



Western Australian Bird Notes

Quarterly Newsletter of the WA Group
Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union

No 72 December 1994

Raptors at Watheroo National Park

COLLARED SPARROWHAWKS

Between 30 September and 3 October we watched a pair of Collared Sparrowhawks nest building within 150 metres of the CALM shed in Watheroo National Park. The nest was situated about 5 metres above ground in the centre of a *Eucalyptus wandoo*, just below the canopy.

When we first saw the nest it was only a thin flat platform of dead sticks each about finger thickness or less. By the time we left the nest was a cup shape with no light visible through the bottom.

The most active time for building appeared to be between 0700 hours and 0900 hours, when sticks were brought at the rate of about eight per hour. Both male and female brought sticks and fitted them into the nest, with the male the most frequent. The female sometimes visited the nest with no material after the male had departed and spent some time 'shaping' the structure.

Both birds used the same method of collecting building material. After sitting quietly in a nearby tree one would fly to a dead wandoo branch and sidle towards the tip where it was thin, wobbly and upon which it was difficult to balance. The birds would then stretch out and snap off the end of the dead twig with the bill and fly direct to the nest, transferring the twig to the feet during flight.

Both birds entered the nest from the southern side, which was unobstructed. Both would remain for several minutes, arranging the sticks, sitting down and "trying for size" before flying off for another short "rest".

We never saw either bird collect a stick from the ground; all were broken from the dead branches of wandoo. When returning to the nest with material both birds always called softly, which was usually answered by the mate from a nearby tree.

After 0900 hours the birds appeared to perch quietly in trees within 50 metres of the nest only occasionally delivering a twig and carrying out nest "adjustment".

and Grey Falcons

At about 1600 hours on 30 September we were "birding" close to the CALM campsite in Watheroo National Park. Suddenly, there was an "urgent" call, ki-ki-ki from above our heads and on looking up, we were treated to a fine display of acrobatics, by what we thought were four Australian Hobbits.

After a while all four birds settled in wandoo trees around the campsite to give us good views of three of the four. Two were Australian Hobby, but the third and probably the fourth were Grey Falcon.

The third bird was perched on a dead branch in full view about 35 metres from us. We were using 8 x 40 binoculars with the sun behind us. The bird was all grey, about the size of a large hobby, darker on the back, with a paler grey chest and belly both of which were flecked with darker grey vertical streaks. The primaries, when folded, were dark grey. The base of the bill, cere and skin around the eye were bright yellow with a darker patch below the eye, intruding into an almost white cheek.

We were not able to obtain a good view of the fourth bird. In flight it appeared to be a Grey Falcon and not an Australian Hobby.

Intermittent aerial displays, with a great deal of calling, continued off and on until sundown. Next morning all was peaceful. We then discovered the Australian Hobbits had a nest in a wandoo beside the CALM shed and were either incubating or brooding very small young. We saw an Australian Hobby carrying a Willie Wagtail at about 0700 hours on two consecutive mornings, but these were not taken to the nest.

We spent two more days in the Park but did not see the Grey Falcons again.

J. & H. Start

Editorial

This is my first editorial. It is also my last. This current edition of WABN will complete ten years as Editor and I have decided to relinquish the 'post'.

I have learned that to edit WABN competently requires more time than would appear and this, together with a desire to avoid the need to organise my life to be available to edit WABN four times annually, which has been the position for ten years, has been a factor in my decision.

Big Bird has also written to express exhaustion at the need for questions and those in this issue of WABN are Big Bird's last. He hopes his Clever Birdo Quiz has been of interest to some at least.

I shall not miss the contributors (many!) who did not use RAOU recommended English names and spellings and those who made anthropomorphic statements, which have required constant vigilance. However I shall be able to look forward to receiving WABN, which is less the case after having read the entire contents not less than four times (and still made errors!).

The years of editing have been enjoyable and I have (of necessity) learned a good deal about birding I might not otherwise have done. I have been helped by too many to name individually. I thank all who have helped.

Particular mention does need be made of those whose work make WABN possible over the years, especially Rose Jones, Margery Clegg and Chris Wilder. Thanks also to Allan Burbidge for important input more recently and especial thanks to all those who made Members Contributions, the real core of WABN. More contributions would always have been welcome, but I am grateful for those received.

May your bird observing be rewarding.

Editor

Observations

Compiled by the Observations Committee. Shires are in brackets.

SOUTH-WEST (Shark Bay to Cape Arid)

Freckled Duck - 1, 29/8/94, Wellard wetlands (Kwinana) - JCr
Letter-winged Kite - 1, 10/94, 50 km N of Kalbarri (Northampton) - * 12, 10/94, Hutt River ca. 25 km W of Binu (Northampton) - IC

Square-tailed Kite - 1, 3/9 and 13/11/94, Mt Saddleback, about 20 km S of Boddington (Boddington) - MBa * 1, 9/9/94, Cooljarloo (15 km N of Cataby) (Dandaragan) - MBa

Spotted Harrier - 3, 30/9/94, Stirling Range National Park (Plantagenet) - IS, BS

Malleefowl - 1 roadkill, 9/9/94, 16 km NE of Wubin on Great Northern Hwy (Dalwallinu) - IS, BS

Buff-banded Rail - 1 fledgeling, 10/11/94, corner Beechboro and Marshall Roads, Malaga (Swan) - MBa

Baillon's Crake - 1, 18/9, 24/9 and 3/10/94, Lion's Weir Pool, Hotham River, Boddington (Boddington) - GM

Australian Crake - 4, 31/3/94, Lake Bennett, near Lake King Nature Reserve (Lake Grace) - MG

Black-winged Stilt - nest with 4 eggs, 20/9/94, Pelican Point (Nedlands) - KCr

Red-necked Phalarope - 1 female, 29/8/94, Lake Bagdad, Rottnest Island (Rottnest Island) - PC

Western Long-billed Corella - 2, 27/10/94, 3 km N of Manjimup (Manjimup) - MC (unusual this far west)

Elegant Parrot - 2, 14/8/94, 3 km N of Manjimup (Manjimup) - MC * 2, 2/11/94, 23 km ENE of Manjimup (Manjimup) - MC (this species is only patchily distributed in the extreme SW)

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo - 1, 7/10/94, 32 km NE of Manjimup (Bridgetown-Greenbushes) - MC * 1, 21/10/94, 28 km NE of Manjimup (Bridgetown-Greenbushes) - MC (these records are the south-western limits of distribution of this species)

Rainbow Bee-eater - 2, 23/9/94, Kings Park (Perth) - IS, BS
White-backed Swallow - 1+, 15/8/94, Rockingham Road, Cockburn (Cockburn) - PT, RN (unusual this far south on Swan Coastal Plain)

Red-capped Robin - 1, 22/8/94, Blue Gum Lake (Melville) - JBo * 1 male, 23/9/94, Darling Scarp at Kelmscott (Armadale-Kelmscott) - GM * 1 male, 12/10/94, 27 km NE of Manjimup (Bridgetown-Greenbushes) - MC * dependent young being fed by adult male, 1/11/94, Gooseberry Hill (Kalamunda) - RS (breeds near Perth occasionally)

Crested Shrike-tit - 1, 16/10/94, Donnelly River (Nannup) - GL * 1, 5/11/94, Maxon Farm, Batalling, 13 km W of Darkan (West Arthur) - BM and RAOU Campout

Splendid Fairy-wren - 1 male, 9/94, Booragoon Lake (Melville) - MW, RW

Variegated Fairy-wren - 1 male, 2+ "brown" birds, 18/10/94, Big Carine Swamp (Stirling) - HvW, DP

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater - 1 adult, sometimes 2, 13/3 to 16/5/94 and 1 immature, 18/3/93, Yokine (Stirling) - IS, BS

Black Honeyeater - 3, 1/10/94, Dryandra Forest (Williams) - CW

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

Letter-winged Kite - 1, 31/8/94, Point Quobba (Carnarvon) JO * 5, 31/8/94, Three Mile Camp, Gnarlou Station (Carnarvon) - JO * 1, 9/94, near Pt Cuvier (Carnarvon) - REJ * 1, 9/94, Boolathana Station (Carnarvon) - AB * 1, 9/94, Peron Peninsula (Shark Bay) - GF * 2, 10/94, Useless Loop (Shark Bay) - RJo (there has been a widespread irruption onto the west coast, extending from the southern Kimberley to south of Kalbarri, in the latter half of 1994 - also see elsewhere in this report and in WABN 71, pp 3 and 8)

Barking Owl - 1, 12/7/94, Weeli Wolli Spring, ca. 70 km NW of Newman (East Pilbara) - JS, HS

Blue-winged Pitta - 1, 6/11/94, 5 km N of King Bay, Burrup Peninsula (Roebourne) - JC (rare non-breeding migrant from SE Asia; very few records from Australia)

Cinnamon Quail-thrush - 2+, 11/9/94, Thundelarra Station (Yalgoo) - IS, BS, DN, JN

Black-tailed Treecreeper - 2, 12/7/94, Weeli Wolli Spring, ca. 70 km NW of Newman (East Pilbara) - JS, HS * 1, 18/7/94, House Creek, near Mt Stuart HS (Ashburton) - JS, HS

Grey-headed Honeyeater - 2, 12/7/94, Weeli Wolli Spring, ca. 70 km NW of Newman (East Pilbara) - JS, HS (near southern limit of range in this region)

Black-chinned Honeyeater - 2, 12/7/94, Weeli Wolli Spring, ca. 70 km NW of Newman (East Pilbara) - JS, HS

White-fronted Honeyeater - 1, 18/7/94, House Creek, near Mt Stuart HS (Ashburton) - JS, HS (near northern limit in this part of range)

Grey Honeyeater - 1, 15/7/94, West Angelas Hill, between Mt Meharry and The Governor (Ashburton) - JS, HS
Masked Woodswallow - 500+, 11/9/94, Thundelarra Station (Yalgoo) - IS, BS, DN, JN

KIMBERLEY

Wilson's Storm-Petrel - 30, 10/9/94, pelagic, off Broome (Broome) - BBO

Australian Shelduck - 1 female, 29/10/94, Wyndham Sewage Farm (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - AB, SG, BMa (vagrant in the Kimberley)

Garganey - 3, 28/10/94, Parry Lagoons (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - AB, SG, BMa

Letter-winged Kite - 1, 27/7/94, Crab Creek mangroves (Broome) - GA * 3, 9/8/94, Willie Creek, Broome (Broome) - BBO * 2, 10/8/94, Roebuck Plains (Broome) - BBO * 3, 19/8/94, Broome (Broome) - BBO * 8, 26/8/94, Broome, near port (Broome) - MN, MV, KM, BM * 1, 18/10/94, Broome (most recent sighting in Broome area up to mid-November) - BBO

Black Falcon - 1, 10/8/94, Lake Eda (Broome) - BBO

Grey Falcon - 1, 1/7/94, Roebuck Plains (Broome) - PCo

Buff-banded Rail - 1, 2/2, 11/9 and 12/9/94, Broome sewage ponds (Broome) - GS

Pied Oystercatcher - 114, 5/6/94, Roebuck Bay, (Broome) - BBO

Little Ringed Plover - 1 juvenile, 8/9/94, Broome sewage ponds (Broome) - GS, BBO

Red-capped Plover - 655, 15/6/94, Roebuck Bay, (Broome) - BBO

Little Curlew - 1, 10/8/94, Roebuck Plains (Broome) - BBO (rare at this time of year) * 300, 30/10/94, Lake Eda (Broome) - BBO

Pectoral Sandpiper - 1, 25/8/94, Broome sewage ponds (Broome) - BBO * 1, 18/10/94, Roebuck Bay (Broome) - BBO

Little Stint - 1 caught, 2/10/94, Lake Eda (Broome) - RJe, PCo

Common Bronzewing - 1, 30/6/94, Cable Beach, Broome (Broome) - BBO

Flock Bronzewing - 2, 2/8/94, Lake Campion (Broome) - BBO

Partridge Pigeon - 8, 5/8/94, Backstein Creek, Beverley Springs Station (Derby-West Kimberley) - KC

Black-eared Cuckoo - 1, 23/9/94, Coconut Well, just N of Broome (Broome) - BBO

Channel-billed Cuckoo - 3, 13/11/94, Derby (Derby-West Kimberley) - MGU

Welcome Swallow - 16, 24/5/94, Broome Sewage Works (Broome) - BBO (this species is a rare autumn-winter visitor to the southern Kimberley)

Red-capped Robin - 2, 23/5/94, 1 caught, 3/6/94, Broome Bird Observatory (Broome) - JF, PCo (northern limit of distribution)

White-browed Robin - 1, 30/10/94, Kona Caravan Park, Kununurra, in dense vegetation by the edge of a swamp (Wyndham-East Kimberley) - AB, SG, BMa (uncommon in the East Kimberley)

Western Gerygone - 3, 10/8/94, Lake Eda (Broome) - PCo

Black-tailed Treecreeper - 3, 10/8/94, Lake Campion (Broome) - PCo

Black Honeyeater - 1, 18/7/94, Ngumban Cliff, ca. 90 km SE of Fitzroy Crossing (Derby-West Kimberley) - KC * 30, 30/10/94, Anna Plains (Broome) - BBO (near northern limit of range)

Pied Honeyeater - 2, 30/10/94, Anna Plains (Broome) - BBO (at or near northern limit of range)

Crimson Chat - 47, 10/8/94, Lake Eda (Broome) - BBO

Orange Chat - 2, 10/8/94, Lake Eda (Broome) - BBO

Yellow Chat - 64, 10/8/94, Lake Eda (Broome) - BBO

Yellow White-eye - 1+, 28/7/94, Windjana Gorge (Derby-West Kimberley) - KC

Painted Firetail - 8, 28/7/94, Windjana Gorge (Derby-West Kimberley) - KC

Gouldian Finch - 1 adult and 7 immature, 25/7/94, North Creek, Gibb River Rd - KC

Figbird - 1, 28/7/94, Windjana Gorge (Derby-West Kimberley) - KC

Masked Woodswallow - 800, 23/7/94, and 2000+, 30-31/7/94, Broome Bird Observatory (Broome) - BBO

ERRATA

Ground Parrot - 2, 4/8/94, Waychinicup National Park (E of Mt Many Peaks) (Albany) - AB, JKR. (Observer incorrect in WABN 71)

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BMa - Bruce Male	KC - Kevin Coate
BS - Bev Standring	KCr - Kate Creed
CW - Chris Wilder	MBa - Mike Bamford
DN - David Newsome	MC - Michael Craig
DP - Dorothy Pearce	MG - Mal Graham
GA - George Appleby	MGU - Mike Guger
GF - Graeme Folley	MN - Mavis Norgard
GL - Graham Little	MV - Mary Vaughan
GM - Greg Marston	MW - Marian Watson
GS - George Swann	PC - Peter Coyle
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B. Buchanan.

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 March Issue
1 February 1994
at Perry House

Members Contributions

KIMBERLEY GAPS IN BLOCKS

I visited the Kimberley in early August. The tourist hyperbole led me to expect an area scenically very different to more southerly parts, but it was not. It is possessed of gorges, though one is like another, but there are the Leopold Ranges, which are magnificent in late afternoon sun when descending the Gibb River Road.

Bird life however is different, with more birds generally and of course different species. The fact that species visually the same as in the south have different calls came as a surprise.

Total species seen was 164, excluding Broome Bird Observatory sightings. I found (after a difficult decision process) the Variegated Fairy-wren, *Rogersi* race, to win the visual attractiveness stakes (much better than Purple-crowned) and the most unexpected species was Black Grasswren, both bigger, bolder and "jolly" than any photograph depicts.

Reviewing my sighting lists against the Blakers M, Davies SJJF, Reilly PN (1984) *The Atlas of Australian Birds*, RAOU, Melbourne I was surprised to find a number of sightings in 10 Blocks hitherto without the species. While the *Atlas* is ageing it is still the only published distribution record. Species not *Atlas* recorded were:—

Intermediate Egret (15/126) King Edward River Stn. & Woodhouse River

Straw-necked Ibis (15/126) Drysdale River

Royal Spoonbill (16/126) Mt Elizabeth Stn.

Plumed Whistling Duck (16/126) Hann River

Grey Teal (17/125) Moll Gorge

Comb-crested Jacana (15/126) Woodhouse River

Common Bronzewing (15/126) Mitchell Plateau & King Edward River Stn.

Black-eared Cuckoo (16/126) Drysdale River Stn.

Azure Kingfisher (15/126) Drysdale River and King Edward River Stn.

Crested Shrike-tit (15/126) Drysdale River

Leaden Flycatcher (15/126) King Edward River Stn.

Clamorous Reed-Warbler (15/126) Drysdale River & (16/125) Manning Gorge

Blue-faced Honeyeater (15/126) King Edward River Stn. & (17/124) Kimberley Downs Stn.

Bar-breasted Honeyeater (15/126) Drysdale River

Crimson Chat (17/123) Broome-Derby Road

Yellow White-eye (17/124) Kimberley Downs Stn.

Masked Finch (17/124) Kimberley Downs Stn.

Masked Woodswallow (17/125) Mt House Stn.

All the above sightings have records in the *Atlas* in adjacent Blocks with the exception of the Comb-crested Jacana, nearest record Wyndham area 235 km away and Crested Shrike-tit, which has no Kimberley record at all, the nearest being in the Northern Territory.

Given that the area seems to be almost overwhelmed with "outback" tourist operators (most of whom are clearly not ornithological — I liked the "outback" bus with on-board TV !) the lack of records must surely derive from a failure to report. Prior to seeing two Crested Shrike-tit in the Drysdale River area I was informed of the possibility of seeing the species despite the *Atlas* having no records. I can only hope there will be an alteration of attitude for otherwise much useful ornithological information will never enter the record.

Gouldian Finch adults were unusual, a group of immatures/young with one or two adults being most often seen. However they were found in six locations — Bell Creek, Beverley Springs Station, Drysdale River Station, Mt House Station, Moll Gorge and Lake Gladstone. Also interesting was Striated Pardalote *melanocephalus* breeding on the Woodhouse River.

My thanks to George Swann for directing me to many good birding locations.

B. Buchanan

GREY HONEYEATERS AT MULLEWA

A small party of Grey Honeyeaters arrived in Mullewa in May of this year. They were observed breeding in July - September. One pair nested in dense garden vegetation in the Main street - Jose Street and during this nesting I was able to make positive identification.

Among the smallest of the honeyeaters, Grey Honeyeaters can be confused with Western Gerygone especially when obscured in foliage.

This south-western movement may be caused by renewed activity and mining in the Mt Magnet-Yalgoo area, the increasing cover of roadside corridors or the recent drier weather patterns. Mullewa appears to be the western limit, as two pairs are normally resident at Wilroy Nature Reserve, 23 km SE of Mullewa.

This year we forecast early prolonged spells of hot weather as the Budgerigars and Crimson Chats arrived early to breed. A Chiming Wedgebill was heard at the Greenough River crossing, north of Mullewa, in late August which is unusual so far south. Finally, a single Brolga was sighted at Bone's Lake after a recent cyclone.

We will be watching for further unusual sightings in this early dry season.

E. Leyland

RUFIOUS TREECREEPERS & NECTAR

On two occasions in late November/early December 1993 I observed what I believe to have been the taking of nectar by a Rufous Treecreeper. Both observations were made in an area of *Eucalyptus marginata*/*E. calophylla* forest 20km ENE of Manjimup which at the time had a profusely flowering understorey of *Banksia grandis*.

Other than White-naped Honeyeaters, the area seemed strangely devoid of nectivorous birds, but twice I saw a Rufous Treecreeper land on a banksia florescence and plunge its beak, slightly agape into the flowers.

The birds left their beaks in the flowers for approximately three seconds before moving on to another part of the tree. Although I could not see their tongues moving I believe the birds I observed were taking nectar. First, the birds left their beaks in the flowers for about three seconds whereas when they are probing for insects in bark, a probe invariably lasts less than half a second. Secondly, there were numerous insects on the inflorescence which were ignored by them. I concluded they were drinking nectar from the flowers.

M. Craig

NECTAR POISONING ?

For a number of years now I have been pondering the 'illness' and eventual deaths of Little Wattlebirds around this time of the year (December & later).

While not a common occurrence, I receive 2 or 3 reports of sick birds each year within the Town of Narrogin. Occasionally I am brought such a bird.

Following information gathered by myself re poisonous flowering plants (in relation to bee deaths) I wonder if birds are affected by the toxins within the nectar of the *Eucalyptus leucoxylon petiolaris* (which has pink, white or red flowers, the last usually sold by nurseries as *rosea*) and whether other species have similar effects.

Plants known to have deleterious effects on the European honey bee are:-

Eucalyptus leucoxylon, *Brassica napus* (Rape), *Castanospermum australe* (Moreton Bay Chestnut or Black Bean), *Eucalyptus citriodora* (Lemon-Scented Gum), *Hakea costata*, *Schefflera actinophylla* (Umbrella Tree).

L. Silvester

NATURE RESERVE 20372

There must be readers who, like me, find life events have occurred out of sequence. This at least seems to be the position with my bird observing.

Not long after I joined the RAOU, water bird watching was the principal requirement. South-West Water Bird Surveys, Great Duck Counts, Scopewest and their like called for volunteers. After ten years plus of never less than three wetlands surveyed monthly, I concluded I must have counted all the Grey Teal in the State at least twice and decided to turn attention to 'bushbirds'.

Swamp wading and watching is pleasant and waterbirds are large and easily seen and identified on water and wing. Even waders stand quietly as one approaches and for the most part are not difficult to distinguish. Much can be done (if so minded) by sitting quietly at one good observation post with a telescope and some quite large swamps can be thoroughly surveyed in 2-3 hours when sight lines are clear. And being near water it is often cool.

By contrast bush birds are small, not easy to see, often not easy to identify in the bush and very difficult on the wing, rarely still for more than a second or so and frequently obscured in foliage. All this is bad enough but in addition much greater time is needed. Diminishing returns only set in markedly after 36+ hours at a site, during which time not less than 8-10 hours of walking are required and the quietude of the bush can be unpleasantly hot.

Having been involved in the easy waterbirding while young and dashing (at least it is a nice thought) at a rather greater age I find myself in the more physically demanding bush. No wonder it seems my bird-watching is out of sequence.

One of the places at which I commenced my new career was Nature Reserve 20372. This is north-east of Dalwallinu and is an area of some 6.5 square kilometres, largely of low 'acacia' type scrub interspersed with some small areas of eucalypts. Observation is easiest from the firebreaks which surround the Reserve, for although there are some old tracks through the scrub, the visual limitation on sightings is great. The Reserve is wholly surrounded by cultivated farming land.

I visited the Reserve seven times between September 1992 and October 1994, in the months of March, May, June, September, October and December. In all I recorded 50 species either in or over-flying the Reserve, five of which were breeding (either at nest or feeding young). A list is given below with the number of sightings made in the seven visits with a (b) for breeding.

One of the breeding species was Malleefowl, an active mound being discovered during a traverse of the bush. Malleefowl were seen on five of the seven visits: on one

occasion five Malleefowl were seen in a group and on another three were together. The solitary reputation of the bird may not be so securely based.

On three of the sightings the Malleefowl took wing. For birds which often walk slowly, almost ponderously, the ease of flight came as a surprise. Loud flapping of wings was minimal and one bird rose easily at an angle in excess of 45° to a height of 10 metres to fly strongly and swiftly across the Reserve for over 60 metres before dropping from view. Malleefowl are clearly not so terrestrial as they appear and flight from one reserve/area to another seems readily possible.

The Reserve was surveyed by John Dell of the WA Museum in 1975 and 1976 in three separate periods of 6 days minimum. He also recorded 50 species in or flying over the Reserve, although listing further species close to and probably using the Reserve. Naturally Dell saw species I did not and vice-versa despite the coincidence of numbers.

It seems possible some species may have increased since the Museum surveys — Malleefowl, Port Lincoln Ringneck, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill and Brown Honeyeater.

Other species appear to have declined, notably Crested Pigeon, Galah, Red-capped Robin, Western Yellow Robin, Redthroat, White-eared Honeyeater and White-fronted Chat.

Species seen by Dell and not recorded by me were Southern Scrub-robin and Shy Hylacola (both of which species are not readily observed and may still be present), Striated Pardalote, White-winged Fairy-wren, Calamanthus and Richard's Pipit and a group of nomadic/migratory species, Emu (seen outside the Reserve trying to pass in through the fence unsuccessfully), Wedge-tailed Eagle, Brown Falcon, Australian Kestrel, Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Australian Owllet-nightjar, White-backed Swallow, Zebra Finch and Little Crow.

The most striking of these absentees is Richard's Pipit, recorded by Dell on every visit and noted as common. Despite specific effort to locate them not a single pipit was seen. Changed farming practice?

Most of the other 'non-nomad' absentees/apparent declines are of ground using species. This may reflect changed farming practice also and/or greater predation from feral cats and foxes.

To reinforce my statement earlier about the problems of bush bird identification I have only to point out that I thought I saw Variegated Fairy-wren at the Reserve. Strikingly, Dell saw none but recorded Blue-breasted Fairy-wren. He informs me (and inspection of skins at the Museum only reinforces the problem) that the birds at the Reserve are of the Blue-breasted species. In the list below I retain Variegated (although Dell is most likely to be correct), as I thought I observed the Variegated species. A mist net expedition seems to be needed to determine the matter.

While NR 20372 is not among the more attractive reserves visually, it clearly has importance for Malleefowl.

My thanks to Mike Fitzgerald and his colleagues of CALM, Merredin for their assistance and support and to John Dell for discussing my "findings" with me.

NR 20372 Bird List, with number of sightings out of 7: —

Grey Teal (1) (there is a small seasonal swamp in one corner), Brown Goshawk (1), Australian Hobby (2), Malleefowl (b) (5), Common Bronzewing (6), Crested Pigeon (6), Galah (5), Port Lincoln Ringneck (7), Mulga Parrot (4), Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo (3), Sacred Kingfisher (1), Rainbow Bee-eater (1), Welcome Swallow (1), Tree Martin (2), Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (1), White-winged Triller

(1), Red-capped Robin (3), Western Yellow Robin (1), Golden Whistler (5), Rufous Whistler (5), Grey Shrike-thrush (5), Crested Bellbird (7), Grey Fantail (3), Willie Wagtail (7), White-browed Babbler (b) (7), Rufous Songlark (1), Splendid Fairy-wren (1), Variegated Fairy-wren (5) - see text, Redthroat (2), Weebill (7), Western Gerygone (3), Inland Thornbill (b) (7), Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (7), Yellow-rumped Thornbill (b) (5), Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (1), Yellow-throated Miner (4), Singing Honeyeater (7), White-eared Honeyeater (1), Brown-headed Honeyeater (2), Brown Honeyeater (5), White-fronted Honeyeater (1), White-fronted Chat (1), Australian Magpie-lark (1), Masked Woodswallow (1), Black-faced Woodswallow (5), Grey Butcherbird (b) (6), Pied Butcherbird (1), Australian Magpie (2), Australian Raven (7)

B. Buchanan

VOLUNTEERS AGAIN

Having read Max Bailey's salute to the willing and capable band of office volunteers in the September WABN, I thought it would be appropriate to mention some of the other activities undertaken by volunteers on behalf of the RAOU in WA.

Our trading table and various displays of bird photographs have appeared at many community events over recent months — at "Spring Flag", Bold Park, August 28; the Wannamal Wildflower Weekend, September 10/11; Mingenew Rural Expo, September 23/24; WA Naturalists Club Craft and Garden Fair, November 26; Gosnells Earthfest, November 27 and ahead, the Hobby Spectacular in Claremont Showgrounds, January 21/22. On many of these occasions, RAOU guides have conducted members of the public on free bird walks in addition to staffing our displays and stalls. We are always keen to hear of new persons willing to be involved.

The RAOU participated in the Bold Park Festival by running bird walks on October 9 & 11. To celebrate Bird Week, our volunteers took free bird walks at Pelican Point, Crawley on October 25, Lake Booragoon on October 29 and Lake Monger on October 30. Swan Shire's "Be Active Together" programme saw us taking a bird walk in the FR Berry Reserve near Gidgegannup on November 9.

Our thematic bird displays (photographs) have been set up in many places, though mainly in public libraries — such as Subiaco, Melville, Guildford, Spearwood, Coolbellup, Safety Bay and Floreat. The Environment Centre in Perth has had a display, as well as two hospitals, Sir Charles Gairdner and Osborne Park and several schools.

Thanks to those who so willingly lend the RAOU their vehicles, selves and time to enable all these activities.

J. Blyth

Notices

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre Monday 27 February, 1995, at 8.00 pm. All Committee positions will be declared vacant and office bearers will be elected for 1995/96.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the office, Perry House and must be signed by the proposer, seconder and the person nominated, all of whom should be paid-up members. The completed form should be sent to the Secretary or be handed in prior to the commencement of the AGM.

LAKE GLADSTONE - permission

At the commencement of my article on Lake Gladstone I stated it was on Mt House Station. While most will have

appreciated the desirability of obtaining prior permission from the Station owners before a visit, my statement did not make this wholly clear.

Permission to visit Lake Gladstone ought to be obtained from the Station owners prior to any visit.

B. Buchanan

EDITORIAL SUB-COMMITTEE

This is the last issue of WA Bird Notes to be edited by Bruce Buchanan, who has decided to relinquish the position after 10 years of dedication to the job.

The WA Group Committee has appointed a new Editorial Sub-committee consisting of John Blyth and Allan Burbidge (joint editors), Margaret Philippon (typing), Roger and Marian Watson (typesetting) and Rod Smith (distribution). The Sub-committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Bruce Buchanan for his many years of service. In particular, the Index to WABN will be invaluable to the new editors.

Deadlines

The deadline for the March issue is 1 February 1995, and it is intended that WABN No 73 will be distributed in the first week of March 1995. Other deadlines for the year are 1 May, 1 August and 1 November, with distribution during the first week of June, September and December.

Contributions

Members are encouraged to contribute material for Bird Notes. Almost all will know something about birds or places to see birds which other members would be interested in knowing about. Please put pen to paper on anything to do with birds which you think may be of interest.

If you think you are not good at writing, jot down your thoughts and we will help you put it in a form suitable for WABN or talk to a member of the Editorial Sub-committee (see tel. numbers below) to receive help in your writing. If you prefer to sketch rather than write, you might like to illustrate some aspect of bird behaviour you have observed.

The WA Group Committee has also asked the Editorial Sub-committee to seek views of members concerning WABN and in the light of this, revise the editorial policy if appropriate. If you have any ideas, comments or criticisms, please talk to one of the people on the WA Group Committee or the Editorial Sub-committee. We would appreciate hearing from as many members as possible, both new and long-term.

Editorial Sub-committee

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BENNETT BROOK STUDY

The Success Hill Action Group has been funded under the National Landcare Programme to undertake a baseline study of the flora and fauna in Bennett Brook.

The area of Bennett Brook to be studied is located between the Swan River and Benara Road, an area owned by the State Planning Commission, but leased for grazing.

The study area is likely to support waterbirds in a large paperbark covered swamp and may be a corridor for bushbird movement between Whiteman Park and the Swan River.

The study is to run for one year and we aim to do monthly bushbird surveys at five or six locations and waterbird surveys in January, April, June and October.

If you would like to help call Ron van Delft - H. (09) 279-9913 or W. (09) 222-7079.

RE-USE OF CALENDARS

As 1994 draws to a close and you replace this year's calendar with the next, please spare a thought for the RAOU's WA Index of bird photographs. Any good and reasonably large pictures of birds will be very welcome additions to this much used resource. Once they have been laminated and "Velcro-ed" they are ready to include in our growing array of thematic bird displays.

Judy Blyth will be happy to relieve you of any bird photographs at our monthly RAOU meetings — or leave them at Perry House at any time.

PERRY HOUSE LIBRARY NEWS

The following reports/journals have been received during the quarter:

Urban Bushland Community Group Directory 1994/5

Reports - July, August, September, October 1994 - RGC Wetlands Centre, Capel

Narpulungup News - October 1994, - newsletter, Fitzgerald River National Park Association

Nature Territory - August & November 1994 - newsletters Field Naturalists Club

CALM Annual Report 1993/4

The Greener Times - September 1994 (Focus on Wetlands) - newsletter Conservation Council of WA (Inc)

The Bird Observer No. 746 October 1994 - Bird Observers Club of Australia

EMU - Vol 94 Part 3 September 1994 - RAOU (Inc)

WATSNU - Issue No 3 September 1994 - Newsletter - WA Threatened Species and Communities Unit of CALM

Lesueur National Park and Coomallo Nature Reserve Draft Management Plan 1994

Lake Mealup Preservation Society Newsletter - July 1994

Wings - July 1994 - newsletter - WA Native Bird Hospital

Galah - in-house newsletter - RAOU July 1994

Excursion & Observatory Reports

EYRE

One of the pleasures of Eyre is sitting at the kitchen or lounge room windows, watching the birds drinking at the birdbaths. The one outside the lounge-room on the south of the house is situated only about one metre from the edge of the verandah. On the north side, there are two baths, one under a

Christmas Greetings

to all readers

from

the Editor and staff
of WABN.

small *Acacia cyclops* about 3 metres from the kitchen window and the other on top of the underground tank, about one metre above the ground and about 5 metres from the window. This has a dead tree above it, providing perching places.

The variation of behaviour of different species as they set out to obtain a drink and/or bath is most interesting. Pink Cockatoos fly in past the tank bath, before returning to perch in the dead tree, usually squawking as they approach. On alighting, their crests come up and they bob their heads, displaying the beautiful deep pink feathers. There is no sign of fear or hesitancy, although usually some keep watch while others drink. They use their beaks for stability as they climb down the tree trunk to the water. Very often, those waiting give a "gymnastics display" on the radio aerial wires. They never bathe.

In marked contrast, the Brush Bronzewing are extremely nervous and frightened by the slightest noise or movement. Even a honeyeater flying near is enough to put them to flight. They walk to the water dodging from bush to bush, from at least 100 metres out, but always fly after drinking.

Australian Ravens are highly dependent on water in summer. On very hot days, they will perch about 50 metres from the baths and stay there most of the day, drifting in for a drink and "slosh" at intervals. Their arrival puts other birds to flight.

There is often "dispute" between the ravens and the Pink Cockatoos, as to who will occupy the tank bath, mostly determined by which species has the numbers, or by a particularly bold leader. The Pink Cockatoos advance as if "aggressively" towards their "opponents" with crests raised, bobbing their heads.

The ravens bathing-table manners leave something to be desired. It is not unusual to see them regurgitate food into the water. They push each other away from the water and even kick or pull another by the tail feathers to get a place.

In hot weather, honeyeaters arrive in a continual stream. They favour either the bath under the acacia at the north, or the south bath which also has plenty of bush cover around it. We frequently see about 20 New Holland Honeyeaters getting a drink at the same time at the south bath. There does not appear to be much animosity between honeyeaters, with Singing and New Hollands being perhaps the most domineering. Honeyeaters are fastidious bathers and seem to derive much pleasure from it.

Little Wattlebird have been present in the Eyre area for the first time since 1981. Some aggression was shown towards them; perhaps they were considered unwelcome extra competition.

The only raptors seen at the baths are the Brown Goshawk

and Collared Sparrowhawk. Both species appear to enjoy bathing and they spend a long time standing in the water, soaking wet, especially in very hot weather.

The Welcome Swallow show an interesting adaptation to their circumstances. Without the opportunity to drink in their usual way, by swooping over a large body of water (not available here), they drink and bathe like the other birds, perching on bath sides and wading into the water.

White-browed Scrub-wrens and Blue-breasted Fairy-wrens flit in and drink and bath very quickly before disappearing into the undergrowth again. Other regular visitors are Grey Butcherbird, Grey Currawong, Grey Shrike-thrush and Silvereye. Occasionally White-browed Babblers come for a drink.

However, some local species never come to drink. Among these are the thornbills, Southern Scrub-robin, Chestnut Quail-thrush, Western Yellow Robin, Jacky Winter, Mistletoebird, Malleefowl and the cuckoos. The pardalotes and Yellow-throated Miner do come, but rarely.

There must be very few better opportunities for seeing birds so clearly and at such close range, but still in a natural state.

Worthy of mention on the bird front is the re-appearance of Little Wattlebird in the area. There was only one previous sighting of one bird in 1981, but on 26 August five were recorded drinking here and the species was observed again throughout the rest of the month, September and until 23 October. They were also at the 9-mile.

A single Marsh Sandpiper has been seen at the 9-mile two weeks in a row, only the second and third recordings for Eyre. White-winged Trillers are returned to Hampton Tableland — the first recording in the last two years. A few have been seen around the house.

"Discovering Eyre's Flora" course, led by Andrew Brown, was run in September. It proved very interesting and many plants were added to the Herbarium. A special feature was identification of the many Mallees in the area. Ten different species were identified during the course.

In October, "Bird Banding", with Perry and Alma de Rebeira, was conducted, with "Malleefowl Studies", led by Rod Smith, running in the second week as well. As usual the banding course gave the participants much useful information and developed their skills. Malleefowl mounds were inspected and at least four are active in the area. Another Malleefowl was caught and colour-banded, which should aid further study.

We take this opportunity to thank Edna Milne and the RAOU WA Group for generously providing sponsorship for three student ornithologists. They are attending "Field Techniques for Bird Study" course, led by Stephen Davies, assisted by Peter Congreve. Thanks too to Alex Morrison of Albany, who organised fund-raising to buy EBO a small compressor to carry in the vehicle.

Marmalade provided by Nora Brockman was also gratefully received.

We expect to have a new course list available soon. We wish you a happy Christmas and New Year and lots of great birding in 1995.

R & G Watkins

BANDING AT EYRE

The 1994 Bird Banding Course was run in conjunction with Rod Smith's Malleefowl Studies Course following the success of our joint operation last year. The most useful feature

of combining the courses is that Malleefowl Studies can operate in all weather conditions and provide an alternative to mist-netting on days too wet and windy for safe trapping, of which we had two. The final day of the course was set aside for sorting and storing equipment, net repair, data collation and the washing of holding bags.

A total of 723 birds were processed over nine days of mist-netting activity, six more than last year. (See Table 1). An additional 41 Same-day Recoveries brought the grand total to 764 birds handled. Not all Same-day Recoveries were recorded on the data sheets but when there was sufficient time they were weighed on recapture and their mass compared with that registered earlier in the day. (See Table 2). This exercise was conducted on one day only and provided a very small sample, but this will become a controlled feature of our future bird banding courses.

Table 1. Numbers of each species processed.

	B	R	Total
Malleefowl	2	1	3
Brush Bronzewing	6	0	6
Port Lincoln Ringneck	1	0	1
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	0	1
Welcome Swallow	6	13	19
Tree Martin	2	0	2
Grey Shrike-thrush	3	1	4
White-browed Babbler	2	1	3
Inland Thornbill	5	0	5
White-browed Scrubwren	4	3	7
Blue-breasted Fairy-wren	2	3	5
Yellow-rumped Pardalote	3	0	3
Silvereye	70	56	126
White-fronted Honeyeater	69	8	77
Brown Honeyeater	6	9	15
Singing Honeyeater	34	34	68
White-eared Honeyeater	6	3	9
Purple-gaped Honeyeater	2	2	4
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	3	0	3
New Holland Honeyeater	191	140	331
Little Wattlebird	3	0	3
Red Wattlebird	1	0	1
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	18	0	18
Grey Currawong	2	0	2
Grey Butcherbird	1	0	1
Striated Pardalote	6	0	6
Species total 26	449	274	723

B = Number Banded and R = Number Retrapped

An immature Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo became the subject of an impromptu "species identification" workshop. The familiar barring and facial markings were absent in this individual, a plumage condition not well recorded or displayed in field guides, which led to some hesitation in recognition of the bird in the absence of these diagnostic features. However, the rich rufous colour on the upper tail feathers is evident in this species even at the nestling stage and this enabled an identification to be made with confidence. This plumage feature is the basis for an earlier colloquial name of "Rufous-tailed Bronze-Cuckoo" (Condon, 1975). Another diagnostic feature in the hand is narrow bill width and hence another early name "Narrow-billed Bronze-Cuckoo" (Anon, 1969). This was only

Table 2. Mass change of Same-day Recoveries

	No.	Minutes	Mass Change
Silvereye	1	65	-0.2
Brown Honeyeater	6	80	+0.2
		130	+1.3
		140	+0.8
		180	+0.4
		185	0
New Holland Honeyeater	2	215	+0.3
		30	-0.4
		200	+0.4

the second Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo banded at the House (Observatory ground sites), the fifth since banding first began at EBO in 1977.

Only one movement of any consequence was recorded during the Course — a New Holland Honeyeater banded at the House was recovered at the 9 Mile, 1 year 8 months 15 days later. This was the first retrap of this individual.

Of special interest was the capture and banding of three Little Wattlebirds. The only previous banding record was in fact the first recorded sighting of this species at the Observatory. This was on 24 August 1981 during the banding course of that year, when a bird was banded as the result of determination and stealth of the then warden, Peter Congreve. Having made

the sighting with course members he succeeded in driving the bird into a strategically placed mist net. Current wardens George and Rita Watkins reported recent sightings of Little Wattlebirds at the 9 Mile and it was there that the three new birds were banded. Dry conditions along the southern coastline may be the cause for the birds to penetrate further east than usual.

Table 3 features longevity of five selected species frequently encountered at EBO.

Table 4 shows survival percentages of individuals in the population of Welcome Swallows at the House. These figures are based on the total number of birds banded and the number of individuals subsequently recovered at least 12 months after the initial banding date.

The course was successful and productive in spite of reduced numbers of participants after heavy bookings earlier in the year, many of which were subsequently cancelled.

We look forward to the Bird Banding Course planned for 1995 and thank Rod Smith for his contribution and co-operation. Special thanks to wardens George and Rita Watkins for advice, support and generous hospitality.

P. and A. de Rebelra

References:-

- ANON (1969). *An Index of Australian Bird Names*. Tech. Pap. Div. Wildl. Res. CSIRO Aust. No 20, pp. 1-93.
- Condon HT (1975) *Checklist of the Birds of Australia, Part 1, Non-Passerines*, RAOU, Melbourne.

Table 3. Number of surviving individuals of five selected species common to EBO.

Species	Years after banding date												
	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	6+	7+	8+	9+	10+	11+	12+	13+
Welcome Swallow	2	4	3	1	2	0	0	1					
Silvereye	21	22	11	1	5	0	0	1					
Brown Honeyeater	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Singing Honeyeater	9	16	5	2	0	1	1						
New Holland H/eater	36	37	21	18	14	10	2	0	1	0	1		

Table 4. Percentage of 1430 banded individuals surviving in a population of Welcome Swallows at EBO.

	Years after banding										
	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	6+	7+	8+	9+	10+	11+
Number	55	28	12	7	8	4	2	0	2	0	1
%	3.8	2.0	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.1	0	0.1	0	0.07

MALLEEFOWL AT EYRE

At the end of the second week of the course all known mounds within the 10 square kilometre study area had been sighted and one new excavation discovered. Three active mounds were found, one of those being worked by the same Malleefowl which was busy on it last year. For the first time a colour-banded bird was re-sighted.

The other two active mounds were visited by Malleefowl which were eventually caught and colour-banded, making a total of six banded Malleefowl at Eyre.

Malleefowl are seen fairly often in the bush and on the tracks near the Observatory, so colour-banding should eventually give information about the territories of these birds.

Malleefowl study requires hours of patient waiting and many kilometres of walking. To those who contributed by making such efforts I give my thanks. The happy co-operative spirit of course members again made what could have been an arduous exercise a pleasant one.

Rita and George Watkins provided willing support and expertise and worked hard in providing for us all.

R. Smith

BROOME

We were very pleased to have the Director of the RAOU, David Baker-Gabb visit the Observatory in late October. This was perfect timing for him to be roped into the annual RAOU Twitchathon. David was lured on to the Observatory team by promise of fame (local radio interviews), fortune (to help the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo) and a chance to see the wonderful birdlife around Broome, all in 24 hours.

The team started off at 3.00 pm at Crab Creek mangroves and ticked off 50 species in the first hour. We then moved to a favourite high tide shorebird roost on Roebuck Bay and lamented the Twitchathon being held on a weekend of neap tides. We spent 20 valuable minutes searching for a Broad-billed Sandpiper with no luck, but managed to see Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper and Long-toed Stint at the Sewage Works. At the Port, Brown Booby, Darter and Pacific Golden Plover were seen. Then it was back to the Observatory for a quick tea and to drop off our scribe. We then drove into the night picking up species such as Southern Boobook and Spotted Nightjar. At one o'clock in the morning as we drove the last few kilometres to our camp on 80 Mile Beach at Anna Plains, our headlights picked up Oriental Plover and Australian Bustards. The team had three hours blissful sleep under the stars only to be rudely awoken by Pete insisting that we look through the telescope at Sanderling in the grey light of dawn. We looked, we saw, we ticked. Anna Plains was alive with Black Honeyeaters and Pied Honeyeaters. We enjoyed David's ability to identify a female Spotted Harrier in flight.

The rest of the "Twitch" was a blur of birds through the vehicle window or 'scope. Lake Eda was renamed 'Lake Receda' as it had dried to a series of small ponds. The 150 Brolga, 300 Little Curlew, ducks and grebes were certainly enjoying the last drops. We finished at 3.00 pm at the Treasurer's garden in Broome, racing around to locate a pair of Pheasant Coucals and Olive-backed Oriole.

Later that night Trevor Stoneham informed us that we had won the WA section, with 142 species. We were very pleased as we raised \$350 for research into Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos while generating a lot of interest in the RAOU in Broome. We hope to get some more local teams next year to spice up the competition and raise more money for research.

We have had some very good band and leg flag recoveries. Peter Benstead spotted a yellow flagged Black-wing Stilt at Peel Inlet. The bird would have been banded at either Port Hedland, Anna Plains or Roebuck Bay and is the furthest recorded movement of stilt from these areas. A yellow flagged Marsh Sandpiper was seen at Newcastle, New South Wales. This is a particularly important record as very few Marsh Sandpipers have been banded in the North-West and no movement has been recorded.

We were particularly pleased to have sighted an individually leg flagged Great Knot, banded by Pavel Tomkovich, a Russian ornithologist who works for the Moscow Museum. Pavel participated in the 1992 Wader Expedition in Broome and has been very active in banding waders in his own country. He banded this female Great Knot on the Anadyr River, NE Siberia while she was sitting on a nest, which later was predated. Two months and 18 days later, on the 9th September, she was spotted in Roebuck Bay after flying a distance of 10,011 km. To our surprise this bird was seen 10 days later at the same beach.

We have also seen and caught several Victorian birds on

their way south. A Ruddy Turnstone was the most significant as this species had not been previously recorded using Broome as a stopover. We urge all wader watchers in WA to carefully search all shorebird legs for bands and flags. You never know what is going to turn up.

We have been blessed with a high level of support from volunteers this year, the bulk of which has come from busy members of the RAOU WA Group. Special thanks to Clive Napier for his fine wooden handcrafted pens which sold quickly to admiring visitors. Lack of good quality photographs and slides has been a continual problem this year. So when photographer Mavis Norgard visited the Observatory, we were very grateful when she donated some of her stunning shots. These will be used for our many slide shows to schools and other visitors and also to test course participants on our slide quiz night, advertising and other displays.

All visitors to the Observatory this year have witnessed our three hardworking and dedicated volunteers. BBO would not be so close to financial self-sufficiency without them, or more importantly the special place it is to visit. We are particularly grateful to Pete, Mary and Mavis for the fine job they have done this year.

We are shortly leaving for Melbourne for our annual holidays; we will visit the new RAOU Head Office and do a spot of banding with the VWSG. May you all have a very happy and safe Christmas.

J. Fallaw & B. Hayward

B B C B Q

Being the last Clever Birdo quiz, it is about flight and migration, as Big Bird plans to do.

- 1) Assuming a resting bird uses zero energy, how much is used in (a) gliding, (b) flapping flight ?
- 2) How much energy is saved by formation flight ?
- 3) How does the speed of flight of swifts compare with other birds ?
- 4) What is the flight advantage of long thin wings, eg falcon, frigatebird ?
- 5) How do diving birds cope if unable to surface for some reason ?
- 6) Songbirds usually migrate over land at what height ?
- 7) Up to what heights do shorebirds fly to migrate ?
- 8) Flying makes muscular heat. How do birds prevent overheating and dehydration ?
- 9) Among the longest non-stop migration flights are Hudsonian Godwit. How far ?
- 10) Do birds have a magnetic compass ?

Answers on page 14

LAKE CLAREMONT 15 Sept

Twelve people took part in the mid-week walk in fine weather. We walked around the Lake, including the golf course area.

The water level was high, so there were no exposed sand spits for loafing birds and waders, but the Pink-eared Ducks and Grey Teal made good use of the dead trees and logs in the middle of the lake. During this year an observation platform has been built on the south-west corner of the Lake which is a good place for watching the Clamorous Reed Warbler.

Thirty three species were recorded, including seven breeding records — Purple Swamphen, Eurasian Coot, Black Swan, Australian Magpie, Australian Magpie-lark, Australian Raven and Willie Wagtail.

N. Brockman

FLYNN ROAD 17 Sept

Generally visits to Flynn Road result in many species of bushbirds in quantity. This day proved the exception, as we only managed to find 40+ species in ones and twos and few of these announced themselves by song.

Though birds were very quiet, the area resounded to the noise of the exhausts of rally cars in the nearby Mundaring forest. To add insult to injury two helicopters noisily interrupted our quiet lunch when they landed in a nearby paddock.

The good feature of the day was being able to show one of the two pairs of Hooded Robin in the area to some members who had not seen the species before.

B. Barrett

MOKINE NATURE RESERVE 25 Sept

We thank Jim Masters for giving time to lead 17 members to two nature reserves in the Shire of Northam. The wildflowers and in particular the orchids were as much an attraction of the day as were the combined lists of 46 species of birds.

We began at the St Ronan's Well Nature Reserve on Wambyn Road where we wandered about for about 2 hours in a variety of habitats including tall dense heathland and small areas of Marri. Five Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo were seen in the same tree and of interest also were a Brown-headed Honeyeater, several Varied Sittellas, White-browed Babbler and White-cheeked and New Holland Honeyeaters carrying food.

We moved on to Mokine Nature Reserve on Leaver Road where we spent about 4 hours (including lunch) in an area of Jam trees and a breakaway area dominated by low heath and wandoo. The main attraction for some was a Peregrine Falcon and for others sightings of Painted Button-quail. There were 4 species of cuckoo, a pair of Brown Goshawks in display flight, Tree Martins emerging from nest hollows and many Red-capped Robins, including a pair carrying food.

F. O'Connor

WOODANILLING 1-3 Oct

Thanks to Ray Garstone, the long-weekend campout was a great success, in spite of a strong cold wind which blew continuously, icy nights and some rain on Sunday. With Ray's guidance, 93 species were seen, 28 of which were nesting. Members were able to view a Spotted Harrier carrying nesting material, nests of Western Yellow Robin, Jacky Winter and Restless Flycatcher, White-browed Babbler and Scarlet Robins feeding young and not one, but two Varied Sittella nests high overhead in fairly dense bush.

Ray not only demonstrated his ability to locate nests, but

was able to show many species of orchids to add to our interest.

The golf course and nearby bush provided many interesting places to look for birds, but so also did other reserves in the Shire to which Ray took us. Blue-breasted Fairy-wrens, Calamanthus and White-eared Honeyeaters, as well as various species of duck and other waterbirds were seen. Those interested in photography were able to pursue their interest as many nests were within photographic range.

Twenty-four attended this campout and all appreciated Ray's help throughout the weekend.

B. Barrett

JULIMAR FOREST 9 Oct

Julimar Forest was looking its best with spring wildflowers for a group of 23 people. The drive through the Chittering Valley was most attractive and we saw a flock of Straw-necked Ibis feeding on a grassy paddock. We drove into the forest on Mortimer Road and then walked down Polinelli Road where we saw Red-capped Parrots, Scarlet Robins and White-tailed Black Cockatoos. The *Dryandra sessilis* was in flower, attracting Western Spinebill, Brown, New Holland and White-checked Honeyeaters.

Our lunch site off Munyerring Spring Road near the entrance to Julimar Farm is in the centre of the forest. In a patch of Wandoo we saw many more species, including Yellow-plumed and White-naped Honeyeaters, Rufous Treecreepers, Grey Shrike-thrush and Splendid Fairy-wren.

Our homeward track led us along the edge of the farmland with good views of Sacred Kingfishers and Australasian Grebes on the farm dam. Among other birds sighted were Red-eared Firetail, Rainbow Bee-eater, Western Yellow Robin, Brown Falcon and Wedge-tailed Eagle, a total of 43 species for the day.

W. Napier

ALBANY 11 Oct

About a dozen of us left Albany in a light drizzle for a day's bird watching along the Frankland Road. At first birds were not much in evidence, but the ground was so covered with orchids and other wildflowers that it was difficult to walk without damaging something.

In a nearby creek both Grey and Chestnut Teal were spotted, the latter with young and both Hoary-headed and Australasian Grebe were there, together with Eurasian Coot and two of their nests.

We moved to Kenny's Tank, where there was a competition to find the tank. It turned out to be a pool dug many years ago on the edge of a swamp marked by a large circle of reeds.

Painted Button-quail were flushed two or three times and an abandoned nest with an unhatched egg, possibly Western Yellow Robin, was discovered.

The final count was 69 species, of which the last two were the most exciting. The party was packing up when a Southern Boobook was discovered in a tree near where the party had lunch, probably having watched proceedings for some time. Then a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles were spotted at a considerable height performing a mating display.

C. Davies

Albany & District Bird Group

SERPENTINE NP 15 Oct

We surveyed four areas in the Serpentine National Park some two years ago to provide information for the review of the Park plan, but in the time then available only had a brief look at some very promising sites. This excursion was to walk

through two areas to examine them in more detail. Both walks led through varied woodlands which were a delight in themselves and worth a visit.

The first area runs from Scrivener Road on the South Western Highway (second on the left, 1 km past Serpentine Falls Road) down the scarp to the Falls themselves. The track starts about 2 kms up Scrivener Road where there is a small parking area on the left just before Firms Road.

Here there is a gate (a pivoted section of railway line) to the track running parallel to the road. Turn left on this and then find the track or firebreak on the right leading steeply downhill and follow this to the Falls, about 2-3 kms, but rough walking.

You pass through areas of Marri, Jarrah, and Wandoo with some Banksia and Casuarina with an interesting range of birdlife. On this visit, the weather was clear and cool, but windy and unfortunately all the bush on the right of the track had been newly burned which may have contributed to the fact that we heard more birds than we saw.

We did see an active Red-eared Firetail's nest, a number of Splendid Fairy-wrens and White-breasted Robin. The usual honeyeaters and whistlers showed themselves and we had good sightings of Wedge-tailed Eagle. Altogether, we had some 25 species here, a rather disappointing total for a most promising area.

The second area is on Scarp Road. Drive east along Scrivener Road which quickly becomes gravel, for 4.5 kms to Scarp Road, another gravel road running roughly north/south. Turn left for 1 km to the track on the right which runs easterly for 2.4 km down to the Pipehead Dam.

We had lunch in an area of casuarina serenaded by Golden Whistlers and then walked on downhill, eventually coming to a steep sided heavily wooded glen with a fast flowing stream and then on to the Dam itself. It is delightful country with an interesting variety of trees and shrubs.

Unfortunately the bird population again had "business elsewhere" but we did manage to find some 23 species, the best being Red-winged and Splendid Fairy-wrens and a fleeting glimpse of a Western Yellow Robin. Only two parrots were seen, one Red-capped and one Port Lincoln Ringneck.

Both sites provided interesting birdwatching and are highly recommended for the active walker.

P. Anson

LAKE GWELUP 20 Oct

About 18 people came to enjoy the birds and the fine weather. Forty-eight species of birds were seen, including 3 species of cormorant, 5 of duck, 2 of raptors and 4 of thornbills and allies, including an Inland Thornbill.

We were lucky often to hear the full rasping song of the Clamorous Reed Warbler.

Of particular interest was the nest of a Western Gerygone.

Thanks to Bryan Barrett for organising and leading this walk.

H. Van Wees

AUSTIN BAY NR 23 Oct

This was a 22 people, 72 bird day.

After gathering at the eastern boundary of the Reserve, we looked at the nearby freshwater wetland seeing Little Pied Cormorant, perched on fence posts in the water, many Australian Shelduck and some Pacific Black Duck and Grey Teal. One Black-fronted Plover was seen. From the surrounding melaleuca thickets, hidden Splendid Fairy-wren called. Sacred King-

fisher were plentiful and calling.

Along the sandy track leading to the Reserve, we saw a pair of Yellow-rumped Thornbill building a nest in a dead acacia. The birds had used one of the many twiggy knotted galls in the tree as the base for their nest, which was not easy to see.

As in the previous week, a solitary (and somewhat scruffy) Cockatiel was seen, probably an aviary escapee. Red-capped Parrot and Port Lincoln Ringneck were common.

Our walk through eucalyptus/banksia woodland and thickets produced — Grey Fantail, Willy Wagtail, White-browed Scrubwren, Western Gerygone, Weebill, Inland Thornbill, Striated Pardalote and Silvereye. Our honeyeater list amounted to five — Red and Little Wattlebird, Brown, New Holland and finally Singing Honeyeater. Common Bronzewing were seen and Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush and Grey Butcherbird were heard.

At Austin Bay itself, the tide was well in and no waders were seen. Swans with cygnets, shelduck and one Australasian Shoveler seemed to be the extent of the birdlife, but as we walked northwards, we saw many Fairy Tern in flight, sporadically plunging vertically after fish. Several Gull-billed Tern were also observed as well as some Whiskered and Caspian Tern.

On partially exposed sandbanks on the lee-side of a peninsula, we came across waders, Red-capped Plover and Red-necked Stint being the most numerous, followed by Sharptailed and Curlew Sandpiper. There were a few Greenshank and Black-winged Stilt. The day turning windier and colder, some turned back, but others continued to find in the lee of low sand islands a big flock of Red-necked Avocet and a 1000 + group of Banded Stilt.

J. Blyth

TWITCHATHON 29-30 Oct

A team from the Broome Bird Observatory recorded the highest official tally for the WA Twitchathon with a grand total of 142 sightings. Their "best birds" were Swinhoe's Snipe, Kimberley Flycatcher and Redshank. Members of the team were the BBO wardens, Jon Fallaw and Becky Hayward, plus David Baker-Gabb and Peter Collins.

A commendable second with 122 species recorded was a Perth team led by Klaus Niemela, with Donna & Eddy Wajon and Colin Davis. "Best birds" were Southern Boobook, Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo and Spotted Nightjar.

Third place was taken by a much less experienced team at Esperance, recording 67 species. Team members were Kate Dawson, Pam Burgess, Rob Sedmire and Glyn Dyer. Their best sightings were Cape Barren Goose, Black-faced Shag and both Australian and Baillon's Crake.

An unofficial team also recorded 142 bird species. This team comprised Allan Burbidge, Bruce Male and Stephen Garnett in the Kununurra-Wyndham area. "Best birds" were Garganey, Yellow Wagtail, White-browed Robin and Australian Shelduck.

T. Stoneham

(Should any of the above names be incorrectly spelt, apologies. Hand-writing interpretation difficulties — Editor)

MAXON FARM 4-6 Nov

We split into several groups to survey the area around the farm (farm gardens, paddocks, and re-growth areas), the Jarrah forest and the mixed forest of Jarrah and Wandoo.

Thirty-six species were sighted in the Jarrah forest, including Red and White-tailed Cockatoo, Wedge-tailed Eagle and Brown Quail.

The farm house and adjacent lands revealed fifty species, including Splendid Fairy-wren, Rainbow Bee-eater, Scarlet and Red-capped Robin, eight species of honeyeater and four species of raptor.

Forty-seven species were sighted in the Jarrah-Wandoo area, including Varied Sittella, Rufous Treecreeper and Scarlet and Western Yellow Robin, all feeding young. Three raptor and seven honeyeater species were also seen.

On Saturday night we went car night-spotting, resulting in two Tawny Frogmouth, a Southern Boobook, two possums, and several "mystery" sightings.

The prize sighting of the trip was a Crested Shrike-tit; seventeen of the twenty in our group got good views.

Dave Crossley won the 'Guess-the-Species' competition, correctly estimating sixty-four species for the weekend.

It was pleasing to see three new, enthusiastic members attend this campout; we hope to see more on future excursions.

K. & B. McRoberts

BROOKTON RESERVE 13 Nov

This reserve adjoins the Brookton Highway approx. 30 kms west of Brookton. It consists of wandoo woodland with a dryandra and some casuarina understory. Led by John Ashford a group of 15 enjoyed a warm day investigating this small reserve surrounded by pastoral farmland.

Thirty-nine species were seen, including a Square-tailed Kite and a Mistletoebird, neither of which species had been previously recorded for the area. Striated Pardalotes and Rufous Treecreepers were prolific, probably because of the abundance of tree hollows for nesting and hollow logs in which the young treecreepers can take refuge after fledging. An active Dusky Woodswallow nest was of interest for those who managed to see it. A quail was flushed, but not positively identified.

Most of the dryandra had ceased flowering which may account for the scarcity of some honeyeaters. The wildflowers were past their best, but botanists would probably find much to offer during a September visit.

D. Millar

Coming Events

Saturday 14th January - Half day excursion to Wungong Gorge

Meet at 8.30 am at the first carpark for Wungong Dam, at the end of Admiral Road (off Albany Highway), Bedfordale.

An excellent site for Red-eared Firetail and White-breasted Robin. 89 species have been recorded.

Leaders: Karen and Bill McRoberts

Monday 23 January Meeting - Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, 8.00 pm

Jim Lane of CALM, who has worked on pelicans and other waterbirds for many years, will discuss aspects of his research on Black Swans at the Vasse Estuary, Busselton. This is one of our most important coastal wetlands.

Thursday 26th to Sunday 29th January - Hooded Plover Survey/campout - Esperance area.

The campout will be on Jack Ewert's property 10 km west of Esperance, on the Esperance-Ravensthorpe Road. Look for the RAOU sign.

Members are welcome from Wednesday 25 January pm to Sunday 29 January pm. A large shed is available.

A campsite meeting each evening will outline the next day's survey.

Please advise the Office, (09) 383-7749 from which further details are available, if you intend to participate.

Leader: Phyllis Bentley

Sunday 12th February - Full day excursion to Doopiter Swamp

Meet at 8.30 am at Cowalla Bridge on Cowalla Road, over the Moore River. From Perth, take the Brand Highway, turn left into Gingin Brook Road and continue to Cowalla Road or take the Lancelin Road and turn right into Gingin Brook Road, continuing on to Cowalla Road. From the Cowalla Road/Gingin Brook Road junction travel north for approx. 28 kms. Look for RAOU signs. Approx. 200 kms round trip from Perth.

Leader: Bryan Barrett

Sunday 19th February - Full day excursion to Lake McClarty, Pinjarra

Meet at 8.00 am at the intersection of Southwest Highway and the Old Bunbury Road, approx. 5 kms south of Pinjarra - turn right into the parking area. Wellington boots recommended, plus hat, insect repellent and water.

Leader: Les Harris

Monday 27 February Annual General Meeting - Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, 8.00 pm

to be immediately followed by -

Monday 27 February Meeting - Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre.

Allan Danks of CALM has been associated for many years with the successful management programme for Noisy Scrub-birds at Two Peoples Bay. He will bring news of current research, population trends, translocations and other matters relating to WA's best-known threatened bird species.

Saturday 4th to Monday 6th March - Campout at Dumbleyung

Travel to Dumbleyung. Take 129 Road east from Dumbleyung for about 10 kms, then turn left onto 125 Road for two kms. Look for RAOU signs. The farm is called 'Ronville'. Terri and Doyle Lloyd will be our hosts. Come self-contained for camping or, if you wish a shearing shed is available. For those wanting more comfort, Dumbleyung has a caravan park and tavern (book these yourself).

We shall look at reserves and some will examine Lake Grace for Hooded Plover.

Please let me know if you will attend so I can keep watch for you (09) 459-1971.

Leaders: Bill McRoberts and Allan Jones

Monday 27 March Meeting - Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, 8.00 pm

Dr Dennis Saunders of the CSIRO Division of Wildlife

Monday 10* April Meeting - Herdsman Life Wildlife Centre, 8.00 pm

Peter Mawson of CALM will discuss the nest hollow requirements of some WA parrots and what those requirements entail for the management of those birds.

*NB early date.

Monday 22 May Meeting - Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, 8.00 pm

Dr Ken Tinley, an ecologist, will speak about the natural history of Saudi Arabia, including its birdlife. Saudi Arabia had a much wetter climate in the past and it is not generally known that the country still has forested mountains in the west and several significant wetlands in its dry east.

Monday 26 June Meeting - Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, 8.00 pm

Murray Unkovich will talk of his experiences in finding and photographing birds which, because of their rarity, habitat preferences or general secretiveness, are not often seen.

Monday 24 July Meeting - Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, 8.00 pm

Penny Atkinson has been studying, among other things, the effect on birds of logging in karri forest and will discuss her findings.

Monday 28 August Meeting - Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, 8.00 pm

Michael Craig will help us with wader identification, a source of considerable difficulty to many, as migrant wader species, normally in WA in the summer, are then less distinctive.

Hooded Plover Project

You will find a special supplement with details of the BIG COUNT January 26-29 in this WABN.

Complete your sheet now and return it to the Office and help to make this one of our most successful surveys.

Phyllis Bentley

Hooded Plover Survey Committee, Box 199, Jolimont, 6014.

The following is a letter to members from Mike Weston of Melbourne, soon to be in WA to take part in our One Year Survey.

Dear Hooded Plover Co-ordinators,

I thank you for all your efforts on the WA Hooded Plover Project and encourage you to continue with this important work.

You are part of the first major effort to establish the population size and distribution of Hooded Plovers in WA. This has implications on a national level because it is possible WA could hold a population of Hooded Plovers larger than many of the eastern states, which have traditionally been considered the 'stronghold' of the Hooded Plover.

Accurate information enables a decision whether the species should be considered endangered or not. The project is very important on a national level.

There is also international interest in the WA project. The Hooded Plover has recently been classified as being closely related only to the endangered New Zealand Shore Plover.

Many ornithologists and conservationists from overseas, particularly New Zealand, are keen to know whether this group of closely related birds is secure. We cannot answer this question until we have assessed the size of the Australian population. The unknown factor is the WA population.

For more information on general Hooded Plover issues and how the WA project fits in to the big picture, I refer you to the article in *GEO* 16 (3), pp 22-3.

I encourage you to make every effort to cover as much Hooded Plover habitat as possible and send your results to the RAOU WA office promptly. Negative results are as important as positive results because we need to know where Hooded Plovers do not occur, as well as where they do.

In addition, I hope you can help in the Hooded Plover count on Jan. 26-29, 1995. I hope to travel to WA to help and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

If I can be of any assistance, or if you just want a chat about Hooded Plovers, please write or ring me (AH: 03 - 870-1586).

I ask that you contribute as much as possible to this project as the results are desperately needed. Without your active involvement we will not reach our goals.

Regards and best wishes

Michael Weston

Egg yourself
on

Attend the
AGM

Monday 27 Feb 1995

Nominate for
the Committee

"The yolk(!) is easy

and the burthen is

light"

B B C B Q Answers

- 1) (a) 2.2, (b) 10 to 15 (p.61)
- 2) 15% (p. 62)
- 3) Not well: swifts are comparatively slow (p. 58)
- 4) Enables fast turning without losing height (p. 65)
- 5) The heart rate falls noticeably, circulating less blood and oxygen (p. 68)
- 6) Between 1000 and 2000 metres (p. 184)
- 7) 6000 metres (p. 184)
- 8) By flying higher and being 'air-cooled'. About 10C is the maximum air temperature for a long flight (p. 185)
- 9) 4500 km (p. 187)
- 10) Yes (p. 194)

Questions derive from Brooke M. & Birkhead T. (eds) (1991) *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Ornithology*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

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booked out)

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A Selection for your Christmas from Big Birds Clever Birdo Quiz

- 1) Why don't sleeping birds fall off their perches ?
- 2) Which WA species can hop upside down ?
- 3) Which weighs the heavier, the bird's skeleton or the bird's feathers ?
- 4) What is Bergmann's rule ?
- 5) The number of bird species and the total number of individuals in pine forests is reduced by comparison with eucalypt forests. By what percentage ?
- 6) What is the relationship between the wingbeat and heart rate of the Budgerigar ?
- 7) Do most birds have a sense of smell ?
- 8) Where was the most northerly sighting of a Double-banded Plover in WA ?
- 9) Which species, present in WA, is probably the most widespread species in the world ?
- 10) Which is Perth's most common bird ?
- 11) What is the usual size of territory defended by Australian Shelduck when rearing a brood ?
- 12) What is the difference in usage by Black Swans of their nests when colonially nesting rather than when using a single territorial nest ?
- 13) Is the well known laugh or chuckle of the female Grey Teal individually distinctive or are the calls very similar ?
- 14) How are flocks of Australian Shelduck divided socially ?
- 15) A wetland or brood territory for Australian Shelduck must contain what feature ?
- 16) Rufous Whistlers behave differently to intruders to their territory in the afternoons to the mornings. What is the difference ?
- 17) In the occasional three chick brood of Rufous Whistlers what does the male bird do ?
- 18) When in WA how can the sexes of Greenshank be distinguished ?
- 19) When was Little Eagle first reported on the Swan Coastal Plain ?
- 20) In any large flock of Galah approximately how many are not paired ?
- 21) Do Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers interbreed ?
- 22) Which tern, seen in WA, is to be found on every continent ?
- 23) Is the visual acuity of the Brown Falcon worse, equal or better than that of man ?
- 24) Most birds sleep each day for how long ?
- 25) The V formation of geese and other birds in flight and their changes of leader was first observed by ?
- 26) In the Scopewest survey which wetland had the highest number of species ?
- 27) What is the Fraser Darling effect ?
- 28) What is the success rate of attack of the Australian Kestrel during the breeding season ?
- 29) Do Painted Snipe migrate out of Australia ?
- 30) Why would you not study Malleefowl food intake by a study of their droppings or excretions ?

BBCBQ Selection Answers

- 30) Not possible; Malleefowl only excrete dust. (71)
- 29) Probably not. (70)
- 28) Male 76%, female 71%. (69)
- 27) Darling. (68)
- egg and chick predation, first described by Frank Fraser
- 27) Synchronous breeding in colonial nesters — to reduce
- 26) Lake McArthur. (67)
- 25) Roman Empire. (66)
- 25) Emperor Frederick II (1194 - 1250) of the Holy
- and within species. (65)
- 24) About 8 hours, but there are big variations between
- 23) Almost identical. (64)
- 22) Gull-billed Tern. (64)
- 21) Yes. (63)
- 20) About 50%. (62)
- 19) 1929. (61)
- ing. (60)
- 18) Impossible, Greenshank have difficulty when breed-
- (60)
- 17) The male bird looks after the weakest of the young.
- pass through in the afternoons. (59)
- 16) Intruders are attacked in the mornings but allowed to
- 15) Freshwater or a freshwater seepage. (59)
- occupy the centre areas. (58)
- un-paired adults, sub-adults and pairs without young oc-
- 14) Successful pairs with young are on the outside edge.
- 13) The calls are individually distinct. (57)
- place for a season. (57)
- nest. Single territorial nests are used as a family resting
- 12) Colonial nests are deserted when the young leave the
- 11) 100 metres of shoreline, 50 metres into the water.
- 10) Pacific Black Duck. (56)
- 9) Barn Owl. (56)
- 8) Guraga Lake, Dandaragan Shire, 1987. (55)
- 7) No. (54)
- 6) They are synchronised. (54)
- 5) About 50%. (53)
- their range. (53)
- 4) Members of species are larger in the cooler parts of
- 3) Feathers. (52)
- 2) Treecreepers. (51)
- ridged sheath. (50)
- the tendons have little hooks which engage in a cross
- 1) When a bird bends its intertarsal joint the tendons to

All the questions in the selection are taken from previous BBCBQ's. The number after each answer refers to the WABN issue in which the answer first appeared enabling the source reference of the question to be ascertained for further reading where required.

In all, with the above selection there have been 250 Big Bird Questions. Naturally all will have kept their scores. Those scoring 225 or more should apply to be the next Editor of WABN (and should treat themselves to three good bird books from Perry House, see page 14), score of 175-224, apply as Editor of Hanzab (buy two books), 125-174 apply as Editor of Emu, (one book), 75-124 "average birdo", (buy a calendar), 25-74 buy bird cards, 0-9, do not despair, read all the bird books at Perry House.