

Western Australian Bird Notes

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

No 91 September 1999

WATERBIRD SURVEY OF MANDORA MARSH

On the 4th and 5th of May 1999 I accompanied Gordon Graham and Tim Willing from CALM on a survey and investigation of a flooded area to the north east of Sandfire Roadhouse. The aim of the trip was to ascertain waterbird usage and assess the site for survey work later in the year. Local reports were that the area was the wettest it had been for many years and this also prompted the survey. I also took the opportunity to undertake some comprehensive bird atlas survey work.

Upon our arrival a narrow band of shallow water was still flowing across the highway north of the Sandfire Roadhouse. Two or three weeks previously an approximately 2 kilometre stretch of the highway had shallow water over it.

Our first telescope views and binocular search of the flooded samphire to the west of the Highway revealed 390 Egrets — Great 350, Intermediate 20 and Little 20. Many hundreds of Straw-necked Ibis were feeding and small numbers of Australasian Grebes and Grey Teal were using the open water immediately adjacent to the highway. On the flooded highway 500 Whiskered Terns were loafing when not being put to flight by passing vehicles. More terns were feeding over the flooded samphire and the open water habitats. Where the water flowed under a culvert good numbers of Speckled Perch congregated and the terns were plunging for these. The most common prey items seen taken were, however, frogs.

After this initial search we moved a few kilometres north on the highway and from here waded into the dense samphire abutting the road to gauge boat access. The water was from 20 to 60 centimetres deep and thick with

Please see page 3 for

**NOTICE OF
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**



The Red-backed Fairy-wren is a bird of the grassland of northern Australia. This sighting at Mandora Marsh was both unusually far south and in an unusual habitat.

Drawing by Judy Blyth

glutinous algae. We searched on foot using 10 x 42 binoculars and a 25 x telescope. The area was alive with Black-winged Stilts and Whiskered Terns. We only found one Black-winged Stilt nest, which had 4 eggs, but judging by the amount of noise and distraction displays being performed there were obviously chicks in the area. There were approximately 1000 stilts at this location. Whiskered Terns were in similar numbers. Approximately 25% of the terns were juveniles, all were free flying and we saw none being fed. Adults were in breeding, non-breeding and partial breeding plumage. They had presumably bred on the flood plain.

Other species present were a maximum of 10 White-necked Herons foraging and several hundred Straw-necked Ibis feeding and flying over the area to the east. Gull-billed Terns were associating with the Whiskered Terns but in very small numbers. The Gull-billed Terns were in non-breeding plumage and of the resident race *Sterna nilotica macrotarsa*. Size and very pale upperparts were used as identification features. Hardheads, Grey Teal and Black Swans were seen on the open lake to the east with the telescope. Twenty Glossy Ibis flew over the area towards the east. Five Great Egrets were feeding. Red-capped Plovers in small numbers were flushed from the samphire. We also flushed up to 100 Red-kneed Dotterels. They were difficult to count and we may well have double counted some birds but this habitat was obviously to their liking.

The most exciting find in this area was a Painted Snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis australis*). We flushed the bird twice and obtained good views of it in flight.

The next morning we towed a punt by hand through the thick area of flooded samphire surveyed the previous evening out to the open water and spent the next 7 hours exploring this fascinating area. We visited four islands, Saunders Spring and a Melaleuca swamp. The last area was visited only briefly as clouds of mosquitoes descended upon us. We finished up approximately 32 km east of Sandfire Roadhouse.

Birds seen on and over the open water are listed below. The islands, spring and swamp are reported on separately. Black Swan 40, Grey Teal 30, Hardhead 10, Hoary-headed Grebe 3, Darter 3, Australian Pelican 1500, White-faced Heron 10, Little Egret 50, White-necked Heron 10, Great Egret 900, Intermediate Egret 50, Straw-necked Ibis 300, White-bellied Sea-Eagle 1, immature Swamp Harrier 1, Black-winged Stilt 500, Red-capped Plover 5, Gull-billed Tern 10, Whiskered Terns a minimum of 3000, Budgerigar 350 (flying over lake), Red-backed Fairy-wren 3 (in mangroves in middle of lake), Zebra Finch 5 (in mangroves in middle of lake), Tree Martin 100 (roosting in mangroves) and a Freckled Duck. The sighting of the fairy-wrens is interesting – this appears to be further south than they have previously been reported near the west coast.

We gave the islands our own names, as they are not named on the maps of the area. 'Round Island' was approximately 80 metres in diameter with only about 30 metres in diameter above the water and remaining totally dry. The vegetation was samphire and Cyperus 'grass'.



The rather ungainly Southern Giant-Petrel is a frequent visitor to waters off WA's west coast.

Drawing by Judy Blyth

Here we saw the following: Grey Teal 4 (2 birds flushed from 2 separate nests, one with 10 eggs and the other with 9 eggs.), Hardhead 4, Hoary-headed Grebe 8, Australian Pelican 20, Straw-necked Ibis 10, Black-winged Stilt 30, Red-capped Plover 6, Red-kneed Dotterel 10, Whiskered Tern 20, Budgerigar 15, Singing Bushlark 1, Fairy Martin 5.

The 'Atoll' was a small muddy, mostly flooded area of samphire. This island was different to all others visited, being made up of a central knoll with a lagoon of deeper water on the eastern side with a narrow crescent of flooded samphire on the outer edge. Seen here were Black Swan 2 (1 nest with 3 eggs), Grey Teal 2, (1 nest with 11 eggs under roly poly and 1 abandoned nest with 9 eggs), Hardhead? (1 abandoned nest with 3 eggs and shell fragments from hatched or predated eggs), Red-kneed Dotterel 1 (bird doing animated broken wing display).

'Pelican Island' was a narrow strip of land 200 metres long by 10 metres wide, fringed on its northern side by Grey Mangroves. Bird life was dominated by pelicans and Straw-necked Ibis. We counted 14 pelican nests in a 10 x 4 metre rectangle at the western end of the colony. All nests contained 2 eggs. We did not venture further due to disturbance of the birds. In this same 40 square metres were 15 Straw-necked Ibis nests with 2, 3, and 4 eggs. They were abutting pelican nests in separate stick 'towers'. Black Swans were nesting with one pair having three free swimming cygnets and one hatchling (presumably from this pair). There were five other nests with 2, 3, 5, 6 and 6 eggs. There were three, possibly Hardhead, nests concealed under speedy weed. Each nest had 9 eggs though one appeared abandoned.

The most intriguing observations on this island were of dead and dying adult pelicans with up to 30 seen from our vantage point. Dying birds couldn't hold up their heads or walk but had healthy looking plumages. Some form of botulism was a possible cause. Here we saw Black Swan 14, Grey Teal 10, Pink-eared Duck 3, Darter 10, Australian Pelican 1500, Straw-necked Ibis 1000, Swamp Harrier 1, Nankeen Kestrel 1, Eurasian Coot 1, Red-kneed Dotterel 2, Whiskered Tern 15, Budgerigar 35 in flight, Richard's Pipit 1.

'Pelican Spit' was a 5 metre wide by 100 metre long strip of sand. We did not make landfall on this but surveyed it from the boat. It was dense with pelicans, many on nests. Also present were Black Swan 10 (possibly nesting but not confirmed), Australian Pelican 1400 and Straw-necked Ibis 50 (approximately 14 nests).

'Arc Island' had some paperbarks and Grey Mangroves established on it. Birds on this island appeared only to be loafing and no breeding activity was recorded. Again the area was surveyed from boat. We saw Black Swan 16, Grey Teal 10, Darter 1, Australian Pelican 550, Great Egret 12, Straw-necked Ibis 25, Black-winged Stilt 4, and Tree Martin 25.

Approximately 2.5 kilometres east of 'Arc Island' we flushed a Freckled Duck from a Grey Mangrove. The bird was only 3 to 5 metres away when it flew and great views of the red bill base and sloping head were obtained. On searching the tree we found a nest of flat sticks with a lot

of down. We took a sample of the down and sent it to Ron Johnstone at the WA Museum. It was (unfortunately!) Pink-eared Duck down. We had seen this species in the vicinity.

Saunders Spring is a permanent fresh water spring that has been fenced off in a joint venture between CALM and the station owner under a Commonwealth grant to prevent damage to the vegetation by stock. The vegetation is comprised mainly of Dragon Tree, bulrushes, Saltwater Paperbark and Salt Wattle. We searched the area on foot for 1 hour in the early afternoon and saw the following: Black-fronted Dotterel 2, Whistling Kite 1, Brown Goshawk 1, Pheasant Coucal 1, Sacred Kingfisher 1, Rainbow Bee-eater 12, Variegated Fairy-wren 6, Gerygone sp. 2 (probably Mangrove as the chance of Western was slim), Brown Honeyeater 10, Red-capped Robin 1 (female), Rufous Whistler 10, Magpie-lark 2, Willie Wagtail 2, White-winged Triller 6, Masked Woodswallow 4, Torresian Crow 6, Zebra Finch 12, Clamorous Reed-Warbler 2.

On our return to the highway we saw large numbers of egrets roosting in the tops of a group of trees. On closer inspection this turned out to be 500 egrets and as with the earlier flocks was dominated by the Great Egret. When I entered the swamp I disturbed 300 Rufous Night Herons and 300 million mosquitoes! With long pants, repellent and more time this may have turned out to be only a fraction of the birds at this roost.

We visited Mandora again on the 10th of June. The access was more difficult due to the receding water so the survey was less comprehensive. Pelicans were in all stages of development from hatching to fully feathered juveniles. On 'Pelican Island' there were no young birds but new nests and eggs. It appeared the juveniles were creching on a nearby island. We also found a small breeding colony of Gull-billed Terns. Only five nests were located and the success of them was in doubt as botulism appeared to be killing many terns as well as pelicans.

We would like to thank John Stoate of Anna Plains Station for advice and allowing access to the station.

Chris Hassell

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

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS to be held on Monday 25 October 1999 at the State Tennis Centre, Bolton Ave, Burswood commencing at conclusion of General Meeting

Business

To consider and adopt the revised draft constitution.

Note: If you would like to receive a copy of the revised draft prior to the meeting, please contact the Secretary, Margaret Philippon.

Note from the Chairman

Following the extraordinary general meeting held on 18 January 1999, at which a draft constitution was adopted subject to approval by the National Birds Australia Council and the Ministry for Fair Trading, the draft has been revised by both Council and the WA Group Committee and it would now appear to be satisfactory to both parties.

Adoption by members is now required so that it can be formally approved by Council and then presented to the Ministry after a period of 28 days' notice to the public.

Hopefully this will proceed as anticipated and incorporation will become a reality about February next year.

Clive Nealon, WA Group Chairman

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)

Antarctic Petrel – 1, 16/7/99, North Mole, Fremantle (Fremantle) – JD (detailed description available)

Kerguelen Petrel – 1, 23/5/99, Hillarys Pelagic Trip – per FO * 2, 2/6/99, Pt Dalling, Dunsborough (Busselton) – RP * 2, 14/7/99, North Mole, Fremantle (Fremantle) – JD

Great-winged Petrel – 40, 23/5/99, Hillarys Pelagic Trip – per FO

White-headed Petrel – 1, 13/6/99, Pt Dalling, Dunsborough (Busselton) – RP

Soft-plumaged Petrel – 100, 23/5/99, Hillarys Pelagic Trip – per FO

Blue Petrel – 2-3, 14/7/99, North Mole, Fremantle (Fremantle) – JD * 2, 17/7/99, North Mole, Fremantle (Fremantle) – JD, FO * 1, 26/7/99, North Mole, Fremantle (Fremantle) – RM, JD (descriptions available)

Slender-billed Prion – 4-5, 14/7/99, North Mole, Fremantle (Fremantle) – JD

White-chinned Petrel – single birds on 5 occasions, 2/6 – 21/6/99, Pt Dalling, Dunsborough (Busselton) – RP

Grey Petrel – 1, 17/5/99, Pt Dalling, Dunsborough (Busselton) – RP

Wilson's Storm-Petrel – 25, 23/5/99, Hillarys Pelagic Trip – per FO

Great Skua – 9, 23/5/99, Hillarys Pelagic Trip – per FO (high number for this area) * 9, 2/7/99, Woodman Point - Fremantle (Fremantle/Cockburn) – JD

Arctic Jaeger – 8-9 all dark phase, 27/6/99, Woodman Point (Cockburn) - JD (high numbers for this time of year)

Long-billed Corella – c. 40, 10/7/99, Neil Hawkins Park, Joondalup (Joondalup) – TR (high number for this site)

Western Corella – 41, 26/7/99, Herdsman Lake (Stirling) – JD

Elegant Parrot – 20, 4/7/99, near entrance to the Water Ski Park, St Albans Rd, Baldvis (Rockingham). – RM, LM (high number)

Western Yellow Robin – 2, 28/7/99, in Jarrah woodland, Kemerton (Harvey)* 4, 4/8/99 in Jarrah forest and Blue Gum plantation, Gwindinup (Capel) – MB (rare on swamp coastal plain)

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

Malleefowl – 1, plus an old mound, 18/5/99, in tall Acacia shrubland, Woodleigh road, 48 km E of NW Coastal Hwy (Shark Bay) – AB (very few historical or recent records from this area) * 1, 29/6/99 and 25/7/99, road in to Eyre (Dundas) – EBO

Freckled Duck – 1, 5/5/99, Mandora Marshes (near Sandfire Roadhouse) (Broome/East Pilbara) – CH, GG, TW

Yellow-nosed Albatross – 13, 14/6/99, 10 km SE of Eyre (Dundas) – EBO

Black-necked Stork – 1, 26/3/99, Five Mile Creek, near Nullagine (East Pilbara) – per RD

Black-shouldered Kite – 1, 26/6/99, between Eucla and Eyre (Dundas) – TR, EP, HA * 1, 16/7/99, Cocklebidy (Dundas) – EBO (rare in the Nullarbor area)

Painted Snipe – 1, 4/5/99, Mandora Marshes (near Sandfire Roadhouse) (Broome/East Pilbara) – CH, GG, TW (description supplied; see also article on Mandora elsewhere in this issue)

Princess Parrot – 8, 30/5/99, near Well 36, Canning Stock Route (East Pilbara) – JS

Naretha Blue Bonnet – 7, 27/6/99, Arubiddy Station (Dundas) – TR, EP, HA

Red-backed Fairy-wren – 3, 5/5/99, Mandora Marshes (near Sandfire Roadhouse) (Broome/East Pilbara) – CH, GG, TW (southern limit of distribution in this area)

KIMBERLEY

Wandering Whistling-Duck – 1,000+, 24/07/99, Kununurra sewage ponds (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – FO

Radjah Shelduck – 400+, 24/07/99, Kununurra sewage ponds (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – FO (high number for this species) (possibly expanding in East Kimberley)

Great Crested Grebe – 9, 13/6/99, Roebuck Plains (Broome) – BBO (high number for this area)

Red Goshawk – 1 adult, 15/5/99, Gardner Plateau (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – JS (description supplied)

Grey Falcon – 1, 17/7/99, Broome Bird Observatory (Broome) – BBO

Australian Spotted Crane – 20, 16/6/99, ephemeral wetland near Broome Bird Observatory (Broome) – BBO

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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 December 1999 Issue

1 November 1999

at Perry House

Advertising Rates

1/4 page \$30.00

1/2 page \$50.00

Full page \$90.00

Asian Dowitcher – 18, 17/7/99, Roebuck Bay (Broome) – BBO

Partridge Pigeon – 1+, May-June 99, Kalumburu (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – TV

Diamond Dove – 1+, May-June 99, Kalumburu (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – TV (unusual this far north)

Purple-crowned Fairy-wren – 1+, 23/6/99, Junction of Ord and Negri rivers (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – ANS

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

Yellow Chat – 200, 17/7/99, Roebuck Plains (Broome) – BBO

Crested Shrike-tit – 1+, May-June 99, Kalumburu (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – TV (more details in next WABN)

White-browed Woodswallow – 1+, 23/6/99, Junction of Ord and Negri rivers (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – ANS * 2 (maybe 3), 26/07/99, Argyle Diamonds Village Sewage Ponds (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – FO (unusual in this area)

Welcome Swallow – 4, 8/6/99, Roebuck Plains (Broome) – BBO (few records in this area)

Fairy Martin – 400+, 24/07/99, Kununurra sewage ponds (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – FO

Tawny Grassbird – up to 6, June-July 1999, Roebuck Plains (Broome) – BBO (few records in this area)

OBSERVERS

AB = Andrew Brown

ANS = Tony Start

BBO = Broome Bird Observatory

CH = Chris Hassell

EBO = Eyre Bird Observatory

EP = Enid Pascoe

FO = Frank O'Connor

GG = Gordon Graham

HA = Hilda Anderson

JD = John Darnell

JS = Jonny Schoenjahn

LM = Louise McGovern

MB = Mike Bamford

RD = Rob Davis

RM = Roger McGovern

RP = Ross Payton

TR = Tony Russell

TV = Tom Vigilante

TW = Tim Willing

BIRDS AUSTRALIA RARITIES COMMITTEE (BARC)

BARC, chaired by Tony Palliser, assesses reports of national rarities. In the last few months, two Western Australian and Christmas Island cases have been accepted, and these are listed below for the information of local members. The format is case number, common name, scientific name, location, date.

259 Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina* Barrow Is, WA, 26/11/95

260 Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* Christmas Island 20/11/98

Obituary

Graeme Talbot Smith

On 30 June 1999, Graeme died at the age of 61 after a short battle with cancer. With his departure, ornithologists in Western Australia have lost a colleague who will be remembered for his careful long term research on Noisy Scrub-birds, Western Whipbirds, Western Bristlebirds, and Western Corellas; work that led to important conservation measures.

Besides being a conscientious scientist, Graeme will be missed by his many friends, who enjoyed his breadth of knowledge, his cheerfulness and his generosity in helping others.

After completing his doctorate at the Australian National University in Canberra, based on two years studying Royal Penguins on Macquarie Island, Graeme joined CSIRO and came to Western Australia in 1970.

He is survived by his wife Helen and daughters Katie and Liz.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sirs

I have recently returned from the Australasian Wader Study Group Conference on Phillip Island, Victoria. There I was disappointed to find that I was the only WA representative.

WA probably has more waders along the coast (especially Roebuck Bay and 80 Mile Beach) than anywhere else in Australia and yet there seems to be a lack of interest in shorebirds and little realisation of what a unique situation we have on our own doorstep.

If we are not aware of the problems facing these migratory shorebirds — problems involving habitat destruction and human disturbance, for example — all along the flyway and not just on our own shores — how can we protect them? To be aware of these problems and the steps being taken to combat them, it is essential for all of us to keep abreast of developments through observation and data collection, published articles, national and international conferences and the like.

The next AWSG Conference will probably be in April 2002 in WA when there will be (hopefully) more local support for these important aspects of the WA end of the migratory flyway and the shorebirds that use it on a regular basis. Otherwise, through apathy, we shall see a diminution in numbers of these incredible birds until they reach a point of no return.

Yours sincerely

Mavis Russell

WA Group Reports

BIRDS AUSTRALIA – WA GROUP COMMITTEE

Meetings of the WA Group Committee are held on the third Wednesday of each month at Perry House.

It is through the committee that the business of Birds Australia-WA Group is managed. Matters for consideration by the committee should be communicated to the office with adequate time for distribution to committee members.

Recent committee meetings have dealt with the following:

Atlas of Australian Birds #2 Project - see separate supplement for report from the WA coordinator, Cheryl Gole.

Conservation:

- Mariners' Cove Development, Creery Wetlands — Clive Nealon is our representative on the working party set up by CALM and the developer to oversee protection of the wetlands excised from the development; Mike Bamford in his capacity as project consultant is carrying out regular waterbird surveys.
- Milyu Reserve — a local conservation group has received a grant to consider the matter of jet skis in this area disturbing bird habitats; it is hoped that a proposal to modify the beach by the laying of limestone rubble for about 50 m (approved by the Marine Parks Authority) will encourage waterbirds to roost there; the joint CALM/BAWAG project (see below under Grants) should also assist in the protection of bird habitats.
- Bold Park: preparation of management plan by Kings Park Board — BAWAG will have input.
- Broome, oil and gas — the committee noted an article which appeared in the *West Australian* on 17 July re a modern off-shore service site for oil and gas platforms to be developed near the Broome jetty. There are expected to be 100 new wells drilled in the region over the next five years; a copy of the article has been sent to Melbourne so that a national focus can be formulated in opposition to the plan.
- Kings Park fundraising proposal — a letter will be sent to the Minister for the Environment arguing against the planned feeding of Rainbow Lorikeets as a tourist attraction.
- Carnaby's Cockatoo — Michael Brooker has attended a management plan meeting; very little is known about this species south of Perth; it is planned that there will be community involvement, particularly of farmers, in the management plan.

Suburban Bird Survey — the survey is continuing and the current number of observations entered into the database is in excess of 230,000; the database is currently being transferred to a new machine with, of course, new levels of software, and as anybody half literate with computers will know, nothing is as simple as it seems it ought to be;

however, the latest progress has at least been positive, and everything should be back in order in the next few days.

While talking of the survey, though, please continue to send in records if that's what you have been doing; if you haven't, please consider submitting weekly records from your garden, or any other location that you visit, even if those visits are infrequent; this is the only way in which we can build up a picture of the birds around us in the metropolitan area. With regular collection of this kind of data, we will be well placed to detect changes in the makeup of the local bird populations as they occur.

If you need any information on the Suburban Bird Survey please contact Clive Nealon.

Education/Public Relations - Judy Blyth, Clive Napier and Cheryl Gole continue to promote the BAWAG activities through talks, walks and displays at various centres including schools.

Grants — Allan Jones and his sub-committee comprising Sandra McKenzie and Tony Bennett, continue to submit applications for funding of projects including:

- Swan River joint project with CALM — an application for funding through the Natural Heritage Trust has recently been submitted, to provide signs and information boards for three sites along the Swan River (Milyu, Pelican Point and Alfred Cove) and possibly to fund a ranger to advise people about acceptable behaviour with dogs and protection of bird habitat (*Coasts and Clean Seas*).
- WWF grant for Hooded Plover and Western Ground Parrot reports — a grant of \$1760 has been received for these projects.
- Birds on Farms — see Notices for report.
- Natural Heritage Trust Centenary grant for Bold Park walks — official notification has been received that this application has been approved (\$30 000); the project is a joint one with BAWAG, Friends of Bold Park Inc. WA Wildflower Society and Kings Park Board, with Tony Bennett of the Grants Sub-committee the project coordinator; congratulations to Tony on his first major success; this will provide an excellent start to our Centenary Celebrations activities.
- Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO) — in 2000, should BAWAG become incorporated, we will be eligible to apply for this grant which would cover administrative and office staff costs.

Proposed fundraiser: personalised vehicle registration plates — this proposal will not proceed as no interest has been shown following a notice in the June Bird Notes.

CALM proposal re Lake Muir stop-point — a preliminary design plan for the stop-point has been done, including a boardwalk and nature trail; BAWAG continues to have input through Peter Taylor.

Estate of the late John Price: bequest \$2,000 — see elsewhere for report from Allan Jones; these funds have been allocated towards continuation of the Western Ground Parrot support group.

Slide collection — Bill McRoberts is updating the collection, and is including slides of waders recently received from Broome Bird Observatory.

Map collection, Perry House — Brenda Newbey and Max Bailey have gone through and sorted the 240-odd maps, and prepared a catalogue for ease of access; these are available at Perry House for research purposes by members.

Trading Table — good sales of bird cards recently to the Whiteman Park shop and at the *Festival of the Animals* held recently at Mundaring; Clive Nealon attended a recent meeting for the Combined Charities Christmas Cardshop to arrange for participation in this activity for which a further 20,000 plain and Christmas cards will be printed; Valerie Hemsley has taken over the sales of bird cards at general meetings. **More volunteers required for this important aspect of fundraising.**

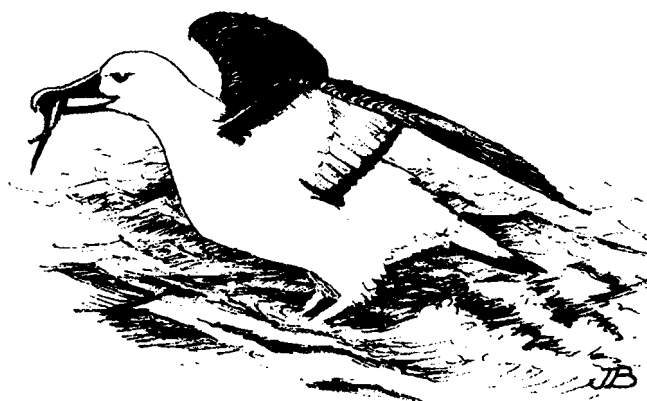
Excursions — see *Coming Events* for summary for the next quarter.

Proposal to incorporate — this is progressing well, with agreement in principle having been reached with Council on the draft constitution, subject to final approval by the forthcoming extraordinary general meeting of members on 25 October, by Council at its following meeting and by the Ministry for Fair Trading.

WA representative on Council — it was considered appropriate that an amount of \$150.00 per trip be available to cover some of the expenses incurred by our representative (currently Clive Nealon) when attending Council meetings, subject to the representative also being a WA Group Committee member, to be payable against receipts.

Clive Nealon
1999 Chairman, WA Group

**You might like to check out this new website covering the ABC's TV series *Life of Birds*.
<http://www.pbs.org/~lifeofbirds/index.html>**



The Yellow-nosed Albatross is seen on most pelagic trips off the south-west coast of WA.
Drawing by Judy Blyth

FINANCIAL REPORT, 6 MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 1999

The following Income and Expenditure Statement for the period 1 January to 30 June 1999 is presented for the information of members.

Note: Of this balance \$8,529 is Grants.

Grants and bequests

- Gordon Reid (Birds on Farms): second grant is for producing the report.
- World Wild Fund for Nature: grants for Hooded Plover and Ground Parrot are being wound up with Public Awareness Projects.
- Healthways: gave us a larger grant this year towards Promotions and Atlas expenses.
- World Wild Fund for Nature: new grant for Cape Arid Research.
- Bequest from late member: being used to further Hooded Plover and Ground Parrot awareness.
- Heritage Commission grant: just approved, for Walks, etc, in Bold Park.

Mary Vaughan, Assistant Treasurer

	1999 \$	\$	1998 \$
CASH AT BANK 1 Jan 99		9,143	
PLUS RECEIPTS			
Campout 1998	...		4,944
Functions	297		111
Book sales	1,842		2,787
Trading Table	8,117		3,383
Bank interest	4		17
Donations	583		487
Grants	19,668		19,691
Sundries	40		800
WA Bird Notes	4,143		40
TOTAL RECEIPTS		34,694	32,260
LESS EXPENDITURE			434
Campout 1998	...		
Book purchases	1,273		1,226
Trading Table	2,653		...
Bank charges	76		104
Donations	466		...
WA Bird Notes	3,458		2,010
Office expenses	980		1,024
Rent	516		581
Utilities	711		788
Accounting	350		360
Insurance	315		440
Petty cash	200		143
Computer req	799		149
Grants	13,736		12,292
Capital expenses	...		1,046
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		25,533	20,597
BALANCE ON HAND		18,304	17,390

