

Western Australian Bird Notes

Quarterly Newsletter of Birds Australia - WA Group
(a division of Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union)

No 90 June 1999

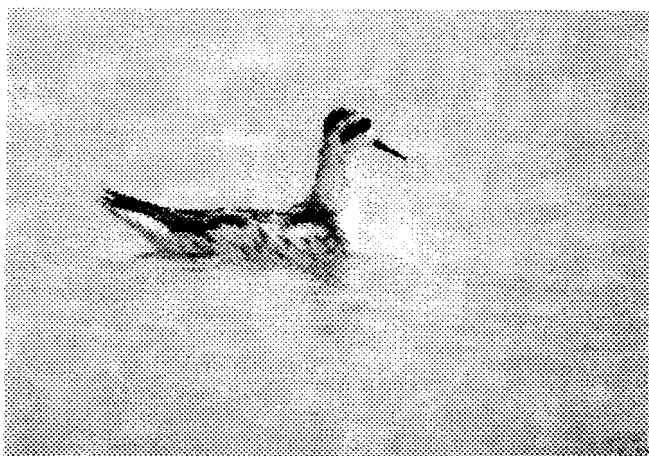
ONE-FOOTED RED-NECKED PHALAROPE AT JUNCTION POOL, BROOME

On 17 December 1998 while checking a small scrape situated on the edge of the Dampier Creek Saltmarsh, I noticed a phalarope swimming about in the shallow water feeding actively. On closer inspection with a telescope it became obvious that this bird was a Red-necked Phalarope.

A few other wader species were also present at the pool including two Greenshanks, one Marsh Sandpiper and four Red-necked Stints, all in non-breeding plumage, and two pairs of Red-capped Plovers in full breeding plumage. I used the Red-necked Stints to make a comparison on general size and bill length. The phalarope's bill, although the same colour as the stint's (black), was a completely different shape, coming to a fine point, almost needle-like (like a Marsh Sandpiper) and also longer and straight. The phalarope was also slightly larger than the Red-necked Stint, and showed the classic phalarope mark behind the eye broadening and curving downwards towards the neck. The white neck and under-tail coverts contrasted with the strongly mottled flank and darker half collar from the



Red-necked Phalarope
Photos by George Swann



mantle to the upper part of the breast. The nape was a dark brown setting off the white forehead. The nape colour narrowed to a thin dark line running down the back of the neck, and the upper parts were quite dark with white edging to some of the scapulars. When flying the phalarope showed a narrow white wing bar and white flanks to the rump. The relatively long needle-like all dark bill, dark upperpart colouration and the collar effect merging into the breast suggests the bird could be a juvenile Red-necked Phalarope moulting into adult winter plumage. The continuation of a prominent eye stripe, long bill (see photo) and general colouration eliminate other phalaropes as possibilities.

On several occasions I observed the bird move to the edge of the shallow pool and wade rather than swim. On first observing this I noticed the bird having some difficulty and then realised that its left foot was missing just above the hind toe on the tarsus. If I had not witnessed

this I would not have believed that the bird was incapacitated in any way. The bird was feeding actively, was bright in appearance, swam with no difficulty and generally appeared to be normal and healthy. It was a pleasure to see this petite and confiding wader enjoying a good feed and probably recovering from the effect of cyclone Thelma.

This bird remained at the pool until 19 December 1998.

George Swann

Observations

Compiled by the Observations Committee. Shires are in brackets.

Names and order follow Christidis, L. and Boles, W. (1994) *The Taxonomy and Species of Birds of Australia and its Territories*. RAOU Monograph 2.

Observers are reminded that, for rarely seen or difficult to identify species, adequate documentation is required for inclusion in WABN. For example, new records, or records of species rarely recorded in the south-west should be accompanied by a description of what was *actually seen* and reasons for the identification. Note that a statement to the effect that what was seen fitted a description in a field guide is a statement about what is in a field guide, and does not tell the editors what you actually saw. Providing extra details also assists the editors to provide extra information to readers.

SOUTH-WEST (Shark Bay to Cape Arid)

Freckled Duck - 1, 21/4/99, Herdsman Lake (Stirling) - KJ

Brown Booby - 1, 22/10/99, Pelsaert Island, Houtman Abrolhos - JW and others (description supplied; this record is about 1000 km further south than earlier records)

Little Pied Cormorant - 14 pairs nesting in a Moreton Bay Fig, 6/3/99, Peninsula Hotel, Mandurah (Mandurah) - MS

Cattle Egret - 2, 27/4/99, in a cattle paddock c. 12 km W of Esperance (present since early March) (Esperance) - KD

Glossy Ibis - 1, 15/4/99, Ellendale Pool, with three Yellow-billed Spoonbills (Greenough) - DB

Square-tailed Kite - 1, 29/1/99, North Fremantle (Fremantle) - RM (unusual for coastal plain near Perth)

Hooded Plover - 10, 4/4/99, un-named lake near Lake Quarderwardup (Plantagenet) - CD

Pacific Gull - 31 (including 24 immatures), 10/2/99, Lancelin (Gingin) - DB

Crested Pigeon - 1, 7/3/99, Holmes Street, rural Gosnells (Gosnells) - MS (unusual in metro area)

Long-billed Black-Cockatoo - 10, 22/4/99, Fox's Lair, Narrogin (Narrogin) - JB, AAB (long way east for this species)

Galah - 2, early April 99, 5 km N of Yallingup (Busselton) - MC (escaped birds or natural expansion?)

White-fronted Honeyeater - 2 feeding on blossom of *Eucalyptus occidentalis*, 1/5/99, c. 5 km SE of Ravensthorpe (Ravensthorpe) - RJ per BN (rarely recorded in this area)

Western Yellow Robin - 2, 4/4/99, 6.8 km SWW of White Wells Station HS (Perenjori) - CG, MG (near NE limit of distribution)

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

Australian White Ibis - 1, 7/4/99, Madura (Dundas) - EBO, TT (unusual on the Nullarbor)

Banded Stilt - c. 7000 pairs breeding, early April 99, Goongarrie (Menzies) - KC, REJ (colony later abandoned)

Double-banded Plover - 1, 9/4/99, Kanidal Beach, near Eyre Bird Observatory (Dundas) - EBO

KIMBERLEY

Great Crested Grebe - 1, 3/99, Roebuck Plains (Broome) - BBO * 1, 10/3/99, Taylor's Lagoon (Broome) - JS (not often recorded near Broome)

Black Bittern - 1, 20/3/99, Lake Eda (Broome) - JS (rarely recorded this far W)

Bush-hen - 1, 12/10/98, Silent Grove, King Leopold Range (Derby - West Kimberley) - JS (see details elsewhere in this issue)

White-browed Crake - 1, 5/3/99, Nimalaica Well, near Broome (Broome) - JS (see details elsewhere in this issue)

Australian Pratincole - 4, 3/5/99, Argyle Diamond Mine (Alluvials Mining Area) (Wyndham - East Kimberley) - FO

Variiegated Fairy-wren - 2, 2/5/99, Devil Devil Spring, Argyle Diamond Mine (Wyndham - East Kimberley) - FO (at limit of range in this area)

CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Lesser Frigatebird - several adults (males and females), 13/4/99, around the cliffs between the settlement and the golf course - GB

Pied Heron - 1 adult, in breeding plumage, 9/4/99 at the Resort (near the Settlement) - MB

White-breasted Waterhen - 4 adults and 4 half-grown chicks, 12/4/99, at Poon Saan (near the Settlement) - MB

OBSERVERS

AAB = Andrew Burbidge

BN = Brenda Newbey

CD = Colin Davis

CG = Cheryl Gole

DB = Di Beckingham

EBO = Eyre Bird Observatory

FO = Frank O'Connor

GB = Geoff Byrne

JB = John Blyth

KC = Kevin Coate

KD = Kate Dawson

KJ = Keven Jordan

JS = Jonny Schoenjahn

JW = John Walter

MB = Mike Bamford

MC = Mike Craig

MG = Martin Gole

MS = Marcus Singor

RJ = Rosemary Jasper

REJ = Ron Johnstone

RM = Roger McGovern

TT = Tim Thorpe

WA Group Reports

BIRDS AUSTRALIA (WA GROUP) ANNUAL REPORT

1998 was one of those years when most things went according to plan. This was largely due to an excellent team operating in all fields of our work.

The Committee responsible for the overall operation was largely unchanged, with Clive Nealon continuing as Vice Chairman, Margaret Philippon (Secretary, *WA Bird Notes* typesetter and numerous other tasks), Mary Vaughan (Bookkeeper) doing a splendid job with guidance from the Treasurer Greg Wyllie and playing a major role in the organisation of the Greenough Campout. A special thanks to Wendy Napier for completing her tenth year as Volunteer Organiser. She has continued in this role as well as covering the onerous task of being the Chairman's Wife. Sue Abbotts continued to assist the Excursions sub-committee as well as doing most of the work towards incorporation of the WA Group. Max Bailey remains Office Manager and despite threatening to resign every time someone upsets the phone system or photocopier, will, we hope, continue in this or some other equally useful role. Dr Mike Bamford balanced a busy professional life with his duties as Research and Conservation coordinator and has overseen the rebirth of the Research sub-committee. John Blyth finds time from his work on threatened species and communities with CALM to be joint editor of *WA Bird Notes* and to assist with much of the technical and scientific detail. Bill McRoberts has continued as coordinator of the Excursions Sub-committee, and, apart from some great plans for 1999, has assisted with around 60 excursions in 1998 ranging from week-long campouts in remote national parks to short walks for interested elderly people. Rod Smith has continued his work in the mechanics of WABN distribution and following his retirement from teaching we expect great things from him in 1999.

These are the up-front people but behind them is an army of volunteers all contributing to the success of the Group. Any list will be incomplete but Dr Allan Burbidge who is a research scientist with CALM, is joint editor of WABN and also heads the local Rarities committee which now has to deal with Western Australian Atlas oddities. Allan is also an adviser on things scientific. Judy Blyth has contributed magnificently to promotion as Publicity and Education Officer by arranging many displays and talks. Liz Walker has taken over as Librarian and our in-house computer expert is Richard Chyne who has overseen the introduction of the new machine and our links to the internet. No list would be complete without Allan Jones who, through his efforts in extracting grants from various organisations, keeps the operation financial.

Colin Davis continues to organise the Wader Studies and Frank O'Connor organises regular pelagic trips.

Brenda Newbey and Shapelle McNee have assisted with the professional management of several projects which have been well received.

Lastly but by no means least is the band of volunteers who provide the person power to produce the data for the various projects. Many drive vast distances to survey farms, road verges, search for Hooded Plovers or provide Atlas data. Others staff the office on a regular basis and answer the phone or sell stock from the shop. Some others spend long days on stalls at various venues or take walks during such functions as Spring Fling. My special thanks to my wife Wendy for the assistance she has given me during the last three years while Chairman and also for the great job she has done for 10 years as Office Volunteer organiser.

Birds on Farms has almost finished and the Road Verge survey for the WA Main Roads Department is also nearly complete. Both of these will be written up and in the case of the BOF project we hope to run a series of country meetings at which we can hand over the information to the participants and encourage them to continue to provide additional habitat for birds. The second report of the Hooded Plover survey is complete and included as a supplement to this issue of WABN. A new study of the WA Ground Parrot population has been undertaken by Shapelle McNee and, as described in the item elsewhere in this issue, we plan to take the results to the people who are interested and who live in the areas and establish Friends groups, etc. The first report of this work is also with this newsletter as a supplement.

A study of the Short-billed (Carnaby's) Black-Cockatoo is planned for 1999. This is meant to follow up some of the early work done by Dr Denis Saunders of CSIRO and hopefully determine the age of the remaining flock.

Numerous additional brochures have been produced at the request of various tourist bureaux and Allan Jones' Grants Sub-committee reached its highest point when it was asked by the Kings Park Board to produce a coloured brochure for that area.

Financially the year has been satisfactory. Grants from our WA sources have been sufficient to fund all our projects and to date they are operating within their budgets. Our general revenue has been improved by the printing and increased sale of new cards. The new designs were painted by Judy Blyth and proved very popular. Over 10 000 cards have been sold this year. The Group assisted both WA observatories with \$500 each for their UK publicity trip and again funded students attending observatory courses. Assistance has been provided to Cheryl Gole for printing and considerable general office costs for her Atlas work. The WA Office now has a new state-of-the-art computer (at least it was six months ago) and we are on the internet.

One of the major functions of the year was the National Campout at Greenough. This has been given publicity in other places but with over 100 attending and over 50 from the east it proved to be a considerable success.

The WA Group continues to increase in numbers and strength. Due to our being the only birding association in WA we operate somewhat differently to many other groups but while adding more social birding to our calendar we still have increased the number and importance of the scientific work done by the Group.

There have been many other items that have occupied group members over the last year with numerous conservation matters taking much time and effort on the part of members. Clive Nealon's Suburban Bird Survey is reaching huge proportions with over 200 000 records in from about 130 sources and is being used by several agencies and people. The Database of Birds of WA continues to be accessed by various bodies including CALM. Each month our meetings attract increasing numbers of members to hear interesting guest speakers and to keep in touch with the activities, while several members give talks to both adult and school groups on matters ornithological.

This is my final report as Chair as, in keeping with our constitution, I will not be standing for re-election, having served three years. My most sincere thanks to all those who have so selflessly supported our Group during this period and may our progress long continue.

Clive Napier

BIRDS AUSTRALIA – WA GROUP COMMITTEE

On behalf of the 1999 Committee I would like to thank Clive Napier and Max Bailey, who both stood down from the committee this year, for their tireless and patient contributions to the running of the WA group.

Clive spent a number of years on the committee, culminating in a three year term as Chairman. I am quickly learning exactly how much time and effort Clive must have devoted to his duties as chairman to maintain the consistently high level of achievement. Add to that the additional duties that he undertook as a member of the council of the national body and it is easy to understand why Clive considers he has now, finally, retired from full-time employment.

Max, too spent a number of years on committee and proved to be a most effective and conscientious office manager. Under his management, the office has operated with a minimum of fuss and a great deal of efficiency.

Max intended to relinquish the office manager post when he left the committee, but has continued to do what is necessary as we still look for a willing volunteer to take on the position.

We are fortunate that both Clive and Max continue to contribute their energies and experience to the group, and I hope that they see fit to maintain their contributions for many years to come.

Clive Nealon
1999 Chairman, WA Group

BIRDS ON FARMS PROJECT: PROGRESS REPORT MAY 1999

The Birds on Farm (BOF) project is in its final phase. After 1 June 1999, no more farm data will be received. Just over 100 WA farms took part. Eight seasonal surveys were

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Notes for Contributors

The Editors request contributors to note:

- WABN publishes material of interest to the WA Group
- contributions should be written or typed with **double spacing**—a copy on disk of word processed documents would assist, especially if in MSWord format; a style sheet is available from Perry House to guide writers regarding format
- WABN uses Birds Australia recommended English names
- except for Observations, contributions will be published unless the contributor is informed to the contrary.
- the full Editorial Policy is stated in WABN 74:10-12

Deadline for the September 1999 Issue
1 August 1999
at Perry House

completed on the majority of these. Most others have had five or more surveys done, so there is a substantial dataset.

In WA at least 103 volunteers were involved in farm surveys. Of these one third are non-members of Birds Australia. At least five others became members during the course of the project. Two thirds of the farms are owned/managed by non-members, two of them by mining companies.

Many kilometres were travelled by some of the volunteers and lots of interesting observations have been made. As an example, Joyce White of Dongara noted that on 19 January 1999, a hot day after several other hot days,

she heard a flock of Banded Lapwings (Plovers) early in the morning. At 10:00 am she found them. Between 50 and 60 birds were in the river shallows, cooling off. They were gone the next day. It is the third year that such a visit has been noted.

A start has been made on sending out individualised mini-reports to the surveyors and farmers. The main aim is to return most of the information gathered from each farm to the land manager so that use may be made of it locally. As well, up to four Bird Days will be held in country areas (see box).

The scientific report of the national BOF project is being prepared by Dr Geoff Barrett. The WA coordinator intends to compile an overall WA report later in the year.

The Main Roads WA survey of 161 half hectare sites, which is being run in conjunction with BOF, is being very well supported by 28 volunteers; the coordinator surveys 45 sites. This survey will end by 1 September 1999.

From an early look at some of the data it appears that highest numbers of birds are in the verges in autumn, and least in summer.

I have enjoyed the contact (mainly by old-fashioned snail mail correspondence) with volunteers as survey forms passed between us.

Brendy Newbey
WA Coordinator
BIRDS ON FARMS PROJECT

WESTERN GROUND PARROT NEWS




Natural Heritage Trust
Helping Communities Help Australia



Following the recent surveys of Western Ground Parrots at Waychinicup/Manypeaks a Friends of the Ground Parrot group has now been formed in the Albany area.

Tim Hunt is the local contact for the Friends and Sarah Comer will be the database coordinator.

Regular surveys of the Waychinicup/Manypeaks area will be continued and members aim to make personal contact with farmers in the area.

Eventually the Friends will include members from across the south including Esperance and Walpole. This active community group can help to protect habitat, maintain a long-term community monitoring program and provide information on fire regimes suitable for ground parrots.

We have received confirmation of a grant from the Threatened Species Network to carry out surveys at Cape Arid for Western Ground Parrots.



Joyce White dressed for road verge survey on busy Brand Highway near Dongara
Photo by Joyce White

Shapelle McNee will continue to be the WA Group Coordinator for the whole Western Ground Parrot program along the south coast.

Allan Jones
GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE
CONVENOR

MID SUMMER WADER COUNT, FEBRUARY 1999 ROTTNEST LOCATIONS

On 7 February the 1999 mid summer wader count was held, with groups of observers around the state visiting wader habitats in nearby or distant locations to count shorebirds. The count is held each February to monitor waders at the peak of their summer migration.

As part of the survey 20 Birds Australia-WA members made the journey over to Rottneest Island. Once again thanks to UWA's Dept of Zoology, the WSG had the use of the research station facilities at Wadjemup Hill as a base for the count.

The program got under way with a small advance party travelling to the island on 4 February. This group was able to not only make themselves familiar with the areas they would be checking on the day of the count but also to lay claim to the best beds in the east wing of the research station.

The following day numbers were boosted by the arrival of more members from the mainland. That evening a trip was arranged to Cape Vlaming at the western end of the island to watch Wedge-tailed Shearwaters returning to their nesting sites. A windswept vigil at dusk by the group was rewarded with the arrival of the home-coming flocks. Each bird soundlessly materialised from the darkness before disappearing unerringly into its nesting burrow; a most impressive experience for those watching.

On Saturday the last members arrived and parties of birders spent the day seeking out the Rottneest avifauna. A bird count later revealed that over the three days 57 species had been seen by the group.

On Sunday morning the count got under way with the first teams being taken to their pre-selected wader habitats. All observers were positioned by 0700 hrs at the eastern end of each site and counting commenced.

COUNTRY MEMBERS — BIRDS ON FARMS BIRD DAYS

Bird Days are to be held in Coorow and Corrigin and/or Merredin. One or two more could be held in October 1999. There is no set plan — they could include talks on the results of the Birds on Farms project — birds in farm remnants and revegetation, local birds, birds as sustainability indicators, slides, a display, school visit, looking at birds locally. It could be in conjunction with another local event. If you are interested, contact Brenda Newbey via the BAWAG office on 9383 7749.

These sites included the salt lakes, sandy beaches, reef platforms and stacks as well as three swamps: Bulldozer, Salmon and Bickley.

All sites monitored during last year's count were monitored this year.

After discussion with the Rottnest environmental staff the survey areas on southern beach areas from Henrietta Rocks to Fairbridge Bluff were extended to include Green Island.

The reef areas were checked westward from Armstrong Bay to Charlotte Point.

Ricey Beach, Stark Bay, Rocky Bay, Eagle Bay, Cape Vlaming, Radar Reef and Wilson Bay were also monitored.

Care was taken not to disturb birds or overlap the areas under observation.

Waders were counted as the observers moved along the shorelines to the western end of each location. They were then met and taken back to base where tallies and count sheets were filled in.

The count was completed at 1000 hrs.

The 20 members involved were Clive and Wendy Napier, Maggie Cashman-Bailes, Tom Delaney, John Stewart, Richard and Lorraine Chyne, Mary Vaughan, Cath Pegs, Clair Gerrish, Mavis Norgard, Darryl James, Liz Walker, Wladys and Aye Aye Sarafin, Max Bailey, Kate Creed, Marie Sharpe, Clive Nealon and Colin Davis.

Results

The Rottnest count showed an increase in the numbers of most shorebirds compared to the 1998 survey. The Banded Lapwing, Black-winged Stilt and Banded Stilt were the only species for which numbers fell below the 1998 figures (see table). Some of the more interesting records were as follows:

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

Slight increase in numbers compared to last year.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Four birds foraging on the reefs at the western end of the island.

Two Whimbrels were seen at the same cliff top area at Cape Vlaming preparing to roost approximately 15 m north of the turnstones.

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

This species was not seen at any of the salt lakes or beach locations. Solitary birds were observed at Bulldozer and Salmon Swamps.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Solitary birds seen at Porpoise Bay and Lake Vincent.

One bird also seen at the sewage plant on 6 February 1999 (not included in count figures).

Grey-tailed Tattler (*Heteroscelus brevipes*)

This species was reported at four sites with a combined tally of 15 birds.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

Over 100% increase on 1998 figures. An interesting observation was made at Cape Vlaming. During a visit to this area at dusk, Ruddy Turnstones were seen, gathered in two bunched groups of upwards of 50 birds, among short vegetation at the top of the limestone cliff face.

On the morning of the count only 5 Ruddy Turnstones were seen between Armstrong Bay and Wilson Bay, but a combined total from the remaining locations resulted in a tally of 438 birds. This could indicate that this species roosts at the western end of the island.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)

This year Sanderlings were seen at three locations: Porpoise Bay, Salmon Bay and Cape Vlaming. A total of 125 birds was a 60% increase on last year's count.

Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*)

The most numerous trans-equatorial migrant, this species showed over 100% increase on 1998 figures. Usually reported around the edges of the salt lakes. Eight birds were seen foraging on exposed reef at Cape Vlaming.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

An increase in this species' numbers from a total of 90 birds last year to 134 birds this year.

Pied Oystercatcher (*Haematopus longirostris*)

Scattered solitary birds on coastal sites. Grouped birds on Lake Bagdad.

Banded Stilt (*Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*)

There was a decrease of about 60% on 1998 figures. Rottnest environmental staff noted an exodus of half of this species' numbers after heavy rain in the Esperance area during January. This behaviour has been previously documented by Denis Saunders and Perry de Rebeira.

The main flock plus solitary birds were checked for leg flags each day without success. A disturbing observation made each morning was the number of dead Banded Stilts found below the power lines running across the causeway (highest number 12 dead birds on 6 February 1999).

The probable cause was birds flying between lakes after dark as it was noted that the flock became active when the wind dropped in late afternoon.

Red-necked Avocet (*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*)

The 20 seen was more than recorded last year.

A pair of birds with two downy young were sighted at Lake Negri.

Red-capped Plover (*Charadrius ruficapillus*)

A high concentration of birds reported at Serpentine Lake.

Evidence of breeding at Lake Bagdad (runners).

Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*)

Solitary bird seen with Large Sand Plover and Red-capped Plovers on southern side of the causeway.

Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)

Seven birds seen between SW side of Government House Lake and the NE corner of Lake Hershell.

Banded Lapwing (*Vanellus tricolor*)

Only seen on airstrip verges. This species was absent from the golf course adjacent to Garden Lake where it was seen last year.

The count resulted with a tally of 20 wader species and a total of 3412 birds. The highest number of species recorded was at Lake Bagdad, where there were ten wader species including six Grey-tailed Tattlers, a Terek Sandpiper and a Pacific Golden Plover.

Observations were made easier by the helpful advice given by Rottnest Environmental Manager Claire Wright and staff member Chas Hanson.

Colin Davis

TABLE: ROTTNEST MID SUMMER WADER COUNT, 1999

ROTTNEST MID SUMMER WADER COUNT 1999																																																																																																																																			
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Banded Lapwing												15	<i>These birds sighted on the grassed runway verge during the survey of Gov House Lake</i>																																																																																																																						
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Sanderling								19	75	31																																																																																																																									
BIRDS AT EACH SITE												1529	232	145	296	154	156	72	553	59	116	54	35	3402																																																																																																											
Government House Lake: Two groups of observers N & S starting from eastern end. Includes runway verges												Causeway: Two observers from east causeway to east end of Lake Serpentine (includes Pearse Lake)												Lake Serpentine: Two observers starting from eastern end of lake												Lake Herschell: Three observers from eastern end includes Garden Lake & southern golf course area												Bagdad Area A: Three observers east along northern side to Padbury flat												Bagdad Area B: Two observers east along southern side to Lake Vincent												Bagdad Area C: Two observers Padbury flat to Lake Vincent includes Lake Negri												Lake Vincent: Two observers East to Lake Negri												Porpse Bay: Three observers from Henrietta Rocks to Salmon Point												Salmon Bay: Two observers from Salmon Point to Green Island												Reef Platforms: Armstrong Bay, Charlotte Point, Ricey Beach, Wilson Bay, Eagle Bay, Point Vlaming											

SECOND CORELLA COUNT

Twenty two BAWAG members spent two or so hours on Saturday 17 April searching a large number of sites from which corellas have been reported in the last few months. The results are summarised in Table 1 below. Most observers used a combination of driving, to cover as many separate sites as possible, and walking at specific sites to cover as much area as possible. After some discussion, I believe that all identifications as to which species was seen are reliable. In the Table, 'new' refers to birds that I have no reason to think would have been counted twice.



Long-billed Corella
Photo by Peter Fullagar

Table 1: Results of the Perth metropolitan corella count, 17/4/99.

Observers	Sites	Results
Ian and Eleanor Rowley	Parks and open areas on both sides of Swan River from Guildford to Middle Swan Bridge. Ending at Stirling Square, Guildford	A total of approximately 650 Little, and about 40 Long-billed Corellas, although this may have been an underestimate; all apparently roosting in Stirling Square.
Maggie Cashman-Bailes	Lilac Hill Park	Total of about 800 Little and 3 Long-billed Corellas. Only 150 of these were 'new' birds. Roosting as above.
Kim Easton	Along Swan River from Sandy Beach Reserve to Point Reserve	About 300 Little (100 probably 'new') and 160 - 200 Long-billed Corellas, mainly around Point Reserve.
Tony Godfrey	Along Swan River from Garvey Park to Ascot Waters	No corellas
Brenda Newbey	Lower Swan River, from Preston Point to Point Walter Reserve	144 Little and 85 Long-billed Corellas.
Jean-Paul Orsini	Allen Park, Cottesloe	Four unidentified corellas in flight
Ben Carr	Blackwall Reach etc on lower Swan; Chidley Point, Minim Cove, Green Place Reserve, Bayview Park, along Bayview Tce	61 Long-billed Corellas, of which 46 had flown across the river by 4.30. Thus it is possible that these were among those counted by Brenda Newbey.
Stuart Houghton	Seaview Golf Course	No corellas
Audrey Turner	Manning Lake	No corellas
Ray Flanagan	Point Resolution, Nedlands Golf Course, Shenton Park Lake	No corellas
David Lamont	Freshwater Bay, Claremont	36 Little Corellas
Allan Burbidge	Lake Joondalup	12 Long-billed Corellas
Clive Nealon	Carine Open Space; Lake Gwelup	No corellas
Sue Abbotts	Lake Monger	About 300 corellas, probably all Little. SW corner of the lake
Clive and Wendy Napier	Canning River Flats; Kent Street Weir and eastwards	94 Long-billed Corellas
Bryan Barrett and Marjory Clegg	Canning River; Kent Street Weir to Canning mouth	33 Long-billed Corellas: probably included in the 94 above.
John and Judy Blyth	Baldivis, Mundijong etc.	No corellas

