

Western Australian Bird Notes

Quarterly Newsletter of the WA Group
Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union

Australia Post Publication No WBH 1153

No 63 September 1992

Asian Dowitcher seen at Lake McLarty

Lake McClarty continues to be an outstanding place to see interesting waders. An RAOU outing on Saturday 21 March 1992 yielded sightings of Black-tailed Godwit, Pectoral Sandpiper, Long-toed Stint (more than 50), Marsh Sandpiper and most notably, a Little Ringed Plover, seen by Ian Standing, Chris Wilder and Jack Hunt, and an Asian Dowitcher, seen by John and Judy Blyth and Doug Watkins.

The Asian Dowitcher was on the eastern side of the lake, initially with a scattered flock of twelve Black-tailed Godwit. After the godwit had flown, a single, superficially similar, but slightly smaller bird remained behind, about 70 metres from us.

Examination through binoculars showed that this was not a Black-tailed Godwit, having a more streaked and patterned appearance, a much more distinct and arched eyebrow extending to the base of the upper mandible and a heavy, completely straight and all black bill. Bar-tailed Godwit was also eliminated by these last two characters. Closer examination through telescopes (X25 and X40) revealed the characteristic vertical black striping on pale flanks, and blunt, slightly expanded bill tip of an Asian Dowitcher. In flight, the bird showed a pale rump and lower back with some darker longitudinal flecks.

Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitcher, of the American flyway, have not to our knowledge been recorded from Australia and have paler greenish-yellow legs, in comparison with the mid to dark grey legs of the Lake McLarty bird. The American dowitchers also have prominent white trailing edges to the wings, a feature not seen in our bird.

We assume it was a first-year bird, from the pale buff, rather than white, margins of many feathers, especially of the mantle and scapulars.

The bird was an active feeder, moving around more rapidly than the godwit and probing the mud continually

with discrete in and out motions of the bill, which was held forward at an angle of about 75 degrees; that is, not quite vertical. Occasionally the head was completely submerged during the downward thrust of the bill.

Over the last ten years it has become apparent that the Asian Dowitcher is a regular migrant to Australia. Groups of up to 130 birds have been seen regularly at the Leslie saltworks at Port Hedland (Lane 1983 & Watkins 1990.) Smaller numbers have been recorded at Roebuck Bay, and Eighty Mile Beach (Lane 1983 & Jaensch 1989) and at Lake McLeod (Jaensch & Vervest 1990). There is only one previous published record of the species in south western Australia; from Emu Point, Albany (Vervest 1989).

We are not aware of Asian Dowitcher being reported previously as occurring in fresh water wetlands in Australia.

J. Blyth and D. Watkins

REFERENCES

Lane B A (1987) *Shorebirds in Australia* Thomas Nelson Victoria

Jaensch R (1989) The Asian Dowitcher in north western Australia, *Stilt*, 4, 2-4.

Jaensch R P & Vervest R M (1990) Waterbirds at remote wetlands in Western Australia, 1986-1988. Part A: Lake McLeod, Shark Bay, Kamballin floodplain and Parry floodplain, RAOU Report no. 69.

Vervest R (1989) Asian Dowitcher reaches the South-west, *Western Australian Bird Notes*, No. 51, 1-2.

Watkins D (1990) Lesley Salt Project: proposed solar salt development near Port Hedland: submission on consultant environmental review, RAOU unpublished report.

Observations

Observations Criteria: —

Observations will be considered for inclusion if they relate to birds: —

- 1) declared under the WA Wildlife Conservation Act as endangered or in need of special protection, or listed in S. Garnett (ed) (1992) Threatened and Extinct Birds of Australia (RAOU Report No 82),
- 2) outside their normal range or normal time of occurrence as known from reliable publications,
- 3) recorded in areas where they are known to be rare or to have declined,
- 4) rarely seen in WA or in that part of WA where the observation was made,
- 5) in unusual numbers compared with RAOU data (eg Scopewest) or published information,
- 6) breeding in an area where breeding of that species was previously unknown, or at an unusual time of year,
- 7) counted in breeding pairs in colonies; particularly seabirds, herons, egrets, spoonbills and ibis.

The dates of arrival or departure of migrants are also of interest.

For records of vagrants or very rare species, it is essential to provide a supporting description. Additional information may be requested.

Note that fitting a criterion does not guarantee inclusion - for example, a record of a single Noisy Scrub-bird at Two Peoples Bay does not warrant inclusion, even though it fits criterion 1. The basis for decisions will include the WA Museum regional lists, the RAOU Atlas and results from RAOU waterbird surveys.

Inclusion of observations will be at the discretion of a panel convened by the Observations Officer. Membership of this panel will be by recommendation of the Research Sub-Committee and appointment by the WA Group Committee.

Please note that all Observations must be sent to the Observations Officer at the RAOU HQ WA to be considered for inclusion. Observations should NOT be sent to the Editor, WABN.

SOUTH-WEST (Shark Bay to Cape Arid)

Great-winged Petrel - 1, beach-washed, Rottnest - RV
Prion spp - several, 30/6/92, North Mole - TK
Red-tailed Tropicbird - 4, 30/3/92, Sugarloaf Rock - CW, JK (a late date for this species in this area)
Cattle Egret - 1, 26/5/92, L. Joondalup North - GL
Glossy Ibis - 1, 2/7/92, Big Carine Swamp - HvW
Marsh Harrier - 1, 10/6/92, Alfred Cove - JH
Peregrine Falcon - 1, 23/4/92, stooping on a flock of Feral Pigeon, Burke Drive, Attadale - PH
Painted Button-quail - 1, 19/7/92, Bold Park - J/JB, CW
Ruddy Turnstone - 250+, 4/8/92, on several lakes at Rottnest - RV
Little Ringed Plover - 1, 2/2/92, L. Kogolup - TK
Wood Sandpiper - 58, 26/2/92, Amarillo Pool - TK * 80, 26/2/92, L. McLarty - TK
Grey-tailed Tattler - 20, 1/8/92, Rottnest - RV (high number

for this time of year)

Marsh Sandpiper - 80, 26/2/92, L. McLarty - TK
Gallinago sp - 1, 29/1/92, Grove Farm Reserve, Belmont - TD
Black-tailed Godwit - 15 (including one in breeding plumage), 27/3/92, L. McLarty - IS, JH
Bar-tailed Godwit - 30, 30/5/92, Safety Bay - RN, PT (high number for this time of year)
Pectoral Sandpiper - 1, 20/2/92, L. Kogolup - JH
Long-toed Stint - 66, 26/2/92, Amarillo Pool - TK * 25, 26/2/92, L. McLarty - TK
Sanderling - 50, 12/7/92 - Ledge Point beach, S of Lancelin - GL
Ruff - 2, 26/2/92, L. McLarty - TK
Silver Gull - 6500, 9/8/92, Perth Esplanade - RV
White-winged Tern - 16 in non-breeding plumage, 26/1/92, Wonnerup Estuary - IS (RAOU excursion)
Roseate Tern - 14, 4/6/92, Pt Peron (7 nests with young) - BB
Little Corella - 150+, 2/7/92, junction of Swan and Helena Rivers - AJM (high number for this area)
Rainbow Lorikeet - 34, 12/4/92, Yokine - IS * 1, 23/4/92, Kelmscott - A/RJ (this species is expanding in range north and south)
Regent Parrot - 5, 21/3/92, cnr Nicholson and Forrest Roads, Forrestdale - IS
Fork-tailed Swift - 5, 1/4/92, Kallaroo - JP * 6, 2/4/92, Boyagin Nature Reserve - SN, SD, CW * 60, 6/4/92, Carine - JP * 100-200, 26/4/92, Roleystone - J/HS * 1000+, 26/4/92, Canning Valley - M. Green per J/HS
Western Whipbird - 3, 14/6/92, Sukey Hill, 3 km E of Cranbrook - RV, BO, DA (western-most record and a range extension from Stirling Range)
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater - 1, 21/6/92, Darling Scarp at Kelmscott, & 3, Wright Brook - GM (rare near Perth)
White-naped Honeyeater - 50-100, 2/5/92, Dryandra - FO (large number for this species) * 2, 13/7/92, Morley - HvW (scarce on Swan Coastal Plain)

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

Herald Petrel - 1, 31/5/92, Varanus Island - TK (first record for WA)
Black-breasted Buzzard - 1, 4/7/92, Rocky Pool, Gascoyne River - DK * 1, 14/7/92, Minilya River crossing - BB, MC * 1, 17/7/92, 10 km N of Gascoyne Junction - BB, MC, DK
Lesser Golden Plover - 2, 30/6/92, Port Hedland Racecourse on grassed area - A/RJ
Ruddy Turnstone - 290, 30/6/92, Port Hedland Racecourse, feeding on grassed area - A/RJ
Scarlet-chested Parrot - 1, 17/6/92, Leinster - GL
Star Finch - 4, 15/7/92, Chinaman's Pool (Gascoyne River) and 3, Carnarvon Sewage Works - BB, MC, DK

KIMBERLEY

Radjah Shelduck - 10, 11/4/92, near Argyle Diamond Mine - FO
Brahminy Kite - 2 (1 adult, 1 immature), 6/6/92, Argyle mine site - FO
Masked Woodswallow - 2000+, 11/4/92, between Argyle airport and L. Argyle - FO (large concentration for this species)

Observer Codes are on page 11

Perry House Officially Opened : New HQ for RAOU WA

The official opening of Perry House in Bold Park, the new combined headquarters for the W.A. Group and the Wildflower Society of W.A., was held on June 9th.

The two Committees and many volunteers had worked like beavers in the weeks beforehand, scrubbing, painting, gardening and refitting. This flurry of physical activity was the culmination of many months of searching for a new venue to replace the Canning Bridge office and of negotiations with our new landlord, the Perth City Council.



Part of the Opening Ceremony

Photo: P. Howden

Perry House, basically a Federation style cottage, looked magnificent when cleaned, painted and refurbished in a style to fit its character and decked with immense bunches of Western Australian wildflowers provided by the Wildflower Society.

Fortunately, opening day proved to be fine, despite a rather worrying forecast. A large green and orange awning was set up to accommodate over 70 seated guests and the official party, with special guests being the famous British birdwatcher and comedian Bill Oddie and the Lord Mayor of Perth, Reg Withers.

We were extremely well served by our Master of Ceremonies, well-known broadcaster, John Colwell, who is also a member of the Wildflower Society. John first introduced Don Wignall, acting Chairperson of the Wildflower Society and then John Blyth, Chairperson of the WA group of the RAOU. Their two short speeches complemented each other well, outlining the nature of the two societies, emphasising the significance of Bold Park as an urban conservation reserve and thanking the City of Perth warmly for providing the two societies with such an excellent home base and with the opportunity to be closely involved with the future of Bold Park.

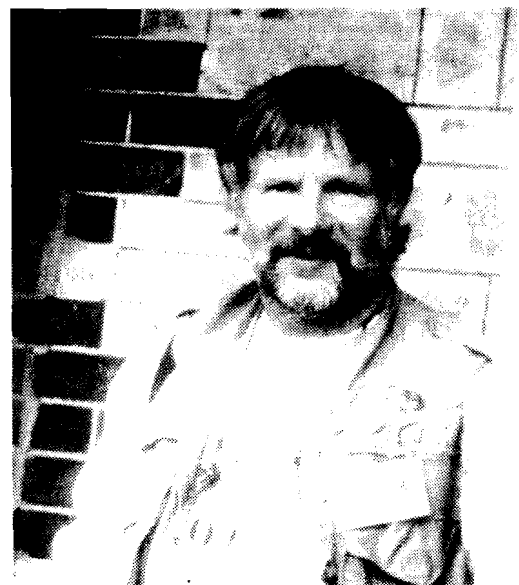
The next speaker was the Lord Mayor of Perth, the Honorable Reg Withers, who provided some of the history of

Perry House. Originally built by a herdsman-made-good, Mr Joseph Perry it has more recently been the residence of the caretaker of Bold Park. The Lord Mayor welcomed the two Societies in their new role as residents of Perry House (although he did seem to have some trouble with the pronunciation of "ornithologists").

Our final speaker, with the task of formally opening the new offices was Bill Oddie, complete with many pocketed, badge-studded jacket and binoculars - the epitome of the optimistic birder! The fact that Bill Oddie's funny side as a professional comedian is deeply interwoven with his dedication to birds and their welfare became evident as he spoke. Bill also noted that throughout his second, hectic trip to Australia, in which he had been steadily interviewed by media from one side of the continent to the other (even by an echidna!), he had noticed that people from Lord Mayors to radio announcers paled when they were faced with the word "ornithologist" - besides which, very few seemed know it's meaning. He suggested that it was high time to replace the mouthful of "Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union" with a simple name in sensible, plain English.

Having got this off his chest, Bill declared Perry House to be open and marked the occasion by ceremonially planting a quandong tree, *Santalum spicatum*, provided by the Wildflower Society. Bill was presented with a packet of quandong seeds by the Wildflower Society as a memento and both he and the Lord Mayor received a pair Banksia candlesticks (made by the RAOU's Clive Napier) as an appreciation of their contribution to the two societies.

Guests at the opening then combined a light lunch of wine, fruit juice and hot nibblys with an inspection of the new premises, including an exhibition of wildlife art. This exhibition, Feathers and Flowers in Film and Paint, mounted in the main hall and the lounge room, really set off the lovely old house and was much appreciated. The RAOU WA Committee



Bill Oddie at the Opening

Photo: P. Howden

is hoping that this use of our premises as a gallery for the exhibition and potential sale of wildlife art can become a permanent feature, with benefits for both artists and the RAOU — so come on all art collectors!

The crowd of supporters from both organisations amounted to almost a hundred, with many RAOU stalwarts, such as Peter and Di Congreve from Beverly coming long distances to help us celebrate our new premises. The atmosphere was a very happy and optimistic one and the many people who had worked hard to prepare for the opening were thanked and congratulated for making the day such a success.

Many thanks to all our helpers. Special thanks to Allan

Jones, who organised the Western Australian part of the visit of Bill Oddie with military precision, Chris Wilder and Peter Anson who between them ensured that the inside of the building was ready for occupation and looking spotless and to Clive Napier who was responsible for all the preparations around and outside the house.

The Committee is confident that the W. A. Group will go from strength to strength with its new accommodation, with members from north of the river taking an increasingly active part in our activities.

J. Blyth



Sketch of Perry House by J. Blyth

Members Contributions

ALBINO PIPIT ?

I visited Alfred Cove at about 2 pm on Monday 1st June. I observed a Richard's Pipit and a grey bird the same size at the edge of the cut grass on the top of the grassy bank leading down to the shore near the point. I approached to within 10 metres and observed the bird through my Kowa TSN-4 spotting telescope for about 10 minutes before I moved on.

The bird was clearly a pipit. It was the same size and body shape as the Richard's Pipit. It had pale orange/pink lower legs, and it was frequently bobbing its tail. The upper bill was very dark, and the lower bill mostly darkish but partly yellowish or pinkish depending on the light. There was a whitish stripe

above the eye similar to the Richard's Pipit, along with a brownish patch behind the eye and below the stripe.

The throat, breast and belly were white without any streaks. The top of the head, back, most of the wings and the tail were a mottled greyish colour. The outside primary feather (or maybe two) of the left wing was brownish.

It stayed in the vicinity of the Richard's Pipit, and behaved similarly. It mostly walked slowly along the cut edge, sometimes going up to half a metre into the uncut grass or on the cut grass up to three metres from the cut edge. Twice they flew a short distance further along the cut edge. The third time they flew down to a sandy area with sparse grass very near the edge of the water.

I have no access to an identification guide to the pipits of the world. However as the only major difference to the Richard's Pipit was the lack of most of the brown, I consider the most likely explanation is that it was an albino Richard's Pipit.

F. O'Connor

RUFIOUS TREECREEPER AGAIN

On 11 February 1992, about three weeks after Allan Burbidge's sighting of the species at Woodvale reported in the March WA Bird Notes (No. 61 p 4), I saw a Rufous Treecreeper on the Swan River foreshore at Dalkeith. The bird was foraging on the trunks of various trees, including introduced cypresses. It was being sporadically harassed by a Singing Honeyeater and spent little time on any individual tree. After three or four minutes it flew into thicker vegetation on the limestone cliff face and I lost sight of it.

Despite looking around the area several times over the next few days I did not see the Rufous Treecreeper again. Given their rarity on the Swan Coastal Plain, it is possible that it was the same vagrant specimen seen by Allan at Woodvale.

J. Blyth

COLLISIONS

The placement of some of the windows of my home is such that birds are able to see through two adjacent windows and appear to conclude there is a clear fly-way. Given the acute eyesight of birds it is a matter of some surprise that they do not appreciate the furniture and room between. However the consequence is that birds attempt to fly through one of the window panes with surprising frequency. The exception is the Grey Butcherbird whose visual acuteness enables it to halt before the glass and cling to the window frame prior to flying away.

The window has this year claimed the life of a Western Spinebill, a Brown Honeyeater and a Spotted Pardalote while giving a nasty jar to a Red Wattlebird, a Port Lincoln Ringneck, a Brown Honeyeater, a male Australian Magpie and sundry others not so incapacitated as to prevent their flying off before identification. The most recent collision was between the glass and a Splendid Fairy-wren, a female.

The fairy-wren was obviously dis-oriented by the collision and appeared to have damaged a wing. It fluttered circuitously outside the window calling all the time, while falling onto its back and regaining its feet and apparently unable to fly.

As soon as the struggles of the wren were observed by a Red Wattlebird it flew down to the injured wren on the ground and appeared to attempt to peck it, though not succeeding because of the erratic movements of the "prey". This "attack" resulted in five other Splendid Fairy-wren flying to the proximity of their "colleague" and fluttering round and above it while calling loudly. The Red Wattlebird departed promptly.

After some further struggles the injured bird suddenly ran very swiftly to cover, seven metres away, followed by the others on the wing. As far as could be ascertained by subsequent watching the injured bird recovered sufficiently to move on with the whole party of Splendid Fairy-wren as they moved through the garden. Assistance to an injured member of a group seems not unlikely, but I have not found any reference to such behaviour in Splendid Fairy-wren in the more accessible literature.

The area from which the wrens came, comprised groups of flowering *Grevillea* "Robyn Gordon", *Eucalyptus caesia* and *Eucalyptus pyriformis*. Red Wattlebirds are particularly attracted to *E. pyriformis* and defend it vigorously against intruders (here usually their own species and Brown and New Holland Honeyeater.) Was the Red Wattlebird simply taking further opportunity to defend its nectar territory or was the "attack" something more sinister?

B. Buchanan

CORAL BAY AUTUMN

March and April in Coral Bay were hot, dry months and when rain did fall at the end of April this marked the end of a nine-month dry spell.

During the hot, still afternoons a family of Pied Butcherbird usually rested in the tamarisk trees near our camp. They sang in subdued voices for hours at a time, their melodious trills and warbles giving us great pleasure.

Singing Honeyeater, Richard's Pipit and Silvereye foraged daily around the camp as did Variegated Fairy-wren. However the White-winged Fairy-wren, common in the nearby bushland, never came into the settlement.

During the hot, dry weather Little Crow flocked around the camps. Sadly they visited the nesting Osprey and often perched atop the Telecom Tower near the nesting bird. Then one or another would dart in quickly upon the Osprey which had to peck at them to drive them off. The Osprey produced no young during this time.

A pair of Brown Goshawk came in for a month, preying on the honeyeaters and finches. One day I saw a goshawk attempting to kill a Sacred Kingfisher and I drove the goshawk off. However it was time wasted as the same day a goshawk was seen eating a kingfisher in the park.

One hot day a strange bantam-like bird was seen standing in a puddle by our tap. It was in fact a Buff-banded Rail, the first I had seen.

Over a period of several weeks a pair of apparent flycatchers foraged actively over our lawns. They had no distinguishing features and never called. There was a slight yellowish sheen on their wings which were usually held horizontally with tail higher. I listed them as Kimberley Flycatcher, but I am not absolutely certain of this.

RAOU Office WA

Telephone

Birding Hotline

Chairman

Editor

Perry House, 71 Oceanic Drive
Wembley 6014 or PO Box 199
Jolimont 6014

(09) 383 7749

(09) 387 8412

J. Blyth, 30 Troy Terrace,
Daglish 6008

B. Buchanan, PO Box 10
Wannamal 6505

Notes For Contributors

The Editor requests contributors to note :-

- *WABN normally only publishes material on WA birds
- *contributions should be written or typed with Double Spacing
- *WABN uses RAOU recommended English names
- *copy will be edited where appropriate
- *contributions will be published unless the contributor is informed to the contrary

**Deadline for the December Issue
7 November 1992**

Towards the end of April, Little Corella, Galah and Budgerigar appeared, all in the same week, after being absent for four months. A few days later general heavy rains fell throughout the district.

Other birds observed during the period were several quail including Stubble Quail and another probable - the Barn Swallow.

P. Mack

CARNIVOROUS CORELLA ?

I have noted an unusual behaviour of a Little Corella that appears to travel and feed with Little Crow, that migrate south in summer. The Little Corella feeds on and keeps the Little Crow away from road kills of rabbits etc. until it has had its fill and the bird also feeds on fresh sheepskins hung out to dry. Recently I saw the Little Corella feeding with the Little Crow and Australian Raven on scraps of afterbirth among the cattle.

The bird stayed with the Little Crow all the time. What appears to be the same Little Corella has been coming here on and off for about 8 years. Have any members observed similar happenings?

J.D. Ewert

Beach Patrol

The winter months which have just past failed to produce as many beach-washed specimens as had been anticipated. The strong to gale force winds of late June and early July brought some pelagic species to our coasts, but on the whole most birds seemed to survive the experience and live to fly again.

A trickle of dead birds have, however, been forwarded to the Perth Museum and at least one parcel of several await Ron Johnstone's return from leave. This parcel is comprised from a searcher near Rockingham, a wing or so from Denmark and a few immature gannets, etc. from our local beaches and Rottnest. We had expected more response as a considerable number of members have expressed interest.

We stress that the scheme is a low-key birding effort in which anyone (member or not) can take part. All that is needed is a plastic bag and at times a strong nose! Send your beach-washed materials direct to The WA Museum, Francis Street, Perth, for the attention of Ron Johnstone, together with a note giving the name of the sender and where and when the birds were found. Also, please return the appropriate forms direct to the RAOU office for my attention. In due course, when all bird material has been identified you will be informed by me via the RAOU office and thanked for your effort.

By far the most exciting find, although not a beach-washed specimen in the true sense of the word, was a bird brought into the WA Museum by Tony Kirkby. While working on Varanus Island (part of a group recently named near Barrow Island) he saw a petrel fly into the blades of a helicopter. Tony collected the specimen. This was identified by Ron Johnstone as a Herald Petrel - a first recording for WA.

Those who wish to learn more about seabirds are recommended to purchase, through the RAOU: *Seabirds - an identification guide* by Peter Harrison and/or *Beach Patrollers' Guide to Stormcast Seabirds found in New Zealand*.

B. Barrett

B B C B Q

All WA birdwatchers know the Galah.

- 1) Do Galah normally mate for life ?
- 2) Which plant is particularly important for Galah in the Wheatbelt excluding cereal grains ?
- 3) Galah usually maintain an individual distance between each other when roosting or feeding. How much ?
- 4) In any large flock of Galah approximately how many are not paired ?
- 5) Near their nocturnal roosts Galah move in the canopy first thing and then do what ?
- 6) What is the chief avian predator of Galah in the Wheatbelt ?
- 7) Approximately what percentage of Galah live to 6 months of age ?
- 8) About how many days before young Galah are deserted by their parents ?
- 9) Galah are the only members of the cockatoo family to do what to their nests ?
- 10) How large an area do Galah defend as territory ?

Answers on page 12

Notices

BITTERN SEARCHERS WANTED

Persons wishing to immerse themselves in pursuit of the elusive and mysterious Australasian Bittern are required for a two day survey this spring (probably November) at a south coast wetland. Volunteers should contact Jim Lane or Roger Jaensch at Dept. of CALM, P.O. Box 51, Wanneroo, WA 6065 (phone: 09 405 5100) for further details.

HOODED PLOVER PHOTOS WANTED

I am currently writing several chapters on waders (shorebirds) for Volume 2 of the Fauna of Australia (being produced by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service) and have found a gap in our knowledge which members may be able to fill.

The plumage patterns of the downy young of waders, which are often very different in appearance as adults, are used in determining relationships between species. I discuss these patterns and the suggested relationships in one of the chapters, but a piece of the jigsaw puzzle is missing.

Although plumage patterns have been studied in almost all the world's wader species, one of the few exceptions is our own Hooded Plover. If anyone has photographs of the downy young of the Hooded Plover (preferably side and top views but anything will help), I would greatly appreciate a copy. Please contact Mike Bamford, 23 Plover Way, Kingsley, WA 6026, telephone (09) 309 3671.

KIMBERLEY LETTER-WINGED KITE

WA Bird Notes, No. 62, June 1992, page 1 carried an article concerning a Letter-winged Kite observed at Disaster

Bay, north-east of Broome. Some readers expressed doubt about the accuracy of the identification, citing inter alia the nocturnal feeding habit of the Letter-winged Kite and the reported feeding behaviour over the sea (and mangroves).

The observer Mr Brian Kane was contacted about the matter and he states that his sighting was at some 50 metres in good light with 8 x 24 binoculars. He is familiar with the most likely alternative, a White-winged Tern and is satisfied that the bird seen was not such but a Letter-winged Kite.

Mr Kane adds that an environmental consulting organisation carrying out an environmental impact survey sighted a Letter-winged Kite about two weeks earlier 200 kilometres East of Disaster Bay.

Editor

Eyre Report

From 17 to 25 May we travelled from Eyre to the North West corner of the Plumridge Lakes Nature Reserve via Arubiddy, Rawlinna and Leemore Downs Stations, Connie Sue Highway and Rason Lake Road. The area was green following recent heavy rain and many plants were coming into flower.

The most numerous birds seen between Cocklebidy and Rawlinna were Richard's Pipit (240) and Brown Songlark (94). Orange Chat were seen mainly in the Southern half (65) and Crimson Chat had moved into the Northern half when we returned (75). This was the only section where we recorded White-winged Fairy-wren (23) and Calamanthus (6). Five of the six Australian Bustard and four of the five Inland Dotterel seen on the trip were found in this section. Three of a total 30 Banded Lapwing recorded were young ones.

The highlight of the 138 km section North of Rawlinna on the Connie Sue Highway was seeing so many Blue Bonnet. Sixty were recorded, including 24 feeding on flowering ligum bushes along with 20 Mulga Parrot at 136 km North. The only birds recorded in higher numbers were Little Crow (136), Black-faced Woodswallow (103) and Southern Whiteface (86). This was the only section where we recorded Varied Sittella (13), White-browed Babbler (48), Crested Bellbird (19) and Yellow-throated Miner (41) were well represented. Ground Cuckoo-shrike (8) were recorded in the more open woodland in the Southern half.

There was a fairly dramatic change in bird species once we reached the more heavily treed habitats of the Plumridge Lakes Nature Reserve. Birds such as Richard's Pipit, Brown Songlark, Banded Lapwing and chat were now rare or absent. The more commonly seen species were now White-fronted Honeyeater (74), Port Lincoln Ringneck (51), Pied Butcherbird (27), Weebill (34), Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (23) and Crested Bellbird (29). Two large flocks of Striated Pardalote, the second containing at least 200 birds appeared to be "on the move". Other species recorded only in this area included Rufous Whistler (8), White-browed Treecreeper (6), Yellow-plumed (8) and Grey-fronted (4) Honeyeater, Red Wattlebird (16), Zebra Finch (2) and White-winged Triller (1). A female Cinnamon Quail-thrush was seen in rocky "Jump-up" country in the extreme NW corner of the park.

There was not much breeding activity observed, but there should be plenty on the trips to be made on 5-14 August and 6-

16 September, as much of this area had 70-100mm of rain about a week after we returned from the May trip.

The Goodreids

Excursion Reports

HOPETOUN CAMPOUT 17/20 April

Easter camp at Hopetoun was enjoyed by varying numbers of birdos. The hard core huddled together at the Hopetoun Caravan Park while one family stayed on a farm and another at a cottage.

A total of 90 species were seen in the Ravensthorpe Shire at such diverse habitats as beach, lake, inlet, river and bush, both within and without the Fitzgerald National Park. The park species total was 67 which included Australian Gannet, Crested Bellbird and a possible hearing of Western Whipbird. Observers' highlights were, sun on a Brush Bronzewing, a Sacred Kingfisher fishing on the Jerdacuttup River, Sacred Ibis (showing they have spread this far), Fairy Tern with large mixed flocks of overwintering waders on Lake Jerdacuttup and a Brown Songlark displaying on a post.

Clive and Wendy Napier were leaders. The social camaraderie was high and there was a birthday party (with cake and champagne), a prize for John and Judy Blyth for 52 birds during the trip down and a bird count with all members crammed into the Napier caravan on a wet and windy evening.

Species seen included Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Great Egret, good views of Chestnut Teal, many Restless Flycatcher and Tawny-crowned Honeyeater and a "fly past" of immature White Breasted Sea Eagle. Views of Southern Emu-wren were few and Rock Parrot nil, though we did our best. The absence of large numbers of ducks and stilt was attributed to their movement to flooded areas of the goldfields.

Those who continued on saw a very large flock of Red-necked Stint overwintering on Stokes Inlet and many and close sightings of Rock Parrot both there and at Cape Le Grand National Park.

The weather was variable, being Easter and the South Coast, but to only have one campfire blown/washed out and no day trips upset by bad weather was good. Overall it was a very good introduction to the South Coast in Autumn.

M. Vaughan

DRYANDRA CAMPOUT 2/3 May

Twenty-eight people met at Dryandra Forest in May for the weekend of birding; these were capably led by Margery and Bryan.

Early on Saturday morning small groups of us walked around the nearby dam and beyond. Surprisingly few birds were in the vicinity of the dam, but as we walked towards the paddocks a small flock of Western Rosella were seen feeding there. Later in the morning we went in convoy to Lol Grey Lookout. Once again small groups of us went in various directions. As we walked through the forest we were rewarded with sightings of several species of honeyeater; obviously attracted by the Dryandra which was still in flower, and Western Yellow Robin.

After lunch we investigated the Malleefowl mound, which was found to be inactive. In the vicinity we scouted through the

lightly forested area searching for Crested Shrike-tit and Crested Bellbird, but only one member sighted a Crested Shrike-tit. Some local animals were seen, these being the Woylie and an Echidna.

The beauty of the trees in the forest, the numerous fairy wren and Restless Flycatcher, plus the presence of currawong and Port Lincoln Ringneck everywhere around the settlement make it an ideal spot for comfortable and enjoyable birding, especially for a beginner like myself.

Two of the attractions in this area are the Bush Thick-knee and the Numbat. Evidence of their presence was all around us, in the form of Numbat scratchings but only the call of the bird was heard, early on Sunday morning.

Forty three species were sighted on the Saturday, including a pair of breeding Western Spinebill.

B. Sheppard

WHITEMAN PARK 10 May

On a clear but very cold Sunday morning Michael Brooker of the CSIRO conducted 19 members through part of Whiteman Park. His chosen area is not open to the public and consists of banksia woodland with a fairly dense low understorey. Although the birds were not plentiful, with Michael's help and guidance we found 34 species, some of which proved to be first sightings for some members of the group. The highlights were an Elegant Parrot and a pair of Hooded Robin. A female Red-capped Robin was also seen briefly by some of the party.

It was good to see some new members among the regulars and we hope that many more will be encouraged to join our outings.

B. Barrett

MT. LESUEUR CAMPOUT 30 May

About thirty people, including two visitors from Geraldton, met at the corner of Banovich Road late on Saturday morning to drive into Mt. Lesueur National Park.

We were lucky to have the company of Joy Williams, who

readily shared her knowledge of rare and interesting flora of the area, including the Lesueur Banksia (*Banksia tricuspis*) in full flower. Carnaby's Black Cockatoo takes grubs from its trunk and branches.

Lunch was enjoyed beneath a stand of wandoo. We then spent a pleasant two hours walking further, before returning to explore another track closer to the park entrance.

Brown and

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater were common and other birding highlights included Peregrine Falcon, six Wedge-tailed Eagle soaring above a deep gully, Mistletoebird, Southern Emu-wren and Fan-tailed Cuckoo.

On Sunday we visited "Hi Vallee", the property of Joy and Don Williams, who recently won the John Tonkin Golden Tree Award for their preservation of two thousand acres of rare and endangered native flora. The entire day was spent ambling round the reserved area, with the benefit of Joy's expertise in the botanical field and her son Trevor's services in transporting lunches and having the billy boiling when we arrived.

Honeyeaters were numerous, especially White-checked and Brown, but Tawny-crowned, Brown-headed and Singing were also seen. Most people saw White-fronted Chat, while some were lucky enough to see Horsfield's Bronze and Fan-tailed Cuckoo, White-breasted and Hooded Robin, White-backed Swallow and a group of White-winged Fairy-wren. Everyone was able to appreciate the enormous size of a Wedge-

tailed Eagle's nest which Joy pointed out in a mature wandoo.

To round off the day a number of people made brief visits to local points around Jurien. Sightings included White-winged Fairy-wren in heath near the local cemetery and among the



dunes near town, both Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher, Caspian Tern and Rock Parrot, and to cap it all off, a very co-operative Australian Hobby which spent a long while perched on top of a tower close to our accommodation.

On Monday morning we travelled to Mt Benia to investigate an area of mature wandoo woodland, obtaining good sightings of both Spotted and Striated Pardalote, Scarlet

Robin, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Mistletoebird and Emu, lots of Weebill, a pair of Maned Duck and Splendid Fairy-wren.

Those who still had time to spare travelled on to Hill River Nature Reserve, south west of Mt Benia, for lunch. Four more Emu were seen en route and close views of a Boobook Owl obtained.

Although the overall tally for the weekend was not particularly high the general opinion was that the area had much to offer and could well be worth another visit during the spring when both nesting and wildflowers were at their peak.

Many thanks to Chris Wilder for her great planning and organisation.

P. Agar

The sketch above by P. Agar: Mt. Lesueur in the Mt. Lesueur National Park

BLUE GUM LAKE 3 June

On this, the second mid-week walk, a group of about 30 mostly local, interested people met at Blue Gum Lake, Mt Pleasant on a dull, cold and damp morning. The leader, Allan Jones, gave a short history of the lake. The group then walked around the lake's edge and were assisted by RAOU members in identifying the numerous waterbirds on the lake and the bush birds in the surrounding area.

The resident Australian Hobby put in a brief appearance, flocks of Tree Martin swooped over the lake and large numbers of cormorant constantly flew in formation overhead on their way to and from nearby Booragoon Lake. A lone male Musk Duck piped from the lake and a single Hardhead joined the Pacific Black Duck and Silver Gull who hopefully awaited handouts from visiting children. In spite of a heavy shower during the walk, most people stayed on and asked numerous questions concerning the birds. It was gratifying to see the interest shown by local residents in the lake and its bird population.

M. Clegg

STINTON CASCADES 20 June

Fast moving cloud and repeated showers were interspersed with some warm sunny moments. More than two dozen members met John Start to help him with his regular census in this new CALM reserve. The reserve is approximately 106/02 E 32/06 S and the creek runs through Araluen Park to the Canning River. Three parties looked at three different blocks near Stinton Creek in Karragullen.

Several Fan-tailed Cuckoo loudly announced their presence and three species of robin were seen in their different territories as well as a number of bush birds. A total of 198 birds of 29 species were recorded, the most frequently seen being Grey Fantail (27), Golden Whistler (19) and Red-capped Parrot (18). A detailed checklist has been lodged at the Office.

At 11 am the parties re-joined and compared notes before moving on to some dense bushland along the Canning River, not far from Canning Dam. However the rain seemed to be setting in and after lunch and having seen only two Pacific Black Duck, many left for home. A pleasant morning's birding - thankyou John.

G. Elliott

TRAYNING CAMPOUT 27/28 June

Gales and driving rain were forecast (and occurred) for the weekend, so it was a great surprise to see around 60 people turn out to assist with tree planting, including more than 20 RAOU members. By Saturday afternoon, 5500 understorey seedlings had been planted and everyone welcomed the barbecue and huge bonfire in the machinery shed afterwards.

Planting of the remaining seedlings and other maintenance work on the previous year's plantings was complete on Sunday morning and RAOU members carried on to Billyacatting Reserve for some birdwatching. The weather was not very kind. However some managed to see Southern Scrub Robin among other species. Further on near Yarragin Rock (Mt Stevens) species included Southern Whiteface, Mulga Parrot, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Redthroat, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Red-capped Robin and a Wedge-tailed Eagle. Pied Butcherbird and Banded Plover were seen near Trayning.

Many thanks to all who gave their time so willingly.

C. Wilder

LAKE CLAREMONT 2 July

In spite of the threat of rain and gales 20 brave people turned out for the mid-week walk round Lake Claremont. It was encouraging to see several prospective new members.

Unfortunately the birds were rather scarce but there were some good views of Pink-eared and Blue-billed Duck and a number of Australasian Grebe resting peacefully close to the shore gave us a chance of prolonged viewing.

A total of 27 species was recorded over all; 13 waterbirds and 14 bush birds.

N. Brockman

LESMURDIE 5 July

Twelve people assembled on a damp, unpromising morning at the carpark near the top of the Darling Scarp just above the point at which the Crystal Brook Road rejoins Welshpool Road. Two teams of six set off along the path which runs south towards the Bickley Valley, their departure noted by two western grey kangaroos, one of them a very large specimen.

Between them the teams recorded an unexpectedly high total of 32 bird species, in part the result of the experience of the observers and an easing in the morning's showers. Excluded from that total were a raptor (probably a Little Eagle), two ducks (probably Pacific Black Duck) and over 1,000 Silver Gull seen in the distance on the Gosnells rubbish tip. Among the more interesting records were a Wedge-tailed Eagle, a Peregrine Falcon (seen by both teams and extremely well seen by one of them), Red-winged Fairy-wren (heard only), Southern Emu-wren (heard only), Yellow-plumed Honeyeater (seldom encountered on this part of the Darling Scarp) and Tawny-crowned Honeyeater (found in small numbers in suitable habitat along the Darling Scarp).

J.N. Talbot

Coming Events

It is gratifying for the organisers to note that the mid-week walks have been well attended and that local residents are showing an interest in their nearby lakes. We appreciate the assistance given at these and other outings by the leaders.

A reminder - members should carefully check the date, time and directions for outings. It seems that some people have mistakenly arrived for outings only to find no-one there!

B. Barrett, Excursions Organiser

Saturday 5 September Half day excursion - Pinnaroo Valley Memorial Park, Padbury.

Meet at 8.15 am at the first carpark off Whitfords Avenue (on the right-hand side through the entrance). The Park has Tuart and Banksia woodlands and coastal heath. It is one of the few sites near Perth where Yellow-throated Miner can be seen.

Leader: Graham Little

Saturday 12 September to Sunday 13 September Campout - Stirling Range National Park.

Morning birdwatching walks will be held on Saturday and Sunday, an orchid walk on Saturday afternoon and a slide show on Saturday night. Camping sites or accommodation in on-site caravans, cabins or chalets should be booked early at the

Stirling Range Caravan Park on (098) 279229.

Leader: Jan Hill from whom more details may be obtained (09) 293 1321.

Wednesday 16 September Mid-week walk - North Lake

Meet at 8 am in the carpark on the corner of Farrington Road and Progress Drive. North Lake is part of the newly-formed Beeliar Regional Park and a good area for bush and water birds.

Leader: Peter Anson

Sunday 20 September Full day excursion - Northam Wetlands.

Meet at 9.15 am at Apex Park, Northam. As you approach the town from Great Eastern Highway and Mitchell Avenue, turn right into Newcastle Road and just before you reach the bridge over the Avon River, turn left into Broome Terrace - the park is on the edge of the river. John Masters will lead us from there

Leader: John Masters

Monday 21 September Meeting - Herdsman Wildlife Centre, 8 pm

Eric McCrum, the chief executive officer of the WA Gould League and well known naturalist, will talk on the birds of the Nullarbor.

Saturday 26 to Monday 28 September Campout - Carramar wetlands.

Meet at 12 noon at the Post Office in Ongerup. Rodney Vervest will lead the group to a property 20 km north of Ongerup on the Ongerup-Pingrup Road where shearers' quarters will be available, including ablutions and toilet. Campers or caravaners may also use these facilities. Surveys will be undertaken of the water birds on the fresh and saltwater lakes and the bush-birds in a nearby nature reserve.

Leader: Rodney Vervest

Saturday 3 October Full day excursion - Flynn Road.

Meet at 8 am on the corner of Flynn Road and Great Eastern Highway, about 1km on the Perth side of The Lakes turnoff (i.e. the York Road turnoff). This is an area of wandoo woodland where it is possible to see Crested Shrike-tit, Hooded and Western Yellow Robin and various parrot species. We will visit two or three different areas during the day.

Leader: Bryan Barrett

Saturday 10 to Sunday 11 October Campout (or full day Saturday or Sunday) - Tutanning Nature Reserve.

This reserve is approximately 20 km east of Pingelly (154 km from Perth). From Pingelly proceed east along Smith Road (ignoring all side roads). Look for the two RAOU signs. Turn left at the second sign close to a rocky outcrop and proceed to the CALM Research Station.

Camping will be available on a grassed paddock outside the fence-line but adjacent to the research station. Toilet and water available, also wood for camp fire. Be self sufficient for food, etc. All rubbish to be removed. Tracks are suitable for 2WD vehicles and caravans.

Leon Silvester of CALM will conduct walks in the Reserve, which consists of Wandoo, open woodland and Casuarina

thickets with breakaways and granite outcrops, commencing at 9.30 am on both days. Leon hopes to take us spotlighting in the evening to look for nightbirds and other nocturnal animals. Non-campers may wish to join the group on either day.

Leader: Leon Silvester

Thursday 15 October. Mid-week walk - Herdsman Lake.

Meet at 8.30 am at Floreat Waters carpark near the junction of Lakeside Road and Heron Place. A chance for new members and interested people to identify the various reed and lake-dwelling waterbirds of this large wetland. Great-crested Grebe, Musk and Blue-billed Duck and many others.

Leader: Barbara Hale

Saturday 24 October and Sunday 25 October - TWITCHATHON 92.

The Twitchathon this year will coincide with the national event taking place in other states, commencing at 5 am on Saturday 24 October and finishing at 5 am on Sunday 25 October. It is hoped that country as well as metropolitan members will participate. Teams may cover any area - no restrictions will be placed on their movements.

Teams should consist of not less than 2 people. All sightings and/or hearings must be supported by at least 2 members of each team. Each team to have a chosen leader and his/her name and/or the team's name to be sent to the RAOU office by 12 October, together with an entrance fee of \$2 per head (to defray the cost of postage, prizes etc.)

Sightings must be recorded on the RAOU Check List of Birds of WA (National Parks card). A ballpoint pen should be used to mark the cards.

Reporting: the RAOU office telephone (09 383 7749) will be open between 3 pm and 6pm on Sunday, 25 October, to receive the total number of species observed by each team.

A BBQ will be held in the grounds of the RAOU office, "Perry House", from 6 pm on Sunday 25 October. (BYO food, drink and chair.)

Monday 26 October Meeting - Herdsman Wildlife Centre, 8 pm

Neil Hamilton, the Section Keeper of Birds at Perth Zoo, will discuss the conservation by zoos of rare and endangered bird species.

Sunday 1 November Full day excursion - Austin Bay Nature Reserve, Eastern Peel Inlet.

Meet 9.00 am at end of Beacham Road (some older maps show this as Grey's Road). Beacham Road (signposted) is the second turnoff to the right after crossing the Murray River, travelling towards Pinjarra on the main Mandurah—Pinjarra Road. It is 12.7 km from Mandurah (Perth—Bunbury Road) and 3.1 km east of the Murray River. The distance along Beacham Road (winding but follow your nose) from the Pinjarra Road to the meeting point is about 7 km.

The area provides a combination of estuarine waters and flats, coastal scrub, woodland and freshwater wetlands: we should find a good range of birds. This is Ross River virus country, so bring ample mosquito repellent and long clothes. Gumboots will probably be needed as well. Round trip from Perth about 200 km.

Leader: John Blyth

Saturday 7 November - Sunday 8 November - Campout, Boyup Brook.

Meet at 12 noon for self-sufficient camping at Geoff Lodge's property, Warraminga Farm, which is 20 km south west of Boyup Brook on the Bridgetown Road. Proceed for approximately 4 km, turn left into a gravel road - brown-Feymour Road - for 8 km until you reach a T-junction. Turn right into Jayes-Bridgetown Road for 3 km, then turn right again into Lodge Road for 8 km. Warraminga is at the end of Lodge Road. A bush camp - be fully self-sufficient. Geoff's property is on the Blackwood River and abounds with a variety of birds.

Leader: Geoff Lodge

Saturday 14 November Full day excursion - Coodanup.

Meet at 9 am in the carpark at the southern end of Wanjeep Street, Coodanup, on the shores of Peel Inlet. Distance from Perth approximately 90 km. We will join the Mandurah group to look at waders around the Inlet. Bring a hat, insect repellent and old boots/shoes.

Leader: John Taylor

Wednesday 18 November Midweek walk - Alfred Cove.

Meet at 8 am at the carpark in Troy Park (by the radio mast) off Burke Drive, Attadale. A chance to see and identify the many species of migratory waders soon after their arrival. Experienced birders will be on hand with telescopes to assist with identification. Bring suitable footwear for walking on the sandbanks.

Leader: Norma Duff

Saturday 21 to Sunday 22 November Campout - Wilgarup Lake

We plan to revisit this interesting lake to try again for Australasian Bittern which are thought to breed there. An earlier visit was rewarded by good sightings of Spotless Crake and a large flock of roosting Yellow-billed Spoonbill.

The lake is on the property of Eric and Yvonne Phillips and self-sufficient camping will be on a bush site near the lake. Limited accommodation at the homestead is available - ring Eric direct on (097) 711517.

Travel via Bridgetown south towards Manjimup. Turn right into Wilgarup Road which is 15 km north of Manjimup. Follow the road to the Phillips' homestead on the left. RAOU signs will direct you to the campsite. Distance from Perth approximately 265 km.

Leaders: Rodney Vervest and Bryan Barrett

Monday 23 November Meeting - Herdsman Wildlife Centre, 8 pm

Gordon and Joan Campbell, who are enthusiastic photographers of bowerbirds, quail thrushes and other Australian birds, will show and comment on their slides.

Sunday 29 November Full day excursion - Garden Island.

Meet at 8.30 am at the mainland end of the bridge. As Garden Island is naval territory there are limitations on the number of cars and people permitted on the island. Domestic pets are NOT allowed. Please notify the office by 23 November if you wish to take part in this excursion.

Leader: Michael Brooker

Sunday 6 December Half day excursion - Alfred Cove.

Meet at 8 am at the carpark in Troy Park, Burke Drive, Attadale (by the radio mast). Experienced wader-watchers with telescopes will be on hand to help those not familiar with these migratory birds. Old footwear desirable for walking on the sandbanks.

Leader: Norma Duff

NO December meeting

Monday 18 January Meeting - Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, 8 pm

Rodney Vervest, whose co-ordination of waterfowl counts and the Scopewest survey and other work for the RAOU is well known to members, will give an account of the results of the Scopewest survey.

Monday 22 February Meeting - Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, 8 pm

Darren Murphy, who is conducting research on Spinifexbirds in the Pilbara and on Barrow Island, will speak to us about this little known species of arid country.

Monday 22 March Meeting - Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, 8 pm

Michael Morcombe, who has written a number of books on natural history topics and illustrated those and other books with his own photographs, will talk on the subject of bird photography.

Monday 19 April Meeting - Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, 8 pm

Speaker to be arranged.

Monday 24 May Meeting - Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, 8 pm

Geoff Lodge, who farms near Boyup Brook and has studied the birds of his area since the 1930s, will discuss those birds, including Lewin's Rail, possibly extinct in Western Australia.

Observer Codes

A/RJ = Allan & Rose Jones	J/HS = John & Helen Start
AJM = John Malcolm	JH = Jack Hunt
BB = Bryan Barrett	JK = John Korol
BO = Bill Oddie	JP = Julian Pegler
CW = Chris Wilder	MC = Margery Clegg
DA = David Andrew	PH = Peel Howden
DK = Dot Kingston	PT = Patricia Todd
FO = Frank O'Connor	RN = Richard Nowotny
GL = Graham Little	RV = Rodney Vervest
GM = Greg Marston	SD = S. Dunnett
HvW = Hank van Wees	SN = Simon Nevill
IS = Ian Standring	TD = Tom Delaney
J/JB = John & Judy Blyth	TK = Tony Kirkby



Perry House Photo by J. Blyth

Late Extra: EBO

Gwen & Graham Goodreid are soon to move to Rotamah Bird Observatory.

The Eyre management Committee wishes to be contacted by any couples interested in being considered for appointment as the Wardens of Eyre.

Write to D. Watkins c/o RAOU, Perry House, 71 Oceanic Drive, Wembley.

B B C B Q Answers

- 1) Yes (p. 59)
- 2) *Erodium* spp. (p. 21) known as Storksbill (the seed head) or later, after the seed has ripened and dried as corkscrew grass. (p. 27). This food is important for nestlings "during September and October, after which grain became widely available and abundant" (p. 22)
- 3) 200 millimetres. This distance is "sufficient to preclude a sneaky bite" (p. 56)
- 4) About 50 %. The remainder are approximately 25% mated pairs and 25% fresh recruits from the previous breeding season (p. 69)
- 5) The Galah drop down to the ground below their roosting trees and remain for some 15 to 30 minutes. They appear to forage (p. 70)
- 6) Wedge-tailed Eagle. The next most significant avian predator is Peregrine Falcon, but only takes a fifth of the numbers taken by Wedge-tailed Eagle (p. 146)
- 7) 49% (p. 145)
- 8) 100 days (p. 145)
- 9) Line their nests with green leaves. (p. 78)
- 10) About three metres around the nest hole (p. 55)

Big Bird's Clever Birdo Quiz was derived from Rowley I (1990) *Behavioural Ecology of the Galah *Eolophus roseicapillus* In the Wheatbelt of Western Australia* Surrey Beatty & Sons, Chipping Norton NSW, in association with CSIRO and the RAOU. Quotations above are from the book.

Publications

Australian Waterbirds-Fieldguide	Kingsford	\$15.00
Beach Patroller's Guide	Rowe & Plant	\$7.00
Birders Guide to Japan	Robinson	\$15.00
Birding Sites around Perth	Van Delft	\$10.00
Birdlife of Murdoch	Porter	\$6.00
Birds of Australia-Logbook	Simpson & Day	\$11.00
Birds of W.A.	Serventy & Whittell	\$12.00
Check List of Birds of W.A.	10 for	\$1.00
Field Guide to Birds of Australia	Pizzey	\$23.00
Field Guide to Birds of Australia	Simpson & Day	\$25.00
Field Guide to Australian Birds	Slater	\$25.00
Field Guide to Birds of W.A.	Storr & Johnstone	\$20.00
Great Australian Birdfinder	Morecombe	\$55.00
Guide to the Flora and Fauna of the Rockingham Offshore Island and Cape Peron	W.A. Naturalists	\$10.00
Attracting Birds to a W.A. Garden		.50
Methods of Censusing Birds in Australia	Davies (ed)	\$5.00
National Photographic Index Books		
Parrots and Pigeons		\$71.00
Seabirds		\$61.00
Shorebirds		\$61.00
Honeyeaters and Allies		\$64.50
Wrens and Warblers		\$51.00
Robins and Flycatchers		\$68.00
Waterbirds of Australia		\$61.00
Parrots of the World	Forshaw	\$60.00
Pocket List of Australian Birds	Schodde	\$1.50
Portrait of a Peninsula	Smith	\$9.00
Save that Song	Hutchinson	\$25.00
Seabirds- Identification Guide	Harrison	\$64.00
Shorebirds in Australia	Lane	\$45.00
W A Bird Notes	per issue	\$3.50
Waterbirds in Nature Reserves of S.W. Australia 1981-85	Jaensch Vervest & Hewish	\$35.00
Waterbirds at Remote Wetlands Parts 1 & 2	Jaensch & Vervest	\$12.00 each
Where to Find Birds in Australia	Bransbury	\$30.00

Late Line

For my PhD research I wish to know active breeding colonies of Straw-necked Ibis. Telephone Murdoch University (09) 360 2690 or home (09) 459 1971 (evening only). Or write to School of Veterinary Sciences, Biology Division. Thank you. Karen McRoberts.