STOP PRESS!! 13 May 2010

Under the State Natural Resource Management Plan Community Grants, BAWA has been awarded $250 000 for:

“On ground activity to improve breeding and feeding habitats for Carnaby’s Black-Cockatoos across the agricultural region”.

No. 134 June 2010
ISSN 1445-3983
Crested Shrike-tits \((Falcunculus\ frontatus\ leucogaster)\) were studied at Talbot Road near York from 1996 to 2005 (Table 1). A total of 15 Crested Shrike-tit nests were recorded. I have also recorded birds in the early stages of nest construction in the northern Stirling Ranges (2006) (Table 2) and at Dryandra (2005).

At the Talbot Road study site four pairs of Crested Shrike-tit were studied for close to ten years. Pairs nested in the same area each year and all 15 nests were placed in the leaves of the upper canopy of Wandoo trees. The nest trees were growing in an area that supported > 70% Wandoo and the diameter of the trunk of the trees supporting the 15 nests ranged from 430 mm to 680 mm. All nests were placed above 10 m.

On several separate occasions Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters were observed stealing nesting material from recently constructed Crested Shrike-tit nests, resulting in one nest being abandoned.

At the Talbot Road site Crested Shrike-tits started nest construction most years in the second and third week of September. However, a female was observed carrying nesting material in August 2005. Males of the four pairs studied were observed to clip off and remove leaves from branches around the nest site. This activity was most prevalent during the nest construction period.

Crested Shrike-tits were found to travel as solitary pairs, very rarely mixing with other birds, unlike many other small passerine species that form mixed winter flocks.

Whilst I resided in Mount Barker I surveyed a Blue Gum plantation. The site is about 8 km north of Mount Barker along Albany Highway and the Blue Gum plantation is next to a patch of natural undisturbed remnant Wandoo woodland. A pair of Crested Shrike-tits was found to be present all year round in the Blue Gum plantation and in 2007 they bred there. During a survey of the site on 3 October 2007 it was noted that the female Crested Shrike-tit was collecting cobwebs from within the exfoliated bark of the Blue Gums. Further observations showed that the bird was collecting nesting material and flying up towards the top of a Blue Gum well in to the plantation. A nest under advanced construction was located amongst the leaves in the upper canopy of the Blue Gum. The plantation was about ten years old. The plantation had a very high population of beetles and moths, especially when the trees were flowering. The insects in the remnants of exfoliated bark hanging from the trees provided an additional food source.

See next pages for the tables.

Steve Elson
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Territory</th>
<th>Date found</th>
<th>Nest site</th>
<th>Height (m)</th>
<th>Trunk diameter (mm)</th>
<th>Nesting status</th>
<th>Field observations</th>
<th>Other species within 100 m of Crested Shrike-tit nest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>18.09.96</td>
<td>Wandoo</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>Under construction.</td>
<td>Female collecting nesting material (cobwebs) from exfoliating bark of Marri. No visits by the male during one hour nest monitoring (9:30-10:30 am). Female made three visits to add materials to the nest.</td>
<td>Nesting: Dusky Woodswallow, Striated Pardalote, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, Varied Sittella, Rufous Tree-creeper, Weebill, Splendid Fairy-wren, Willie Wagtail, Restless Flycatcher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>18.09.02</td>
<td>Wandoo</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>Nest under construction.</td>
<td>Female sitting tight, possibly incubating eggs. During 2 hour observation only female attending nest, mostly incubating. Male visited nest tree on three occasions whilst female left nest to feed twice, travelling only a short distance from the nest to feed within Wandoo.</td>
<td>Nesting: 2 pairs of Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, Dusky Woodswallow, Grey Shrike-thrush, Western Yellow Robin, Rufous Tree-creeper, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>18.09.02</td>
<td>Wandoo</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>Nest under construction.</td>
<td>Both male and female spent considerable time at nest site during 1 hour period. Both birds adding material to nest with female sitting in the newly framed nest and shaping the interior.</td>
<td>Nest 20 m from active Dusky Woodswallow's nest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.10.04</td>
<td>Wandoo</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>Two recently hatched young.</td>
<td>3 hour observation of the nest – female attended the nest nine times with a total sitting period of 1 hour and 10 minutes. The male only attended the nest five times to feed the young.</td>
<td>Active Yellow-plumed Honeyeater's nest in nearby Wandoo less than 15 m from Crested Shrike-tit's nest. Other species: Dusky Woodswallow, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Willie Wagtail, Restless Flycatcher, Rufous Tree-creeper, Grey Shrike-thrush, Weebill.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territory</td>
<td>Date found</td>
<td>Nest site</td>
<td>Height (m)</td>
<td>Trunk diameter (mm)</td>
<td>Nesting status</td>
<td>Field observations</td>
<td>Other species within 100 m of Crested Shrike-tit nest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. ctd</td>
<td>23.10.04</td>
<td>Wando</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>Incubating two freshly laid eggs.</td>
<td>Female sitting tight during 1 hour monitoring except changed sitting position from facing north-east to north-west. Depth of nest interior 83mm. Current nest site only 35 m from previous year’s nest site.</td>
<td>Same species as 2003 breeding season found nesting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.09.05</td>
<td>Wando</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>Nest under construction- Nest only partly constructed.</td>
<td>During a survey on 7.10.05 the nest had been abandoned, adult birds were still in the area.</td>
<td>Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters raiding the nest and stealing nesting material. Two pairs were found nesting.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.09.02</td>
<td>Wando</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>Nest only a few days under construction.</td>
<td>Female collecting nesting material, mostly cobwebs from branches and on trunks of Wando. Male snapping off leaves around nest site. Ground search showed a large mass of recently snapped leaves all snapped at the base of each leaf. Branches within the upper canopy near nest site revealed branches devoid of leaves.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.10.04</td>
<td>Wando</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>Two, 3-5 day old chicks.</td>
<td>Both adults feeding young. During 1 hour period visits made by both adults, female five and male two times. Day-long study of pair showed the male travelled further in search of food compared to the female who travelled less than 300 m from the nest. Both adults fed separately and searched for food entirely within Wando.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.09.05</td>
<td>Wando</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>Construction of nest recently completed.</td>
<td>Female did most of nest building, male snapped off leaves from within the canopy, especially around the nest site. Nest re-checked on 7.10.05 – both birds still in area but showing no interest in nest. Nest had been destroyed.</td>
<td>Whilst both birds were away Yellow-plumed Honeyeater stealing nest material to build its own nest 15 m away in nearby Wando.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nest No.</td>
<td>Date found</td>
<td>Nest site</td>
<td>Height (m)</td>
<td>Trunk diameter (mm)</td>
<td>Nesting status</td>
<td>Field Observations</td>
<td>Other species within 100m of Crested Shrike-tit nest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.10.07</td>
<td>Yate</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>Nest under construction</td>
<td>Female collecting spider webs from within the exfoliated bark of dead Sheoak 3 m from ground. Observed for several minutes attempting to extract very fine spider webs. In 1 hour female attended nest five times, male twice. Survey on 5.10.07 showed only two adults and no sign of young birds.</td>
<td>Nesting: 3 pairs of Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters, Restless Flycatcher, Willie Wagtail, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, 2 pairs of Dusky Woodswallows, Australian Ringneck, Elegant Parrot, Galah, Grey Shrike thrush, Striated Pardalote.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>23.10.08</td>
<td>Yate</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>Incubating two eggs</td>
<td>Female sitting tight. During 1 hour male arrived near the nest only to start snipping away small leaves from the canopy above the nest site. Male started calling and then female left nest. Both birds left nest together with male still calling. Followed for a short time and feeding close to one another. Feeding mostly within Yates.</td>
<td>Same species recorded nesting as in the 2007 breeding season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>20.10.09</td>
<td>Yate</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>Incubating two eggs</td>
<td>During 1 hour period female attended the nest after a short time feeding. Remained on nest for entire observation period. Male continued to feed and only visited the nest tree once. Survey 28.11.09 showed one chick survived and being fed on the wing by female. Young bird looked scruffy and ruffled with an unhealthy appearance.</td>
<td>Male Crested Shrike-tit harassed by 2 Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters. As with 2007, 2008 breeding seasons the same species recorded nesting.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Birdland Retreat**

Self-contained weekend for nature lovers on the Blackwood River near Nannup. Enjoy the many bird and plant species nearby. Birdland Retreat is located within the Jalbarragup Important Bird Area. Contact details: Birdland Retreat, 1626 Blackwood River Road, Nannup. [www.birdlandretreat.com](http://www.birdlandretreat.com) or Nannup Visitor Centre tel. (08) 9756 1211

**Southern Africa Birding Safari**

A 22-day cost share birding expedition in December (log over 400 birds). Great opportunity for only two birders to accompany expert African bird guides (18 years experience) visiting top wildlife areas in Namibia, Botswana and Victoria Falls.

Cost about $300 each per day.

Contact Mark pelicans@xtra.co.nz
Letters to the Editors

Editors’ note: The changed format of this edition is not necessarily a permanent change for future editions. Feedback on this would be appreciated.

Sue Mather and Allan Burbidge
Editors

Dear Editors

Thanks to Anne Bondin for the correction of the mistake in ‘The Naming of Birds’. I have researched this and have found that this error was made by a person called Suolathi in 1909 and his wrong translation has erroneously been accepted as being correct by many since. An article by WB Lockwood in Transactions of the Philological Society (2001), 101 (1), pp. 1 – 5 explains the origin of this error. Basically he assumed, as many would, that bergente was a diminutive of the Dutch word for mountain, that is, berg. Perpetuation of errors is very common in scientific circles.

Dr Alan Galbraith

Dear Editors

March Bird Notes included an item about hooked beaks on magpies. I have some further speculation to add. The two photographs attached show a female and her offspring. One was feeding the other until quite recently.

They are part of a group of an adult male, two adult females and two juveniles who include my Dianella garden as part of their territory. The female shown has a noticeably hooked beak, while the offspring has no hook. The other two adults of the group have just a barely discernable hook. The other juvenile is similar to the one pictured.

HANZAB describes the Australian Magpie as having a slightly hooked beak, but their illustrations show only the smallest vestige, if any, of one. Johnstone and Storr do not mention a hook, but a couple of their illustrated birds, including a juvenile, do appear to sport a small hook, although nothing as pronounced as the one in the photograph.

My speculation is that there is natural variation between individuals, perhaps the hook growing with age, similar to bill growth in Budgerigars. If wear was an issue I would not expect the juveniles to be affected, especially as both have only recently begun foraging for themselves.

Maris Lauva

Dear Editors

In Western Australian Bird Notes 128 (pp 13-14), Bruce Buchanan, under the title ‘Avian Flocking: how is it done?’,

alluded to extra sensory perception phenomena and remarked that R. Sheldrake was still widely discredited for his notion of ‘morphic fields’ and their influence on the human brain.

In the context of this I presume to treat insight and vision, also brainwave and inspiration, as all closely linked. Even so, probably many naysayers then and since would not admit that we modern humans have lost down the millennia at least a few of our valuable faculties. However, science, not to be outdone, has relatively recently devised a way to discover and measure ‘insights’ in the research laboratory.

I shall attempt to provide the bare bones from two long press cuttings cited below, leaving those interested to examine the original articles for themselves.

The West Australian of December 24, 2008, p. 28 headed an article, ‘Blind man could ‘see’ objects in his path’ with a report about the work of Beatrice de Gelder, a cognitive neuroscientist at Tilburg University in the Netherlands, and Harvard Medical School in the USA. The journalist concluded that some blind people might have hidden capabilities. Another scientist, Richard Held, was reported alongside as increasingly convinced that there is a form of vision which is not dependent...upon the primary areas responsible for processing inputs from the eyes.

Yet an even earlier article in The Economist, April 18, 2008, pp. 82-83, under ‘Conscious and unconscious thought’, reports on the experiments on humans by two neuroscientists, one in London (Dr Battacharya) and the other (Dr Seth) in Houston, Texas. Their work in turn reinforced research in 1980 by Benjamin Libet of the University of California, who showed that simple decisions, such as when to move a finger, are made about three-tenths of a second before the brain’s owner is aware of them.

Seth and Battacharya devised some brain-teasing but practical problems presented to volunteers connected to an EEG machine. The reason why some volunteers solved the puzzles, The Economist explained, was because: In the right frontal cortex, a part of the brain associated with shifting mental states, there was an increase in high-frequency gamma rays (those with 47-48 cycles a second and noticeable up to eight seconds before the volunteer realised he had found the solution.

I would support Held’s reported view that, on a practical level, the findings hint that such people [like the blind man] could learn how to harness those unrecognised abilities to gain more independence.

It does not seem too much of a stretch to associate also inspiration and instinct, perhaps telepathy, to heightened brainwave activity in the unconscious mind, as an aid to bird observers. However, it may still be a long stretch to claim that flocking birds spontaneously change direction and tightly wheel with the aid of heightened brainwave activity. But science is getting there.

Tony France

Letters to the Editors
Dear Editors

I would like to thank all involved for your efforts in organising the 2009 WA Twitchathon. It was our first twitchathon attempt and we had a really enjoyable time. Concurrently coordinating the hardened twitchers and general enthusiasts (plus trying to lead your own team to victory) is no mean feat John, and you are to be thoroughly congratulated for the manner in which this was done.

I really hope that this event is to be annual one on the BAWA calendar. I make the request to the BAWA general committee that all attempts are made to bring a twitchathon to the membership in 2010 and beyond. We very much look forward to bettering our own team tally later in the year (and maybe next time we’ll actually see a Welcome Swallow).

With much appreciation and best wishes

Wes Bancroft, (“Stark Raven Mad” team secretary)

Letters to the Editors, ctd

Many of the older members of BAWA may have noticed the very short obituary for Frank in the March issue. At the time we could not locate a suitable photo to meet the deadline. We have now located a good photo and add a few more comments.

Frank was a keen bird observer in England, east Africa and Australia. As a forester he had many opportunities to pursue this passion. As the training officer at the Forest Department’s Training School at Dwellingup for many years he helped instil an appreciation of the environment and the avifauna into several generations of Forest Cadets. Frank continued his involvement after retirement with both BAWA and the local Mandurah Bird Observers Group.

His other passion was English literature and after completing a double degree at UWA he was an active member of U3A and lectured on both subjects in that organization. He will be missed.

Dick Rule

Frank Pridham

Photo: The Pridham family

Obituary

Frank Pridham

Houses for birdwatchers

Western Australia

Inering Hills, Midwest region nr Carnamah 300 kms north of Perth

Purpose built studio for birdbathers with separate bedroom. Sleeps 2.

Mulga parrots a surety, Inland Dotterels sometimes, raptors, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters.

$275 3 nights. Weekdays mainly.

Wharf Cove, South Yunderup. Peel region, one hour drive south of Perth

Two storey luxury waterside retreat on canals at reasonable price. Sleeps up to 8.

Wetlands area 5 minutes drive. Plus waders and pelagic species. Per week from $1300 low season.

Trewent Farm stay. Half way between Pemberton & Manjimup. 320 kms south of Perth

Woodland setting for old farmhouse and adjacent cottage. Sleeps up to 8 (2 in cottage).

Forest birds of the south west encouraged by owners.

From $360 4 people for 2 nights. Extras @ $20p.n.

Contact: paulinep@bigpond.net.au

Europe


3 hours’ drive south from Paris


European hedgerow birdlife, nearby Parc Naturel, some waders on lakeshore.

One week from $500-$650AUD.

Scotland. Isle of Mull. Inner Hebrides

Secluded sprawling family holiday house on edge of loch.

Sleeps 4 or more.

Colonies of puffins & guillermots on adjoining islands. Wheeling Osprey often seen over and around the cottage.

One week from $800-$980AUD

Other countries, other options.

More details: Peter & Pauline Wittwer. B.A. members.

Contact: paulinep@bigpond.net.au

Phone: (08) 9357 4074
Observations

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.


Highlights. The highlight was the sighting of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper near Cranbrook. This is the second record for Western Australia. The first was on the beach near the Eyre Bird Observatory in November 1982.

The Semi-palmated Plover reported in WABN 133 at the Broome sewage works was still present until at least February. The Radjah Shelduck reported at Bibra Lake in WABN 133 was reported again at Bibra Lake, Yangebup Lake, South Lake and Herdsman Lake and was still present in late April.

A Light-mantled Sooty Albatross was found beach washed at Point Ann in the Fitzgerald River NP. Photographs were sent to the WA Museum to confirm its identity.

A male Cinnamon Bittern was photographed on Christmas Island. This is the fourth record for the island. The remains of a Blue-winged Pitta were found in the water at Christmas Island. This is the second record for the island. The first was found in 1901 and is a specimen at the WA Museum.

There have been increasing records of Masked Lapwings in the south west of both sub species. There were two sightings of the sub species novaehollandiae from the Eastern States in the metropolitan area during this period, possibly the same bird.

METROPOLITAN (UBD Street Directory)

Black-tailed Godwit – 6, 12/04/10, Alfred Cove (Attadale) – JV (high count for the Swan River)

Masked Lapwing (race novaehollandiae) – 1, 03-14/03/10, Kogolup Swamp (Beeliar) / Yangebup Lake (Yangebup) – RP et al. * 1, 08/04/10, Champion Lakes (Champion Lakes) – WB (rare in the metropolitan area)

SOUTH WEST (Shark Bay to Cape Arid)

Light-mantled Sooty Albatross
– 1 beach washed, 12/02/10, Point Ann (Jerramungup) – AG (rare in Western Australia)

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER – 1, 16-22/02/10, lake near Cranbrook (Cranbrook) – SE (2nd record for Western Australia; photographs)

White-breasted Robin – 1, 23/03/10, Crossman (Boddington) – BM (east of normal range)

CHRISTMAS ISLAND

CINNAMON BITTERN – 1, 01/03/10, between golf course and resort – RB et al. (4th record for Christmas Island; photographs)

BLUE-WINGED PITTA – remains, 25/02/10, Thundercliff Cave – RB et al. (2nd record for Christmas Island; specimen to be sent to WA Museum; photographs)

OBSERVERS

AG = Anne Gadsby
BM = Brenden Metcalf
JV = John Vogel
RB = Richard Baxter (NSW)
RP = Robyn Pickering
SE = Steve Elson
WB = Wes Bancroft

Chair’s Report

BAWA volunteers have been actively surveying in recent months. The Shorebirds 2020 survey in February saw volunteers in various parts of the State out counting the shorebirds. A group conducted the second intensive survey of Shark Bay with support from the DEC team based there. The Great Cockey Count was officially launched in April with some media coverage. Two hundred volunteers, coordinated by Quinton Burnham and supervised by Geoff Barrett, have been busy monitoring the Carnaby’s Black-Cockatoo roosts on the Swan Coastal Plain.

Three grant applications have been lodged in the hope that BAWA can continue its efforts towards the recovery of Carnaby’s and to commence work to assist the recovery of the Australasian Bittern and its wetland habitats in the south west and the south east. If these applications are successful BAWA will need volunteers with management experience to assist those in the field.

Any volunteer willing to undertake the role of Project Manager or chair the Conservation and Research Committee is asked to contact me to discuss the details of these important positions.

Bruce Haynes
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2010

At the February AGM the following committee members were elected.

Dr Bruce Haynes as Chair of the Executive Committee, a position he has filled since 2008. He is keen to further the objectives of Birds Australia through the work of the Committee in supporting research based conservation and promoting education linked to birdwatching.

Dr Michael Bamford is self-employed as an environmental consultant, specialising in fauna studies but also lectures in zoology. He is a member of the BA Council.

John Graff is currently studying zoology and conservation biology at The University of Western Australia. He has been on the Excursions Committee since 2008.

Max Howard has set up a new branch of BAWA in the Wheatbelt/Avon area. He is a retired Police Officer but now lectures at the WA Police Academy in an unsworn position.

James Howard is an accountant student and has been assisting Mary Vaughan with BAWA’s finances.

Marion Massam is involved in vertebrate pest research, management and extension with the Department of Agriculture and Food. She has served on the BAWA Executive Committee as minute secretary for the last four years.

Kimberley Onton is a marine research scientist with the Department of Environment and Conservation and has a particular interest in seabirds and shorebirds. She is the coordinator of the Shorebirds 2020 project in WA.

Bill Rutherford entered the conservation industry in 1982 with the RSPB and now leads bird tours and carries out survey work. He values the opportunity to help with the realisation and delivery of the group’s aims.

Mary Vaughan, BAWA’s Treasurer, has managed the group’s finances since 1998. She loves birdwatching, which she has been doing for 30 years, leading many walks.

Liz Walker is the Committee Secretary and Office Manager, working closely with the office volunteers. Chairing the Grants Committee, she explores grant possibilities for various projects and equipment.

Graeme Wooller is a retired Company Secretary and has represented the Executive Committee on the Eyre Bird Observatory Management Committee.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Report to the BAWA Executive Committee 2009

We lost another two good members of our small committee, Ruth Greble and Margaret Prickett. Hopefully they will be able to return one day and will be received with enthusiasm.

Schools

We worked with children from 45 schools with a total of 2091 students with 190 teachers and parents participating. BAWA members participated 150 times (last year 1690 +121 +87). Unlike previous years we were often involved with multiple classes instead of just one. For example, we saw 289 students in one day at Hall’s Head, 232 at Boddington and 209 at Bungaree.

Classes

We ran 16 Bird Identification classes at seven venues with 336 participants and 70 BAWA involvements. Two Advanced Classes had 80 participants and 13 BAWA volunteers. Combined totals were 416 + 83 (last year 307 + 59). Six of the ID classes were at country venues, Walpole, Esperance and Bridgetown.

Walks and presentations

We were involved in 24 bird walks, 11 of them involving a presentation, with 461 participants and 61 BAWA volunteers (last year 18 – 171 – 41).

Presentations

We visited 27 very diverse groups to give presentations; this involved 964 participants with 44 BAWA volunteers (13 – 303 – 20).

Binoculars

We currently have 73 sets of binoculars, but we found ourselves short during spring last year and that will probably be an ongoing issue. The second factor is the condition of the 73 pairs, only about 45 can be regarded as having an extended life. We are extremely grateful to the Executive Committee for realising the problem and keeping us supplied with new binoculars as the need arises.

Libraries

The only area we went backwards. We were unable to find a Library Officer so were unable to put displays in libraries. Hopefully that can be remedied in 2010.
Country branches

We are delighted to see the formation of country branches and will make our resources and ourselves available whenever we are needed. We went to Esperance and Bridgetown and found the experiences very worthwhile.

The preceding events, although they are the core work of the Committee, are in fact only part of the whole. Three of our members were involved in the compilation of a bird brochure for the Rottnest Island Authority. We still create and lend out laminated displays for interested groups. Our image library contains over 6000 images and continues to grow as we constantly add to and revise our PowerPoint library. We do the occasional radio broadcast if it pertains to our programs. Last year there were two country broadcasts. We co-operate with other community groups at every opportunity. There are particular and ongoing relationships with the Rottnest Island Authority, Botanical Gardens and Parks Authority, Canning River Eco Education Centre, Eastern Metro Regional Council, Cambridge City Council and Earth Day. We are enthusiastic supporters of a National Community Education programme and will continue to press for a co-coordinated outreach involving all of our affiliated groups. Hopefully this will include other bird organisations in the near future. We assisted with Garden Week and the Darlington Arts Festival again this year and although we don’t see this as our major focus we will support them until an Events Committee can be organised. We also help with providing images for park signage and displays for Friends Groups. We sell cards, books, badges and some bric-a-brac wherever we can and this year raised $13 297.00. This was a large increase on last year’s record of $9915.25.

We generally meet at the office on Wednesdays to prepare for the weeks ahead and spent over 1000 hours in incarceration at hard labour. Our total hours this year was around 7000, about the same as 2008.

We are still trying to improve our product, standard, and output and will continue to do so.

Brice Wells, Chairman

BAWA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS INVOLVED IN CEC ACTIVITIES IN 2009

CEC would like to thank the following volunteers for their invaluable help in 2009:


Brice Wells
Chairman, Community Education Committee

OUR COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

The Community Education Committee will always welcome an opportunity to visit our country branches, so when a request came from the newly formed Esperance Branch we immediately replied. Presentations on PRESENTING and a revision on WADERS were requested. An accompanying article from Esperance shows their response. We thank the Esperance Branch for the wonderful accommodation they provided, and their gracious hospitality and look forward to future visits. We managed to avoid the recent extreme temperatures in Esperance and enjoyed seeing the Cape Barren Goose, in WA only seen around Esperance (see photos pages 38 and 39).

Their ambition to continue visiting the Esperance schools, continuing the work the CEC did on their visit for the festival in February 2009, shows the commitment of the branch and we wish them every success.

Elsa Dabbs
Secretary, Community Education Committee

RESULTS OF HOODED PLOVER SURVEY, FEBRUARY 2010

This survey was held during February 2010. The number of Hooded Plovers counted was 616, with 576 adults and 40 juveniles (Table 1). Table 2 summarising the results from 2002-2010, suggests that, while the number of birds recorded varies from year to year, the population appears stable over the period covered by the counts.

Northern Wheatbelt

This region was not surveyed. The northern wheatbelt and northern coastal salt lakes are two regions for which we have little data. If any Birds Australia members reside in those regions and are interested in conducting regular Hooded Plover surveys please contact us. Colin Heap surveyed Port Gregory and the Hutt Lagoon for waders but did not find any Hooded Plovers.

Mandurah

Yalgorup National Park, one of the strongholds for the Hooded Plover, was extensively surveyed. All lakes in the National Park were surveyed and water levels were very low. A large flock of 54 Hooded Plovers was seen at Lake Clifton on 6 February 2010 and this number rose to 81 on 20 March 2010. Two Hooded Plover counts were conducted. The first survey was held from 5-7 February and resulted in 103 adults and 4 juveniles. A further count held from 19-21 February resulted in a total of 81 adults and 5 juveniles.

Acknowledgements to Dick Rule, Tony France, Bill Russell and Kate Robinson.

Geographe Bay

One pair of Hooded Plovers has been present at Bunker Bay for many years and this was the only pair left in Geographe Bay. This year however another pair was located at Eagle Bay, which was a positive development resulting in two pairs now being present in the southern end of Geographe Bay. No Hooded Plovers were recorded in the Vasse-Wonnerup wetlands.
Table 1: Results of the February 2010 Hooded Plover regional surveys.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Juveniles</th>
<th>Juveniles %</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandurah-Yalgorup</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographe Bay</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret River</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walpole-Denmark</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bremer Bay</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopetoun</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esperance</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland lakes</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements to Ron Glencross, Shae Small and Thora Ramsey.

**Margaret River**

The beaches between the Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin received near complete coverage. Only the beaches near Boranup Forrest were missed. Surveys were conducted during the first week of February. Three confirmed breeding records were submitted. At Ellenbrook two adult birds were seen in company with two runners, at Conto Beach two adults with one runner and near Augusta two adult birds with two runners (see photo page 39).

The successful breeding results are encouraging considering the number of visitors that frequent these beaches. No Hooded Plovers were seen at Smith’s Beach, Yallingup or the Margaret River estuary.

Acknowledgements to Jessica Worrall, Natalie and Colin Bell, Wally Smith, Phil Beardshaw, Logan Anderson, Maree Ballock, Gene Hardy, Jan and John James, Debra Rooks, Jane Scott, Josephine Brocksopp, Paul Downes, Jan Macaulay, Tracy Skippings, Sally Wylie, Dawn Green, Don Hanran-Smith, Janet Dufall, Peta Goodwin, Ian Rooke and Lorraine Todd.

**Walpole-Denmark**

Surveys were conducted during the first week of February. Christine Wilder covered the extensive beach area between Hardy Inlet and the Gardner River Estuary. Large tides had stripped a lot of the dunes between Windy Harbour and the Gardner River. Big washouts prevented access to Coodamurrup Beach. Hooded Plovers were sighted on beaches to the west and east of Windy Harbour and at Black Point. The beaches adjacent to William Bay National Park had most Hooded Plover sightings. Some beaches in this region were not covered.

Acknowledgements to David Edmonds, Tina and Bob Smith, Christine Wilder, Robin Day, Geoff Taylor, Gary Schwab, Graeme and Toni Dearle, Penny Roberts, Colin and Jeanne Steele, Brett Clement, Jennifer Hunt, George and Andrea Endacott, Beryl Meulenbroek, Kim Murray and Sid Sepcus.

**Albany**

A number of beaches around Albany were surveyed. Only Normans Beach had Hooded Plovers. Cable Beach, Perkins Beach, Dingo Beach, Nanarup Beach, Lowlands Beach, Shelley Beach, Torbay Inlet Beach, Two People Bay Beach and Cosy Corner were surveyed.

Acknowledgements to Anne and Fred Bondin, Carollaine Trethowan, and Michael and Ada Nield.

**Bremer Bay**

The beaches between Pallinup Estuary to the west and Gordon Inlet to the east of Bremer Bay were surveyed. Surveys were conducted during the first week of February and first week of March. Gordon Inlet held the largest flock of Hooded Plovers, with 12 adult and 3 juveniles on 3 March, and this number had grown to 52 by 21 March. Hooded Plovers were present at Yandy Beach, Pallinup Estuary, Tooregullup Beach and Doubtful Island Beach. No Hooded Plovers were seen on Short Beach, Blossom Beach, Native Dog Beach, Peppermint Beach or John Cove.

Acknowledgements to Anne and Louise Gadsby, Steve Tomasini, Mark Jeffery, Vivienne Hillyer, Priscilla Broadbent and Barbara Hornsey.

**Hopetoun**

Surveys were conducted during the first week of February. The beaches and salt lakes between Culham Inlet and Lake Shaster were comprehensively surveyed. Lake Shaster Nature Reserve produced the highest individual count of the whole survey. No less than 200 Hooded Plovers were sighted on 9 February 2010. Beaches on both the western and eastern side of Hopetoun were covered with little result and sightings were confined to the coastal lakes.

Acknowledgements to Merle Bennett, John Tucker, Chris Biddulph, Mary and Owen Smith, John and Noelle Young, and Peter and Moira Macmahon.

**Esperance**

Surveys were conducted during the last week of February. The Esperance region was extensively covered by the Esperance Bird Observers Group. Cape Le Grand National Park and Cape Arid National Park were included. The Department of Environment and Conservation covered Lake Warden and Station Lake. Lakes which in the past have supported groups of Hooded Plovers, like Banmitup Lake, Lake Benje Benjenup and Helms Lake, were dry and Barkers Inlet was nearly dry. Pink Lake, White Lake and Stokes Inlet (east) produced the highest counts. On the 8 March 2010, 42 Hooded Plovers were sighted at Lake Gore. Many beaches were checked without any result. Only Yokinup Bay had any Hooded Plovers.

A strong feral cat population was noted at the Alexander Bay campsite.

Acknowledgements to Ken and Jean Read, Mike Gibbs, Jennifer Ford, Robyn Cail, Bruce Buchanan, Raana Scott, Herb and Avis Montgomerie, Kim and Pam Norris, Dave Johnson, Cindee Hage, Penny Blumann, Hugh and Michelle Crisp and Paul Leoni.
Inland areas

Lake Kwornicup was dry and Lake Chillinup had little water. Lakes around Wagin were mainly dry. The Cranbrook salt lakes proved the most productive.

Acknowledgements to Steve Elson, Michael Burns, Patricia Pope, Rob Badger, John Masters and David Secomb.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank everyone who generously donated their time to the survey of our beaches and salt lakes. A special word of thanks to the Hooded Plover Sub-committee: Kate Creed and John Lauri.

Marcus Singor
Chairperson, Hooded Plover Sub-committee

SUMMARY OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BITTERN AND AUSTRALIAN LITTLE BITTERN SURVEYS 2009/10

Introduction

Targeted surveys for the Australasian Bittern were conducted by BAWA volunteers and Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) staff at over 40 wetlands in south west Western Australia during 2009/10. Most wetlands surveyed were those where Australasian Bitterns have been previously recorded. However, several other wetlands were also surveyed. (See photos page 2.)

In November 2009 a ‘Little Bittern Blitz’ was organised to target this species as few records of Australian Little Bittern had been returned during the Australasian Bittern surveys and Birds Australia Atlas surveys.

Methods

Two methods are being used to survey for Australasian Bitterns. The first is twilight listening surveys where participants sit quietly at a wetland and listen for any of the booming calls of male Australasian Bitterns. A call broadcast procedure was used where equipment was available. The second method is day surveys where participants walk through wetlands near or within sedges and rushes and try to hear, see or flush bitterns. In both cases any calls or sight records of Australian Little Bittern are also noted as this species is also very cryptic, scarce and uses a similar habitat.

RESULTS

During 2009/10 Australasian Bitterns were confirmed at Benger Swamp (2), Kulini Lup Swamp (2), Geordinup Swamp (1), Toordit-Gurrup (2), Poorginup Swamp (1), Byenup Lagoon (3), Owingup Swamp (1), Boat Harbour Swamp (1), Black Cat Lagoon (1) and Cheyne Beach Road Swamp (2). There were unconfirmed records at Thomson’s Lake, North Sister Swamp, Lake Seppings, Lake Pleasant View and Moates Lake.

Several Australasian Bittern nests were located in the Muir-Unicup wetlands in December 2009 (Ian Wheeler and Alan Clarke pers. comm.) and near Albany in January 2010 (Alan Clarke pers. comm.). At least two of these were fresh nests containing down or egg fragments and one had a newly fledged chick and adult nearby.

Australian Little Bitterns were recorded at Jandaup Lake (1), Lake Goollelal (1), Herdsman Lake (1), James Swamp (Forrestdale) (1), Kogolup Swamp (1), Thomson’s Lake (2), Benger Swamp (2-3), Kulini Lup Swamp (6-12), Yarnup Swamp (2), Geordinup Swamp (2), a wetland NW of Byenup Lagoon (1), and Byenup Lagoon (nest with egg fragments).

Other information

The project advisory group of John Blyth, Allan Burbidge, Alan Clarke, Sarah Comer, Cheryl Gole, Roger Hearm, Jim Lane, Andrew Silcocks, Peter Taylor and Kim Williams is well established and working well together.

In March 2009 Birds Australia submitted a nomination to the Australian Government to have the Australasian Bittern listed nationally as endangered. John Blyth drafted a nomination for the species to be “uplisted” under the Western Australian legislation from Vulnerable to Endangered and this was submitted in December 2009. Processing of these two submissions is continuing with more documents being sent to DEC and Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) this year after requests from these government departments.

An estimate of the number of Australasian Bitterns in Western Australia was submitted after a request from DEWHA. Estimating the population of a highly cryptic endangered species is extremely difficult. However, the records database and a good knowledge within the Project Advisory Group of available wetland habitat and recent declines in habitat has been used for the estimates. The WA estimate at present is 38 to 154 adult Australasian Bitterns. This includes 0-50 birds for wetlands not surveyed and those where access limits observations. The estimate also includes 6 to 24 birds from the area east of Esperance, using data collected during the 1980s, as no recent surveys have been conducted in this area except at Shark Lake. Determining the present status of the Esperance to Cape Arid population is a priority for 2010/11.

Table 2: Summary of results of Hooded Plover surveys in Western Australia 2002-2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Juveniles</th>
<th>Juveniles %</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 2002</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb/Mar 2003</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2004</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2005</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2006</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2007</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2008</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2009</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2010</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>616</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The naming of birds

Columbiformes

Notes on this Order will be published in two editions of WABN.

Columbidae

The pigeons or doves – Latin columba. Whether to call one of this family a dove or a pigeon is a moot point and really there is not any difference except for size, the doves being smaller than pigeons; for example in Europe the Rock Dove is the Rock Pigeon!!

* Columba livia – Rock Dove. livia from the Latin liven meaning bluish or lead-coloured. Rock Doves are those birds found in the wild state in rocky areas of the Northern Hemisphere. They have given rise to the feral pigeon, a bird common to most countries in the world especially in the cities where buildings have replaced the cliffs of their natural habitat. In this case they are usually termed feral pigeons.

Inbreeding has caused a variety of colours of Feral Pigeons, many being far from the original livid (livid is from the same root as livia) colour. Dove is from the old English word dufe and pigeon is a rather convoluted derivation. The Old French word pignon derives from Late Latin pipionem (chirping bird), the accusative form of Latin pipio (a chirping bird) from pipire (to chirp). Since pigeons do not really chirp but coo, this derivation is hard to understand.

Other names are Domestic Pigeon, Homing Pigeon and Street Pigeon, all of which are feral rather than Rock Doves.

* Streptopelia senegalensis – Laughing Dove. The family name derives from the Greek, streptos for collar, necklace and pelea a dove. Birds of this family have varied markings on their necks. Obviously this bird hails from Senegal but in fact is common all over Africa to India via the Middle East. Why laughing? It is said to have a gentle bubbling laugh. This may very well be in the ears of the beholder! It has the typical coo-cooing of this family.

Other names are Senegal Turtle-dove, Palm Dove, Egyptian Turtle-dove, Little Brown Dove, Town Dove, Village Dove and Garden Dove. Turtle doves belong to the genus Turtur (turtur is Latin for turtle dove and has no links with the reptilian type of turtle) and it is considered erroneous to refer to other genera of doves as being turtle doves. The other names tell one about how dispersed this doves’ habitats are.

* Streptopelia chinensis – Spotted Dove. No prizes for guessing the home country of this dove! The spots are found on either side of the neck, that is part of the necklace.

The last two species are rapidly being incorporated into a new genus called Stigmatopelia. Stigmatos is a brand or tattoo in ancient Greek. Again it pertains in these cases to the neck region.

Acknowledgements

The following people have conducted surveys in 2009/10:

Sue Abbotts, Logan Anderson, Dianne Ashford, Robin Ashford, John Blyth, Mark Blythman, Anne Bondin, Fred Bondin, Allan Burbidge, Joan Bush, Tony Bush, Martin Cake, Victoria Cartledge, Maureen Cawley, Ted Cawley, Alan Clarke (DEC Science Division), Alan Collins, Sarah Comer (DEC South Coast), Saul Cowen, Kerrie Cowie, Stuart Coulsland, Denise Crosbie, Xenia Dennett, Justin Ettridge (DEC Walpole), Rose Ferrell, Stewart Ford, Alan Galbraith, John Graff, Cecelia Grant, Greg Harewood, Roger Hearne (DEC Warren), Andrew Hobbs, Jill Hobbs, David James, Virginia Jealous, Maris Lauva, Janine Liddelow (DEC Walpole), John Litherland, Matt Love, Jackie Manning (DEC Walpole), Peter Mioduszewski, Janet Newell, Ada Nield, Michael Nield, Linda Pickering, Morgan Pickering, Jaqui Purvis, Chris Reidy, Diane Reidy, Rob Schmidt, Leanne Scott, David Secomb, Erica Shedley, Peter Taylor, Alan Throne, Cameron Tiller (DEC South Coast), Mark True (DEC South Coast), Ian Wheeler (DEC Warren), Gavin White, and Wayne Zadow.

Roger Jaensch, David Secomb and Liz Walker have also assisted or provided advice to the project. Special thanks to Denise Crosbie of the Cockburn Wetlands Centre for use of equipment.

Robyn Pickering
The naming of birds, ctd

The Australian subspecies is *tigrina*. Greek *tigris*, that is barred or striped like a tiger.

**Chalcophaps indica** – Emerald Dove. From the Greek *chalcos* meaning bronze and *phaps* meaning pigeon. *Indica* means from India. Most of their body is bronze coloured with green or emerald wings.

Other names are Green-winged Pigeon, Green Dove, Little Green-Pigeon, Emerald Ground-Dove, Long-billed Green-Pigeon, Lilac-mantled Pigeon (the mantle can have a purplish tinge), Green and Bronze Pigeon, Green-backed Dove and Common Emerald Dove.

Sub-species found here are *chrysochloris* (*khloros* green or yellow) and *longirostris*.

**Phaps chalcoptera** – Common Bronzewing. One of the few Latin names that translates exactly into its common name, that is pigeon with a bronze coloured wing.

Other names are Bronzewing Pigeon, Common Bronzewing Pigeon, Bronze Pigeon, Forest Bronzewing, Scrub Bronzewing (not to be confused with the following species, the Brush Bronzewing), Brown Pigeon and Squatter Pigeon (best left for *Geophaps* species discussed below).

**Phaps elegans** – Brush Bronzewing. *Elegans* means handsome, fine or choice in Latin. Both names therefore translated mean the elegant bronzing pigeon of the bush.

There are two subspecies, the nominate in south-eastern Australia and *occidentalis* in WA.

Other names are Little Bronze Pigeon, Box-poison Pigeon (Box poison is a native plant of Western Australia, *Gastrolobium parvifolium*), Brown Bronzewing-Pigeon.

**Phaps histrionica** – Flock Bronzewing. The derivation of *histrionica* is unclear though it means histrionic and may relate to one of the other common names, the harlequin pigeon. Histrionic means stagg and harlequin a pantomime character. In the 1930s, flocks of up to 100 000 were common but it is classified as an endangered species today with smaller flocks, <1000 birds being seen.

Other names are Flock Pigeon, Harlequin Bronzewing and Harlequin Pigeon (from its patchy black and white head, that is, dressed like a harlequin).

Juvencus

Current email addresses

We have recently noticed that email addresses of many members are out-of-date. Please email our office direct: mail@birdswa.com.au with your current contact details. Thank you.

Office Manager, Birds Australia Western Australia

Members’ contributions

**DOTTEREL NEST OFF THE GIBB RIVER ROAD**

My husband Wallie and I do a bird count every Wednesday morning in our vegetable garden and then pack a lunch and go out into the bush somewhere to do another count. As it is the wet season here in Derby we are unable to access some of our usual spots so decided just to find a waterhole out along the Gibb River Road and see what we might find there. About 51 km from Derby there is a small waterhole just off the road so we pulled up under a Boab tree. We kept noticing a couple of Black-fronted Dotterels flying around and presumed they had a nest near the waterhole. Wallie then saw them landing near the road and kept an eye on them to see what they were doing. Well, we could hardly believe our eyes when we noticed one of them sitting very still about one metre from the road. As the second one arrived the first one flew down to the waterhole so I went and had a look. The photograph shows the three beautiful eggs in a scrape about one metre from the busy highway with oil tankers, four-wheel drives and other vehicles roaring past every now and again. We noticed that as the vehicle approached the bird ran into the grass, thankfully away from the road and then went back after it had gone up the road.

Image: Nest, Black-fronted Dotterel, Gibb River Road. Photo: Beryl Ah Chee

**AUSTRALIAN HOBBY AT LAKE CLAREMONT**

Over the past couple of years a pair of Australian Hobby has nested in the vicinity of Lake Claremont, which forms part of their feeding territory. Towards the end of March 2010 an adult was observed hawking dragonflies over the lake. From a high perch on the dead branch of a tree at the lake’s edge, it would drop rapidly, gaining speed, twisting and turning like a large swallow as it pursued its prey. Upon capturing it, the bird then returned to its perch to eat. On some flights, a juvenile would accompany it, almost mirroring the adult’s actions but not capturing anything.

Such behaviour appears to be similar to that described in HANZAB where ‘fledglings develop skills, appearing to learn by experience and by imitating adults’ (Marchant & Higgins 1993). Later, I observed the juvenile attempt the pursuit of a dragonfly on its own, taking at least twice as long to capture its prey.

References


Beryl Ah Chee

Peter Sandilands

Western Australian Bird Notes 15 Vol 134 June 2010
ESPERANCE LEAD CONTAMINATION MAY BE ENTERING A NEW PHASE

Extract from Greener Times, the Conservation Council newsletter, Issue 9 Autumn 2010, page 15

In 2007, lead levels measured in the feathers of Esperance bush birds were up to several hundred times natural background levels, indicating the extent of surface dust contamination caused by the loading of lead carbonate concentrate at the port, now suspended. A year later, in October 2008, the levels on feathers had declined significantly to 10 - 15 times background levels. All through this period, Citizen Scientists working on the Bush Canaries monitoring project could find no evidence that the birds were ingesting lead. Instead, the birds appeared to be acting as ‘feather dusters’.

Awaiting laboratory results from the October 2009 sampling, we anticipated that lead levels would continue to decline and would be approaching background levels – a view backed by the number of New Holland honeyeaters (the species most affected by the mortality events in late 2006), which appeared to have recovered in the impact area. However, the results showed that while overall lead levels on bird feathers continued to decline to around 10 times background, the rate of change had slowed. Meanwhile, lead levels in the resident insectivorous species had slightly increased. It was also noted that the partially insectivorous silveryeyes were now carrying more lead than the nectar-feeding honeyeaters: a reversal of the situation in the earlier years. This was potentially the first indication of bio-accumulation, the build-up of lead contamination in the food chain.

By October 2009, a shift may have occurred in the pathway for lead contamination. In the earlier years, the birds accumulated lead carbonate dust particles on their feathers by physically sweeping foliage and other surfaces. By now, however, much of the deposited lead may be becoming incorporated into the soil and in areas of high concentration, taken up by the plants. These would be grazed by insects which in turn are eaten by predators, such as insectivorous birds. This would mean that the birds are now being exposed to lead ingestion via their food and therefore to its toxic effects. The literature indicates that an internal lead burden reflected in feather concentrations as low as 4mg/kg could reduce fitness, although clinical symptoms are more likely to be seen above 20 mg/kg. These thresholds are currently within reach of the insectivorous birds in the impact areas, especially if the level of bio-accumulation is yet to peak. There may be particular concern for the locally significant population of emu wrens on Dempster Head.

above Changes in feather lead concentrations on the three indicator bird species over three years.

LAKES IN THE ESPERANCE AREA

Anne and I recently visited Esperance to escape the late summer heat of the west coast (with only partial success) and to look at some of the better known lakes of the area.

Benje Benjumep, visited 6 March 2010, is a large roughly circular lake, 1.6 km in diameter, in a reserve surrounded by private property. Thanks to N. Blummann who granted us access and gave directions to the lake. Reaching the lake is not difficult but unfortunately bore out the forecast of having no birds. It is obviously very saline and shallow. There were also two other lakes on Mr Blummann’s property.

1) Un-named lake to the west of Benje Benjumep (Benje A?), visited 6 March 2010, is a small lake with some shallow and saline water and much dead vegetation around. This revealed 12 Black-winged Stilt, 1 Common Sandpiper and 4 Common Greenshank.

2) Un-named lake just north of Bow Road (Bow Road Lake?), had deeper, fresher water with the surrounding vegetation mainly alive. There were 53 Black Swan, 38 Australian Shelduck, 2 Little Pied Cormorant, 4 Black-fronted Dotterel and 1 Common Greenshank.

Lake Gore is a very large saline lake, about 3.3 km diameter, in a reserve 500 metres from the road at the northern approaches (visited 22 February, north shore and 8 March elsewhere). At the time of the South-west Waterbird Survey (1981-1985) the lake dried out annually, but it has not dried for at least eight years and despite the recent very dry season had plentiful water, at least 500 mm deep. The northern beach areas formerly used by Hooded Plovers are now mainly covered in saline mud and are possibly no longer much used; they had only 32 Silver Gulls. Living paperbarks once around much of the lake are now dead/dormant and leafless. The southern areas of the lake appear to have never been counted because of access difficulties and distance.

We went to a position on the south-eastern shore and then to the north-eastern shore, but south of the Dalyup River. North of the Dalyup River is a long spit that supported many birds, but required a long detour to pass the river which blocks ready access. The spit was difficult to count with a 20x telescope owing to the distance and the birds ‘crowding’ together.

Interesting sightings were: north shore, 2 Masked Lapwing (resting on a piece of timber a short distance from the water’s edge and not previously reported from the lake; the only previous southerly record appears to have been from Stokes Inlet in 1986) and north-eastern shore, 536 Red-necked Avocet (cf. previous SWWS maximum of 150). One of these Red-necked Avocets was leucistic, all white but for a thin black wing streak.

There were other groups of white birds on the far western shores of the lake, too distant to distinguish and it is likely greater numbers/further species were at the lake, possibly only countable by several co-ordinated observer teams.

Other waterbirds counted at Lake Gore were Musk Duck 25, Black Swan 124, Australian Shelduck 1398, Grey Teal 200, Chestnut Teal 58, Hoary-headed Grebe 225, Australasian Darter 1, Little Black Cormorant 9, Eastern Great Egret 1, White-faced Heron 2, Black-winged Stilt 22, Banded Stilt 22, Black-fronted Dotterel 2, Hooded Plover 42 (on a fringing dry salt lake), Common Greenshank 1, Red-necked Stint 162, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 1, a total of 20 species at the lake.

Our thanks to Mr and Mrs Murray for allowing access through their property.

It is worth mentioning that Quallilup Lake, 3.5 km south of Lake Gore, which Anne and I surveyed in 2004 (8 species, 394 total), has been made accessible by a 4WD track from Murrays Road to allow the lake to be used for water-ski boats. In an increasingly saline environment, a lake capable of being used for water-skiing is valuable for waterbirds. I was informed of this environmental vandalism (my description) by the Esperance Department of Environment and Conservation. My informant looked embarrassed and I subsequently saw a jet-ski going to the lake.

Lake Carbul is 2.5 km west of Lake Gore and 1 km from the road. Highly saline, it was dry at the time of visit, but had 2 Hooded Plovers (1 March).

Lake Kubitch is 2 km from the road, south west of Lake Carbul. It had a thin coverage of water but no birds (2 March).

Lake Gidong is reached by a moderately difficult walk of 3 km from the road, though mainly downhill. It too had water and despite being of large size, no birds were seen, a fact which seemed to make the return journey rather longer (4 March).

By contrast, two other lakes are waterbird observers ‘dream lakes’. These were Shark Lake where one can drive to within 40 metres of the lake edge and Lake Monjingup with a 150 metres cleared walk to the water. The Lake Monjingup surrounds have been developed as a park area with both bush and waterbird trails and served by a new road. Fortunately being 15 km from a small town the park and trails are not subject to mindless use and remain well maintained. Both Shark and Monjingup Lakes supported waterbirds.

Lake Windabout is large, complex shaped and with difficult access to much of the shoreline. No serious effort was made to survey this. The approach via the Esperance Golf Course is the easiest and revealed 6 Cape Barren Goose and 10 Black-tailed Native-hen. Lakes Warden, Woody and Wheatfield displayed a few Australasian Shelduck. Lake Mullet was not seriously

Table 1: Short-term changes in waterbird numbers at Shark Lake (14 spp).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shark Lake (14 spp)</th>
<th>1 March</th>
<th>4 March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Musk Duck</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Swan</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pink-eared Duck</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut Teal</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Black Duck</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardhead</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoary-headed Grebe</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australasian Darter</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Pied Cormorant</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Great Egret</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian White Ibis</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Swamphen</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dusky Moorhen</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Coot</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2: Short-term changes in waterbird numbers at Lake Monjinup (22 spp).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lake Monjinup (22 spp)</th>
<th>27 Feb</th>
<th>6 Mar</th>
<th>9 Mar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Musk Duck</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Swan</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pink-eared Duck</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey Teal</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut Teal</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Black Duck</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australasian Grebe</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoary-headed Grebe</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australasian Darter</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Black Cormorant</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian White Ibis</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straw-necked Ibis</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-billed Spoonbill</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotless Crake</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Coot</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-winged Stilt</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-fronted Dotterel</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Sandpiper</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Greenshank</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Sandpiper</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-necked Stint</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharp-tailed Sandpiper</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

examined as it required leaving a car on a main highway and at the time of visit there appeared to be no birds.

On our return home we found *Western Australian Bird Notes* 133 refers to bird counts on successive days (‘Birds of Tom South Lake, Cranbrook’). The ease of access to Lakes Shark and Monjingup independently encouraged Anne and I to undertake surveys a few days apart. The results are set out above (Tables 1 and 2) and as at Tom South Lake indicate the rapidity with which waterbird numbers can increase or decrease. Some changes in actual numbers do not look great but are high in percentage terms.

We noted 35 species of bushbirds. When far out in the bush west of Lake Gore we had the pleasure of meeting up with a local resident who assisted Roger Jaensch in surveying many of the above lakes in 1981-85.

**Bruce Buchanan**

**POSSIBLE NESTING OCCURRENCE OF THE WHITE-BROWED BABBLER AT WEST TOODYAY**

The White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*) has never been common in the West Toodyay area. Prior to spring 2009 I had only observed the birds five times since November 1985.

On 19 October 2009 my wife, Elaine Hall, sighted three birds feeding on the ground in the front cleared paddock of our property. These birds were sighted on a regular basis at either our place or our next door neighbour’s property, up to the end of December 2009.

During this period in mid December, four birds were observed at our bird bath, and foraging amongst the leaf litter for insects. I did not take note of any size difference at that time, although the number of birds had increased by one.

On 3 January 2010, my neighbour, Rod Sheriden, sighted two birds hiding under a bush at the front of his property. He determined they were young birds because their size was smaller than the other birds which were also in the area.

Whilst breeding cannot be confirmed, indications are that breeding could have occurred. If so it is very welcome given the declining status of this species in the wheatbelt area.

John Masters who has lived all of his life at Glen Avon via Northam advises that this species has shown significant decline on his property in recent years. Once a moderately common species it hasn’t been sighted for the last two years. (J Masters pers. comm.).

Max Howard

**TO CHANGE A LIFETIME**

It was late afternoon when he was rescued, gently prised from the jaws and paws of the ginger cat in the front garden. He was silent and shocked and one wing drooped when examined more closely from the warmth and security of cupped hands. There didn’t appear to be any other damage but the risks in releasing him with daylight fading seemed too great.

Home for the night was a cardboard box and a soft rag for warmth. He was still silent at sunrise the next day when he was lifted from his box and he made no attempt to move his wing. It was obviously bruised and needed time and rest to heal. Hence Kingsley, the Sacred Kingfisher, became one of the family during the hot February days that followed.

Kingsley still had the clumsy fluffiness of a younger bird with the grey-blues yet to deepen in the feathers of his lower back and wings. We all had much to learn about this tiny species and the priority was to check out his preferred menu. A cage was borrowed and Kingsley was hung in the shed out of reach of predators. A phone call to more learned friends revealed that kingfishers would eat insects, such as grasshoppers, which fortunately for us were just chomping their way into our garden. We being human had tried the easy alternative, offering small mounds of minced meat but these unflapping, pink blobs on the floor of the cage were treated with disdain by our small, feathered friend who remained huffed up in the opposite corner.

By evening that first day, Kingsley’s patience was wearing thin. He was hungry and the low, guttural sounds he was making demanded our attention. A grasshopper was eventually caught and offered. Immediately, a beady, flashing eye, head cocked with interest and swiftly the strong beak seize the struggling insect and began to bash it into submission on the perch. Somehow the battered, straggly green grasshopper appendages lined up and disappeared as one down the beck. That was the beginning of our apprenticeship!

Just on sunrise the next morning, we were awakened by those low, throaty, staccato calls from the back yard shed. Constant and demanding, they could not be ignored and before long, half the family at least was crawling on all fours on the road verge, swatting with cupped, bare hands at any grasshopper that hopped. This was to be our duty, morning and evening, whilst Kingsley called the tune from his perch and we
sheepishly acknowledged the passing cars, unable to explain our peculiar ritual.

One of Kingsley’s guardians, discovering an enormous, black beetle in a visitor’s utility one day, decided this may just provide an alternative to the hunting expedition. The beetle was obviously dead but Kingsley’s trust in his chefs was established and he eyed the immobile, black, crusty body in the corner of his cage and strutted over to begin the knock-into-shape-for-dinner routine. He bashed and bathed until the beetle finally, slowly disappeared from view. There was a temporary silence as a very full Kingsley seemed to be uncomfortably concentrating on the digestive process and then, suddenly there was a commotion and a clatter as the large, black shape was hastily spat out. Kingsley looked considerably more comfortable and wanted absolutely nothing more to do with black beetles. So it was back to grasshoppers and mist sprays to keep such a small body nourished and cool during the hot summer days.

As our small house guest grew in stature and strength we had to acknowledge that he needed a larger home to allow him to test his wings in preparation for his eventual return to the wild. We again telephoned our learned friends, some 30 km south of Ravensthorpe at Carracarup and they agreed to have Kingsley come stay with them. Our daughters sadly said farewell and Kingsley and cage were transferred to the car. A special rapport, of mutual respect and trust, had been established during these weeks together. We missed the early morning wake-up calls, the beady eye and the smug, satisfied silence we took as a thank you when all offerings had been consumed. The telephone was our link to check Kingsley’s progress.

He was now in residence at a small, mud brick, honey shed at his new home. Here he was feasting on the moths fluttering at the inside windows, flying from ledge to ledge to capture his own dinner. For the small boy, and only child, Kingsley was a welcome, new found friend. Eventually, with some misgivings, the honey shed door was deliberately left open and the young kingfisher ventured out into the wide world again. However, he didn’t fly far. He was quite happy flitting through the fruit trees in search of food and to the delight of his young master, would alight on a shoulder in the garden for companionship.

As the days shortened the cool, autumn nights arrived. Kingsley much preferred the warm, summer nights and in search of comfort he surprised his hosts one evening by tapping on the glass door panels of their house. The door was opened and Kingsley flew in to make himself at home for the night on the timber beam in the ceiling. They were delighted to have his company and he repeated his visits on the colder nights, sometimes selecting the beam perch, at other times preferring a nut bowl as a cosy bed.

Kingsley’s young friend had been forewarned that the day would come when the kingfisher would decide to fly north to escape the southern winter. His long flight would take him through central Australia and possibly as far north as New Guinea. That such a tiny bird could survive an aviation adventure of this magnitude was difficult to believe. However, parents are sometimes known to be right and the telephone duly rang one day with a small boy disconsolately reporting that Kingsley could not be found. The loss was shared and understood.

The Sacred Kingfisher is not designed for cold climates, nor can he build an insulated, solar-powered home to protect him through the winter months. Was it instinct or parental training that guided him to undertake a northern migration? His breed tended to be loners, usually only pairing to breed so we could not picture Kingsley flying north with a flock of emerald blue companions.

The winter months slipped by as does all time in our hectic world. Spring came and went and it was on an early summer day, when the morning was still crisp and clear, soon after sunrise, that we were in the front garden. Was it by chance that we timed this infrequent meander, prior to work, at this moment, on this day for there, high overhead on the power lines, was a Sacred Kingfisher, his head tilted, silently observing us. Could this be Kingsley — a sleek, mature bird, confident and handsome? We talked to him, enjoying the beauty of the moments while he lingered, then with a flash of brilliant blue, he took flight (see page 2 for photos from the BAWA digital library).

A day later the telephone rang with the news that Kingsley was back. He had appeared at his Carracarup residence and they were confident it was Kingsley as he allowed them to venture close to him perched on the pine post fence. It was a brief visit but he had returned to say hello and we all felt honoured to be included in his worldly tours.

It would have been four years later when I returned home late one afternoon to discover the small, limp body of a Sacred Kingfisher lying at our back door. It had mistaken the glass for sky and would have died instantly on impact. Such a fragile and perfect body with brilliant, azure blue wings which would no longer move and flash in the sunlight. It had to be Kingsley. He had had so much to tell us! Our lives had been enriched by the chance encounters with this small character. We wanted to believe that the same chances brought five bonus years of adventure and fulfilment for him.

Christine Rowe

METROPOLITAN WATERBIRDS — SEA, LAKE, RIVER, 1977–2010

Records from personal waterbird surveys since the first Bird Atlas 1977 to 2010 show a dramatic decline in numbers, most particularly in the migrant waders between November and March. Feeding grounds for migrating waders from the Arctic at many of their stops in the various countries, all but disappeared because of manmade “developments”. But are we in metropolitan areas in Western Australia maintaining their feeding grounds?

Three waterbird habitats monitored over these 32 years are:

Sea: Trigg Island Point 31° 51’ S: 115° 45’ E.
Lake: Herdsman south shore 31° 56’ S: 115° 47’ E.
River: Alfred Cove 33° 02’ S: 115° 45’ E.

1. Trigg Island just north of the limestone island. The most impressive record here is the flock of approximately 20 Great Cormorants Phalacrocorax carbo, the numbers of which have varied little over these years. It is possible that some of these birds were among the 35 breeding birds on the barge at Herdsman Lake May to July 2006 and 2007. The highlight here was the yearly visit in January-
February of the Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*. However, on 1 March 2010 the adult was accompanied by a juvenile (face and chest mottled brown, bill white with black tip). At 7:15 am the juvenile flew onto the beach followed five minutes later by the adult bird. They then entered the water together and swam 2 m out to the reef which was covered by about 30 cm of water. Firstly, the juvenile upended and secured at the back end of its bill a live 6 cm flat mauve sea-urchin (sharp spines 1 cm long). It swam back to shore and took five minutes to clean out the 4 cm shell. It was not until the juvenile was safely devouring its catch that the adult upended and brought a similar catch to shore. This routine was repeated four times. The two birds then re-entered the water and swam out to sea together.

2. **Herdsman Lake southern shore**

Usually there are 22 species of waterbirds but only an occasional migrant wader, often a Common Greenshank. Highlights are flocks of Glossy Ibis up to 20 birds, Nankeen Night-Heron feeding in the shallows around midday (see photo page 27); Buff-banded Rail and occasionally a Little Egret.

3. **Alfred Cove on the Swan River, 1 January 2010**

From November to March there are usually 26 species here. Highlights are both knots and Long-toed Stints.

Up until January 2010 these three survey areas, ocean beach, fresh water lake and river cove, have remained a joy to visit. But north of Perth at Cervantes, 30° 31’ S; 115° 04’ E, Lake Thesis (a salt lake) surveys, usually yield 22 species between November and March with approximately 13 indigenous waterbirds and 9 migrant waders (a highlight in 2001 and 2003 was the Australian Pratincole). But a survey 28 December 2009 revealed no waterbirds (no indigenous or migrant waders).

Of course no food chain means no food for the birds. Perhaps this is the result of the installation of the metal boardwalk in 2007-2008. Will the stromatolites in the lake survive? Will the food chain in Alfred Cove survive following the Fremantle Harbour dredging commenced in February 2010? The plume has extended up the Swan River with the levels of copper, lead, arsenic, cobalt and vanadium on the rise. What will happen to the living food chain on the riverbed — the sandbank feeding ground at low tide for migrant waders?

**Mary Bremner**

**WILSON INLET — WETLAND OF IMPORTANCE**

Located near the town of Denmark, this seasonally closed estuary is one of the major birdwatching sites on the south coast. Wilson Inlet stretches for about 14 km from its western end at Ocean Beach to the eastern end at Youngs Lake near Eden Road, offering many choice locations for observing waterbirds.

Wetlands International has identified Wilson Inlet as one of 118 internationally important sites for migratory shorebirds in Australia in a recent study commissioned by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA).

The Register of the National Estate maintained by the DEWHA indicates that Wilson Inlet is a very important wader and waterbird site in the south coastal area and suggests that it may be of RAMSAR quality as an internationally important wetland/estuarine system. A nomination to formally include the site on the register is yet to be made.

From November until April thousands of shorebirds, including migratory species protected under international treaties, congregate at Morley Beach, an area extending from just west of the Hay River mouth to the east of the Cuppup Creek drain. The exposed mudflats provide extensive feeding habitat whilst zones above the high-water mark are used for roosting. Access to Morley Beach is via Morley Road.

Shorebird numbers have fluctuated markedly over the years as the survey data shows (Table 1). If suitable conditions prevail at other wetlands, highly nomadic Australian species such as Banded Stilt and Red-necked Avocet may remain inland rather than come to the coastal estuary. Poor breeding success in the Northern Hemisphere summer will reduce the number of migratory shorebirds making the trans-equatorial journey. However, nothing has a greater impact on shorebird numbers at this site than high water levels at Morley Beach. If feeding habitat is flooded during the summer months as was the case in 2008, almost no birds will visit.

In 2007 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) upheld a decision not to proceed with the annual breaching of the sand bar which blocks the estuary from the Southern Ocean. It was asserted that after a winter of low rainfall this breaching resulted in poorer channel development and a briefer opening period and that this in turn led to low inlet water levels during summer adversely affecting the flora and fauna of the inlet.

This decision had a devastating impact on shorebirds. With the sand bar not breached during the summer of 2007/08 Wilson Inlet’s water levels remained high throughout the season. The foreshore at Morley Beach was still under water by the end of summer, destroying all shorebird habitats. Birds Australia and the Albany Bird Group have since lobbied government agencies to also take into consideration the requirements of shorebirds when decisions about the opening of the Wilson Inlet sand bar are being made.

Flooded habitat is not the only threat to the shorebirds using Morley Beach. In recent years more and more people have begun to use the area for recreational purposes ranging from dog walking and horseback riding to quadbikes racing up and down the beach. Classified as unallocated crown land, the area enjoys no protection from such activities. Attempts to have the land listed as a conservation reserve have commenced, but so far have yielded no results, with the mills of government grinding very slowly.

Apart from migratory species, the waters off Morley Beach are also heavily used by thousands of other waterbirds such as swans, ducks, pelicans, coots and spoonbills. In summer, when other wetlands dry up, the area serves as a drought refuge for those species. Their numbers generally peak in March. Several species of birds including Red-capped Plover, White-fronted Chat and Australasian Pipit have been recorded breeding along the foreshore.

The Hay River Mouth can be accessed along a 4WD track just west of the Hay River Bridge. This is often a good place for observing Fairy and Whiskered Terns. If water levels are low enough, the sandbar out from the mouth of the Hay River is used by a variety of shorebirds including godwit, Grey and
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Pied Oystercatcher</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sooty Oystercatcher</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-winged Stilt</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banded Stilt</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>1477</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>1095</td>
<td>159</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-necked Avocet</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1150</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>1253</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>781</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Golden Plover</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey Plover</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-capped Plover</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>1053</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>877</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>590</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser Sand Plover</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Sand Plover</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-fronted Dotterel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooded Plover</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-tailed Godwit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bar-tailed Godwit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Godwit sp.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terek Sandpiper</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Sandpiper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Greenshank</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsh Sandpiper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Sandpiper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruddy Turnstone</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Knot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Knot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-necked Stint</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>3402</td>
<td>2148</td>
<td>2406</td>
<td>2709</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>3663</td>
<td>1861</td>
<td>3478</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>1615</td>
<td>1303</td>
<td>3678</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-toed Stint</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pectoral Sandpiper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharp-tailed Sandpiper</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1059</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>446</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curlew Sandpiper</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unidentified waders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total count</strong></td>
<td>3906</td>
<td>6736</td>
<td>3418</td>
<td>3776</td>
<td>7597</td>
<td>1408</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>5347</td>
<td>3177</td>
<td>6967</td>
<td>2039</td>
<td>4763</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>4917</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>2558</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pacific Golden Plover, Common Greenshank and Great and Red Knot. As the water recedes in late summer, the rich mud flats in the bay to the south-east towards the mouth of the Sleeman River support large numbers of shorebirds, mainly Red-necked Stints.

Another great spot for watching waterbirds is Youngs Lake, which can be reached via a short bush track off Eden Road. Hoary-headed Grebe, cormorant, heron, spoonbill and ibis prefer this end of the inlet. Occasionally the Great Crested Grebe is present.

On the opposite side of Eden Road, Lake Nenamup lies hidden behind dense vegetation. A narrow track near the road sign leads to the lake. Shelducks and herons usually make up the bulk of the waterbirds, but unusual sightings such as Little Egret and Glossy Ibis have also been made at times. Red-capped Plover, Red-necked Stint, Common Greenshank and Black-winged Stilt are usually present during summer. Blue-billed Ducks are present August-October, sometimes in significant numbers.

At the western end of the inlet the ocean bar area and Poddyshot Bay are easily accessible from Ocean Beach Road. Poddyshot carries mostly Black Swan, Grey Teal (occasionally Chestnut Teal) and Pacific Black Duck whilst the bar area often has a variety of shorebird species including Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Common Greenshank, Eastern Curlew, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Red-capped and Greater Sand Plover and Black-winged Stilt. Sightings of Eastern Osprey and White-bellied Sea-Eagle are also relatively common in these areas.

To ensure that this important wetland continues to be available for birds, it is essential that Morley Beach receives protection. The management of water levels for Wilson Inlet must also take into account the needs of waterbirds. If the Wilson Inlet sand bar is not opened on a regular basis almost all shorebirds will disappear from the estuary and another site for migratory shorebirds is lost.

The Centre for Sustainable Living in Denmark will host a Wilson Inlet Migratory Shorebird Exhibition and Poster Launch on Wednesday, 2 June from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. The photographic exhibition will feature many of Geoff Taylor’s extraordinary bird photos. For further details please contact Basil Schur on 9848 1019.

References


Australian Heritage Database website maintained by Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) (Canberra).

Anne Bondin
Brad Kneebone

FEATHER ENVY?

On two separate occasions in the last fortnight (early April) I have witnessed what I consider to be an unusual occurrence in the skies over my Kalamunda backyard: a rather aggressive and intent dog-fight between a flock of Australian Magpies and a (Forest) Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo.

On the first occasion, a single, female cockatoo was flying through the general area when she was set upon by the local magpie flock. Up to four magpies hotly pursued the cockatoo as she ducked and weaved around the trees and houses in an attempt to shake her followers. In typical magpie style, as one bird peeled away from the fight another flew in as replacement. The cockatoo was calling continuously (and somewhat desperately) for the entire chase, which probably lasted two to three minutes. It was no different to defensive displays that I have seen directed towards birds of prey. Bizarrely, a few minutes after the chase was abandoned by the magpies, the cockatoo flew back through the same air space, directly past the magpie flock, without hassle.

A very similar situation occurred a week or so later, but in this case the magpies singled out a cockatoo (this time I was unable to see whether it was male or female) from a flock of five or so, and a slightly shorter chase ensued (although with the same desperate intent). The remaining cockatoos departed the scene without incident and again, once the magpies had tired of the dogfight, the flustered cockatoo was also allowed to continue on its journey.

The behaviour of the magpies would make sense to me if the cockatoos were posing some kind of threat (as a predator or competitor) to their territory, but these birds have very different ecologies and, to my knowledge, cockatoos eat seed and not young magpies.

I wondered if this may be a simple case of feather envy? While I have always considered magpies to be among the most smartly feathered of birds, perhaps this particular flock is a little jealous of the splash of red worn by the cockatoos. Heaven help a robin should it find itself in the magpies’ neighbourhood.

I would be interested to hear if anyone else has observed similar behaviour or has a less facetious explanation.

Wes Bancroft
**Notices**

**ADVANCED BIRD CLASSES**  
By the Community Education Committee  
Venue: WA ECO Centre,  
167 Perry Lakes Dr, Floreat, WA 6014

**Date:** Sat July 24th – 9.00am – 12.30pm  
**Birds:** Raptors, Herons and Egrets

**Date:** Sun July 25th – 9.00am – 12.30pm  
**Birds:** Characteristics of Young Birds: Robins and Whistlers

**Cost:** $12 per class, includes morning tea, payable on the day.

*Bookings: BAWA office – 9383 7749  
or Email: mail@birdswa.com.au*

**STIRLING RANGE RETREAT**  
Spring 2010 Program

As you may know BAWA has provided volunteers to conduct bird walks at the Stirling Range Retreat during the spring season - September / October - for a number of years.

Clive Nealon has organised these walks since their inception, but he will not be in Perth this year when the walks are on. Clive will be available until the end of August after which time the organising will be taken over by the BAWA Community Education Committee.

Time is getting short so we would appreciate hearing from anyone interested as soon as possible.

We are looking for volunteers who would like to provide their services as guides to conduct bird walks at the Retreat during the Spring 2010 season, 18th September through 31st October. Again, an early expression of interest would be appreciated.

The activities that the guides are responsible for are:
1. To conduct walks offered at 8am and 3pm daily each week.
2. To provide interpretive slide evenings 4 times a week.

In 2010 the arrangements are that self sufficient guides - that is, caravanners and campers - will be provided a powered site at no cost.

Otherwise, guides will be offered accommodation at 50% of the tariff.

BAWA will now receive 100% of the takings from the walks and slide shows.

This has been, and will continue to be, an excellent opportunity for BAWA volunteers to generate funds for the organisation while having the opportunity to meet birders from around the world. You can help stimulate an interest in birds in people who haven’t yet ‘got it’, and to take advantage of an enjoyable week in a very scenic part of the state.

*To register your interest in being the organiser or a guide, or in getting more information,  
please contact Clive Nealon  
using clivenealon@bigpond.com  
or by phone on 9448 5921.*

**2010 Rangelands Surveys**  
31 July to 15 August

In the last edition of Bird Notes we indicated that we were considering Meentheena as an option for this year’s surveys. Unfortunately like many conservation areas in the Pilbara and elsewhere in the WA outback, it has not had significant rainfall this year.

So instead we have decided to return to Woolgorong and Muggon in the Murchison where the Department of Environment and Conservation is conducting biological surveys this year. This means the data from our efforts will be used to augment their results.

It is likely that limited accommodation will be available at both sites with plenty of room for tents and caravans. Further information will be sent by email to those who express an interest in attending.

For all enquiries, further details and the opportunity to attend please contact:

Ed and Alyson (9299 6283)

or Pam and George (9457 2292)

or Ruth and John (9384 2098).

**WA TWITCHATHON**

The WA Twitchathon was a great success last year so this year it’s back and we’re hoping that even more people will get involved!

**DATES:** Saturday 11th/Sunday 12th December, 2010

- 24hr Twitch: 5pm Saturday 11th – 5pm Sunday 12th
- 12hr Twitch: 5am – 5pm Sunday 12th
- Armchair Twitch: 8hr period on Sunday 12th

**BASIC RULES**

- Teams of 2-5 people
- Aim is to identify the most bird species in the allocated time and HAVE FUN!
- Prizes awarded for the most species recorded in each of the twitches, as well as for the best/rarest sighting and worst dip
- $5 per head registration fee

The full set of rules, along with registration forms, will be available in July from the BAWA office or by contacting iggraf2@hotmail.com.

For further information, contact John Graff, either by e-mail at iggraf2@hotmail.com (preferred)

or by phone on 0424 008 179.
Country branches

ALBANY BRANCH

9 February outing – Wilson Inlet

We started our traditional summer visit to Wilson Inlet at Morley Beach. Very hot and muggy conditions resulted in fewer people than usual turning up, but those of us who attended enjoyed good shorebird numbers on the exposed mudflats. We had excellent views of Pacific Golden Plover, Red-necked Stint, Red-capped Plover, Common Greenshank and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. The latter were present in much greater numbers than usual; it was one of the highest counts we ever had at this site. A mixed flock of Great and Red Knot tested our identification skills.

Fewer birds were seen at the Hay River Mouth, but several Whiskered Terns added a new species to the list. We finished the day at Youngs Lake where we sat under a tree and watched waterfowl including Musk Duck, Black Swan and Hoary-headed Grebe in the bay. We observed a total of 55 species.

9 March outing – Lake Powell / Torbay area

We met at Lake Powell Nature Reserve and visited the bird hide. It was a treat to see large numbers of waterbirds which included Pink-eared Duck and Australasian Shoveler. We continued on towards Muttonbird where we saw a White-bellied Sea-Eagle nest. We also walked down to the drain at Manarup Lagoon, getting distant views of the many birds on the lake.

Our last stop for the day was the bird walk at Torbay Hall. By now it had become quite windy, making it more difficult to spot birds. White-naped Honeyeater, Golden Whistler and White-breasted Robin were the easiest species to see. An unusual highlight was our observation of a tiger snake eating a frog. Our count for the day was 52 birds.

13 April outing – Redmond area

A beautiful autumn morning with perfect birdwatching conditions — the only thing missing were the birds. We were surprised at the low number of species seen along various railway and roadside reserves in the Redmond area. Only Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail and Silvereye seemed willing to show themselves. Eventually a Scarlet Robin took pity on us and sat on the track. Several more were seen in the course of the morning. Slowly, we added thornbills, honeyeaters and parrots to our list, but the Elegant Parrot remained elusive until lunchtime. Flushing a Painted Button-quail provided the most unusual sighting for the day. Our total tally for the day was a mere 41 species.

Future outings

Excursions will take place on Tuesday, 13 July, 10 August, 14 September and Sunday, 26 September. More details about destinations, where to meet, etc., will be made available on BAWA e-news. You can also check the Albany Bird Group’s website: http://sites.google.com/site/albanybirds/Home

Excursion leaders will be either Ray Garstone (PH: 9844 7540), Brad Kneebone (PH: 9845 2233) or Anne Bondin (PH: 9844 1793). Feel free to contact any us for further information.

WHEATBELT AVON BRANCH

Excursions list for 2010

Sunday 27/06/10: Dowerin — Meet at the corner of the Goomalling/Wyalkatchem Rd and Cemetery Rd, which is on the outskirts of Dowerin. Time to be there is 8:30 am. Full day excursion.

We will first go to Tin Dog Creek Reserve for an hour or so and then off to a farming property at Minnivale, where a local farmer planted in excess of half a million trees several years ago.

Leader: Max Howard

Sunday 29/08/10: Bakers Hill — Meet at the corner of Berrybrow Rd and Colongine Rd, Bakers Hill. For people coming from Perth, Berrybrow Rd turns off to the right from Great Eastern Hwy in the Bakers Hill townsite just as you enter the townsite.

Please bring radios and GPS units if you have them and can use them. This is a property of 820 acres of bushland which has been left to the Perth Zoo, and they would like surveys carried out. Everyone will need to be at the location by 8:15 am. Full day excursion.

Leader: John Masters

Sunday 10/10/10: Meet at Bernard Park, Northam by 8.30 am; from there we will survey the Northam Weir and surrounds, and then go onto Meenaar Reserve. After lunch at Meenaar we will conduct a river walk at another location near Northam. Full day excursion.

Leader: Clinton Richter
ESPERANCE BIRD OBSERVERS’ BRANCH

Over a weekend in February the Esperance Bird Observers’ Group was lucky to have four members of Birds Australia WA visiting: three members of the Community Education Committee, Elsa Dabbs, Rod Smith and Brice Wells also the Country Branch Convenor Darryl James.

The weekend started with a Presenters workshop on Friday evening. This was for the local members who intend to be presenting an introduction to Esperance area schools.

Saturday morning was spent at David and Dale Johnson’s property, Naranda Springs, where 28 species were seen, probably the most interesting being an immature Nankeen Night-Heron.

That afternoon the visitors presented a very interesting talk on waders and shorebirds with some excellent photographs. This was very well received and appreciated by the audience of about 22 people.

After that three Esperance group members gave a talk on four birds of their choice and were encouraged by the comments of the visitors.

On Sunday morning, as play at the Esperance Golf club didn’t start until noon, the group was given permission to observe the birds around the course. This was very fortunate as, with the dry season, so many other lakes were dry.

Around the course, 31 species were seen. These included Cape Barren Goose, Common and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, crakes, stilts, Common Greenshank and Red-kneed Dotterel. A flock of 50 Australian Pelicans was riding the thermals over the lake areas.

It was a fine end to an interesting and informative weekend and group President Ken Read thanked the visitors for their help and assistance.

Mike Gibbs

Crossword No. 3

by Pam Agar

ACROSS
1. Frontal marking of Pied Butcherbird.
3. Sole member of this family in Australia is black-necked.
7. May be time for one while waiting for birds to appear.
9. Feathered dinosaur, a distant relative of today’s birds.
11. The female of a bird species.
14. Secretive bird of marshes.
15. Food presumably favoured by black and white coastal bird.
18. A common shape for a bird’s nest.
19. A flock of Australian Pelicans was riding the thermals over the lake areas.
25. Head pattern, officially meaning “grey with age”.
26. Top of head.
27. Sometimes used to mark birds to check movements.
28. Could describe the nest of a Mistletoebird.
29. Useful identification feature, often above or below eye.
30. A Willie Wagtail may well expect this from an Australian Hobby!

DOWN
1. This plus colour and shape, this may help to identify a bird.
2. Likely location for a Sanderling.
4. Genus name of the Barn Owl.
5. Arch-enemy of small bushbirds.
6. Often represents the state of WA.
8. Common material used to make leg-bands.
10. May cause both birds and birders to lie low in middle of the day.
12. If conspicuous on ground, may indicate a roosting site.
13. Partridge Pigeon’s facial colour may be red … yellow.
16. This whiteface lacks a breast band.
17. Dull black.
20. Male duck.
22. It’s essential for a bird to do this every day.
23. Bird equivalent of a crowded city.
24. A bird reaches full colouration during this stage.
26. One sound made by a scrubfowl.
28. In past years, a Galah may have been one.
THOMSON’S LAKE, 2 January 2010
A group of 24 members met at Thomson’s Lake and altogether saw 59 species of birds. Highlights were Baillon’s Crane, Australian Spotted Crane, Spotless Crane, White-necked Heron, Varied Sittella and White-winged Triller. The only two raptors seen were Whistling Kite and Swamp Harrier.

Robyn Pickering

WELLARD WETLANDS, 16 January
Twenty members enjoyed the first daytime BAWA trip to this site since Alcoa undertook further clay extraction. Good numbers of several species of ducks, cormorants and grebes (all three species) were observed. Only one individual each was seen of Black-fronted Dotterel, Black-winged Stilt and Common Sandpiper (the only waders present). Neither Tawny Frogmouth nor Dusky Woodswallow was seen, the latter probably because of the recent clay extraction work at the northern end of the site.

A number of members opted to go the long way round on the way back to the cars and they picked up a few additional species to bring the total to 54. This was pleasing as it was only slightly down on 2008.

Charles Merriam

AUSTRALIA DAY CAMPOUT,
AUGUSTA, 23 – 26 January
With consistent wind the 32 campout members had to work hard for their birds with a total of 113 species sighted. Our excursions covered a variety of habitats including Karri forest, Marri and Jarrah woodland, coastal, estuary, heath and wetlands.

There were many highlights throughout the weekend, beginning with a glimpse of two Swamp Harriers engaging in aerial talon clasping. Near the lighthouse we watched a small flock of bedraggled Rock Parrots enjoying their morning bath. At Mammoth Cave we were treated to views of two Crested Shrike-tits and in the Boranup Forest a very agitated Spotted Pardalote noisily defended its nest hole from our prying eyes. During our boat cruise on the Hardy Inlet a White-bellied Sea-Eagle flew several circuits, displaying its catfish meal for us to appreciate. The cruise coincided with low tide so we were treated to a wide variety of migratory waders on the mud flats.

The campout members performed several surveys of bush sites for the Environmental Research Group Augusta. This group is endeavouring to have these areas protected. Pam and George Agar are collating the data.

Many thanks to Les Hogben and to John Graff for an enjoyable weekend.

Sandra Hogben

NORTH LAKE, 24 January
Eighteen members and visitors set out at 7:30 am for the walk around this practically dry lake. The number of waterbirds seen was relatively low. Notable ‘no shows’ included Brown Honeyeater, Yellow-rumped Thornbill and Dusky Moorhen. The ‘best’ birds recorded on the walk were two raptors — an Australian Hobby and a pair of Nankeen Kestrels. In my previous 309 survey walks around North Lake over a 30-year period, I only recorded a kestrel on six occasions.

A feature throughout the walk was numerous groups of Rainbow Bee-eaters. There were some juveniles not far from an empty tunnel nest near the SE bush section and this was an indication that the sole bee-eater nesting attempt at the lake was probably successful.

Due to the chance of seeing the recently reported Radjah Shelduck we moved to Bibra Lake (but we didn’t see it) for the bird call and a total of 36 species were recorded. This was a relatively disappointing total, as when the lake used to have water during the summer a total in the vicinity of 50 species would be expected.

The low point of the walk was seeing an Australian White Ibis that had got badly stuck in the mud along the eastern side of the lake. Native Arc along Hope Road were informed about this and a couple of weeks later advised the rescue attempt had been very muddied and difficult, but eventually they were successful. Native Arc does an excellent job in rescuing and rehabilitating injured birds and other wildlife and are heavily dependent upon public donations, and any financial or other support that could be provided to the centre would be most welcomed and appreciated.

Wynton Maddeford

PEEL INLET AT BOGGY BAY, 30 January
The planned walk at Lake McLarty had to be moved as the lake was already dry, so Mike Craig led the group of 18 birders on an alternative walk around the Boggy Bay area of Peel Inlet — an area of that BAWA rarely visits on organised walks. The diversity of birds was lower than hoped, but we did have a chance to compare some of the commoner wader species such as Common Greenshank, Red-necked Stint and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. There were also several large flocks of Banded Stilt, numbering many thousands of birds, present on the estuary, although sadly almost all of them were too far away for good viewing. In the end, we recorded 40 species for the day. Many thanks go to Mike for leading the walk and sharing some of his wader expertise with the group.

John Graff

PEEL INLET, 7 February
Eleven members and two international guests met early at Erskine Lakes, Mandurah, for the combined excursion and Shorebirds 2020 wader count. At Erskine and Samphire Cove
Excursion reports, ctd

71 species were seen with the highlight being a Barn Owl at Sampshire Cove in full view only three metres from the path. After lunch some of the group went onto Coodanup and added Terek Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint bringing the day’s total to 73 species.

Robyn Pickering

CANNING RIVER REGIONAL PARK, WILSON, 18 February

Sixteen, including four new members, plus one visitor turned out on a pleasant morning to wander around the Loop Walk.

The usual waterbirds were present and the Mistletoebirds very vocal. Bird numbers were down (seasonal?) although we did come across two Australasian Darters nesting, one male brooding and another male feeding two large chicks.

After morning tea those of us left wandered across to Wilson Park Lagoon to add to the overall bird list. The Loop Walk produced 49 species and at the Lagoon we added six species making a respectable 55 species for the morning.

George Agar

WIRELESS HILL and ALFRED COVE, 21 February

A small flock of Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos greeted the 32 people who met at Wireless Hill for a pleasant walk under the guidance of Alan Galbraith. As the group was relatively large, we split into two and walked the loop in opposite directions. Both groups saw similar species, with most of the local specialities like White-cheeked Honeyeater and Western Wattlebird showing well, along with several Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters which had recently re-appeared in the park.

Most of the group continued on to Alfred Cove where a good variety of waders and waterbirds were recorded. Highlights included the local Eastern Osprey, a Great Crested Grebe, Bartailed Godwit, a Whimbrel and a lone Banded Stilt. A mixed flock of Red and Great Knot feeding quite close to shore also provided a good opportunity to compare these species side by side. We recorded 28 species at Wireless Hill and 52 at Alfred Cove to take the morning total to an excellent 65 species. Many thanks to Alan Galbraith for leading this walk.

John Graff

BUSSELTON CAMPOUT, 27 Feb–1 March

The Labour Day long weekend campout was held at Busselton during a heat wave and although it was four degrees cooler than Perth, it was still challenging weather for the 22 people attending.

At the Ambargete Reserve we walked the 4 km track through the reserve with the highlights being good views of Dusky and Black-faced Woodswallow, Elegant, Red-capped and Ring-necked Parrot, Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, White-winged Triller, Little and Wedge-tailed Eagle. Brown Quail were seen by many in the group and Purple-crowned Lorikeets flew over. A total of 40 species were seen.

The Vasse Wonnerup Estuary had dried out somewhat and there were few migratory waders. The highlights were a Ruff at Wonnerup and 1500 Black-winged and Banded Stilt with a group of Red-necked Avocet further away at Vasse Estuary.

A trip to Gracetown and a walk up the creek was disappointing though White-breasted Robin was seen well and Red-winged Fairy-wren glimpsed. Our final walk was back at the sewerage works where we had a better look at some of the settling ponds finding many Spotted and Spotless Crakes, a Baillon’s Crane, Buff-breasted Rail, Wood and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. A Spotted Harrier, which is at the southern edge of its distribution, was seen as we were leaving. A feast of birds for the end of the campout thanks to David Secomb. We saw a total of 123 species on the weekend.

Sue Abbotts

PEEL INLET AT SOUTH YUNDERUP, 7 March

Few of the 15 people who attended this walk are likely to forget it in a hurry, although unfortunately probably not for the birds! We visited the eastern side of Peel Inlet at South Yunderup, as Lake McLarty was dry. Four Long-toed Stints in amongst the numerous Red-necked Stints were an early highlight, and other interesting sightings included a lone Banded Stilt, a small flock of Red-necked Avocet and some distant Little Egret.

However, as the birding was proving relatively quiet, the decision was made to turn back and perhaps try our luck somewhere else. Unfortunately, as we tried to cut back to dry land, the walk descended into chaos as most of the group found themselves stuck in an area of particularly deep and sticky mud! Eventually everyone made it out, albeit most a touch muddier than they went in, but several boots and a pair of sunglasses were not so lucky (see photo, page 38!)

We did manage a respectable 54 species for the day, with some of the less muddy birders visiting Coodanup and Nairn to add a few extra species. Many thanks to Alan Collins for his co-leadership, and to all the participants for doing their best to retain their good humour despite the mud!

John Graff

HERDSMAN’S LAKE, FLOREAT LAKES FROM PONY CLUB, 13 March

Thirty-four members and visitors enjoyed the welcome cooler weather for their walk. People unfamiliar with the area were surprised that there were still lakes with water in them at this time of the year. It was noted that in several areas the Typha had been inundated for some time and had “drowned”, leaving a good area for waders and crakes. The water levels had dropped, leaving sandy beaches for the waders. Several waders were seen with the Red-kneed Dotterel being the most exciting. Common Greenshank, Black-winged Stilt and Black-
fronted Dotterel were also seen. Most of the ducks, Buff-banded Rail and Spotless Crake were seen. A Little Egret and an Eastern Great Egret were foraging together which gave us a marvellous opportunity to compare size and giz. Australian White Ibis and Yellow-billed Spoonbills were constantly flying over. Straw-necked Ibis, a juvenile Nankeen Night–Heron, and a couple of Glossy Ibis were seen.

Many bushbirds were seen in the car park as we arrived. Cloudy conditions appeared to favour the insect eaters. Many of the usual honeyeaters were in the flowering melaleucas. An Australian Reed-warbler caused some confusion by being up a tree and not in the reeds!

We had had such a good walk, enjoyed each other’s company and the 73 birds that we did see. It just left us with something to look forward to and that’s birding!

Claire Gerrish

BOLD PARK, CAMBRIDGE, 18 March

On a clear autumn morning 15 keen birders enjoyed a pleasant walk around the park which started off with a flurry of birds and then quietened down as we got higher up the hill.

The most common species seen was the Rainbow Lorikeet, inspecting or popping out of every hollow, five species of honeyeater, and four parrot / cockatoo species. The highlight was five raptor species: a pair of Brown Goshawk doing aerial display flights and a pair of Little Eagle chasing each other, with the other species being Whistling Kite, Australian Hobby and Peregrine Falcon.

All up a total of 29 species were observed and the best part was the cup of tea at the end.

George and Pam Agar

BIBRA LAKE, 27 March

On a cool morning 15 members enjoyed a walk around an almost dry Bibra Lake. There was enough water for 21 species of waterbird including the now famous Radjah Shelduck. Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos flew by several times and 45 Carnaby’s Black-Cockatoos feeding and calling at the start of the walk was wonderful. The highlight was close and open views of an Australian Hobby sitting very peacefully at eye level near the boardwalk. The four other raptors seen were Black-shouldered Kite, Whistling Kite, Nankeen Kestrel and Wedge-tailed Eagle. A total of 61 species were seen.

Robyn Pickering

HOLLETON CAMPOUT, Easter, 2–5 April

BAWA’s Easter campout to Holleton, an abandoned gold mining town in the eastern wheatbelt, also included a day trip to some of the area’s granite outcrops. At the Mount Hampton Nature Reserve, the campers found Western Yellow Robin and Blue-breasted Fairy-wren. The total number of bird species seen for the Holleton bush block, the reserves and the areas in between was 62, a good tally in dry times where the only waterbirds to be found were a couple of ducks on a few dams. (See photos, page 38.)

Cheryl Gole

RAY MARSHALL PARK, 4 April

Twelve people, including three non-members, attended this excursion on an overcast day with the occasional light shower.

Forty-five species were observed, with the number of waterbird species slightly down from when I was there three weeks prior. Could this have something to do with the rain Perth had before Easter, with the resultant large flow of fresh water in the Swan River from the Avon River some days before?

An interesting observation was a very pale coloured Galah, compared to the remaining flock. Has anyone suggestions as to what may have caused this? Whilst it was pink and grey in the right areas, it was very pale.

My thanks to all those who attended this pleasant walk along the Swan River.

Max Howard

WOODMAN POINT, 10 April

A group of 28 birders met at Woodman Point to observe the annual northward migration of jaegers. Weather conditions were not ideal for jaeger observations, but most people had good views of a number of light and dark morph Arctic Jaegers, some harassing the Silver Gulls flying to the mainland from Carnac Island. One or two people were also lucky enough to pick out one or two Pomarine Jaegers. Other birding highlights were a Ruddy Turnstone in full breeding plumage and an Eastern Reef Egret. All together 29 species were recorded for the day. Many thanks to John Darnell, who was on hand to share his considerable expertise on these difficult-to-identify birds.

Sue Abbotts

John Graff
Carlos and Sandy Ruiz-Avila have just completed their stint at Eyre and are followed by Roger and Cheryl McCallum who are returning for a second turn. George and Anne McKay, who will be caretakers from July to October, will present a new course in September on “Furry Friends.” George has had a great deal of experience in studying mammals. He writes: The land around the EBO is a potential home to about 14 species of native mammals and four introduced species. The Southern Ocean has many more visitors in the form of whales and seals. Over the week we will attempt to see, or at least detect, as many of these as we can.

The “Techniques in Bird Studies” course is always fully booked and we hope that “Furry Friends” will be too as they are of a similar nature – finding out how to study animals in the wild.

Management has purchased a digital projector and laptop to enable visiting scientists to show their work while at Eyre. As well as being an educational tool it will be used to instruct new caretakers. The funds for this were donated by our “Friends of Eyre”. Rod Smith from the educational group has produced four programs for us to begin with and we will develop more as we go. Thanks, Rod.

Work on an updated website is continuing. We hope to have it up and running soon. Last term our electrical and solar systems were checked, this term the water supply was tested by Pathwest and passed without problems.

Earlier this year we were desperate for short term caretakers to fill a gap left on the roster through illness. We are pleased to report that five applications to fill the slot were received through advertisements on BA E-news. We now have a longer list of volunteers. Our future caretaker roster is looking good and we are taking applications for 2014. Should you wish to caretake at some time, record your interest now as the roster fills up fast. We also keep a list of people willing to fill in at short notice should a rostered caretaker be unable to come.

See our website for further details of activities, sightings and courses available this year www.eyrebirds.org

Alma de Rebeira  
Chair, Eyre Management Committee

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS COURSES COMING UP

FURRY FRIENDS

5th – 10th Sept 2010 inclusive — facilitated by George & Anne McKay. Cost $560

“The land around the EBO is a potential home to about 14 species of native mammals and 4 introduced species. The Southern Ocean has many more visitors in the form of whales and seals. Over the week we will attempt to see, or at least detect, as many of these as we can. The main aim of this course is to give a basic understanding of the techniques used to study mammals in the wild and to monitor mammal populations. This course will give you practical experience in the design, operation and analysis of a survey of the mammal fauna of any particular area.”

Drift lines and pit traps will be set. The new Pygmy Possum tubes will be erected and existing tubes monitored. Time will also be spent looking at bats around the observatory.

FIELD TECHNIQUES IN BIRD STUDIES

28th November – 3rd December 2010 inclusive—facilitated by Stephen Davies

One of our longest running courses and always well attended. On this course you learn a variety of methods to study birds and be introduced to a range of census techniques. You will also be assisted with bird identification skills, encouraged to participate in bird banding and take part in on-going recording procedures at the observatory. Course limited to 8 participants. This course is always fully booked so be quick.

RESEARCH – COURSE REPORT

COASTCARE DUNE RESTORATION — 14th March to 19th March 2010

Participants: George Agar (Leader), Pam Agar, Henny Knight, Martin Knight

Motive: The Eyre Bird Observatory, through Birds Australia WA, received a grant from Coastcare to help/encourage people to participate in a project to revegetate the sand dunes threatening the old Telegraph Station at Eyre by subsidising a portion of their travel expenses and covering all their accommodation costs at Eyre.

Objectives: To collect seaweed along the beach and spread on Irene’s Peak in such a way as to minimise sand drift which could eventually cover the telegraph station.

Observations: Although there was quite a bit of seaweed around it was in scattered patches. The system of two people staying back and stockpiling the weed on the beach while the other two took the load and spread it on the dunes appears to suit everybody. One morning after morning tea was set aside to participate in the beach count.

Summary of work done: Area covered with seaweed was approximately ¾ acre

Vehicle usage ......................................................... 121 km
Total loads of seaweed ......................................... 16
Number of participants .......................................... 4
Total people hours worked ................................. 78 hours

Pam Agar
Important note re campouts

Members anticipating attending campouts must notify the BAWA 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.

Saturday 5 to Monday 7 June: Mount Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary Foundation Day campout

This campout is in collaboration with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) who have owned and managed Mt Gibson Station as a wildlife sanctuary since 2001. AWC have been controlling feral animals on the station and monitoring the effects on wildlife.

The turnoff to Mt Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary is 74 km north-east of Wubin along the Great Northern Highway heading for Paynes Find. The homestead is 27 km from the main road. Two-wheel-drive vehicles are able to get into the sanctuary, but four-wheel-drives will be needed when moving around. Fill your fuel tank at Wubin. Bring warm clothes and sleeping gear as it gets cold inland at this time of year.

Accommodation: AWC has agreed to waive all camping fees. There is a visitors centre which has five single dongas with two showers/toilets and cooking facilities. Nearby there is a shearing shed with use of the visitor centre facilities. We will camp in this area but there will be no power for the campers.

We plan to carry out surveys in different vegetation types around the station. The bird watching is good for dry land vegetation types around the station. We plan to carry out surveys in different

woodlands. Members have the option of camping at Congelin Dam camp ground or choosing accommodation from the wide range available in Narrogin. (The cottages in Dryandra are already booked out.) The main entrance to Dryandra is on the Wandering/Narrogin Road.

The Congelin Dam camp ground is off the York/Williams Road (just south of the most southerly entrance to Dryandra, at Congelin Dam). Here there are camping bays, toilets and good gas barbecue facilities. A small DEC camping fee will be charged. Check out the DEC noticeboard.

Dryandra is 164 km south-east of Perth and 22 km north-west of Narrogin. There are sign posts on the Albany Highway at North Bannister (turn off to Wandering) and on the Great Southern Highway at Cuballing and at Narrogin.

For those interested, there is a very good guided walk in the Barna Mia small marsupial enclosure. We will be booking with DEC for a Saturday night walk.

The leaders will be at the camp ground from 2:00 pm Friday. Initial briefing will be at 6:00 pm in the campground on Friday evening. It is recommended that those staying in Narrogin organise car sharing for the next two days. Latecomers on Saturday can expect a swing gate at this location. There are good tracks throughout with varied vegetation, including wetland areas that may have some water in them if we get early winter rain. Many bushbirds have been seen including Scarlet Robin, Splendid Fairy-wren, Western Spinebill, White-browed Scrub-wren, Grey Shrike-thrush, Horsfield’s Bronze-Cuckoo, Red-capped Parrot and Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo. Wetland species are also a possibility.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Debbie Walker

Sunday 13 June: Tom Bateman Reserve, Thornlie

Half-day excursion

Meet at 8:00 am beside the playground/sporting complex at the corner of Nicholson and Wilford Roads (car-park entry is off Wilford Road).

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

Thursday 17 June: Kings Park, Perth

PLEASE NOTE: EXCURSION CANCELLED

Saturday 19 June: Flynn Road, Mundaring

Half/Full-day excursion

Meet at 9:00 am at the corner of Flynn Road and Great Eastern Highway, about 10 km past Sawyers Valley or 1 km on the Perth side of The Lakes (the York turnoff). We will look at several areas of Wandroo woodland, where three species of robin are often seen and sometimes Crested Shrike-tit. Wear wellingtons or

Saturday 5 June: Harrisdale Reserve (Jandakot Regional Park), Harrisdale

Half-day excursion

Meet at 8:30 am opposite Carey Baptist College on Wright Road, Harrisdale.

Saturday 5 to Monday 7 June: Dryandra Woodland State Forest Foundation Day campout

Dryandra is one of the most important remnant reserves in the wheatbelt and has mostly birds typical of the wheatbelt

Leaders: John and Ruth Luyer and Pam and George Agar

Important note re campouts

Members anticipating attending campouts must notify the BAWA 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.

Saturday 5 to Monday 7 June: Mount Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary Foundation Day campout

This campout is in collaboration with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) who have owned and managed Mt Gibson Station as a wildlife sanctuary since 2001. AWC have been controlling feral animals on the station and monitoring the effects on wildlife.

The turnoff to Mt Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary is 74 km north-east of Wubin along the Great Northern Highway heading for Paynes Find. The homestead is 27 km from the main road. Two-wheel-drive vehicles are able to get into the sanctuary, but four-wheel-drives will be needed when moving around. Fill your fuel tank at Wubin. Bring warm clothes and sleeping gear as it gets cold inland at this time of year.

Accommodation: AWC has agreed to waive all camping fees. There is a visitors centre which has five single dongas with two showers/toilets and cooking facilities. Nearby there is a shearing shed with use of the visitor centre facilities. We will camp in this area but there will be no power for the campers.

We plan to carry out surveys in different vegetation types around the station. The bird watching is good for dry land species such as Southern Scrub-robin, Chestnut and Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush, Mulga and Bourke’s Parrot, honeyeaters, Redthroat and Mallee-fowl.

Numbers will be limited so please call the BA office on 9383 7749 to put your name on the list. Bookings for the dongas will also be taken at the BAWA office.

For members and guests only.

Leaders: John and Ruth Luyer and Pam and George Agar

Saturday 5 to Monday 7 June: Dryandra Woodland State Forest Foundation Day campout

Dryandra is one of the most important remnant reserves in the wheatbelt and has mostly birds typical of the wheatbelt

This reserve is fenced but has a swing gate at this location. There are good tracks throughout with varied vegetation, including wetland areas that may have some water in them if we get early winter rain. Many bushbirds have been seen including Scarlet Robin, Splendid Fairy-wren, Western Spinebill, White-browed Scrub-wren, Grey Shrike-thrush, Horsfield’s Bronze-Cuckoo, Red-capped Parrot and Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo. Wetland species are also a possibility.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Debbie Walker

Sunday 13 June: Tom Bateman Reserve, Thornlie

Half-day excursion

Meet at 8:00 am beside the playground/sporting complex at the corner of Nicholson and Wilford Roads (car-park entry is off Wilford Road).

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

Thursday 17 June: Kings Park, Perth

PLEASE NOTE: EXCURSION CANCELLED

Saturday 19 June: Flynn Road, Mundaring

Half/Full-day excursion

Meet at 9:00 am at the corner of Flynn Road and Great Eastern Highway, about 10 km past Sawyers Valley or 1 km on the Perth side of The Lakes (the York turnoff). We will look at several areas of Wandroo woodland, where three species of robin are often seen and sometimes Crested Shrike-tit. Wear wellingtons or
other boots as we shall cross water. Bring morning tea that you can carry. Bring lunch if you would like to continue with us at a further area nearby.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Charles Merriam

Sunday 27 June: Gleneagles Rest Area
Half-day excursion
Meet at 8:00 am at the Gleneagles Rest Area approximately 25 km down Albany Highway from Armadale. We will look for Western Yellow Robin, Red-winged Fairy-wren, Western Spinebill and Western Wattlebird. After morning tea, we will look on the other side of the highway for Scarlet Robin, Western Thornbill and possibly Rufous Treecreeper.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Frank O’Connor

Monday 28 June: Bold Park Eco Centre, Perry Lakes Dr, Floreat
Meeting, 7:30 pm
Graham Bown of the Perth Zoo will give an illustrated talk on the collection of birds (largely Australian) held in the Zoo.

Saturday 3 July: Piesse Brook, Kalamunda
Half-day excursion
Meet at 9:00 am at the junction of Hummerston Road and Schipp Road at the southern end of Kalamunda National Park. Take Mundaring Weir Road from Kalamunda, and turn left into Hummerston Road. We should see Golden and Rufous Whistler, birds of prey and other bushbirds in a lovely valley.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Stella Stewart-Wynne

Thursday 8 July: Eric Singleton Bird Reserve, Bayswater
Half-day excursion
Meet at 8:30 am in the car park on Bellevue Street. Travelling away from the city on Guilford Road, turn right at Garratt Road and then left at Williamson Street and right at Leake Street. Follow Leake Street until it terminates at the car park. We will walk around the main lake in the bird sanctuary and should see a variety of waterbirds.

For members and the general public.

Leader: John Graff

Sunday 11 July: Lake Joondalup, Joondalup
Half-day excursion
Meet at 8:00 am at Neil Hawkins Park, in the car park at the end of Boas Avenue.
There are always lots of waterbirds and bushbirds to be seen around this large lake. Bring your telescope if you have one.

For members and the general public.

Leader: Andrew Hobbs

Friday 16 July and Saturday 17 July: Joint campout/excursion with Men of the Trees and BAWA at York
Friday 16 July, York Tree planting event
Men of the Trees Inc (MOTT WA) is a not for profit organisation dedicated to revegetating the state of WA. For the past 5 years, MOTT have been working on a property at York to plant 5000 mixed native seedlings annually. The seedlings are helping to restore the biodiversity of the area as well as controlling water erosion and water logging.

MOTT WA will again be planting at the property and wish to invite members from BAWA to join us. There will again be 5000 mixed native seedlings ranging from Eucalypt tree species to smaller shrubs to entice fauna life back to the area once established. There could also be a unique opportunity to see if any birds have returned to past revegetated areas on the property.

For further enquiries on this planting event please do not hesitate to call Erin Lee on 9274 4842 or mottplanting@iinet.net.au.

You must register your interest at the BAWA office on 9383 7749 for details of when and where to meet.

York has many accommodation options including the caravan park at 2 Eighth Street on 9641 1421.

Saturday 17 July, York
Half-day excursion
Meet at 8:15 am in York, next to the Gull Service Station at the corner of Avon Terrace and Great Southern Highway. We will visit One Mile Pool and Golf Links Reserve and then onto Dell’s Reserve. Rufous Treecreeper, Scarlet and Red-capped Robins as well as many other birds have been seen here.

The excursion finishes at lunch time but bring a picnic to have at the last venue.

For members and guests only.

Leaders: Cheryl and Alan Warburton
Weekend Coordinator: Sue Abbotts 9444 1607

Monday 26 July: Bold Park Eco Centre, Perry Lakes Dr, Floreat
Meeting, 7:30 pm
Dr Nic Dunlop of the Conservation Council will give an illustrated talk entitled “Bush canaries at Esperance”, examining lead contamination in feathers. This relates to the recent outbreak of lead contamination in Esperance and its effect on the district’s birds.

Friday 30 July to Sunday 1 August: Western Flora via Eneabba Campout
Western Flora is situated 22 km north of Eneabba and some 300 km from Perth on the Brand Highway. BAWA has not previously held a campout at Western Flora This unique privately owned property is renowned for its stunning wildflowers and enlightened proprietors. There will be wildflowers in bloom and you will have the chance to join one of Allan’s famous wildflower walks. In addition there will be the opportunity to sample the homemade tucker at Lorraine’s Kitchen (highly recommended).

The accommodation options include 3 chalets, 8 twin bed rooms, 3 double rooms, 2 onsite caravans plus plenty of caravan and camping sites. There is an undercover barbecue area and a well equipped camp kitchen. It will be early in the wildflower season so you will need to book with Western Flora directly as soon as possible — mentioning that you are part of the Birds Australia contingent.

Western Flora’s telephone number is 9955 2030, email wfloracy@activ8.net.au, website: http://members.westnet.com.au/westernflora.tinker/

The campout will begin with a briefing on Friday 30 at 2:30 pm followed by a walk to the Arrowsmith River bringing in time, if wished, to join the wildflower walk and/or have a meal at Lorraine’s Kitchen (NB: Please book for these directly with Western Flora at least two weeks in advance). Saturday will involve a day trip exploring local heathlands, woodlands and wetlands, returning to camp mid-afternoon. After bird call we’ll get together for a barbecue which can be provided by Western Flora (also requiring two weeks booking ahead) or self-catered. Sunday will involve surveys for seabirds here, and may go on to Woodman Point. Bring your telescope if you have one.

For members and guests only.

Leaders: Michael Craig and John Graff
of two sites on the way home with the campout ending after lunch.
Please also register your intention to attend at the BAWA office on 9383 7749.
Members and guests only.
Leaders: Darryl James, Carol Lacroix and Maris Lavea

Saturday 31 July to 15 August: 2010 Rangelands surveys
Woolgorong and Muggon in the Murchison. See Notices p.23.

Saturday 31 July and Sunday 1 August: Albany pelagic
Meet at Emu Point Boat Harbour, Albany at 6:45 am for a 7:00 am departure. We will travel off-shore to the edge of the shelf looking for seabirds: albatross, petrels and shearwaters, returning at around 4:00 pm.
There is a limit of 18 people for the boat and if we get enough people we will run trips on both days. The cost will depend on the number of people, $150 if there are 18 people and $180 if there are 15. Bring your binoculars, camera and lunch.
Book by contacting Alan Collins on alaninoz@iinet.net.au or 9291 4219.
Leader: Alan Collins

Sunday 1 August: Mokine Nature Reserve, Northam
Full day excursion
Meet at 8.30 am on Leavers Road just east of Wambyn Road. Travel along Great Eastern Highway to The Lakes turnoff to York. Travel about 28 km along the Great Southern Highway and turn left into Wambyn Road. Follow this to the T-junction and turn right into Leavers Road. We will meet near the corner of Leavers and Wambyn roads and then drive as a group to Mokine Nature Reserve. There should be a good variety of bushbirds.
After lunch we may stop at another reserve on Wambyn Road.
For members and guests only.
Leader: Robyn Pickering

Saturday 7 August: Pipidinny Road, Eglinton
Full-day excursion
Meet at 8:30 am on the corner of Wanneroo Road and Pipidinny Road, about an hour’s drive from Perth. We will look at four habitats during the day: coastal dunes for Variegated Fairy-wren, White-winged Fairy-wren, White-backed Swallow; the heath for Tawny-crowned and White-cheeked Honeyeater; and the swamp for waterfowl.
For members and the general public.
Leader: Sue Abbotts

Sunday 8 August: Pelagic Trip, Hillarys Boat Harbour
This is your chance to see albatross and petrels close up. Bring your camera and lunch. The Blue Juice Charters boat leaves at 7:00 am and we return at about 3:30 pm. We will head nearly 60 km offshore to the trench west of Rottnest to look for seabirds and cetaceans. The cost will be $100 if there are 27 people.
You must book by contacting Alan Collins on 9291 4219 or alaninoz@iinet.net.au.
Leader: Alan Collins

Sunday 15 August: Walyunga National Park, Swan
Half day excursion
Meet at 8:30 am in the car park at the end of Walyunga Road (off Great Northern Highway, Upper Swan, near Bungara Pool). Be prepared to pay an entrance fee into the park. The national park lies along the Darling Scarp. The Avon River bounds one part of the planned walk, which includes good areas of Wandoo, so we should see an excellent variety of birds. This walk finishes at about lunch time so bring lunch if you wish.
For members and guests only.
Leader: Clive Nealon

Monday 16 August: Paganoni Swamp, Karnup
Half or full day excursion
Meet at 8.30 am on Paganoni Road at the Mandurah Road end, near the rail bridge and rail gate. Access is via Mandurah Road onto Paganoni Road or the new Kwinana Freeway extension onto Paganoni Road. Parking is along Paganoni Road.
We will be walking approximately 3 km through threatened woodlands where Western Yellow Robins and Grey Currawong among many others have been seen.
For members and general public.
Leader: Mary Vaughan (95293285)

Saturday 21 August: 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 to the Toodyay/O’Brien Roads turnoff.
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: Robyn Pickering and Alan Galbraith

Monday 23 August: Bold Park Eco Centre, Perry Lakes Dr, Floreat
Meeting, 7:30 pm
Wayne Merritt, a member, will give an illustrated talk describing birds seen on a recent trip to southern Africa.

Thursday 26 August: Little Rush Lake, Yangebup
Half-day excursion
Meet at 8:30 am near the playground on the western side of this small wooded lake. Little Rush Lake is part of the Beeliar Regional Park. Turn off North Lake Road into Osprey Drive, right into Dotterel Way, then right into Grassbird Loop. There is a path around the lake, and we should see plenty of waterbirds and bushbirds. Bring morning tea.
For members and the general public.
Leaders: John and Ruth Luyer

Sunday 29 August: Bakers Hill Zoo Reserve, Northam Shire
Full day excursion
Meet at 8:15 am at the corner of Bakers Hill Road, off the Great Northern Highway, near Bakers Hill. For people coming from Perth turn right onto Berrybrow Road from Great Eastern Hwy in the Bakers Hill townsite, just as you enter the townsite. This is a property of 820 acres of bushland which has been left to the Perth Zoo, and they would like surveys carried out. Please bring any radios, and GPS units.
For members and guests only.

Sunday 5 September: Wungong Gorge
Half-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.
August

Kenya Wildlife - 15 Day Accommodated Tour
For sheer weight of number and species of animals and birdlife, the East African wildlife reserves are arguably the world's best and most rewarding. The open grasslands offer excellent game spotting opportunities and the phenomena of the annual migration of wild beast and the zebra through both countries and across the Mara River is one of the world's most remarkable sights.

Western Explorer - 15 Day Walking/Camping Tour
Designed to coincide with the northern wildflower season, this tour provides the opportunity to explore the Kennedy Ranges, Mt Augustus & the Karijini National Park on foot. The gorges and mountains of Karijini, the aboriginal art, breathtaking views, a swim in Cattle Pool at Mt Augustus and the spectacular gorges of the Kennedy Ranges combine to provide an experience that is truly unforgettable.

Rudall River National Park - 15 Day Camping Tour
Join a small group on this exciting trip to the harsh, yet beautiful Rudall River National Park. See arid zone wildflowers, birds and breathtaking outback scenery. During your time in this remote area you will see many natural wonders including Kalkan Kalkan Soak, Tjingulkatjatjarra Pool and Desert Queen Baths.

South Africa Botany & Wildlife - 15 Day Accom. Safari
Take part in this inspirational journey to this amazing botanical and wildlife destination. This trip offers a once-in-a-lifetime natural history experience.

Carnarvon Range Expedition - 10 Day Camping Tour
This remote area expedition into the south-western portion of the little Sandy Desert offers participants an opportunity to experience the arid zone plants, birds, Aboriginal art and outback scenery.

September

Anne Beadell Hwy Expedition - 20 Day Camping Tour
Experience the South Australian outback and explore the natural, European and Aboriginal history of the region on this fascinating tour. Enjoy the advantages of travelling with a small group and take in the stunning scenery of this unique part of Australia.

Midwest Wildflowers - 10 Day Accommodated Tour
This early wildflower season tour is designed to see the beautiful flowering plants north of Perth at a time when they should be at their best. See spectacular landscapes including the station country around Mt Magnet and Yalgoo and the highlights of the Kalbarri National Park.

October

Borneo Wildlife - 12 Day Accommodated Tour
Explore this magnificent natural history paradise in some of the most magnificent rainforest on earth. Highlights include Mt Kinabalu National Park, the Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre (meet some orang-utans) and Borneo Rainforest Lodge - home to the full range of Sabah's lowland fauna including the rare Sumatran Rhinoceros, Elephants, Clouded Leopards and 257 species of birds.

South West Birds & Botany - 15 Day Accom. Tour
The South West offers breathtaking beauty and diversity. The region is renowned for its spectacular wildflowers - a colourful scene during the spring months with an abundance of birdlife.

Galapagos & Ecuador - 16 Day Accommodated Tour
Discover the Galapagos Islands on an eight-day cruise on board the luxury Galapagos Explorer II. Then experience the magnificent Amazon rainforest - one of the most biologically diverse areas on earth. The combination of spectacular scenery, extraordinary wildlife and fascinating history and culture makes this a trip to add to your must-do list!

November

Lord Howe Island - 8 Day Accommodated Tour
Enjoy this breathtakingly beautiful island - it's one of the world's most fascinating natural history destinations. The island was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1982 to protect its outstanding natural wonders. Host to a range of tropical and temperate marine life, the island is also a haven for sea bird colonies.

Cocos & Christmas Islands - 11 Day Accom. Tour
Spend some time on Christmas Island, a naturalist's paradise. Our lucky participants have sighted many bird species that are new to Australia, which have been added to the island's bird list. Your tour is timed to coincide with the migration of the Christmas Island red crabs, lauded by Sir David Attenborough as one of the world's greatest wildlife spectacles. After exploring Christmas Island you will visit some of the islands that make up the Cocos group, which are notable for their diverse bird and marine life.

December

Abrolhos Islands New Year - 6 Day Accom. Tour
Enjoy the company of other nature enthusiasts as you celebrate New Year’s Eve on board the luxury vessel Oceania. The Houtman Abrolhos is an archipelago of 105 islands and rocks renowned for their fascinating history and abundance of wildlife. They are also a breeding ground for a variety of sea birds. Our tour is scheduled to coincide with the breeding season when tens of thousands of birds can be observed at close quarters. A must for bird watchers!

For more information, contact Tom or Sylvia at COATES WILDLIFE TOURS
Phone: (08) 9330 6066
Web: www.coateswildlifetours.com.au
Email: coates@tiinet.net.au

GSA Coates Tours Licence no 9141155/56
Coming events, ctd

including Red-eared Firetail, White-breasted Robin and Red-winged Fairy-wren.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Steve Burns

Saturday 11 September: Lightning Swamp, Noranda
Half-day excursion

Meet at 8.00 am at the gate in the south east corner of the bushland, on Della Road. Lightning Swamp, part of Noranda Open Space, is an area of seasonal wetlands and bankia woodland. The area supports some waterbirds and the bushland supports some species that are uncommon in smaller reserves, such as Western Thornbill, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater and Red-capped Robin. Some areas will be restricted due to the presence of dieback.

For members and the general public.

Leader: Maris Lauva

Sunday 12 September: Pelagic Trip, Hillarys Boat Harbour

This is your chance to see albatross and petrel close up. Bring your camera and lunch. The Blue Juice Charters boat leaves at 7.00 am and we return at about 3:30 pm. We will head nearly 60 km offshore to the trench west of Rottnest to look for seabirds and cetaceans. The cost will be $100 if there are 27 people.

You must book by contacting Alan Collins on 9291 4219 or alaninoz@iinet.net.au.

Leader: Alan Collins

Thursday 16 September: Lake Claremont, Swanbourne
Half-day excursion

Meet at 9:30 am at the northern end of Stirling Road, Claremont. We will look for waterbirds and bushbirds around this pleasant suburban lake.

For members and the general public.

Leader: David Free

Saturday 18 September: Karakamia Sanctuary, Chidlow
Half-day excursion including BBQ

Meet at 8:30 am at the car park for the Visitors’ 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 Northcoate 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 Visitors’ Centre. Allow for one hour to drive from Perth city. Karakamia is owned by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC). We will carry out some bird surveys and there may be rare mammals about, too. AWC members will be joining us and a sausage sizzle lunch will be provided.

For members and guests only

Leader: Max Howard

Friday 24 to Monday 27 September: Jaurdi State Forest, Shire of Coolgardie
Long weekend campout

Jaurdi Station is a good birding area due to excellent diversity of landforms and vegetation. Ninety six species have been recorded, mostly during BAWA visits. Some specialties include Gilbert’s Whistler, nesting Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Redthroat, Peregrine Falcon, Major Mitchell’s Cockatoo, Ground Cuckoo-shrike and Southern Scrub-robin.

We will meet at the station on the evening of Friday 24 September. Travel on the Great Eastern Highway to Yellowdine. This is the last fuel stop and please fill there. Travel 65 km further east to Boorabbin townsite (deserted but signed). Turn north for approximately 48 km to the rail crossing. Cross the line and continue north for about 1 km where a sign will direct left to the campsite If towing a longer caravan contact the leader, Clive Napier, for alternate directions.

There are three shearers’ rooms each with two camp beds and a large machinery shed/shearing shed which can be used for camping. The rooms can be booked but please make your own arrangements so that each room is fully utilised. There is abundant space for tents and caravans. The shearsers’ kitchen is available for cooking and a bathroom with hot and cold water is available. Toilet facilities are also there.

Numbers will be limited to 30 members only so book early.

Members and guests only.

Leaders: Clive and Wendy Napier

Saturday 25 September: Wellard Wetlands, Baldivis
Half-day excursion

Meet at 8:00 am at the entrance to Wellard Wetlands on the northern side of Zigzag Road, 1 km from St Albans Road. Coming from Perth, turn left off the freeway into Mundijong Road, then right into St Albans Road. There should be plenty of bushbirds and waterbirds here, as well as several species of raptors.

For members and guests only.

Leader: Charles Merriam

New members

The following people joined Birds Australia between 1 February and 30 April 2010. We look forward to meeting you at our excursions and general meetings:


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 clear 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.

When emailing photos, please send them separately and not embedded in Word documents.
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 Tel 9293 4958, e-mail cgolet@westnet.com.au
- **Monthly meeting speakers** — contact Brian Wilson Tel 9293 1094
- **Excursion leaders** — contact Sue Abbotts Tel 9444 1607, e-mail suechat@bigpond.net.au
- **Card sales** — contact Beryl Walker Tel 9397 6887, e-mail bemwalk@hotmail.com
- **Office volunteer** — contact Beryl Walker Tel 9397 6887, e-mail bemwalk@hotmail.com
- **Fundraising** — contact Bruce Haynes Tel 9384 7426, e-mail b.haynes@pesa.org.au
- **Stirling Range Retreat — Spring 2010 program** — to register your interest in being the organiser or a guide, or in getting more information, contact Clive Nealon e-mail clivenealon@bigpond.com or by phone on 9448 5921.

Birds Australia Western Australia

Office: Peregrine House
167 Perry Lakes Drive, Floreat WA 6014

Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30 am to 12.30 pm
Telephone: (08) 9383 7749
Facsimile: (08) 9387 8412
E-mail: suechat@bigpond.net.au

Birds Australia WA web page: birdswa.com.au

Chairman:
Dr Bruce Haynes
11 Shenton Road, Claremont WA 6010
Tel: (08) 9384 7426
E-mail: b.haynes@ecu.edu.au

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

Suzanne Mather
Tel: (08) 9389 6416
E-mail: suzannemather@bigpond.com

Production:
Margaret Phillipson

Distribution:
Rod Smith

Notes for Contributors

The Editors request contributors to note:

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

September 2010 issue: 1 August
December 2010 issue: 1 November
March 2011 issue: 1 February
June 2011 issue: 1 May

Advertising Rates

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

Calendar of events

**Sat 5 to Mon 7 Jun:** Mount Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary: Foundation Day campout
**Sat 5 to Mon 7 Jun:** Dryandra Woodland: State Forest: Foundation Day campout
**Sat 5 Jun:** Harrisdale Reserve (Jandakot Regional Park), Harrisdale (formerly Forrestdale): Half-day excursion
**Sun 13 Jun:** Tom Bateman Reserve, Thornlie: Half-day excursion
**Thu 17 Jun:** Kings Park, Perth: PLEASE NOTE: EXCISION CANCELLED
**Sat 19 Jul:** Flynn Road, Mundaring: Half/Full-day excursion
**Sun 27 Jun:** Glenleagues Rest Area: Half-day excursion
**Mon 28 Jul:** Bold Park Eco Centre, Perry Lakes Dr, Floreat: Meeting, 7.30 pm
**Sat 3 Jul:** Piesse Brook, Kalamunda: Half-day excursion
**Thu 8 Jul:** Eric Singleton Bird Reserve, Bayswater: Half-day excursion
**Sun 11 Jul:** Lake Joondalup, Joondalup: Half-day excursion
**Fri 16 Jul and Sat 17 Jul:** Joint campout/excursion with Men of the Trees and BAWA at York
**Fri 16 Jul:** York: Tree planting event
**Sat 17 Jul:** York: Half-day excursion
**Sat 24 Jul:** North Mole, Fremantle: Half-day excursion
**Mon 26 Jul:** Bold Park Eco Centre, Perry Lakes Dr, Floreat: Meeting, 7.30 pm
**Fri 30 Jul to Sun 1 Aug:** Western Flora via Eneabba: Campout
**Sat 31 Jul to 15 Aug:** 2010 Rangelands surveys, Woolgorgong and Muggon in the Murchison (see Notices)
**Sat 31 Jul and Sun 1 Aug:** Albany pelagic
**Sun 1 Aug:** Mokine Nature Reserve, Northam: Full day excursion
**Sat 7 Aug:** Pipidinny Road, Eglinton: Full-day excursion
**Sun 8 Aug:** Pelagic Trip, Hillarys Boat Harbour
**Sun 15 Aug:** Walyunga National Park, Swan: Half day excursion
**Mon 16 Aug:** Paganoni Swamp, Karnup: Half or full day excursion
**Sat 21 Aug:** Paruna Sanctuary: Full-day excursion including BBQ
**Mon 23 Aug:** Bold Park Eco Centre, Perry Lakes Dr, Floreat: Meeting, 7.30 pm
**Thu 26 Aug:** Little Rush Lake, Yangebup: Half-day excursion
**Sun 29 Aug:** Bakers Hill Zoo Reserve, Northam Shire: Full day excursion
**Sun 5 Sep:** Wungong Gorge: Half-day excursion
**Sat 11 Sep:** Lightning Swamp, Noranda: Half-day excursion
**Sun 12 Sep:** Pelagic Trip, Hillarys Boat Harbour
**Thu 16 Sep:** Lake Claremont, Swanbourne: Half-day excursion
**Sat 18 Sep:** Karakamia Sanctuary, Chidlow: Half-day excursion including BBQ
**Fri 24 Sep 2010 to Mon 27 Sep:** Jaurdi State Forest, Shire of Coolgardie: Long weekend campout
**Sat 25 Sep:** Wellard Wetlands, Baldivis: Half-day excursion
**Sat 11 to Sun 12 Dec:** Twitchathon
Crossword answers
No. 3

ACROSS

DOWN
1. behaviour; 2. beach; 4. Tyto; 5. cat; 6. swan; 7. Cayley; 8. metal; 10. heat; 12. droppings; 13. or; 16. southern; 17. sooty; 20. drake; 22. preen; 23. colony; 24. adult; 26. cluck; 28. pet

Rainbow Bee-eater (see Excursions reports, page 26).
Photo from BAWA Digital Library (Georgina Steytler)

Nankeen Night-Heron (see Members’ contributions, page 20).
Photo: Tom Lind

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

Western Australian Bird Notes
Subscription Form

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

Do you wish to receive Western Australian Bird Notes?
If so, please complete the section below and send the appropriate fee to the national office with your membership application.

Title: First name:

Last name:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone (H): (W):

Email:

WABN subscription rates per annum
(please cross out whichever is inapplicable)

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

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

Payment Details
I enclose a cheque/money order payable to ‘Birds Australia’ OR

Debit my Mastercard □ Visa □

 Signature

Expiry date

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

Post to: Birds Australia Membership
60 Leicester St, Carlton VIC 3053
02/2007
BAWA members in the field

Bird walk, Naranda Springs, Esperance (see BAWA projects, page 11)
Photo: Elsa Dabbs

BAWA’s Easter campout to Holleton see Excursion reports, page 28).
Both photos: Hilary Brooke

Folding the toilet tent by committee. At the BAWA Easter Campout at Holleton, BAWA members camped at the abandoned gold mining town of Holleton, approximately 90 km east of Narembeen. At the end of the campout, the toilet tent was eventually coaxed back into its bag but only after long discussions about hows and whys and wherefores.

South Yunderup chaos (Excursion reports, page 27).
Photo: Kath Lindann
Brown Falcon clutching a Bobtail, Eyre Bird Observatory. 
Photo: Sandy Ruiz-Avila

Juvenile Collared Sparrowhawk, Eyre Bird Observatory. This bird was seen snatching a Silvereye out of the sky as it left the birdbath. 
Photo: Sandy Ruiz-Avila

Two Hooded Plover runners, Ellenbrook Inlet (see BAWA Projects report on page 12). 
Photo: Natalie Bell

Red-winged Fairy-wren (see Excursion reports, page 27). 
Photo: BAWA Digital Library (Georgina Steytler)

Australian Hobby (Little Falcon), Gumnut Reserve, Safety Bay, March 2010. This bird was sharing the tree with a couple of Red-capped Parrots, later joined by some Australian Ringnecks. A similar bird was seen on the ground a couple of days previously, having brought down a Galah. These birds are hard to see except around Herdsman Lake. 
Photo: Malcolm Parr
Photos (clockwise): Red Knot, Banded Stilt, Great Knot, Black-winged Stilt (see Members’ contributions, page 20)

All photos this page: Geoff Taylor