinity of the Great Australian Bight or if these birds were starving, but it is an interesting possibility. When we were taking measurements the birds appeared to be thin and comment was made about this at the time. We did not weigh the birds.



Dollarbird, Blue Gum Lake.

Drawing: G F Miller

Hopefully examination by the Western Australian Museum on the specimens delivered to them will shed some light on their demise.

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Christine Wilder

BROWN GOSHAWK AT LAKE CLAREMONT

At Lake Claremont in May 2008 an immature Brown Goshawk was using a tree stump as a vantage point from which to observe prey. It would perch motionless, scanning the low vegetation on the lake bed before diving off the stump to pursue whatever had caught its eye. However, all the forays I observed ended with it standing on the lake bed with nothing to show for its efforts. It would then return to the stump by a circuitous route flying low over the vegetation.

These activities attracted the attention of a pair of Grey Butcherbirds which attempted to drive the goshawk away by dive-bombing it and calling continuously while doing so. It appeared as if the goshawk was ducking its head each time a butcherbird reached the nadir of its dive. After withstanding a number of attacks, it took flight, rising rapidly above its assailants. This caused both butcherbirds to fly rapidly back to the treeline at the lake's edge, still calling loudly. Once they reached the trees they were not seen or heard again.

The commotion had been noticed by the male of the resident pair of Nankeen Kestrels, which also tried to drive the Brown Goshawk out of the area. Its fairly slow, low angle passes seemed to be more ineffectual than those of the butcherbirds and it ceased the activity and perched on a stump only a short distance from the goshawk. Shortly after this, the goshawk set off on one of its forays but instead of returning to the stump it had been using, flew to where the kestrel was and displaced it. The kestrel flew up high calling quite shrilly before diving on the goshawk in a fast, seemingly vertical, stoop more like a Peregrine Falcon. It repeated this a number of times until the goshawk moved to another perch. The kestrel followed and continued its attack. After ducking a few more stoops, the goshawk flew towards the other side of the lake pursued by its assailant. When the kestrel got too close, the goshawk rolled on to its back and presented its talons. At this point the kestrel broke away and returned to its perch where it began to preen. The goshawk flew into the trees at the lake's edge and was lost from view.

The behaviour exhibited by the Nankeen Kestrel has been recorded against conspecifics and other raptors including the

Collared Sparrowhawk (Marchant & Higgins 1993). However, the Brown Goshawk was not mentioned.

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Peter Sandilands

CURIOUS EMU BEHAVIOUR (COURTING?)

We spotted two Emus in a paddock alongside St Ronan's Nature Reserve on 19 June. Unusually, instead of bolting, they came running to us, making grunting calls. They got as close as they could, pressing against the barbed wire.

They then appeared to initiate aggressive behaviour, extending their necks right up and fluffing feathers out, especially along their necks. They then commenced to 'chest' each other, jumping up and clawing at each other. Eventually one ran, and the other pursued. A minute and 200m later, they appeared at peace with each other, preening about 5m apart.

A few minutes later they repeated the effort, and during the sparring one was knocked over flat on its back with legs in the air. Again, after a chase, they settled calmly together.

Maris Lauva



Emus at St Ronan's NR.

Photo: Maris Lauva

Editors' note: HANZAB Vol 1 (p. 52) reports the grunting calls with the neck stretched upwards to near or at full extent with the bill bent down, neck plumage fluffed. This display is never followed by attack but often by retreat and is used by birds when they meet a strange object or something unusual in a familiar place. However, the above grunting call also indicates male courtship. Perhaps the attack suggested a territory dispute.

A WILLIE WAGTAIL TALE

As I parked my car at the Lakeside Nursing Home in Redcliffe one day, I noticed a couple of Willie Wagtails paying casual attention to my car bonnet. I thought they must have been looking for insects — however closer inspection on my return some time later, revealed a tiny nest built on an overhanging branch of a small, straggly Poinsettia immediately above the bonnet. The nest was just too high to inspect without assistance and so, on my next visit on 21 October 2007, I brought a husband and a large mirror attached to a handle. These enabled us to count six eggs in the nest — yes, SIX. It may have been my imagination, but it seemed to me from their slightly different colouration that there may have been two sets of three eggs each. Then, even more astonishing, we discovered that there were THREE

Willie Wagtails, not just two as we had assumed were present.

Over the next month or so we kept a close watch on the nest on each of our visits and appointed my 95 year old father, a resident of the home, as OGN (official guardian of the nest). After a fortnight, on 3 November, the nest contained three tiny chicks and at least one egg, and there were still three adults in attendance. By 9 November there were just the three chicks, being fed by all three adults. About a fortnight after hatching, on 18 November, we located two small fledglings in a second, much larger Poinsettia adjacent to the nest tree, and on the following day all three fledglings were located.

What was the explanation for the six eggs, we wondered? HANZAB (Higgins *et al.* 2006) gives the clutch size for Willie Wagtails as "usually 3-4, occasionally two and rarely one; twice five". Therefore, based on this authority and the fact that only three eggs hatched, we concluded that there must have been two separate clutches; but whether they were both laid by the same female or one clutch each laid by two different females, we will never know.



Willie Wagtail nest.
Photos: Lesley Brooker

The second point of interest was the presence of three birds throughout the incubation and nesting periods. The Willie Wagtail is not known to be a co-operative breeder (Ford *et al.*, 1988) and so we suggest that the third bird may have been a one year old female, perhaps a daughter of the older female, who could have laid an infertile first clutch in the nest. Again, we will never know.

Coincidentally, while searching for reference material on an unrelated matter, we came across an article about Allen Lashmar, in which he was reported as finding a Willie

Wagtail nest on Kangaroo Island, South Australia, which also contained six eggs (Paton, 2007). In his case, the eggs were obviously from two different clutches as the pattern of speckling was markedly different, but there were only two birds present which he assumed were both females. The eggs "of course were infertile".

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Lesley Brooker

NOTES ON SOME OF THE BIRDS OF BOLD PARK

Berry and Berry (2008) summarise the species of birds observed in Bold Park by BAWA members during the period 1975-2004, and those observed by How and Dell (1990) during the period 1986-1989. But the Berry summary lacks the background observations made by myself (Stranger 1998) in the park during the 1950s. These are of interest because: a) some species recorded in the park in recent times did not occur in the park during the 1950s, b) two species have not been recorded there in recent times, and c) the continued presence of two species of interest.

Species not recorded in the 1950s

Black-shouldered Kite. It was very rare to the north and east of Perth then, and didn't occur anywhere in this area.

Little Eagle. First recorded over Perth in the mid 1950s and not recorded locally.

Brown Falcon. Only observed in coastal areas west of the park.

Corella sp/spp. Feral since the early 1960s in the central western suburbs.

Elegant Parrot. Usually confined to grassy flats and pastures.

Variegated Fairy-wren. Only occupied the narrow strip of coastal dunes.

White-winged Fairy-wren. Only occupied the narrow strip of coastal dunes.

White-browed Scrubwren. Only occupied the coastal wattle thickets.

Singing Honeyeater. Only occupied the narrow coastal strip.

Brown-headed Honeyeater.

White-naped Honeyeater. Only an occasional visitor to the Swan Coastal Plain.

White-cheeked Honeyeater.

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater.

White-backed Swallow. Spasmodically ranges to Perth from the north.

Species not listed by Berry and Berry (2008)

White-winged Triller. It was a rare seasonal visitor.

Red-capped Robin. One summer it was very abundant (as were the bush flies).

Species with a continued presence

Common Bronzewing. Not recorded by BAWA members up until 1998, or by How and Dell (1993), but recorded in the park since.

Grey Shrike-thrush. Unusual persistence.

Other notes

Nankeen Kestrel. Usually only seen over the coastal areas, but it sometimes ranged to the westernmost part of the park, west of the Tuart and Banksia.

Black-faced Woodswallow. Not seen in the park but occasionally seen south of City Beach. It could have also ranged over the westernmost part of the park.

Of interest is that the Brown-headed, White-naped, White-cheeked and Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters were not recorded in King's Park by Serventy (1938). Also, except for the White-naped Honeyeater, the others now occur in Bold Park

and may be evidence of climate change and/or evidence of further collapse in the park's former ecosystem or structure. The occurrence of the Black-shouldered Kite, Brown Falcon and Nankeen Kestrel in the park now may be further evidence of those possibilities.

There are two obvious lessons here: a) search the literature before publishing your paper, and b) birdwatching began in WA before 1975. The paper of Berry and Berry (2008) would have been enhanced had they researched the literature more thoroughly.

References

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Robert Stranger

NEW WAY TO STOP CATS KILLING BIRDS AND OTHER WILDLIFE

About 25% of Australian households keep cats and studies have shown that roughly half of these cats hunt. Community concern about predation of native birds by pet cats is growing and many local councils are enacting more restrictive 'Cat Laws'. Whilst full enclosure of pet cats may be the ideal solution, it is not popular and often impractical for cat owners.

The traditional collar mounted cat bell has been shown to reduce hunting success by about 40%. Alternatives include pounce activated buzzers and flashing lights which may be slightly more effective. More recently a bird loving cat owner in Oregon U.S.A. developed the "CatBib", a lightweight, brightly coloured, Neoprene triangle that attaches to the safety collar. Serving as a visual warning it also gets in the way when the cat pounces on its victim and provides an effective low cost solution to the problem.

A scientific trial by researchers from Murdoch University (Calver *et al.* 2007) showed that the CatBib stopped over 80% of cats from catching birds, 45% from catching mammals and 33% from catching herpetofauna. There are no welfare issues associated with wearing the CatBib and cats can run, play, climb trees and groom normally – they just can't catch birds any more.

Previously available only from the USA, CatBibs are now distributed in Australia. The BAWA Executive Committee was approached about the product and endorsed its objectives at their May 2008 meeting. Information leaflets are available

at the BAWA office and full details can be found online at www.catbib.com.au.

Reference

- Calver, M., Thomas, S., Bradley, S. and McCutcheon, H. (2007) Reducing the rate of predation on wildlife by pet cats: the efficacy and practicability of collar-mounted pounce protectors. *Biological Conservation* **137**, 341-348.

David T Woods

NEW ALERTS FOR EMERGING BIRD PESTS

The Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food has produced three National Animal Pest Alerts brochures to assist in raising public awareness about the potential risk of new invasive species establishing populations in Australia and becoming pests.

The pest alert brochures, covering the Indian Ringneck, House Crow and Common Myna, have been produced with support from the Australian Government's National Feral Animal Control Program and endorsed nationally by the Vertebrate Pests Committee and relevant state and territory authorities.

There is a great reliance on public reporting of pest species. Therefore the brochures have been designed to educate the public about the risks these emerging pests pose to agriculture, the environment and social values in order to increase community awareness and encourage vigilance.

The brochures have been produced using results from risk assessments conducted by the department, and include background information, description, behaviour and the potential impact of the pest birds.

Information and pictures showing these birds in the wild in Australia have also been included in the brochures. These include a House Crow found at a caravan park in Port Hedland, Western Australia, and a group of Indian Ringneck Parakeets trapped in a Perth suburb and rehomed.

Importantly, the pest alert brochures also distinguish these non-native species from similar-looking native birds. As many reports of introduced birds turn out to be native species, it is hoped that this will focus reporting to the problem species. They also raise the issue of the widespread keeping of pets that could become pests. The responsible keeping of birds with significant pest potential is absolutely crucial to prevent another starling-like bird establishing wild populations in Australia.

Any sightings of unusual birds or animals should be reported to the nearest relevant government department or wildlife authority on Freecall 1800 084 881. In Western Australia, this is the Department of Agriculture and Food's Pest and Disease Information Service.

The Animal Pest Alert brochures are being distributed nationally to all relevant government departments and wildlife authorities, and can be obtained by downloading them from the department's website: www.agric.wa.gov.au.

Marion Massam


Vol 127/2007

National Animal Pest Alert
1800 054 881
Freecall


Animal Pest Alert

Indian Ringneck Parakeet

NOT NATIVE




male



female

The Indian Ringneck, or Indian Ring-necked Parakeet (*Pseudauchen ymerus*), is also called the Rose-ringed Parakeet or African Ring-necked Parakeet. It is not native to Australia but it is widely kept here as a cage bird. The ringneck has significant potential to establish populations in Australia and become a pest, so it is important to report any found in the wild.

Eastern Roseella



Please report sightings of Indian Ringneck Parakeets


Vol 127/2008

National Animal Pest Alert
1800 054 881
Freecall

Animal Pest Alert


House Crow

NOT NATIVE



The House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) is also known as the Indian, Grey-necked, Geylan or Colombo Crow. It is not native to Australia but has been transported here on numerous occasions on ships. The House Crow has significant potential to establish populations in Australia and become a pest, so it is important to report any found in the wild.

Australian Raven



NATIVE

Please report all sightings of House Crows


Vol 127/2008

National Animal Pest Alert
1800 054 881
Freecall

Animal Pest Alert

Common Myna

NOT NATIVE




The Common Myna or typically *Pseudorasbora* is also known as the Indian, Calcutta or House Myna. It is not native to Australia but has established populations in eastern and southern Australia, as well as other countries worldwide.

The Common Myna has significant potential to spread further in Australia as populations are expanding south in Queensland and New South Wales. It is important to immediately report any found in the wild in areas where the species has not been seen before.


NATIVE

Baby Blue



NATIVE

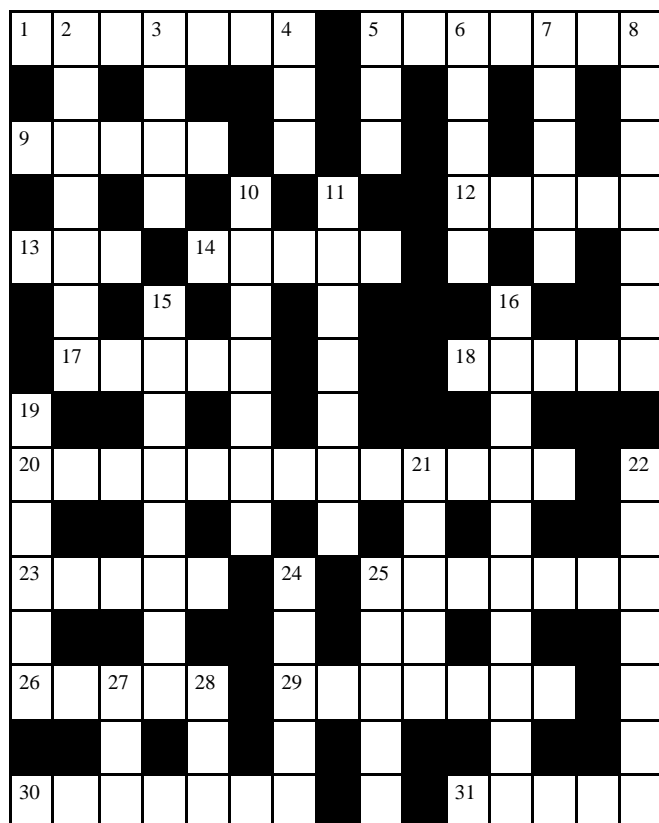
Yellow-throated Miner



Please report Common Mynas when seen in new areas - Freecall 1800 054 881



By Pam Agar



Clues across

1. Protection.
5. Moving from place to place.
9. Sharp rise in landscape.
12. Wetland plant of tropics.
13. Useful trees for large parrots.
14. Adverse weather may cause this.
17. Flight of lorikeets.
18. Spoonbill of north-west WA.
20. Removal to alternative site.
23. To send money for goods.
25. Conspicuous marking.
26. Fully mature.
29. Unvarying colour.
30. To break down under-foot.
31. Dorsal surface.

Clues down

2. Throat feathers.
3. Area between eye and bill.
4. Giant legendary bird.
5. Mesh.
6. Shedding of feathers.
7. Determines presence of waders.
8. Pond, often good birding site.
10. Able to reproduce.
11. Habitat for quail species.
15. Occurring every two years.
16. Range of southern WA.
19. Generic name of terns.
21. One who steals.
22. Large bird of swamps.
24. Reason for happening.
25. Colour of parrot eggs.
27. Seat of learning (abbrev).
28. Water source.

An Exhibition of Watercolours by
Sue Kalab
At KINGFISHER GALLERY
"A Song for Trees & Rain"
Music for the Eyes from the Natural Dimension

Sue's work is soft realism and brings a sense of contemplation. Quietly powerful, these watercolour paintings record the timelessness of our native environment.

*Wild Birds & Bush Animals, Orchids & Nests
Banksias, Shells & Eucalypts*

Friday 19th September - Wednesday 8th October
Opening event Friday evening 19th

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RSVP appreciated.

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Digital photos

When submitting electronic images for possible use in WABN, please use a medium to high resolution, eg, 300 dpi, as this provides a clearer reproduction.

Most digital cameras provide an option for selecting the resolution. Low resolution images generally are used only for display on computer monitors and not for printing.



LIST OF POSITIONS

Bruce Haynes, Chair BAWA, is pleased to announce that the following volunteers have generously offered their services and that Executive Committee has accepted their kind offer:

Project Management Officer: Sue Mather

Project Finance Officer: Tony Brown

Membership Officer: Maris Lauva

Country Groups Officer: Clive Napier

Calendar Officer: Ruth Greble

Website/IT Officers: Greg Howell
and Martin Cake

Office Manager (Assistant): Jim Langford

Additional volunteers are sought for:

Policy development working party

Fundraising working party

Events working party

Publications Committee

LAKE PRESTON QUICKSAND WARNING

Tony France warns that care needs to be taken when birding at Lake Preston as areas that may appear firm underfoot can be dangerous, particularly at the end of the south spit's eastern trunk and Tussock Islands Bay.

His advice is to look

- * for vegetation that may indicate the nature of the ground underfoot
- * for kangaroo tracks that may also indicate firm ground
- * at surface sand texture as sand, silt and grit usually indicate firm ground.

He also suggests walking in single file and taking a probing stick.

Thank you, Tony.

Editors

GRANTS

GRANTS

GRANTS

Did you know that there are over one hundred grants available for members to prepare and carry out projects for the study and conservation of native birds, community education and involvement projects?

How can you find out about these grants?

At the WABA office is a file "All About Grants" which gives a description of, the purpose, value and time to apply for each grant

or

You may contact Liz Walker on 9444 8920 or by email <lizwalk@ozemail.com.au>, or at Peregrine House.

How do I apply for a grant?

For all future grant requests the following procedures have been established by the Executive Committee.

Obtain an application form from the BAWA office to apply for a grant.

This form contains the necessary information for the Executive Committee to assess, with advice, if relevant, from such committees as Conservation and Research, that the project has been well planned and procedures for the preparation of the grant and total preparation of the project are soundly prepared.

By following guidelines for the whole operation of the grant application and its related project we hope to overcome some of the problems that have arisen due to lack of formalised procedures and reporting techniques. A further aim will be to deal with all requests as promptly as possible.

The Chair and Executive Committee ask for your full cooperation for future grants and for the operation of projects.

Bruce Haynes
Chair BAWA

Allan K Jones
Grants Sub-committee

Calling our Country Members

A study of our membership list shows that 26% of our members live outside the greater metropolitan area. We are not doing enough for you and you do not have the chance to do more for the Western Australian Group.

The Committee has decided to appoint a Country Member's Liaison Officer.

My role will be to attempt to help country members meet and enjoy the company of fellow members within a reasonable distance from their centre. I am not suggesting that any formal setup is established for a start but just a pleasant cooperative group who may attract other interested people to their birding activities.

What we can do to assist is to firstly find a coordinator in your district who can contact those existing members who want to take part and decide on a date when myself or some other person from the BAWA Office in Perth can come to you –

present a talk with PowerPoint pictures, bring along a box of binoculars to lend to interested people and take a bird walk on the following day.

We can see to low key advertising in local papers and over local radio stations while the local coordinator can assist by determining the best birding area to visit and arranging a venue for the talk plus supper etc. If necessary the cost of the venue will be covered by BAWA. Hopefully the above will show BAWA's activities and how your local members can take a role in them.

Naturally we are looking for local coordinators in your district. A district is far better determined by you than by me in Perth. Local people can decide how widely their district can spread. Fortunately I know much of our state fairly well having lived in the country for much of my life and travelled over it in work and play. Thus if a member living in Narrogin offered

to help out, I can assist in planning the district boundaries with the member. To aid our coordinators we will contact all the members in the determined area suggesting that they contact the coordinating member and thus save him/her postage, phone and time.

Please get in touch with me with any suggestions that could assist us in this attempt to provide more opportunity for you to enjoy your membership of Birds Australia Western Australia. I hope we may also bring to the attention of others in your district some of the benefits of membership.

Even if you do not wish to be a coordinator you may be able to suggest someone whom I can contact.

Clive Napier

Ph. 08 9332 7265

E-mail: cnap@optusnet.com.au

Address: 69 Dean Rd
Bateman 6150

South Coast Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Recovery Project

Volunteer opportunities

Help us survey Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo nesting sites.

Sunday 14th- Friday 19th September

Ravensthorpe. Camping available at Ravensthorpe Caravan Park, please book.

This campout will take in Cocanarup Timber Reserve and areas surrounding Ravensthorpe. The campout week coincides with the Ravensthorpe Wildflower show and Sunday will be spent exploring Overshot Hill Reserve with the Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park.

Monday 22nd- Friday 26th September

Tunney Reserve. Camping at a local shearing shed. Power, running water, ablutions, kitchen facilities.

This campout will take in Tunney Reserve and surrounding properties.

Please contact Raana ASAP regarding these campouts for more details.

If you are not able to attend for the entire week but still wish to attend, or wish to help out at some other time between September and November, please contact Raana, e-mail r.scott@birdsaustralia.com.au.

Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) Starling Search

Interested members are asked to make note in their diary for an upcoming Starling Search to assist DAFWA in the surveillance for these pests. Plans are in early stages but we will be looking at the Hopetoun / Jerdacuttup area in April - May next year. We hope to base ourselves in Hopetoun and are looking at about 20 volunteers for one week. This follows previous starling campouts at Munglinup and Bremer Bay. Accommodation and assistance with transport by way of a fuel subsidy is provided.

If you are interested and are likely to be available contact ggray@agric.wa.gov.au. More complete details will be available in the next edition of *Western Australian Bird Notes*.



COMBINED CHARITIES' CARD SHOP

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111 St George's Terrace, Perth

Monday-Friday

September - October 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

November - 18 December - 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Telephone: 0439 364 886

Inquiries please contact the Shop Manager,
Sally Wilson, on 9354 1208

Darlington Arts Festival

**Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd
November 2008**

We always love to have volunteers (rather than conscripts) for this enjoyable event.

No 'marquee' assembling or dismantling will be required this year.

This year we will have a raffle for which we have three beautiful prizes: a painting by Hills artist Averil Baker, a turned Jarrah bowl by Ron Jones, and a Michael Morecombe bird guide.

Tickets will be available from the BAWA office, or Stella Stewart-Wynne or Elsa Dabbs from mid August.

As well as our usual range of cards, CDs, DVDs and books, we will sell bird orientated 'bric-a-brac'. For this we need your unwanted bits and pieces, please.

Tea-towels to T-shirts, vases to weather vanes, mugs or jugs, pictures, books or embroidery.

These items can be delivered to the BAWA Office, or Stella or Elsa, by mid October.

This is new territory for us, so please price items if you wish.

Stella Stewart-Wynne
9295 4438

Sunday 14 December: BAWA Christmas barbecue



A barbecue will be held on
Sunday, 14 December
at Peregrine House,
commencing at 6:00 pm.

BYO meat, drinks, and salads
— all members are welcome!

For members and guests only.

For sale

BINOCULARS NIKON 8 x 42DCF

6 years' old Cost \$1,700.00.
10-year guarantee

Sell \$1,000.00. Phone: 9448 0378

NEW MEMBERS

The following people joined Birds Australia between 1 May and 31 July 2008. We look forward to meeting you at our excursions and general meetings:

K Atkinson, R Barker, J Bracken, P Brown, L Bye, K Chuk, L Cordner, S de Beer & D Schoeman, H De Kock, G & E De San Miguel, A Di Rosso, B Dicker, R Drennan, R Ferrell, K Gibson, R Grist, F Hatton, J Howell, T Johnston, F Knight, C Lacroix, D Lea, J Mason, R & A Middleton, J Piotrowski, F Power, B Sterne, G Vitali, J & A Williams

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Country groups



ALBANY BIRD GROUP

May 2008 outing

Sixteen of us met and went to Twin Creeks at the Porongurups. A rather drizzly day, which did not improve. Eventually we gave up about eleven o'clock as the rain had increased. We did, however, manage to see 33 species of the usual bushbirds, but it became difficult and unpleasant. We were all pretty wet through. However, it was nice to see the Porongurups getting some rain, and there is quite a lot of regrowth after last year's fire.

Liz and Charlie Davies

June 2008 outing

Only six of us turned up, the smallest group we've had, for what turned out to be a beautiful day. Although it started a bit wet, and the previous day had been very cold and wet, by the time we got to Kambellup there was hardly a cloud in the

sky, and it stayed like that until after lunch. We saw a fair few bushbirds, had very good sightings of Weebills and several Western Gerygones, as well as a good view of an Australian Hobby and a Nankeen Kestrel. We managed to see 36 species, in spite of the small size of the group.

Liz and Charlie Davies

July 2008 outing

Another small group met this month. It was a dull day with an extremely cold wind. Ten of us went to Kambellup and saw fewer bush birds than usual. They included a Sacred Kingfisher, a Scarlet Robin, Golden and Rufous Whistlers, and lots of Elegant Parrots. One group managed a good sighting of two Spotted Harriers. The total was 40 species.

Liz and Charlie Davies



Excursion reports



COLLINS ROAD, 4 November 2007

Sixteen enthusiasts, including a visitor from Victoria, attended the Collins Road excursion in Flint State Forest. The breeding season had been most productive, with Blue-breasted Fairy-wrens, Tree Martins and Dusky Woodswallows still nesting, and Splendid Fairy-wrens, Rufous Treecreepers, Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters and Western Yellow Robins were still feeding fledglings. In total, 26 species were recorded, including the elusive Crested Shrike-tit.

Michael and Lesley Brooker

BLACKWALL REACH, 10 February 2008

Twelve members turned up for this excursion, and after a short address throwing in a few challenges, all moved on. One challenge was the sighting of the five divers—the four cormorants and the Darter—when to the surprise of all, and after taking only a few steps, the riskiest one, the Great Cormorant, flew by, close to shore. The remainder of the challenge was met by the end of the excursion.

All of the expectations were granted. The Osprey, a beautiful specimen, was perched in the dead tree where it should have

been, and right up close. The White-cheeked Honeyeaters were there as always, and it was good to see the Black Swans consistent in numbers. The Red-capped Plovers were seen towards the end of the sand spit, but only through the telescope, as the water had cut through and no-one wanted to take their shoes off. Of course, the greatest expectation of all was spotting the Galah-Long-billed Corella pair, seen feeding on the roots of the lawn on a verge close to the edge of the road. That's three years in a row they have been spotted on this regular jaunt, but they have been reported here over a period of nearly forty years, occasionally with progeny.

The most unexpected sighting was of a Regent Parrot. The disappointment was seeing a Rainbow Lorikeet poke its head out of a tree hollow, where it may have been nesting. However, to make up for it, there were no feral bees seen in any hollows as has been seen in the past.

It was fun watching a couple of Australian Hobbies and a flock of Long-billed Corellas harassing each other in and out of the big trees at Point Walter.

Not having to walk the length of the sand pit we were back at a nice shady spot, on the water's edge, quite early. It was so pleasant that no-one wanted to head for home in any great hurry.

Eric Pyatt

WELLARD WETLANDS, 23 February

If you want a good day's birding, it is a must to visit Wellard Wetlands, Baldavis. A very happy group of birders saw 62 species there on the February excursion.

Large flocks of Straw-necked and Australian White Ibis covered the sky at various times when spooked by the many raptors that were flying overhead. Seven species of duck, mostly MuSk Duck, were on the water along with coots, pelicans and swans. Little Black Cormorants were busy feeding in frenzied groups around the lakes.

Western Gerygones were flying at eye level all around us at one patch on the lake's edge. Australian Reed-Warblers were very numerous and at times were up in the gum trees. The Splendid Fairy-wrens, although still beautiful, had paler coloured feathers and were not the brilliant dark colours they usually are.

The real highlight of the morning was a pair of Tawny Frogmouths that Paul flushed from a low tree where they were resting for the day. The photographers had a busy time taking pictures of the obliging birds who had settled in the gum trees.

Then right at the end of the morning a small egret that was behaving like an Intermediate Egret but looked like a Great Egret caused much discussion amongst the group.

Thanks must go to Charles for leading us on this wonderful day.

Lyn Sellers

BIBRA LAKE, 2 March

It was a group of 14 birdwatchers that started wandering around the lake.

Fortunately there was some water left, which meant that we saw nearly all possible duck species plus stilts, spoonbills, ibis and herons. We saw only two waders—Common Greenshank and Black-fronted Dotterel. With the early start, bush birds were still active and the cooler day also helped.

Although not completely circling the lake, it still took us most of the morning to complete the walk.

It was very pleasing to have an enthusiastic youngster on the whole walk, and who helped to find many of the 52 species.

Mary Vaughan

BLACKWALL REACH, 9 April

It seems, being midweek, it is hard to get the numbers. This walk, which was advertised inviting members of the public to attend, had seven of our regular members and one visitor.

The original intention was to walk the sand spit and check out the Red-capped Plovers and hopefully some other waders

but the tide was so high that the spit was completely covered except for the vegetated island in the middle. It was also intended to do the beaches along Burke Drive but they were well covered also, the result being no sign of any waders; even the Crested Terns gave it a miss.

It was decided to do the Blackwall Reach walk, only in reverse to the usual as we were parked at Point Walter. The usual expectations were explained: the five diving birds, the White-cheeked Honeyeaters, the Osprey and a highlight of the area, a mis-matched pair involving a Long-billed Corella and a Galah. All were fulfilled except the latter; this was the first time we have missed them for quite some time, although Debbie Walker later told me that she spotted them in the trees alongside the Point Walter Café having a tussle with a pair of corellas over what could be a prospective nesting hollow.

We finished up with 34 sightings — par for the course. Being in the open air with good company is what it is all about.

Eric Pyatt

STIRLING RANGE RETREAT, 25-27 April

Over 30 people attended this Anzac Day campout, including country members from Albany and Manjimup. We were fortunate to have sunny days, but the nights were chilly and clear.

On arrival at the caravan park we were greeted by calls of Restless Flycatchers that were numerous around the camp. Most people also reported many sightings of Crested Shrike-tits in the camping area.

On Friday morning we split into two groups to walk around the tracks adjacent to the Retreat. We reversed the walks in the afternoon. As the area consisted mostly of Wandoo and Marri trees we had an abundance of parrots, including Regent, Western Rosella, Australian Ringneck, Red-capped and Elegant Parrots. Although it had been a very dry summer, there were some wildflowers to be seen and a few early orchids.

In the evening, when most of the group had arrived, we were entertained by a slide show given by Ray Garstone, showing us some of his early bird sightings, mostly taken in the 60s and 70s.

On Sunday we set out in convoy to do a circuit of the Park going to the northern boundary and along Salt River Road. We made several stops at various places, the first near Camel Lake where one lone Hooded Plover was seen. In nearby bush a Western Whipbird was heard but not seen. We then turned south onto Red Gum Pass Road and into the picnic area for lunch. Lots of birds were seen and heard here, including Golden Whistler and Spotted Pardalote. After several more stops we returned to the camp along Stirling Range Drive and Chester Pass Road.

A final bird call was taken in the evening with a total of 86 species recorded. Wayne Zadow was given a vote of thanks for leading us on this enjoyable campout and for sharing his extensive knowledge of the birds of the area.

Margery Clegg

HELENA VALLEY, BOYA, 4 May

This was a beautiful autumn morning. The birds took some time to thaw, and for a while there seemed more to be heard than seen. The walk through Wandoo woodland was more productive than the early Jarrah/Marri/grass tree area, and there were a few waterbirds on the dam. One lucky watcher saw a Hooded Robin! The only bird of prey, a Wedge-tailed Eagle, flew into view during morning tea. Thirty-nine species were seen, slightly more than the number of keen birdwatchers, ably led by Andrew Hobbs.

BINDOON DEFENCE TRAINING AREA. 11 May

Twenty members met for this walk with Boyd Wykes. Following a brief introduction to the area we set off along tracks in beautiful countryside. To begin with, the bird sighting was slow although it was a lovely day, warm with no wind and only the odd brief shower. It was wondered if, in this particular area, the birds had specific training in remaining out of sight, and being well camouflaged.

The combined tally was around 20 by lunch, when a pair of Scarlet Robins joined us. During a short walk after lunch we saw a few more species including a Collared Sparrowhawk, Rufous Treecreepers, Western Yellow Robins and Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters.

Stella Stewart-Wynne

WUNGONG GORGE, 15 May

Twelve members and six visitors met at Wungong Gorge on an overcast Thursday morning. With a few light showers and the sun staying behind the clouds for most of the walk, the birds were quite subdued.

The highlights were good views of White-breasted and Scarlet Robin, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Golden Whistler, Spotted Pardalote and White-naped Honeyeaters. The Red-eared Firetail was heard on several occasions but was only glimpsed by a couple of our party towards the end of the walk. The Red-winged Fairy-wren was not recorded. However, a few Splendid Fairy-wrens were seen, including an eclipse male. There were no raptors recorded but six waterbirds added to the total of 37 species recorded.

Robyn Pickering

GLENEAGLES REST AREA, 18 May

Twenty-three keen birders enjoyed a beautiful sunny morning at Gleneagles Rest Area. We started on the east side of the highway where Frank O'Connor and Gavin White lead us to great views of White-naped Honeyeater, White-breasted Robin and Western Yellow Robin. The Rufous Treecreeper was seen by a few of the early birders in the car park, while

Western Spinebill, Rufous Whistler, Western Rosella, Western Wattlebird and Red-winged Fairy-wrens were seen by some of the group.

During morning tea we viewed a male and female Baudin's Black-Cockatoo and a female Golden Whistler that were perhaps observing us! After morning tea we crossed the road where some of the highlights included Scarlet Robin and Western Thornbill. On returning to the rest area some of the group had great views of a male Golden Whistler.

A total of 29 species were recorded on a very enjoyable morning. Many thanks go to Frank O'Connor for organising the excursion.

Robyn Pickering

BICKLEY BROOK, 24 May

Despite the weather forecast, 14 brave souls turned up for this very pleasant walk. Six species of honeyeater were seen, plus great views of Golden Whistler, Dusky Woodswallow and White-browed Scrubwren. The scenery on this walk is

fantastic and although we were all soaked on the return walk, the sun came out for morning tea and the bird call. Thirty-four species were seen and we all thanked Ruth and John for a very happy morning.

Maureen Cawley



Dusky Woodswallow, Bickley Brook.

Photo: Ted Cawley

MT GIBSON CAMPOUT, 30 May – 2 June

There were 21 enthusiastic participants in the June long weekend campout at Mt Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary, now owned by Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

The 137 000 ha sanctuary (a former pastoral station that ran sheep) is situated in a transitional zone between the south-west and arid zone vegetation so it was going to be, and proved to be, a fascinating area to survey.

The main surveys consisted of two one-hour searches in four different zones on the property. The morning surveys on Saturday were repeated on Sunday afternoon. These surveys covered yellow sand, granite, the Olympic Plain and salt lake habitats. The rest of the time was spent conducting half hour surveys in nominated areas.

Gimlet country, mixed acacia thicket and old growth Salmon Gum were surveyed on Saturday afternoon. Eucalypt woodland and the elusive Scarlet-chested Parrot was the target of our search on Sunday morning but it failed to show up for the party! On Monday morning two other areas were surveyed: one a eucalypt-acacia woodland and the other a banded ironstone formation area. The latter gave seven spotters excellent views of a pair of Chestnut Quail-thrush feeding. Two other members flushed a Tawny Frogmouth from its day rest.

Everyone had a close-up view of the Australian Hobby as it alighted on a tree nearby during a morning tea break and the whole group again observed a Brown Falcon when we stopped near the vermin-proof fence. A Redthroat was seen feeding a Black-eared Cuckoo. Some had their first view of the Grey-fronted Honeyeater, which was common at a couple of sites and others of a Black-eared Cuckoo. The Australian Owlet-nightjar was seen and heard near our camp and its resting tree hollow was located on the last morning. There was a good sighting of an inquisitive Southern Scrub-robin at a yellow sand site. This was also heard at another site and a Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush was also spotted. The observations of these generally ground dwelling species may be an indication that the baiting program for the control of cats and foxes is having effect.

Saturday night proved to be a highlight. The AWC staff put on a barbecue meal with drinks supplied! This gave us a chance to meet the staff and about ten AWC volunteers who were there for the weekend to prepare pit-traps. It was obvious that our contribution to research on the property was appreciated and AWC is looking at other opportunities to involve BAWA on its properties.

This very successful campout was largely due to the superb preparation and organisation of Pam and George Agar. Maree Weerheim who liaised with AWC assisted them beforehand. In all 75 bird species were seen. The winner of the bird count and the coveted bottle of red was Dianne, wife of this very grateful author.

After a very full and rewarding weekend and a last thank you from AWC staff, most people headed off after lunch on Monday.

Chris Reidy

LAKE COOGEE, 1 June

There has not been an excursion to Lake Coogee since August 2003 and so it was interesting to re-visit this site. A total of 22 people added to the tally of 53 bird species on this fine but overcast day.

The three raptors seen were Black-shouldered Kite, Whistling Kite and Australian Hobby. All the group heard a Spotless Crake giving its 'machine-gun' call from the reeds near the footbridge. Another 19 waterbirds were also recorded. From a couple of metres away, we watched a flock of Little Corellas eating samphire at the south end of the lake. Two Eastern Long-billed Corellas flew in to join the samphire eating party, giving us ample time to study the differences between the two species.

This excursion added five species to the BAWA database for the site. These were Spotless Crake, Eastern Long-billed Corella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Crested Pigeon and Australian Reed-Warbler. While the crake and reed-warbler may have been missed previously the other three species may be new to

the site as these species have all increased in distribution in the Cockburn area in recent years.

About half of the group went on from Lake Coogee to twitch the Dollarbird at Blue Gum Lake!

Robyn Pickering



Dollarbird,
Blue Gum Lake.
Photo: Robyn Pickering

PINEY LAKES, 12 June

In spite of the recent rain, Piney Lake had very little water when 22 birders gathered for the walk. The only waterbirds we saw were Pacific Black Duck and Australasian Grebe on the artificial lakes where ground water is recycled. However, a total of 34 species was seen in the bushland around the original lake which was mostly rushes and a good growth of native shrubs and trees, some re-planted by the Friends of Piney Lakes. The common honeyeater of the area is now the White-cheeked which feeds on the banksias. We also saw Singing, New Holland, and Brown Honeyeaters as well as Red and Western Wattlebirds. It is good to see that Grey Fantails and Splendid Fairy-wrens are surviving in the area.

After we had gathered for our bird call, Clive suggested that those who had not already seen the wayward Dollarbird should travel on to Booragoon Lake. Several people did this and we were rewarded with good views of the bird fluttering out from its perching place and capturing grasshoppers and dragonflies in flight. Clive claims he always turns on fine weather for his walks and this one proved to be no exception.

Wendy Napier

FLYNN ROAD, 14 June

On a sunny Saturday morning, twenty members gathered at Flynn Road, east of Sawyer's Valley. The area is mainly Wandoo, with some Jarrah and Marri. A fire had been through several years ago, but the area looked well-recovered.

Three habitats were visited. Five species of parrots were seen, including Purple-crowned Lorikeets and Elegant Parrots. Nine species of honeyeaters were also seen. Brown-headed and White-naped Honeyeaters in the same tree afforded a good opportunity for detailed viewing of plumage differences.

After lunch we had good sightings of several Tawny Frogmouths, who were being hassled by a group of honeyeaters. The Western Yellow Robin, Hooded Robin, and Scarlet Robin were seen. Other highlights included the Restless Fly-catcher, Varied Sittella, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, and numerous Rufous Tree-creepers. This time we did not see the Crested Shrike-tit, but, that's birding!

It's good to see these 'outlying' areas visited, as they are becoming increasingly important in light of the fast-paced

development of the metropolitan area. Many thanks go to Charles Merriam, who did a great job leading this excursion.

Bill McRoberts

HARRISDALE RESERVE (JANDAKOT REGIONAL PARK), 22 June

Twenty-six birders turned out for the walk on a beautiful sunny, but pleasantly cool, winter morning. We wound our way on the many tracks in the reserve, through quite varied vegetation. Forty species were seen, including two raptors, several honeyeaters (including a Western Spinebill), Splendid Fairy-wren, White-browed Scrubwren, Grey Shrike-thrush, Red-capped Parrot, Australian Ringneck, Red-tailed and Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos, three pairs of Scarlet Robins, Yellow-rumped and Inland Thornbill and both Striated and Spotted Pardalotes, to name a few.

Disappointingly, despite heavy falls of rain the previous weekend, the wet areas had very little water in them.

It was a pleasant day and even when there were few birds to see it was great catching up with fellow birders and having a chat.

Debbie Walker

TALBOT ROAD, YORK, 29 June

Sunday 29 June was a bleak morning with a bleaker forecast, which probably explains why only five members gathered at The Lakes to make the trek to Eggy and Rob's property near York. As it turned out we had a mixture of weather from sunny to drizzle but nobody got wet. It is a marvellous property for birding with a variety of habitats in around 100 acres and spectacular views over three valleys. Almost the first birds we saw were a Red-capped Robin in the driveway, and the Rufous Treecreeper on the patio.

We covered the property pretty thoroughly. Perhaps the weather kept some birds lying low, but 26 species were counted including Scarlet Robin and Painted Button-quail (and lots of kangaroos).

Many thanks to Eggy and Rob for their marvellous hospitality (lettuce soup!) and for allowing us use of their property. Thanks to Paul Marty for his usual well organised excursion.

Maris Lauva

PIESSE BROOK, KALAMUNDA, 6 July

This was a very cold morning, and for a while there were 22 intrepid birdwatchers and very few birds to watch. As the day

warmed, and the birds like-wise, we saw more and more. This is a lovely place to walk, at any time of the year, and birds are a bonus. However, I would have expected more than the 24 species we saw. We will schedule a later start next winter.

Stella Stewart-Wynne

PINNAROO VALLEY MEMORIAL PARK, PADBURY, 12 July

Heavy rain and a full rainbow seen on the way to Pinnaroo did not deter nine members and 19 members of the public who enjoyed fine weather during the walk. Forty-four species were recorded but the Splendid Fairy-wren had moved away before the group reached the point where they had been seen earlier in the day. This disappointed several members of the public but they still took membership application forms. The rain held off until after the bird call but no one volunteered to do the really hard job — write the report.

Bruce Haynes

MANNING LAKE, 17 July

Driving into the car park near the Azelia Ley Museum, a lone White-faced Heron walked in front of our car! As the 12

other walkers assembled, several more birds were added to the list. An Australian Hobby was sitting high in a tree, dozens of Little Corellas were flying in flocks and squawking loudly while in another tree about ten Galahs were nearly as noisy. The lake was very full of water with several areas flooded and very muddy. On the water we saw both Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebes and, much to our surprise, Pink-eared Ducks as well as several Grey Teals. On the grass, a lone Australian Shelduck looked as if he had lost his mate. After the circuit of the lake we followed the Heritage Walk up the hill, through all the undergrowth, to the

lookout from which the ocean could be seen to the west, the city to the north and views of the surrounding areas in all directions. The bush was alive with honeyeaters (Singing, Brown, White-cheeked and New Holland) as well as Western Gerygones, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, a White-browed Scrubwren and Silvereyes; a Nankeen Kestrel was sighted hovering close by.

As we enjoyed a cup of tea, about eight Long-billed Corellas were seen amongst a flock of Little Corellas. This brought our count to 45 species, of which seven were new sightings.

Molly and Barry Angus



Grey Teal, Manning Lake.
Photo: Barry Angus

LAKE GWELUP, STIRLING, 27 July

Nine people met at Lake Gwelup on a wet morning with a worse forecast. The rain held off for most of the morning allowing us an enjoyable walk around the lake and surrounding bushland. Many of the eucalypts were flowering, full of raucous Rainbow Lorikeets and four honeyeaters. All the usual waterbird species were present including seven duck species, Hoary-headed and Australasian Grebe, nesting Black Swans and Glossy Ibis flying overhead. A total of 45 species were seen.

Sue Abbotts

YARRA ROAD, 10 August

On a bright but windy and cool morning twenty of us turned up to join Sue for a very pleasant walk. The birds were quiet, but there were patches of movement and singing. Great views were had of Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Rufous Treecreeper and Golden Whistler. Ten species of honeyeater were seen with Yellow-plumed being the most numerous. Just one lucky birder saw a Crested Shrike-tit — well done, Paul!

This is a lovely patch of wandoo and well worth visiting. Thank you very much Sue for a great outing.

Maureen Cawley

**Observatory reports****EYRE BIRD OBSERVATORY****EYRE TURNS 30!!**

On 12 April, I welcomed over 50 guests to the WA Ecology Centre to celebrate the 30th year of Australia's first and longest operating bird observatory. Among our distinguished guests were past wardens, volunteer caretakers, and relatives of the people who lived at Eyre Telegraph Station, as well as those who helped restore the building. Dr Bruce Haynes, Chair of Birds Australia WA, Dr Mike Bamford, representing BA executive and Wendy Davies, wife of Dr Stephen Davies, EBO's founder, were there to help celebrate this occasion. We gathered for an afternoon tea where many tales were exchanged, memorabilia displayed and friendships rekindled. *Eyre's Sand Patch to Eyre Bird Observatory*, a publication tracing the observatory's history, was launched.

Many apologies had been received. Dr Stephen Davies could not avoid shearing on this weekend, Shapelle McNee (Committee Member and former EBO chair) was unable to be there, Michael Laing, a direct descendant of the Mirning people, the traditional landowners, was called away to a native title claim. Apologies came from people living on the other side of the country and overseas who, understandably, were not able to be here.

The traditional owners of the land upon which the Telegraph Station was built were acknowledged along with relatives of the early Telegraph Station Workers. The daughters of Ben Hutchings, a lineman at Eyre in 1920s, Beryl Boyd (nee Hutchings), and Roma Dixon (nee Hutchings) attended. May Hutchings undertook a two day camel buggy trip to the 'trans' line to travel to Perth to give birth to Beryl and



then, after a month, sailed back to Eyre. The photo of Beryl in 1924, rugged up in the wooden pram, built by her father from wood salvaged from the Southern Ocean, is featured in an article in *'Eyre's Sand Patch to Eyre Bird Observatory'* as are many other historical photographs.

The Morsecodian Fraternity and Telegraph Historical Society were represented. They recalled the time when the building was a functional Telegraph Repeater Station and the work undertaken to restore it after it fell into disrepair. Their book, *Dot Dash to Dot Com*, was offered for sale at a reduced rate for the event.



Beryl, holding a photograph of herself at Eyre in 1924 in a pram made out of driftwood by her father, Ben Hutchings. Behind Beryl: Stephen Ambrose. Rita and George Watkins with Alex and June Morrison in group at rear.

Photo: Pam Agar

Representatives of the early working parties, Simon Nevill, Allan Burbidge and Ted Hussey attended. They, among others, responded to the call from Dr Stephen Davies, to help make the building habitable. They showed courage and commitment under extremely difficult conditions carving out the track down the scarp as they brought their materials for reconstruction to Eyre. This working party approach continues today.

Encroaching sand dunes were initially the focus of William (Iron Man) Graham's grandson when he joined the first working parties. Shapelle McNee and George Agar, in more recent years, have continued this work and the re-vegetation of the Eyre environs is remarkable. Lotteries Commission Grants and WA Coastcare have supported these essential projects.

The contributions made by the Past Wardens and Volunteer Caretakers are immeasurable. The initiatives of

Gwen and Graham Goodreid, who proposed the transition of management from paid wardens to volunteer caretakers, has proved highly successful and has lifted the ailing EBO funds well into the black. Volunteer caretakers are now committed until mid 2009, (they all want to come back again) although Caroline Comstock is always happy

to hear from any parties interested in this wonderful experience.

Friends of Eyre have donated time, expertise, materials, vehicles, all manner of goods and services requested, and cash. The support of the FOE keeps Eyre operational!

Klaus Tiedemann, DEC manager at Esperance, has been a great support throughout Eyre's development. DEC continues to assist when possible, most recently helping to erect the Rotaloo.

The Shire of Dundas, the Esperance Branch of Rotarians and the Esperance Bird Observers Club have all supported EBO significantly. Their support is deeply appreciated.

A committee of hard working volunteers has, for many years, managed Eyre and the work of all, past and present, is gratefully acknowledged, not forgetting those folk who, at the drop of a hat, found themselves heading off for yet another unexpected relief caretaking stint at the observatory.

Finally, those contributors to *Eyre's Sand Patch to Eyre Bird Observatory* were thanked sincerely and I wished them much enjoyment of their complimentary copy.

Dr Mike Bamford, representing Graeme Hamilton, then spoke briefly of the work done by the EBO Committee to keep Eyre going and offered to continue to promote an understanding of EBO the place, and the work of the EBO's Committee to the National Executive. Many councillors have not visited this remote location and he will encourage them to do so to understand the problems faced.

Dr Bruce Haynes, newly appointed Chair of BAWA, also acknowledged the traditional owners before speaking of his appreciation and gratitude for the extraordinary efforts of the committee. Having recently visited, he spoke with the genuine understanding of the remoteness of location and quality of the service provided for guests at Eyre, the excellent dinner, the superb condition of the dunny (a measure of the quality of an establishment) and the potentiality of squeezing in a visit by the Chamber Orchestra in to it. He looks forward to "doing it again" and closed by expressing his amazement at EBO being viable, profitable and treasured.

Mrs Wendy Davies spoke of her husband Dr Stephen Davies, sitting on the bare sand dunes contemplating the location and watching the sea birds, migratory birds and resident species. His vision was to create Australia's first bird observatory. At this stage the building had no doors or windows and was a derelict shell. He pursued the trail to find the owner who had won Eyre Telegraph Station in payment of a gambling debt. He took possession of it on behalf of the RAOU, for five dollars. And so, in the former Eyre Telegraph Station, it became Australia's first bird observatory in this remote location.

The day concluded with a PowerPoint presentation, much chatting, reminiscing, viewing of memorabilia, and afternoon tea with an enormous chocolate cake.

The book *Eyre's Sand Patch to Eyre Bird Observatory* was then launched and is available from the BAWA office.

Alma de Rebeira
Chair, Eyre Management Committee

VOLUNTEER WARDENS' REPORT

When David and I first visited Eyre Bird Observatory four years ago we did so on the recommendation of a friend. 'If you do nothing else, go to Eyre' was the advice. It was the best thing we ever did, and who would have thought that four years later we would be back as volunteer caretakers.

We arrived here at the beginning of May, not knowing too much about the birds of the area, but with the help of our predecessors and many of our bird watching visitors it has been a steep learning curve for us. We delighted at the antics of the many types of honeyeater at our water points, marvelled at the majesty of the magnificent Wedge-tailed Eagles and the timidity of the Brush Bronzewing as it creeps along the path for its daily drink. As the weather has become cooler there has been a change in the birds we have been seeing — our bronzewings are more rare but the Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters are more abundant and how beautifully they sing. Along Kanidal Beach, too, there do not seem to be as many species. However, there is still enough to satisfy any interested person.

There is so much for visitors to see and do in this very special place: our self-guided tours in such tranquil surroundings, the old telegraph building so lovingly restored by volunteers, and of course the cup of tea on the veranda to just sit and watch the birds. This is a magic place where we have seen so many species of birds over the last three months. It has been a privilege to be here, and I give thanks to our friends Roz and Wayne who told us about Eyre in the first place.

Ann Painter

BROOME BIRD OBSERVATORY

As many of you may already know, we arrived to take over as Wardens at the Broome Bird Observatory (BBO) in late April, and previous Wardens Peter Collins and Holly Sitters departed in early May. Jon has been a birder since he was few years old, and has had a diverse career in ornithology, working in many countries around the World. We met when we both worked for Point Reyes Bird Observatory in California, where Anne was the field station manager. We retired from our positions as senior biologists with an international environmental consultancy firm earlier in the year, and jumped at the offer to run BBO.

We are both happy to be here at BBO and have had no trouble staying very busy in our first few months. Our initial focus was a period of major reorganisation completed just before the onset of the busy season. Several major facility improvements have also been carried out, with the invaluable help of longterm volunteers John Booth, Roger Standen, Malcolm Brown, and Paul Eason. Returning guests have noticed and appreciated the improvements and we hope additional improvements planned for the future will further enhance the experience of our guests.

Along with the help of Assistant Wardens Rebecca Ryan and Chris Purnell, who arrived in late May and early July, respectively, we have been keeping up with the hectic



pace of Broome in the peak of the tourist season. June and July were particularly busy with our campground full to over-flowing nearly every night and at least one fully-booked tour on most days. A regular highlight has been our all-day Lakes Tour, which encompasses three permanent water bodies on the inland portions of adjacent Roebuck Plains Station. We have run this tour weekly since early June with great success, including very regular sightings of highly sought-after species such as Yellow Chat and Black Falcon.

Although the majority of the waders have been on the breeding grounds far to the north, excellent wader viewing remains easy to come by throughout the dry season. Despite the mass departures of March and April, several thousand migratory waders remained on the northern shores of Roebuck Bay, allowing us to regularly see about twenty species at our local high tide roosts. In addition to all of the regular suspects, we have been treated to periodic sightings of Asian Dowitcher and Broad-billed Sandpiper, and the Eurasian Curlew originally sighted at

the end of 2007 was re-found by Jon during a survey of Eighty Mile Beach conducted in early July. Also of interest was the local sighting of several Curlew Sandpipers with orange leg flags, indicating they had been trapped in Victoria.

As we head into August, the migratory waders are on their way back to Roebuck Bay. If you have been following the progress of the satellite-tracked Bar-tailed Godwits, you know that several of them are in the Yellow Sea and could return any day now. As the waders are making their way back to us, we are already starting to plan for our Wave the Waders Goodbye courses to be run next autumn! It's never too early to plan for those, and we have received several bookings already, so please contact us via email at bbo@birdsaustralia.com.au or phone 08 9193 5600 if you are interested in receiving more information on these courses to be run in April 2009.

Jon and Anne King



Coming events



Code-of-conduct for campouts

This code-of-conduct is designed to make BAWA campouts pleasant, safe and enjoyable for everyone.

1. Members shall notify the BAWA office if they plan to attend a campout, leaving name, address, phone number, and an emergency contact.
2. The leader is responsible for gaining consent from the owners or public authorities to visit proposed birding areas prior to the visit.
3. Family pets should not be taken on campouts. If children are taken on the campout, then parents shall take full responsibility for them and will be held accountable for their behaviour.
4. While the Leader generally seeks consensus on the arrangements for the day's events, if a final decision is required then this rests with the leader. Their directions should be followed, especially in public land or parks.
5. A compass and whistle can be invaluable if lost, or, to raise an alarm.
6. Participants should treat each other and the facilities provided with respect.
7. Participants wishing to leave any activities early should ensure the leader is advised.
8. Campfires can only be used if permitted at the time and must be fully extinguished prior to leaving the camp area.
9. Rubbish shall be disposed of properly, and if no suitable bin is provided then the rubbish shall be taken home.
10. Members should ensure that their vehicle is in roadworthy condition and they have adequate food, water and fuel, and suitable clothing including footwear. Daily checks can be undertaken using the 'POWER' check guide, ie, P = petrol/diesel fuel, O = oil, W = water, E = electrical/battery, R = rubber/tyre pressures.
11. When travelling in convoy having your vehicle 'lights turned on' and always keeping the vehicle behind you in sight, especially at turns is good practice. If they stop, check if help is required and advise the Leader.
12. The environment should be left in its pristine condition, and care should be taken not to disturb the wildlife or stock animals. Always leave gates as you have found them, ie, if they are open then leave them open, if closed then close them.

Note: Communication can be enhanced when travelling in convoy and when walking through bushland to call-in interesting sightings by carrying handheld two-way CB/UHF radios.

Disclaimer

Birds Australia provides insurance cover between the ages of 16 and 80 for members undertaking activities officially organised and controlled by the organisation. Members of the public are also covered under the same terms when participating by invitation in an officially organised and controlled Birds Australia activity.

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. If you are unsure, put your name down as you can always cancel. An emergency contact number should also be provided in case of accident.

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 7 September: Paruna Sanctuary

Full-day excursion including BBQ

Meet at 8:30 am in the car park at the end of Avon Road. Travelling on the Toodyay Road, turn north into O'Brien Road, which becomes Clenton Road after 15.3 km, and after a further 2 km turn north onto Avon Road. This road is gravelled but quite suitable for any vehicle, and less than 1 km in length. Allow 20 minutes from the Toodyay/O'Brien turn off. Paruna Sanctuary is owned by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) and we will be carrying out surveys of three sites. AWC members will be joining us and they will provide a BBQ lunch for those attending.

For members and guests only.

Leaders: Paul Marty, George Agar, Robina Haynes and Jo Williams

Thursday 11 September: Tom Bateman Reserve, Thornlie

Half-day excursion

Meet at 8:00 am beside the playground / sporting complex at the corner of Nicholson and Wilfred Roads (car-park entry is off Wilfred Rd). We will look at a series of wetlands constructed to remove nutrients from water draining into the Canning River. We will also look at small bushland areas if they are accessible. Rubber boots may be a good idea, and insect repellent. Bring morning tea to have while we do a combined bird list.

For members and the general public.

Leaders: George and Pam Agar

Saturday 13 September: Wungong Gorge and Bungendore Nature Reserve, Bedfordale

Full-day excursion

Meet at 8:30 am at the first car park for Wungong Dam at the end of Admiral Road, off Albany Highway. Over 90 species of birds have been recorded here, including Red-eared Firetail, White-breasted Robin and Red-winged Fairy-wren and several raptor species. Those who wish can continue on to Bungendore Nature Reserve. This is a good place to see a variety of parrots, including Elegant and Red-capped Parrots. It is also the best place near Perth to see the Rufous Treecreeper.

For members and guests only.

Leaders: Robyn Pickering and Maris Lauva

Saturday 13 – Sunday 14 September: Boyagin Rock

Short weekend campout

This nature reserve contains impressive stands of Powderbark Wandoo as well as Marri, Casuarina and some Jarrah. Seventy three species of bird have been recorded, including Black Honeyeater and several owls. Walks are moderate to easy, but optional walks over the rock can be testing. Numbats have been seen here, and at this time of the year wildflowers should be everywhere.

To reach the campsite at the base of Boyagin Rock, travel along Brookton Highway to the intersection of the York-Williams Road, turn south (right if coming from Perth) and proceed to Boyagin Road, which enters from the left. The road from here to the rock will be sign-posted with BAWA signs.

There is a bush toilet but please be self-sufficient for all other items, such as food, water, tents, etc. It is possible to enjoy a single full day excursion, but it will be necessary to leave home early to take part in group activities. The round trip is 250 km. The leader will be on site on Friday afternoon.

Please advise the Birds Australia office if you plan to attend, and note if single day or camping.

For further details contact Clive Napier on 9332 7265.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Clive Napier



Galah, Manning Lake
(see Excursions).

Photo: Barry Angus

Sunday 21 September: Whiteman Park, Swan

Half-day excursion

Meet at 8:30 am at the administration building (main car park) of Whiteman Park. Look for the BAWA signs. We will walk the Bennett Brook trail of the park. This pleasant walk should provide the opportunity to see a wide range of bird species. Western Spinebill, Western Thornbill, White-naped Honeyeater, Red-capped and Scarlet Robins and Golden Whistler have all been sighted here.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Michael Bamford

Monday 22 September: Bold Park Ecocentre, Perry Lake Dr, Floreat Meeting, 7:30 pm

Marion Massam, Department of Agriculture and Food and a member of the BAWA Committee, will give an illustrated talk entitled, "Bintang, bathers and birds" following a recent visit to Bali.

Saturday 27 – Monday 29 September: Tutanning Nature Reserve, Pingelly Long weekend campout

This reserve is approximately 20 km east of Pingelly and 154 km from Perth. Follow the Wickepin Road out of Pingelly, turn left (east) from the centre of town. Don't go into the first turn off to Tutanning Reserve (Tutanning Road) but continue further to the third turning on the left, Marshall Road. Follow this road for approximately 4 km to the Marshall property. Follow the BAWA signs to the DEC Research Station now maintained by the Friends of Tutanning.

Camping will be around the Research Station and in the adjacent paddock. The old Research Station has been recently renovated and 2 bedrooms containing 6 beds each (bunk beds) with basic kitchen and bathroom facilities are available. Electricity is supplied from a generator. Tracks are suitable for caravans and 2WD vehicles. Everyone will need to be self sufficient, though water will be available. A small fee will be charged so that this facility can be maintained.

Tutanning Nature Reserve is 2089 hectares of a mixture of Wandoo, open woodland and Casuarina thickets with

breakaways and granite outcrops. We will go spotlighting one night and have a BBQ on another night.

Members and guests, Friends of Tutanning Nature Reserve only.

Leader: Sue Abbotts

Sunday 5 October: Karakamia

Sanctuary, Chidlow

Half-day excursion

Meet at 8:30 am at the car park for the Visitor's Centre. Drive east along Great Eastern Highway through Mundaring and Sawyers Valley. Turn left into Old Northam Road at the sign for Chidlow. Turn left into Northcote Road past the Chidlow oval and then first right past the Primary School into Lilydale Road. Karakamia is 4.25 km down Lilydale Road on the left hand side. Firmly press the white button and come through the electronic gate, up the gravel drive for about 1 km to the Visitor's Centre. Allow for one hour to drive from Perth city.

Karakamia is owned by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) and we will carry out some surveys. AWC members will be joining us.

For members and guests only.

Leaders: Sue Abbotts and Jo Williams

Saturday 11 October: Dell Forest, Kalamunda

Half-day excursion

Meet at 8:00 am at Dell Forest, 9 km from Kalamunda along Mundaring Weir Road. Park in the picnic area on the left hand side of the road, just after the Dell Forest sign. This area has been surveyed since 1987, and is predominately Jarrah with stands of Wandoo along the gully. Over 70 species have been recorded in the area, including Emu, Painted Button-quail, and many of the south-west endemics. The excursion will finish about 1:00 pm, so bring lunch if you wish.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Sean Van Alphen

Thursday 16 October: Alan Anderson Park,

Darling Range, Walliston

Half-day excursion

Meet at 7:30 am at the car park near Alan Anderson Park between Lawnbrook and Pomeroy Roads,

Walliston. It is easily accessed from Welshpool Road. This is a two-hour walk on fairly level terrain, covering 34 ha. Sixty-four species of birds have been recorded here.

For members and the general public.

Leader: Michael Hancock

Sunday 19 October: St Ronan's Nature Reserve, York

Full-day excursion

Meet at 8.30 am at the entrance to St Ronan's Nature Reserve. Travel along Great Eastern Highway to The Lakes turnoff to York. Travel about 28 km along the Great Southern Highway to Wambyn Road on the left. Just before the Wambyn Road turnoff there is a sign that says "13 Mile Brook". This is the first excursion at this reserve.

Bring morning tea and lunch as we will walk right around the reserve to visit all habitats. There should be a good variety of bushbirds.

For members and guests only.

Leaders: Bill McRoberts and Maureen and Ted Cawley

Saturday 25 October: Forrestdale Lake

Half-day excursion

Meet at 8.00 am at Moore Street car park. From Perth, drive down the Freeway, turning left into Armadale Road. Continue on across Nicholson Road, then just over 1 km along turn right into Weld Street, then second left into Loftus Street, and then right into Moore Street.

There should be plenty of waterbirds, bushbirds and possibly some raptors. The wildflowers should be good, too. Bring morning tea, telescopes if you have them and rubber boots, as it will probably be muddy.

For members and the general public.

Leader: David James

Monday 27 October: Bold Park Ecocentre, Perry Lake Dr, Floreat

Meeting, 7:30 pm

Blair Parsons, a PhD student at the University of WA, will give an illustrated talk describing his work on Malleefowl.

Sunday 2 November: Collins Road, Brookton Highway

Half-day excursion

Meet at 9:30 am on Collins Road. Park on the left hand side of Collins Road about 1 km from Brookton Highway. The Collins Road turnoff is about 50 km from the junction of Brookton Highway and Canning Road, on the right hand side coming from Perth. If you reach the turnoff to Beverley you have gone too far! We will walk through this area of Wandoo woodland where 61 species have been recorded, including Blue-breasted Fairy-wren and Crested Shrike-tit.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Michael Brooker

Saturday 8 November: Alfred Cove, Melville

Half-day excursion

Meet at 8:00 am in the car park in Troy Park next to the Oval, 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 guests only.

Leader: Clive Napier

Saturday 8 to Sunday 9 November: Short weekend campout: Cherry Tree Pool, near Kojonup

From Perth, travel south on Albany Highway and turn left into Cherry Tree Pool Road, which is about 15 km north of Kojonup. Travel to the T junction at the end of the road and turn left, cross the creek and the camp is on the left. You should see a sign that points to 'camp', but there will be Birds Australia signs as well.

There are toilets, water and power on site and plenty of room for caravans and tents. There will be a BBQ on Saturday night; BYO food and drinks. People will be welcome from Friday night onwards. A charge of \$10 per person for the campout will be made to defray cost involved.

About 130 species of birds have been recorded in the area and there were 29 species nesting when we last visited this site in 2002 with Wayne.

For members and guests only.

Leaders: Wayne Zadow and David Secomb

Thursday 13 November: King's Park, Perth

Half-day excursion

Meet at 8:00 am in the car park at the northern end of Forrest Drive, opposite the Botanic Gardens, near the junction of Lovekin Drive. There should be plenty of bushbirds in the area.

For members and the general public.

Leaders: Andrew and Jill Hobbs

Sunday 16 November: Blackboy Ridge Reserve, Chittering

Full-day excursion

Meet at 8:30 am at the car park for Blackboy Ridge Reserve, Chittering. Turn east off the Great Northern Highway at Blue Plains Road. This is north of the Muchea turnoff. Travel along Blue Plains Road to the T-junction with Chittering Road. Turn right then travel south and turn right again into the car park of the reserve. This is one and a half hours drive from Perth city.

We will spend two to three hours at this reserve which was one of the Perth Biodiversity Project sites in 2005. The 68 ha reserve has Wandoo woodland and thickets of dryandra and heath.

We may go on to explore another area later so bring a picnic lunch.

For members and guests only.

Leaders: George and Pam Agar

Saturday 22 November: Yanchep National Park

Full-day excursion

Meet at the Boomerang Gorge Picnic area inside the park at 9:00 am. At the entrance gate, say you are with Birds Australia and there should be no charge. Also, check for directions to the meeting place. We will walk into an area east of Wanneroo Road, following the Yanchep Rose Trail through Ridges Bushland, which includes woodland, heath, open forest and mallee. There are views of the coast, and many significant flora and orchid species. Birds recorded in the area are the Southern Emu-wren, three species of thornbill, Golden Whistler, Scarlet Robin, several species of honeyeater, and Grey Shrike-thrush. The walk will take about two to three hours, and we will return to the Park for lunch.

For members and general public.

Leader: Rod Smith and Joyce Hegney

Monday 24 November: Bold Park Ecocentre, Perry Lake Dr, Floreat

Meeting, 7:30 pm

Dr Stephen Davies, of Curtin University and a former chief executive of what is now Birds Australia but was then the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, will give a talk entitled "Monitoring bird populations round the Eyre Bird Observatory".



Trouble is, they're so clamorous!

Cartoon: Penny Towells

Sunday 30 November: 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 bush and waterbirds, hopefully with sightings of the elusive Spotless Crake.

For members and guests only.

Leaders: George and Pam Agar

Saturday 6 December: Bull Creek Wetlands

Half-day excursion

Meet at 7:30 am at Brockman Park Reserve. Travel along Leach Highway and turn south into Karel Avenue then turn right into Brockman Avenue. Turn right into Stringfellow Drive, then first right into Mossman Crescent.

This walk follows Bull Creek, then winds in behind the playing fields of All Saints College, then on through Reg Bourke Reserve and finally around Richard Lewis Park, which is a Lions Club rehabilitation project and memorial arboretum.

The creek has Flooded Gums, Jarrah, Marri, Paperbark and Casuarinas along its banks. Splendid Fairy-wren, Western Wattlebird, White-faced Heron and Yellow-rumped Thornbill have been recorded here.

Bring water, sun screen and morning tea.

For members and the general public.

Leader: Sue Keogh

Thursday 11 December: Waterford Foreshore, Salter Point, Manning

Half-day excursion

Meet at the Curtin University Boat Shed at 8:00 am. To reach the parking area travel along Manning Road and turn into Elderfield Road 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 hand 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. Do not forget your morning tea because if time permits we will move to Salter Point where other species can be seen.

For members and the general public.

Leaders: Barry and Molly Angus

Sunday 14 December: 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 Beeliar 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

Sunday 14 December: BAWA Christmas BBQ

The annual Christmas barbeque this year will be as usual, at Peregrine House, at about 6:00 pm, on the lawn at the rear of the building. Bring your own food and drink, and chairs if possible.

All members are welcome.

NOTE: There will be no meeting in December.

Sunday 28 December: Thomsons Lake

Half-day excursion

Meet at 7:30 am in the car park off Branch Circus. From the Kwinana

Freeway turn west into Beeliar Drive and then turn left (south) into Hammond Road. Travel approximately 300 m and turn right into Branch Circus. Continue 800 m down Branch Circus to the car park on the right.

There are a good variety of bushbirds and we should see some of the 12 raptors that have been recorded in the reserve in recent years. There should also be a variety of waders and other waterbirds. The Little Bittern has been recorded at the end of the lake, although daytime records of bitterns always require some luck.

We will finish at lunch time so bring lunch, your scope (if you have one) and rubber boots or old sneakers.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Sue Abbotts



Pink-eared Duck, Manning Lake
(see Excursions).
Photo: Barry Angus

Crossword answers No 54

Across

1 shelter, 5 nomadic, 9 scarp, 12 lotus, 13 old, 14 delay, 17 swift, 18 Royal, 20 translocation, 23 remit, 25 wingbar, 26 adult, 29 uniform, 30 trample, 31 upper.

Down

2 hackles, 3 lore, 4 roc, 5 net, 6 moult, 7 depth, 8 crystal, 10 fertile, 11 paddock, 15 biennial, 16 Porongurup, 19 Sterna, 21 thief, 22 harrier, 24 cause, 25 white, 27 UWA, 28 tap.

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

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Post to: Birds Australia Membership
60 Leicester St, Carlton VIC 3053

02/2007



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
- ◆ **Community Education Sub-committee** — graphic artist needed to create posters for our static displays — contact Elsa Dabbs e-mail dabchic6@bigpond.net.au
- ◆ **Excursion leaders** — contact Sue Abbotts 9444 1607, e-mail suechat@bigpond.net.au
- ◆ **Sales Committee** — BAWA's bird cards provide an important income for the organisation — assistance needed with marketing of cards, eg, possible outlets and distribution — contact Valerie Hemsley ph 9364 6573
- ◆ **Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Recovery Project** — surveying nesting sites at Ravensthorpe, Sep 14-19 and Tunney Reserve, Sep 22-26 — see Notices — contact Raana Scott e-mail r.scott@birdsaustralia.com.au
- ◆ **Darlington Arts Festival** — help with this event would be greatly appreciated—contact Stella Stewart-Wynne 9295 4438, e-mail stwynne@bigpond.net.au
- ◆ **Combined Charities Card Shop**, 1 Sep—18 Dec — help needed for this fundraising project — see Notices — contact Sally Wilson tel 9354 1208
- ◆ **Kings Park Festival** — BAWA will again have a presence at this popular event -Sep 25-29 — we will need four people per day to assist with this — contact Eggy Boggs: 9386 4790, e-mail eggyboggs@optusnet.com.au

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Notes for Contributors

The Editors request contributors to note:

- WABN publishes material of interest to the WA Group;
- contributions should be written or typed with **double spacing**—a copy on disk or emailed would assist, especially if in MSWord as a document **without** styles; **do not** embed pictures or graphics in MS Word;
- contributions to be sent direct to the Editors, either at the office or by email:
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Allan Burbidge allanb99@bigpond.net.au
- 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)

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June 2009 issue: 1 May
September 2009 issue: 1 August

Advertising Rates

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

Calendar of events

- Sun 7 Sep:** Paruna Sanctuary, Full-day excursion including BBQ
- Thu 11 Sep:** Tom Bateman Reserve, Thornlie, Half-day excursion
- Sat 13 – Sun 14 Sep:** Boyagin Rock, Short weekend campout
- Sun 21 Sep:** Whiteman Park, Swan, Half-day excursion
- Mon 22 Sep:** Bold Park, Ecocentre, Perry Lake Dr, Floreat, Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Sat 27 – Mon 29 Sep:** Tutanning Nature Reserve, Pingelly, Long weekend campout
- Sun 5 Oct:** Karakamia Sanctuary, Chidlow, Half-day excursion
- Sat 11 Oct:** Dell Forest, Kalamunda, Half-day excursion
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