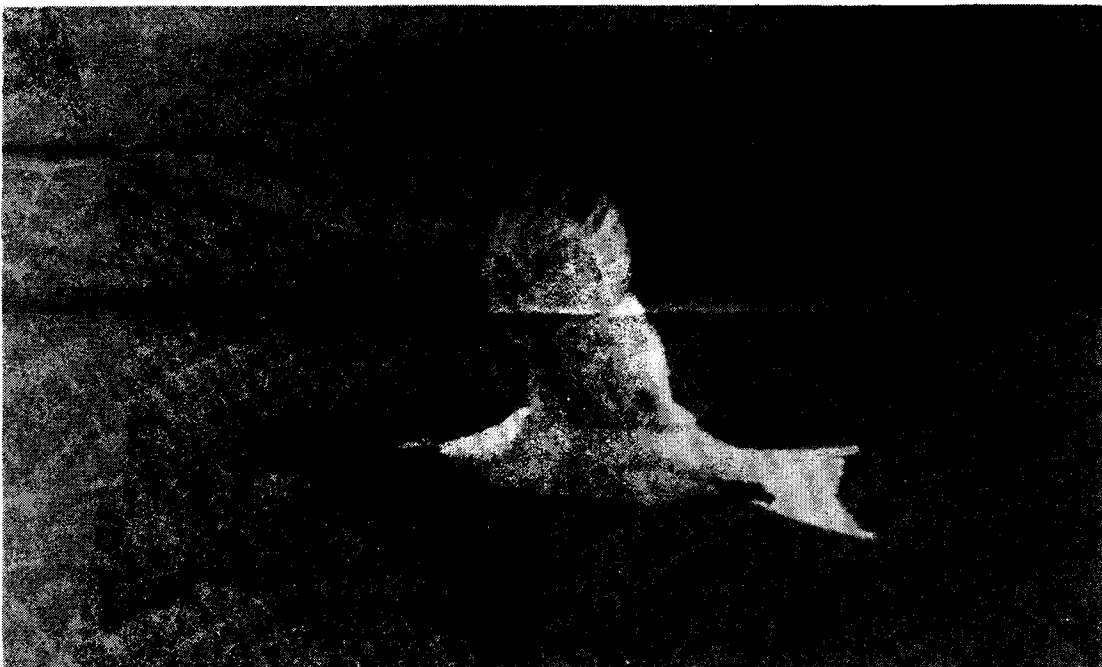


# Western Australian Bird Notes

Quarterly Newsletter of the WA Group  
Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union

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Birding Hotline	(09) 364 7349

## GULL-BILLED TERNS BREEDING IN SOUTH-WEST WA



*Gull-billed tern*

Photo  
Roger Jaensch

The good winter rains of 1988 saw excellent run-off from the mountains of the Stirling Range National Park, with lakes and swamps full.

Arriving at one of the Stirling Range unnamed salt lakes (4 km long) on 26 November 1988 to carry out the November waterfowl count, large numbers of Australian Shelduck, Banded Stilt and four Red-necked Avocet were sighted.

In addition, to my surprise, terns could be seen flying near the lake's edge.

While proceeding around the western side of the lake I focused my binoculars on an approaching tern. I consulted Slater's latest bird book and keyed it out to the Gull-billed Tern.

As I sat amongst the samphire to observe, with the mountains to the north silhouetted against a cloudy sky and water lapping at the lake's edge, two inquisitive emus approached to within 10 metres.

Gull-billed Terns were feeding near the lake's edge and flying over bushland (presumably feeding in farmland not far away) and then returning to alight on a small treeless island in the lake. I concluded they were possibly breeding, but as the sun was sinking I determined to return.

An opportunity arose two days later when Rodney Vervest and a friend John unexpectedly called in. We drove to the lake and waded the 800 metres to the island through thick mud which was covered by 300mm of water and contained large numbers of brine shrimp.

As we approached the island 350 Australian Shelduck arose before settling in the middle of the lake, and 30 metres from the island we disturbed Banded Stilt and 300 Curlew Sandpiper, a magnificent sight with the flash of white wings against the blue mountains of the Stirlings in the background. As we approached we could hear the Gull-billed Terns calling, a good indication that they were breeding.

The island at its eastern half had a covering of dry grasses with a few samphire bush; at the western end very small granite ridges (up to 200mm high) ran in an east-west direction. Between these ridges the nests were located.

Adult Gull-billed Terns continually swooped as we located six nests, three with two eggs and one with three eggs. Equally camouflaged were the three chicks from two nests. The chicks' defence was to take to the water. Three did so and three were rescued, with John walking 100 metres from the island to save one.

As we departed from the island the chicks could be seen re-arranging themselves to their correct nest as adults settled on eggs or chicks.

A total of 16 adult Gull-billed Terns were sighted.

**A. Rose**  
Assistant National Park Ranger

The nests of the Gull-billed Terns were either shallow scrapes in the soil or in depressions in rock. Very little nest material was present and loosely about the nests. Nest material was seen being carried to the site by a Gull-billed Tern.

(Rodney Vervest)

We are indebted to Roger Jaensch for pointing out that the above is only the second report ever of Gull-billed Terns nesting in WA.

The first report, by Roger, is printed in Swans (now Landscape) Vol.13 No.3 October 1983, and describes a nest site at Lake Hinds, discovered by him of 21 nests. It is of interest that the nests differed. Those at Lake Hinds were bowls constructed of weeds and grass by contrast with the Stirling Range nests with

minimal material. In both cases the nests were on an island. Those works consulted give differing accounts of the nest. Beruldsen (1980) p.216 states, "a shallow hollow scratched in sand or earth, surrounded by whatever dry vegetation or flood debris is available in the immediate vicinity".

Pizzey (1980) p.143 writes "Nest: variable—a scrape in sand or soil to a well-made cup of dry twigs and feathers" and Hitchcock (1979) p.211 states "Scanty nest of dry plants". All three comment that nests are usually on an island as in both recorded W.A. cases.

(Ed)

#### References:

Beruldsen, G(1980) *A field guide to the nests and eggs of Australian birds*, Rigby Publishers Ltd, Australia.

Hitchcock, W(1979) in *Readers Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds*, Readers Digest Services Ltd, NSW.

Pizzey, G and Doyle, R(1980) *A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*, Collins, Sydney.

Slater, P(1986) *Slater Field Guide to Australian Birds*, Rigby Publishers, NSW.

*Gull-billed tern nest with eggs*

Photo  
Roger Jaensch



## OBSERVATIONS

Please send details of sightings to 'Observations Officer' at the W.A. Office of the RAOU. Unusual sightings should be accompanied by field notes. Preliminary checking of the following observations has been undertaken but further scrutiny should be given prior to inclusion in any official or technical report.

This list of observations mainly covers the period from November 1988 to January 1989.

Compiled by Roger Jaensch.

### DOWN SOUTH

**Great Crested Grebe** - 2, 17/9/88, Guraga Lake - BBu, ABu \* 1, 30/10/88, Forrestdale Lake - DJ: rare here \* 25 and 4 nests with eggs, 27/11/88, in paperbarks and yates at mouth of

Jerdacuttup River - RJ

**Darter** - 1, on nest with tiny young, in yate tree, 6/12/88, Minvalara Lake (23 km WNW of Bremer Bay) - RV

**Little Black Cormorant** - colony of 50 pairs, in paperbarks and yates, 6/12/88, Minvalara Lake - RV \* 200 pairs breeding at Hilliup Lake (11km ENE of Boxwood Hill), December 1988 - BBu, ABu \* 4 and nest with young, 30/12/88, Gibb Road Swamp (Forrestdale area) - DJ

**Pacific Heron** - breeding recorded (number of breeding pairs in brackets) at the following localities: Hurstview Lake (near Guraga Lake), 17/9/88, (1) - BBu, ABu \* North Bryde Swamp (near Bryde Lake), 21/11/88, (7) - RJ \* Page - Giles Swamp (Magenta Lake dist.) 22/11/88, (1) - RJ \* Coomalbidgup Swamp, 23/11/88, (1) - RJ \* Fields - Griffith Swamp (46km W

of Scaddan), 24/11/88, (3) - RJ \* Yaalup Lagoon (extensive flood), 5/12/88, (6) - RV, RJ \* Gadara Swamp (20km W of Bremer Bay), 24/12/88 (1) - BBu, ABu. Most nests were in living flooded trees, one in a dead tree.

**Great Egret** - 27/11/88, flight paths of numerous adults, in full breeding colours suggested, active breeding colony of 30-50 pairs probably in existence in Culham Inlet - Jerdacuttup Lakes area - RJ \* several nests still with chicks, late January 1989, South Perth Zoo - NH

**Little Egret** - 1, 9/12/88, Alfred Cove - PRH \* 1, 3/1/89, Thomsons Lake - PMo, JH \* 1, Herdsman Lake, 20/1/89 - MO

**Rufous Night Heron** - 250+, December 1988, Hilliup Lake - BBu, ABu

**Little Bittern** - 1, 5/11/88, Thomsons Lake - PCI \* 1 at nest with small young, 26/12/88, Forrestdale Lake - DJ: in bulrush over water 0.55 m deep.

**Australasian Bittern** - 1, 24/11/88, calling in rushland at Mortup Lake (8km W of mouth of Thomas River) - RJ \* 1 calling at Kogolup Lake, 1/12/88 - JH \* 1 seen at Thomsons Lake, 14/1/89 - RAOU excursion.

**Glossy Ibis** - 4, 11/5/88, Thomsons Lake - PCI \* 1, 26/11 - 31/12/88, Kogolup Lake - DJ, BF \* 2, 19/1/89, Chandala Swamp - GA

**Sacred Ibis** - 4, possibly breeding at Hilliup Lake (Bremer district), December 1988 - BBu, ABu \* reported breeding in yate swamp 25km W of Bremer Bay, November 1988 - MBI. These records represent a large (eastward) extension of breeding range for this species.

**Yellow-billed Spoonbill** - breeding recorded (number of breeding pairs in brackets) at the following localities: Parnham's Lake (Bejoording), 22/11/88, (1) - JM, DM \* Barrett-Lennard Lake (Beermullah district), 26/11/88, (1) - BBu, ABu \* Jerdacuttup Lake, 27/11/88, (4) - RJ \* Hilliup Lake, December 1988, (2) - BBu, ABu

**Royal Spoonbill** - 1, 8/1/89, Carine Lake - GS

**Freckled Duck** - 2, 20/11/88, Chittering Lake - BK: 2 males \* 4 and a nest with 6 eggs, 26/11/88, Chandala Swamp - GA: new breeding locality \* 53, 5/12/88, flooded thickets and paddock adjacent Yaalup Lagoon (25km NNE of Ongerup) - RJ, RV \* 3, 1/1/89, Monger Lake - GS

**Chestnut Teal** - 26 males, plus females, and a clutch of large ducklings, 28/11/88, Old Jerramungup pool on Gairdner River - RJ

**Australasian Shoveler** - at nest, Nicholson-Oxley Swamp (SSW of Forrestdale Lake), 3/12/88 - DJ

**Hardhead** - 320, 17/6/88, Thomsons Lake - PCI \* 60 and 5 clutches of young, 20/11/88, swamp at Forrest and Liddelow Roads (Banjup) - DJ, BF \* 8 and nest with 12 eggs, in thicket, mouth of Jerdacuttup River, 27/11/88 - RJ

**Blue-billed Duck** - 250, 17/6/88, Thomsons Lake - PCI \* 5 and clutch of young, 26/11/88, Chandala Swamp - GA: first record of breeding here.

**Osprey** - 2, 26/12/88, Alfred Cove - SHo

**Square-tailed Kite** - 2 at nest with near-fledged young, early January, northern Stirling Ranges - AR \* 1, 27/11/88, Culham Inlet SW margin - RJ \* 1, 11/1/89, near 25 Mile Rocks (N of Norseman) - RJ

**Marsh Harrier** - nest with small young, 14/10/88, Thomsons Lake - DMO

**Peregrine Falcon** - 1, 17/12/88; Punrak Road, Serpentine - DJ, BF \* 1 pursuing Pacific Black Duck, Bodey's Swamp (Wannamal), 20/1/89 - BBu, ABu

**Buff-banded Rail** - 2 with young, Canning River at Riverton Bridge, 14/11/88 - DJ \* adult with 3 young, 4/1/89, Island Point (Harvey Estuary) - BH, RD

**Baillon's Crane** - 3, 29/12/88, Thomsons Lake - PCI

**Australian Crane** - with young, Kalgoorlie and Boulder Sewage Ponds, 16/1/88, GSw

**Spotless Crane** - 2 with young, swamp between Wright Road and Warton Road (Forrestdale), 11/12/88 - DJ

**Purple Swamphen** - 1, 24/11/88, soakage swamp with rush, 28km NE of Esperance - RJ

**Pied Oystercatcher** - 34, 4/1/89, Pelican Point (Swan River) - MB

**Lesser Golden Plover** - 4, 4/12/88, Preston River mouth - RP

**Hooded Plover** - 6, 18/11/88, Preston Lake (south) - BBa et al \* 103, 10/12/88, lake at Ned's Corner Road and highway (junction), E of Munglinup - RJ \* 1, 17/1/89, Alfred Cove - ND: immature bird \* 1, 20/1/89, Bodey's Swamp (Wannamal) - BBu

**Large Sand Plover** - 2, 3-4/9/88, Rowles Lagoon (Credo Station) - GSw \* 4, 13/11/88, Mandurah - BBa et al.

**Inland Dotterel** - 2 pairs, each with large young, 31/7/88, between Kookynie and Edjudina (Goldfields) - GSw

**Banded Stilt** - 8000, 20/11/88, Walyormouring Lake - MBr

**Whimbrel** - 2, 4/12/88, Preston River mouth - RP

**Wood Sandpiper** - 12, 17/1/88, King of West Lake (Kalgoorlie) - GSw \* 3, 11/5/88, Thomsons Lake - PCI \* 6, 25/11/88, Yanget Lake (near Indoon Lake) - BBu, ABu \* 11, 26/12/88, swamp at Forrest and Liddelow Roads (Banjup) - JH \* 25, 18/1/89, McLarty Lake - LHs \* 72, 20/1/89, Vasse Estuary - RJ

**Marsh Sandpiper** - 2, Sept-Oct. 1988, Kalgoorlie and Boulder Sewage Ponds - GSw \* 16, 27/12/88, McLarty Lake - GSw

**Terek Sandpiper** - 1, 13/11/88, Mandurah - BBa et al \* 1, 4/12/88, Preston River mouth - RP

**Gallinago Snipe** - 1, 14/1/89, Kogolup Lake - RAOU excursion \* 2, 29-31/1/89, Forrest-Tapper Swamp (Jandakot) - JH, RJ. These birds presumably Swinhoe's Snipe.

**Black-tailed Godwit** - 1, 18/1/88, Kalgoorlie Sewage Ponds - GSw

**Pectoral Sandpiper** - 7, 27/12/88, McLarty Lake - JH \* 7, 20/1/89, Vasse Estuary - RJ

**Long-toed Stint** - 19, 20/1/89, Vasse Estuary - RJ

**Oriental Pratincole** - 1, 27/1/89, McLarty Lake - LHs

**Silver Gull** - 29/11/88, unfledged chick near South of Perth Yacht Club - HF

**'black-headed' gull** - 8/1/89, briefly seen at Monger Lake - GS

**White-winged Tern** - 110, 17/1/89, Yangebup Lake - RJ \* 70, 20/1/89, Wonnerup Estuary - RJ

**Fairy Tern** - 100+, 2/12/88, several nests active, Boundary Island (Peel Inlet) - AD

**Rainbow Lorikeet** - 6, 9/12/88, Morley - RS

**Regent Parrot** - 25, 18/1/89, Kargotich Road (Mundijong) - PRH

**Pallid Cuckoo and Fan-tailed Cuckoo** - sub-adult of each species at Alfred Cove, 26/11/88 - BBa et al.

**Black-eared Cuckoo** - 13/8/88, Burra Rock (Goldfields) - GSw

**Fork-tailed Swift** - 19, 23/1/89, Point Moore Light-house (Geraldton) - PMA

**Brown Songlark** - immature at Alfred Cove, 5/1/89 - JH

**Purple-gaped Honeyeater** - nest with eggs, 15/1/89, Stirling Ranges NP - AR

**Tawny-crowned Honeyeater** - 2, 8/12/88, Anstey Road (Forrestdale) - DJ, BF

**Red-browed Firetail** - 7, 10/12/88, Kalamunda NP - DJ, BF  
**Chestnut-breasted Mannikin** - 1, 15/11/88, Pelican Point (Swan River) - MB et al \* 6 juveniles, 27/11/88, in bamboos near Bayswater Sanctuary - MB et al

**Grey Butcherbird** - nest with young, 17/11/88, Joondalup Lake South - GL \* 1, 28/11/88, near Lake Florence (Windy Harbour road) - LHa: first record in this area?

**Spotted Bowerbird** - male with 2 females in bower, 31/7/88, Kookynie (Goldfields) - GSw

**UP NORTH**

**White-bellied Sea-Eagle** - 45, 10/1/89, Koolan Island Rubbish Tip - LV, KC

**Sarus Crane** - 1, 18/1/89, Miaree Pool (Maitland River): presumably same bird as photographed there by I. Tanner in Feb.1988 (Aust. Bird Watcher 12, 269-270) - KC

**White-winged Tern** - many thousands, hawking for insects over spinifex plains, 17/1/89, 40km N of Port Hedland - KC

**Channel-billed Cuckoo** - 2, 14/1/89, El Questro Station - KC

**Ground Cuckoo-shrike** - 2. 11/1/90. 60km E of Fitzroy Crossing - KC

**KEY TO OBSERVER CODES**

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| ABu - Anne Buchanan   | ND - Norma Duff     |
| AD - Austin Daw       | NH - Neil Hamilton  |
| AR - Allan Rose       | PCI - Pauline Clay  |
| BBa - Bryan Barrett   | PMA - Peter Mack    |
| BBu - Bruce Buchanan  | PMo - Paul Mollatt  |
| BF - Bryony Fremlin   | PRH - Peel Howden   |
| BHa - Barbara Hale    | RD - Ros Denny      |
| BK - Brad Kneebone    | RJ - Roger Jaensch  |
| DJ - David James      | RP - Ross Payton    |
| DM - Doug Morgan      | RS - Ray Schulz     |
| DMo - David Morecombe | RV - Rodney Vervest |
| GA - George Agar      | SHo - S. Haughton   |
| GL - Graham Little    |                     |
| GS - Geoff Shannon    |                     |
| GSw - George Swann    |                     |
| HF - Hazel Fermaner   |                     |
| JH - Jack Hunt        |                     |
| JM - Jim Masters      |                     |
| KC - Kevin Coate      |                     |
| LHa - Leslie Harrison |                     |
| LHs - Les Harris      |                     |
| LV - Lee Vernon       |                     |
| MB - Max Bailey       |                     |
| MBI - Mark Blewett    |                     |
| MBr - Mary Bremner    |                     |
| MO - Margaret Owen    |                     |

**EYRE BIRD OBSERVATORY**

**1989 DUNE STABILIZATION WORKPARTY**

Every visit to Eyre presents a change of some significance in the dunes; the track is covered or scoured deeper, ridges appear, and trees disappear while others re-emerge. Tree-filled, moss-carpeted gullies which shelter beneath huge white walls are steadily engulfed by those same walls of sand which offered protection.

This year's surprise is the lush growth, now twelve months old, on the previous workparty's half acre site. Due to the lack of nets, seaweed was used to stabilize most of the planting and that seems to be the cause of the enthusiastic growth of euphorbia and spinifex. Unfortunately, little stability was obvious beyond the worked area. At the northern side erosion up to two metres deep had occurred, indicating that many tonnes of sand had moved, probably northwards. An earlier worksite, which is now two years old, is predominantly mounds of arctotheca which have grown above the netted level by capturing sand. It continues to attract Pink Cockatoos, which thrive on its yellow flowers.

Our aim this year was to stabilize the area adjacent to the previous work and extend it to areas of natural stability. Making the task easier was the large number of big nets. That factor allowed a doubling of the area covered and now a site of about three acres is stabilized in that vicinity, though the track running through may continue to cause problems. Seaweed was also used in areas where the large nets were impractical, but its availability was not assured. Weed-covered beaches were often swept clean by the following day. During the fortnight we had five people available for dunework on most days and though we had our share of unkind conditions there was plenty of time available to make workers weary. Ian and Arvi ferried their sandy guests about to Twilight Cove and other spots (when they weren't collecting weed) and generally kept us cheerful. Twilight Cove was particularly fruitful. It netted (so to speak) 14 beach-washed specimens comprising seven petrels (White-headed and Great-winged), five shearwaters, a Fairy Penguin and a tiny Loggerhead Turtle. An Arctic Skua pestered a tern for its meal and an Australasian Gannet dived repeatedly for its own. At the shore seals and dolphins made appearances. One large bull seal took some interest in the swimmers of our party then slid away through the water with efficient and graceful haste.

On those warm dry days when the air is misty with wind-borne sand and the dune peaks are smoking, it is comforting to think that perhaps in the future such conditions may improve. There's much to be done and much which cannot ever be completed, but the many years of effort have obviously reduced dune movement in the vicinity of the Observatory.

R. Smith

**COMMITTEE 1989**

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| CHAIRMAN          | R Denny               |
| VICE CHAIRMAN     | To be notified        |
| SECRETARY         | C Mercer              |
| TREASURER         | B Hale                |
| COMMITTEE MEMBERS | B Buchanan            |
|                   | D Kingston (co-opted) |
|                   | C Napier              |
|                   | R Smith               |
|                   | C Wilder (co-opted)   |
|                   | B Wilson              |

**FOR RENT**

Weekender, South Yunderup. 200m. to Murray River and 5min. drive to Peel Inlet birding spots. Sleeps 6-8. Ring (09) 381 9035 weekdays.

## ENDANGERED AND VULNERABLE SPECIES PROJECT (EAVES)

The following list of birds are or may be endangered or vulnerable in the South-West south of Shark Bay.

Please send to the RAOU Office (or telephone) the date and location of any observations of the birds on the list. Locations should be related to locations mentioned in the Travellers Atlas of W.A. (a Lands and Surveys publication).

Birds covered by the EAVES survey are:

Red-tailed Tropicbird  
Little Bittern  
Black Bittern  
Australasian Bittern  
Royal Spoonbill  
Freckled Duck  
Cape Barren Goose  
Square-tailed Kite - especially breeding records  
Black-breasted Buzzard - especially breeding records  
Peregrine Falcon - especially breeding records  
Grey Falcon  
Lewin's Rail  
Dusky Moorhen - outside of Perth Metro area  
Bush Thick-knee  
Painted Snipe  
Hooded Plover  
Eastern Curlew  
Asiatic Dowitcher  
Long-toed Stint  
Roseate Tern  
Little Tern  
Fairy Tern  
Lesser Noddy  
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo - breeding records only  
White-tailed Black-Cockatoo(baudinii baudinii)long bills - breeding records only  
White-tailed Black-Cockatoo(baudinii latirostris)short bills-breeding records only  
Long-billed Corella  
Pink Cockatoo  
Alexandra's Parrot  
Ground Parrot  
Night Parrot  
Blue Bonnet  
Scarlet-chested Parrot  
Barking Owl  
Masked Owl  
Eastern Grass Owl  
Noisy Scrub-bird - other than Two Peoples Bay  
Crested Shrike-tit  
Western Whipbird  
Nullarbor Quail-thrush  
Red-winged Fairy-wren - north of Perth only  
Thick-billed Grasswren  
Western Bristlebird  
Rufous Bristlebird  
Slender-billed Thornbill  
Grey Honeyeater  
Red-eared Firetail

## PALLID CUCKOO PROJECT

In W.A. Bird Notes No.48 November 1988 I commented on the absence of sightings north of the Swan River.

Since then a number of observations have been reported to me in the Perth metropolitan area for 1988 but none north of the Swan River. Some observers commented on their failure to report on the basis that they expected others to do so.

Birding Sites Around Perth (R. Van Delft (1988) UWA Press, W.A. reports Pallid Cuckoos throughout the metropolitan area in 1985, so it may be that the absence of reports north of the Swan River was more an absence of observers/reports than absence of Pallid Cuckoo. However, it may not be without significance that Van Delft (1988) gives the greatest prominence to Pallid Cuckoo in Whiteman Park in West Swan, in a general area hardly typical of the metropolitan region.

B. Buchanan

## NOTICES

### BIRD BANDING FIELD TRIPS

CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology is studying avian populations in remnants of vegetation in the wheat-belt of Western Australia. Dr. Denis Saunders is in charge of the research programme while Perry de Rebeira is the Senior Technical Officer running the bird banding project within the major programme.

Qualified banders, trainees or interested birdos visiting, or resident in, Western Australia are invited to join Perry on banding trips to the study site near Kellerberrin.

1989 field trip dates are     20 - 24 March  
  17 - 21 April  
  17 - 21 July  
  23 - 27 October  
  20 - 24 November

Accommodation on field trips is provided free of charge and food costs can be shared - usually \$6-\$8 per day. Free short-term accommodation can also be provided immediately before and after field trips.

Enquiries can be directed to: Dr. Denis Saunders, CSIRO, LB 4, P.O. Midland 6056, Western Australia.

### EXPEDITION TO BAND HONEYEATERS IN THE SOUTHERN NULLARBOR, JANUARY 1990

Volunteers are required to man temporary bird banding stations at Israelite Bay, Toolina Cove, Baxter's Memorial Cave, Twilight Cove, Eyre Bird Observatory, Mundrabilla and Eucla for part or all of 3-31 January 1990. The expedition aims to document large-scale movements of honeyeaters and Silvereyes through the coastal mallee belt of southern coastal Western Australia. The only qualification required is an interest in birds.

Experienced and licenced bird banders who would like to be in charge of one of the banding stations, those banders who do not want the responsibility of co-ordinating activities of others but would like to take part in the project, those who wish to learn the disciplines of mist-netting and bird banding, and bird watchers who are happy to count honeyeaters that fly over banding stations are encouraged to volunteer.

This is a great opportunity to see a broad range of bird species which inhabit the arid and semi-arid zones of Australia.

FULL DETAILS IN MARCH EDITION OF NATIONAL RAOU NEWSLETTER.

Information can also be obtained from:

Dr Stephen Ambrose  
Department of Zoology  
The Australian National  
University  
GPO Box 4  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Phone: (062)49 3030(W)  
(062)82 1262(H)

Mr Perry de Rebeira,  
CSIRO  
Division of Wildlife and  
Ecology  
Locked Bag No 4  
Midland WA 6056  
Phone: (09)252 0111(W)  
(09)298 8999(H)

### EYES OPEN FOR STARLINGS

Starlings have continued their attempts to establish in W.A., especially along the south coast.

Two major groups were discovered in 1988 at Many Peaks and Bremer Bay.

Twenty-two birds were killed by the Agricultural Protection Board at Many Peaks and they believe this colony has been eliminated.

By mid-December approximately 100 birds had been destroyed at Bremer Bay, including many juveniles. Nests were located in hollows in Yate timbered swamps.

The birds are not conspicuous when breeding, flying back into swamps at tree-top level in small groups or singly.

The most noticeable features which may assist in identification are:

- (a) Strong flight and shiny black appearance, especially when in good light.
- (b) Manoeuvring in unison when flying in flocks.
- (c) Associates with livestock when feeding, sometimes sitting on the back of sheep.

Please report any sightings to your nearest A.P.B. Office as soon as possible.

T.E. Bush

### OPEN SEASON AUSTRALIAN SHELDUCK

The Government Gazette W.A. of 20 January 1989 contains a declaration of an Open Season in respect of Australian Shelduck only for the whole of 1989 for the South-West and Eucla Land Divisions.

This declaration is subject to conditions:

- Australian Shelduck may only be taken by landholders or leaseholders (or their nominated agents) on land they own or occupy which is used for primary production and on which the ducks are the cause of damage to primary production and water storage.
- Any Australian Shelduck shot may not be received or disposed of for commercial purposes.
- All Australian Shelduck taken and in possession must have at least one fully feathered wing attached until the duck is prepared for immediate cooking and is taken to the residence of its owner.
- Wildlife Officers may prohibit the taking of Australian Shelduck until a landholder obtains a Damage Licence.

### HEPBURN WOODLANDS PRESERVATION GROUP

Our group has reason to believe that a Peregrine Falcon may be resident in the area of the Hepburn Heights bushland. Apparently this bird is classified as being in need of special protection by the E.P.A. Act. In order to provide this protection we first need to have it verified that the bird is nesting in the area. I appeal to your members through your March Newsletter for any information re sightings, etc. I can be contacted at any time on the phone number below by your members.

We are endeavouring to preserve the woodland at Hepburn Heights from housing development.

Mrs. Norma Rundle  
76 Macleay Drive  
PADBURY WA 6025  
Phone: 307-4409

Note: Hepburn Heights is north of Hepburn Avenue bounded by the Mitchell Freeway and Padbury/Craigie housing development.

(Ed)

### GUIDES FOR VISITING BIRDOS

From time to time the RAOU Office receives calls from or hears of Birdos from interstate or overseas who are in Perth and are anxious to see some of our local sites.

It would be very useful to have a list of names in the Office to which we can refer when such calls come.

If you would like to join this list, would you please telephone the Office and volunteer your services.

### BIRDING HOTLINE

The Birding Hotline was established in May 1987. Its main purpose was to report interesting sightings to allow people to rush out and see the (usually) rarer species which they might not normally have opportunity to see.

It was thus also a way of meeting other interested birdwatchers and of encouraging people to keep an eye out for and report anything of interest. It also reported to members and visitors the best birding spots at the moment, forthcoming excursions, meetings, etc.

However, fewer and fewer sightings have been reported and it is felt that it may no longer be justified in keeping the Hotline operating.

If you have any suggestions on how the Hotline can be more successful please contact Ian Standing on: 344.3651(H).

### RAFFLE

Results of the Raffle held in aid of the Broome Bird Observatory are:

1st Prize	
Ticket No 0677	Tracey & Clive Fraser-Swatton 2 Oorin Road, Hornsby Heights NSW
2nd Prize	
Ticket No 1328	Jacqueline Bernard 297 Vincent Street, Leederville

The organisers would like to thank all those who participated in the Raffle.

Approximately \$5,000 was raised which has helped to purchase a Toyota Landcruiser for the Observatory.



