



Western Australian Bird Notes

Quarterly Newsletter of
Birds Australia Western Australia Inc
(a division of Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union)

No 94 June 2000

NAREMBEEN NEWS

Early last year we were asked to survey areas near Narembeen to support the creation of a five kilometre revegetation corridor. The corridor is to extend from a patch of farmland bush to another patch surrounding a grain silo.

Five weekend surveys of farmland and road verges in the district have now been done in the year to February 2000. Unusually heavy rainfall over that period has resulted in the appearance of a well-filled lake for most of that time, with many opportunistic waterbirds. On the weekend of 12-13 February 2000, we saw a Glossy Ibis, Little Grassbird, Dusky Moorhen and Blue-billed Duck. Large Pink-eared Ducklings were on the water last June, three months after the first heavy rains.

Others to apparently take advantage of the good rainfall in the area were Crimson Chats, Budgerigars, Cockatiels, Masked Woodswallows and of course the resident Malleefowl; as described below, four Malleefowl chicks were seen on the edge of a paddock, close to bushland, last February.

The farm bushland is of mixed vegetation, most of it dense enough to make walking through it difficult, and is completely fenced. Its immediate attraction is Malleefowl, ten of which were seen in the surrounding paddocks on one afternoon in January 1996. On that same weekend we caught and banded two, fitting coloured bands to aid in future sightings.

Imagine the delight when one of the colour-banded Malleefowl was seen again! Only 200 m from the place of capture but nearly four years later, it wandered into the view through the binoculars when the object of our interest happened to be a Red Wattlebird!

That was last October. More recently, on the weekend before Valentine's Day, we commenced a 2-hectare search

at the same bushland with a quick look along the fence line from the car. Nearby were four Malleefowl chicks! Appearing little concerned by the snoopers, they nevertheless made their way directly into the safety of the bush.

The next morning the image of those chicks was still etched in our minds as we optimistically checked the site again. At first there was nothing so we did a slow U-turn to move off to our next site when suddenly up they went! This time three chicks. They flew only about 5 metres, then dispersed quietly into the bush.

Rod Smith and Joyce Hegney



Malleefowl (Gnow) *Leipoa ocellata*.

Photo by Ian F Duncan,
courtesy of Malleefowl Preservation Group

INCORPORATION

After many months of effort and negotiations on the part of various local members, Donald Coventry and BA Council, we are now incorporated — hence the new name, Birds Australia Western Australia Inc. See the Chairman's reports in this and the next issue for further details.

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)

Rockhopper Penguin – 1, 24/04/00, Windy Harbour (weak; now being rehabilitated) (Manjimup) – LH

Southern Fulmar – 1+, late 11/99, beachwashed at Pelsaert Island (Abrolhos) – CS, JB (most northerly record on west coast)

White-headed Petrel – 1, 5/2 and 7/2/00, Point Dalling, Dunsborough (Busselton) – RP

Grey Petrel – 2, 10/03/00, Point Dalling, Dunsborough (Busselton) – RP

Grey-headed Albatross – 1, 17/2/2000, beachwatched at Yokinup Bay, Cape Arid National Park (Esperance) – AR

Royal Spoonbill – 1, 18/4/00, Herdsman Lake (Perth) – MB (details elsewhere in this issue)

Dusky Moorhen – 1, 12/02/00, at lake on farm near Narembeen (Narembeen) – RS, JHe

Galah – 3, 20/4/00, Hirschel Lake, Rottnest (vagrant on Rottnest) – RS, JHe

Rainbow Lorikeet – 4, 18/1/00, Mandurah (Mandurah) – JH * 1+, 3/2/00, Boya (Mundaring) – JM * 20, in Marri, 6/2/00, Darlington (Mundaring) – AIS

Budgerigar – hundreds, 12-13/02/00, Narembeen district (Narembeen) – RS, Jhe

Barking Owl – 1, 8/2/00, Gngangara (Wanneroo) – GR (bird seen at night giving a loud screeching call)

Crimson Chat – hundreds, 7-8/10/99, Narembeen district (Narembeen) – RS, Jhe

Hooded Robin – 2 males, 1 female, 31/1/2000, Poison creek Road, Cape Arid National Park (Esperance) – AR

Western Yellow Robin – 1, 19/03/00, Yanchep National Park (near golf course) (Wanneroo) – WS, AS

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

Little Stint – 2, 11/99, Lake MacLeod (Carnarvon) – TK, CD

White-winged Black Tern – 1 (with Whiskered and Gull-billed Terns), 29/12/99, Nallan Lake (Cue) – BE

Fan-tailed Cuckoo – 1, 21/4/00, Rest Dam on Mt Monger Station (at 30.48.32/121.43.51) (Kalgoorlie-Boulder) – CG, MG (north-eastern edge of range)

Dusky Woodswallow – 4, 22/04/00, 1 km north of Main Reef Mine (at 30.36.44/121.37.17) (Kalgoorlie-Boulder) – CG, MG

KIMBERLEY

Square-tailed Kite – 1, 12/2/2000, Argyle diamond mine tailings dam (Wyndham – East Kimberley) – FO (unusual this time of year)

Red-backed Button-quail – 1, 23/04/00, Argyle diamond mine (Wyndham–East Kimberley) – FO (detailed description from bird in the hand) (eastern edge of range) * 1, 04/00, Broome Bird Observatory (Broome) – BBO

Common Redshank – 200, 03/00, Roebuck Bay (Broome) – BBO (possibly the largest flock recorded in Australia)

Asian Dowitcher – 416, 03/00, Roebuck Bay (Broome) – BBO (possibly the largest flock recorded in Australia)

Little Ringed Plover – 1, early 2000, Mandora (Broome) – CH, TS

Masked Woodswallow – flocks of up to 600, early May 2000, heading north over Broome Bird Observatory (Broome) – BBO

Gouldian Finch – 1 or 2 (black-headed adult and possible immature), 6/2/2000, Argyle Diamond Mine Village (Wyndham–East Kimberley) – FO

ASHMORE REEF

Pale-headed Munia – 3, early 2000 – GS (detailed description taken and being prepared for submission to Birds Australia Rarities Committee; if accepted, will be the first record for Australia)

CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Brown Shrike – 1, 4/00, KC *et al.*

Yellow Wagtail – 1, 4/00, KC *et al.*

Grey Wagtail – 3, 12/99, KC *et al.*

OBSERVERS

AR = Allan Rose

AIS = Alex Saar

AS = Aye Aye Sarafin

BBO = Broome Bird Observatory

BE = Barry Evans

CD = Colin Davis

CG = Cheryl Gole

CH = Chris Hassell

CS = Chris Surman

FO = Frank O'Connor

GR = Greg Rance

GS = George Swann

JB = John Blyth

JH = James Howell

JHe = Joyce Hegney

JM = Jenny Muir

KC = Kevin Coate

LH = Leslie Harrison

MB = Max Bailey

MG = Martin Gole

RP = Ross Payton

RS = Rod Smith

TS = Tony Start

TK = Tony Kirkby

WS = Wally Sarafin

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sirs

Tender Loving Care for the Environment

I wish to register concern over a television advertisement being shown in prime time (before 7:30 pm) when children and young teenagers are viewing the box.

This advert which depicts the falling (or throwing to the ground) of dead birds and lizards may well help adults to realise the need for looking after the environment. But with the accompanying pleasant music and the "throwing" to the ground of dead birds and lizards the six to fourteen year olds are getting a confused message.

The message for our young folk should be:

"CARE" Care for one another
Care for our animals both domestic and native
Care for the environment.

There is enough violence and cruelty today without reinforcing this principle to children showing not only needless death to birds and lizards but also the careless "throwing" to the ground of these creatures whilst all the time playing such pleasant music in the background.

Television is a great learning medium. Could not the advertisement be replaced by promotion, with animals and birds and scenes from nature, of the principles of "Caring" and "Tender Loving Care" (TLC).

Children need lots of TLC for a balanced development and will only learn to pass on TLC themselves if exposed to TLC both in inter-personal relationships and with animals and the environment.

M H Bremner

WA Group Reports

BIRDS AUSTRALIA – WA GROUP COMMITTEE

Annual Report 1999

The year in review provided another busy and generally rewarding year. In my first year as Chairman I have been fortunate to have an enthusiastic team of volunteers dedicated to furthering the aims of the group.

There was some rearrangement of the committee this year following Clive Napier's retirement. While his presence on committee is missed, he continues to contribute his time and expertise generously to many projects. Dr Mike Bamford stepped up to take on the position of Vice Chairman, and he has continued to look

after Research and Conservation issues for the group. Margaret Philippon once more performed with her total efficiency as our Secretary and as the typesetter for *WA Bird Notes*. Mary Vaughan has again filled the role of Bookkeeper and administered the group's finances in tandem with Treasurer Greg Wylie. Sue Abbotts continued on the Excursions subcommittee and provided valuable advice and assistance for the Group's incorporation quest. The Excursions subcommittee was coordinated by Bill McRoberts and a very active calendar of long-distance trips, weekend campouts, and day excursions resulted. The distribution of *WA Bird Notes* was again organised by Rod Smith who exercised tight control on the associated costs. John Blyth's commitment to the group remains strong as joint editor of WABN. The two new members of the committee, Sandra McKenzie and Michael Brooker, have contributed fresh ideas and experience. Sandra has considerable experience in applying for, and more importantly, securing grants funding, and has been a valued addition to the Grants subcommittee. Michael has brought a wealth of experience as a research scientist to the group and has strengthened an already strong scientific presence.

The committee, of course, represents a very small number of the active contributors to the group's activities and successes. The group's monthly meetings are consistently interesting and well attended, thanks primarily to the quality of the speakers and presentations arranged for us by Brian Wilson. Dr Allan Burbidge has continued to serve as joint editor, with John Blyth, of WABN. Allan also continues to advise on scientific issues, helping with oddities reported to the Atlas, and in a more general sense for the local group. We are fortunate to have had our Publicity and Education endeavours in Judy Blyth's hands. Judy has worked tirelessly to provide displays, bird-walks and talks for local organisations. Allan Jones has continued to display his skill at raising funds to ensure that local projects remain active. Colin Davis still coordinates the Wader Studies Group in the west, and the pelagic trips organised by Frank O'Connor remain fully subscribed and most enjoyable. The operation of the group's office has once again been managed most efficiently by Max Bailey, the roster of volunteers has been looked after by Wendy Napier, the library tended by Liz Walker, and the computer systems maintained by Richard Chyne. Valerie Hemsley took on the task of selling our cards and is settling into the position well. Special mention must be made here of the contribution made to the national Atlas project by Cheryl Gole. Cheryl is the WA coordinator for the project, and her boundless enthusiasm and drive have ensured that there is a wealth of data being submitted for the Atlas from WA. Finally there remain the many volunteers, unnamed here, who have spent much time and considerable effort in providing the raw data that is required by the many projects that were conducted during the year.

This report can only accommodate the more important events that occurred through the year. There were many others that I have not mentioned here.

The year saw the devolution of ownership of Perry House, the group's office location, to the Botanic Garden and Parks Authority. Perry House is located on the edge of Bold Park, and the Authority also assumed control of Bold Park. The Authority has been active in improving the immediate surrounds of Perry House with additional fencing and a formalised car parking area. The Authority has also prepared a management plan for Bold Park to which the WA group had, and has, input.

Projects

Early in the year we were notified that we had been successful in our application for funds from the Natural Heritage Trust Centenary Fund. The application, made jointly with three other community groups, was for the construction of a walk trail in Bold Park, adjacent to our office. The trail is due to be completed during 2001. Congratulations to Tony Bennett on his contribution to the submission and its subsequent success.

Three project reports were released during the year.

In June, the 'Hooded Plover Report Number 2 1996-1999' was published, Marcus Singor reporting on the additional research carried out since the first report of 1996. The report shows that it is possible to improve our knowledge of an elusive species, but that it takes time and a great deal of perseverance on the part of the members conducting the surveys. We are now in a position to suggest areas where signs requesting care on the part of beach users may help reduce the level of threat to the breeding success of the Hooded Plover. Special mention must be made here of Phyllis Bentley, who has not only coordinated the data collection since the inception of the original Hooded Plover project, and continues to do so, but has also travelled extensively around the state collecting data.

Also in June, Shapelle McNee authored the 'Report on Western Ground Parrot Survey at Waychinicup and Manypeaks'. This documented the research carried out between April and October 1998. Again, the efforts of many volunteers were harnessed to improve our knowledge of an extremely elusive subject with a very restricted distribution. Shapelle has been very successful in establishing interested volunteer groups in areas remote from Perth, and I hope that the WA group will be able to continue to work with her on Ground Parrot research.

On 24 November the 'Birds on Farms Project in Western Australia 1996-1999' report was launched at our Perry House office by Mr Rex Edmondson, Chairman of both the Soil and Land Conservation Council of WA, and of the Western Australian Landcare Trust. Rex, a farmer from Jerramungup, was an active contributor of data to the project. 'Birds on Farms' started as a national project in 1995, and in 1996 Brenda Newbey was appointed co-ordinator for WA. In 1997, Main Roads WA joined the project by funding the WA group to survey, over two years, the bird populations in roadside vegetation re-established by the department. The complementary nature of the data collected from the farms and from the roadside verges

Birds Australia Western Australia Inc Office, Perry House

71 Oceanic Drv, Floreat WA 6014

Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30 am to 12.30 pm

Telephone: (08) 9383 7749

Facsimile: (08) 9387 8412

Email: birdswa@starwon.com.au

Birds Australia Home Page:

<http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au>

Chairman: Clive Nealon

35 Hilarion Road, Duncraig WA 6023

Tel: (08) 9448 5921

E-mail: clivenealon@bigpond.com

Joint Editors: John Blyth

Tel: (08) 9405 5100 (w)

Tel: (08) 9381 6293 (h)

Fax: (08) 9306 1641 (w)

E-mail: johnbl@calm.wa.gov.au

Allan Burbidge

Tel: (08) 9405 5109 (w)

Tel/Fax: (08) 9306 1642 (h)

Fax: (08) 9306 1641 (w)

E-mail: austecol@cygnus.uwa.edu.au

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 2000 Issue
1 August 2000 at Perry House**

Advertising Rates

1/4 page \$30.00

1/2 page \$50.00

Full page \$90.00

contributed to an interesting and useful report which could form the base for future studies and management. It is also important that those people who provide the data that makes a project possible be provided with feedback. Following the Birds on Farms project, several presentations were made in the rural areas to those interested in the results, and each farm that was surveyed was presented with a detailed individual report on the results obtained. Congratulations to Brenda on a fine job.

Finances

The group's finances have been maintained such that our income over the year has kept pace with our expenditure. I believe that we have extracted maximum value, in terms of results, from the Grants obtained to support the projects that have been run. Our general revenue, again dependent largely on sales of our cards, has been satisfactory, and has enabled us to run the office and assist in other areas where we can. The group provided \$1,000 to help the observatories attend the British Bird Fair in September, and we again provided funds to students who were attending Observatory Courses. A more detailed financial report is given elsewhere in this issue.

Membership

Our membership in WA is extremely varied, ranging from dedicated professional ornithologists to keen amateurs with varying levels of expertise. I believe, and I hope, that a good balance has been struck to satisfy all tastes. The new year appears to hold the prospect of being equally as busy as 1999, with the added interest of the special projects that will get underway in preparation for our centenary celebrations in 2001. I look forward to 2000 with the knowledge that we will need to be ever more aware of our responsibility to future generations in improving the chances for all of our birds to survive the demands made on their environment.

At the AGM held in February 2000, Margaret Philippon, Sue Abbotts, and Bill McRoberts did not seek re-election to the committee. Their places were taken by Dot Kingston, who took on the position of Secretary, Wes Bancroft, and Jennifer Wilcox.

Our thanks to those standing down for their unstinting efforts in the past, and welcome to the new faces — I hope that you find the job rewarding and worthwhile.

There have been other changes that have taken place.

Judy Blyth has found it necessary to relinquish the role of Publicity and Education Officer that she has performed so well. As a result we are, of course, looking for someone to take on that position, and Judy has generously offered to help anyone who is interested find their feet. Please contact me if you think you would like to learn more about the position.

We have finally 'allowed' Max Bailey to retire from the Office Manager job. Max has filled the position for at least six years and, in fact, continued for a year longer than he intended because we failed to identify a replacement. Max's contribution has been extremely valuable to us all

and we have been able to take the smooth running of the office for granted due to his efforts.

Liz Walker is now the Office Manager and she has passed the Library on to Sue Mather.

We are always looking for volunteers to help ensure the smooth running of the group. If you would like to help in any way please let me know.

Incorporation

Finally, late news — Birds Australia Western Australia Group has finally achieved Incorporation! We officially became incorporated on Wednesday 19 April 2000. The road to incorporation has been long and frustrating but I am sure that the effort will prove worthwhile. Many people have been involved over a long period to achieve this result, and I wish to thank all of them for their efforts. Special mention needs to be made of Brian Wilson, Clive Napier, Sue Abbotts and Margaret Philippon for their efforts in Perth, and also to BA CEO, Donald Coventry and the 1999 BA Council members who helped us to achieve our mutual aims.

Clive Nealon
WA Group Chairman



Shady paperbarks and sedges — ideal habitat for Red-winged Fairy-wrens but ...
Bootine Road Nature Reserve
Illustration by Pam Agar

(see article on page 23)

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

Extract from Audited Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 1999

Note: If you would like a copy of the complete accounts, please contact our Perry House office.

Independent audit report to the members — Extract

Qualification

As is common for an organisation of this type, much of the income is derived from sales and fees and it is not practicable for the organisation to establish control over these items prior to their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly my audit in relation to these items was limited to amounts recorded.

Qualified audit opinion

In my opinion, subject to the above qualification, the financial statements present fairly the financial position of Birds Australia (WA Group), as at 31 December 1999 and

the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with the basis of accounting as outlined in Note 1 to the accounts.

Dated this 24th day of February 2000.

Signed: *David John Hayman* CPA, Perth WA

Notes

- (a) **Income Tax:** The organisation is an "approved research institute" and is exempt from income tax.
- (b) **Stock on Hand:** Stock on hand has been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.
- (c) **Plant and Equipment:** Plant and equipment have been brought to account at cost or valuation less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

Balance Sheet for the Year ended 31 December 1999 — extract

| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Assets | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Total Cash on Hand | 40,133.41 | | |
| Total Stock on Hand | <u>14,711.00</u> | | |
| Total Current Assets | | 54,844.41 | |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Investments | 71,126.79 | | |
| Equipment on Hand | <u>4,412.00</u> | | |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | <u>75,538.79</u> | |
| Total Assets | | | 130,383.20 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Sundry Creditors | <u>790.00</u> | | |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 790.00 | |
| Grants | | | |
| Healthways – Promotions | 276.50 | | |
| Main Roads – Road Verges | 66.00 | | |
| Cape Arid WWF for Nature | 2,630.70 | | |
| Alcoa Donation | 400.00 | | |
| Bequest | 1,270.15 | | |
| C Hassell Donation | 210.00 | | |
| Cambridge Brochures | <u>1,780.00</u> | | |
| Total Grants | | <u>6,633.35</u> | |
| Total Liabilities | | | <u>7,423.35</u> |
| Net Assets | | | 122,959.85 |
| Accumulated funds | | | |
| Prior Year's Surplus/Deficit | | 116,574.40 | |
| Retained Earnings | | 2,938.13 | |
| Current Year Surplus/Deficit | | 3,447.32 | |
| Total Accumulated Funds | | | 122,959.85 |

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

Profit and Loss Statement — January 1999 through December 1999 — extract

| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Income | | | |
| Trading Table | | | |
| Sales – Trading Table | | | |
| Banking – Trading Table | 14,251.62 | | |
| Cost of Goods Sold | | | |
| Purchases – Trading Table | | | |
| Total Cost of Goods Sold | <u>-10,880.35</u> | | |
| Total Trading Table | | 3,371.27 | |
| Books | | | |
| Sales – Books | 4,316.93 | | |
| Total Cost of Goods Sold | <u>-1,999.45</u> | | |
| Total Books | | 2,317.48 | |
| WA Bird Notes | | | |
| Sales – WA Bird Notes | 5,439.00 | | |
| * Total Cost of Goods Sold WABN | <u>-6,649.25</u> | | |
| Total WA Bird Notes | | -1,210.25 | |
| Other Income Received | | | |
| Members' Fees | 5,843.78 | | |
| Donations | 820.10 | | |
| Interest Received | <u>987.81</u> | 7,651.69 | |
| Other Items | | | |
| Total Increase in value of Investments | <u>1,351.05</u> | | |
| Total Other Items | | <u>1,351.05</u> | |
| Total Income | | | 13,481.24 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Audit Fees | | 350.00 | |
| Bank Charges | | 182.74 | |
| Donations | | 1,865.00 | |
| Dues & Subs | | 75.00 | |
| Office expenses, eg, rent, power, phone, photocopier, computer | | 5,339.90 | |
| Functions | | 566.21 | |
| Insurance | | 314.67 | |
| Legal & Accounting | | 562.40 | |
| Write-off Equipment | | <u>778.00</u> | |
| Total Expenses | | | 10,033.92 |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit) | | | 3,447.32 |

Purchases – WA Bird Notes includes an item for purchase and printing of 4 years' supply of envelopes.

THIRD CORELLA COUNT

Twenty five BAWAG members spent two or so hours on Saturday, 15 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. As far as possible the results are grouped in neighbouring areas, eg along the Swan River from Guildford downwards. 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.

Table 1 Results of the Perth metropolitan corella count, 15/4/2000

| Observers | Sites | Results |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Swan River, from Guildford to Fremantle | | |
| 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 | 600 to 900 Little Corellas At least 50 Long-billed Corellas |
| Robert Schmidt | Swan River, from Pickering Park, B'dean, to Tonkin Highway Bridge | 65 Little Corellas 20 Long-billed Corellas |
| Mary Vaughan | Ollie Worrel Reserve, High Wycombe | 7 Western Corellas |
| Cheryl Gole | Redcliffe Bridge to Garrett Rd along Swan River | No corellas |
| Tom Delaney | Swan foreshore; Narrows Bridge to Burswood | 4 Little Corellas |
| Tom Spalding | Tomkins Park, Applecross | No corellas |
| John and Judy Blyth | Point Resolution, | No corellas |
| John and Judy Blyth | Blackwall Reach, Chidley Point, Minim Cove, Bicton | About 100 eastern Long-billed Corellas around golf course |
| Audrey Turner | Lower Swan River, from Preston Point to Point Walter Reserve. | No corellas |
| 2. South of the Swan River, approximately from north to south | | |
| Audrey Turner | Manning Park | Long-billed Corellas in pine trees, but too dark to count (? 6-8). Three weeks prior there were 50 of the species in these trees. |
| Ken Richardson | North Lake | No corellas |
| Clive and Wendy Napier | Canning Highway at Point Walter Road | 70 Long-billed Corellas, flying in from north west |
| Clive and Wendy Napier | Fremantle Golf Course | No corellas |
| Peter Mawson | Royal Fremantle and Fremantle Golf Courses | No corellas |
| Peter Mawson | Suburban East Fremantle | 5 Long-billed Corellas, flying south to north at 1620 hours |
| Bryan Barrett and Margery Clegg | Canning River; Kent Street Weir to Nicholson Rd Bridge | No corellas |
| Dick Rule | Anstey Swamp, Baldivis | No corellas |
| Dick Rule | Mandurah area | No corellas |
| Sue Kabab | Big Swamp, Bunbury | No corellas |

| 3. North of the Swan River, approximately from north to south | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Allan and Michael Burbidge | Lake Joondalup, eastern side | 7 Long-billed Coreellas, 27 possible Littles |
| Neil Hamilton | Neil Hawkins Park, Lake Joondalup | 72 Long-billed Coreellas, 2 Little Coreellas |
| Neil Hamilton | Mawson Park, Hillarys | 110 Little Coreellas |
| Michael Hancock | Carine Open Space Lake Gwelup | No coreellas |
| John and Judy Blyth | Subiaco State School Lake Monger | No coreellas Sunday, 16/4, 8pm, no coreellas! |
| Andrew Burbidge | Jackadder Lake, Woodlands | 26 Little Coreellas |
| Andrew Burbidge | Herdsmen Lake, Floreat | 190 Little Coreellas |
| Jeff Richardson | Perry Lakes | 120 Little Coreellas |
| Nora Brockman | Lake Claremont | 7 Little Coreellas |

The total numbers recorded for all three possible species of corella are lower this year than last year, but still considerably higher than the first count in 1998 (Table 2).

Table 2. Total numbers recorded for each species of corella in counts in 1998, 1999 and 2000

| Species | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 |
|---------------------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| Long-billed Corella | About 140 | 577-627 | 250-374 |
| Little Corella | About 820 | 1385 to 1580 | 939-1451 |
| Western Corella | Nil | 7 | Nil |

I hope to analyse these data in more detail for the next issue of WABN, but at least we can say that there has not been an observed increase this year. It is impossible to say whether this observation is real or an artifact of the birds having moved to other places, that were not counted, this year. Certainly, there were reports, on the day of the count, of no coreellas from several sites that only a few weeks previously had supported many hundreds of Little Coreellas. Similarly, the number of Long-billed Coreellas was lower than might have been expected from reports of numbers from the areas around Fremantle, Canning Regional Park and the Swan River from Burswood to Guildford a few weeks previous to the count. Further, populations of coreellas are known from both Mandurah and Bunbury, but none were seen there during the count. It is highly likely that the Mandurah and Bunbury populations have come from aviary escapees in those areas and are not linked with the Perth populations.

This year's count does confirm that both Little Coreellas and (eastern) Long-billed Coreellas have

substantial populations around Perth and that both species are extremely mobile and opportunistic. I think it is still valid to say that unless control measures are instituted quickly, the south west of Western Australia will have two new, fully established feral species of birds within a few years!

I am still very keen to learn of roosting sites for the Long-billed Corella. At present I know of three that are at least used frequently, if not permanently. These are Stirling Square at Guildford, Canning Regional Park, where birds roost at Kent Street Weir and elsewhere along the Canning where there are large trees, and a site along the Canning Highway where birds feeding come from Point Walter to roost.

Once again, many thanks to all of our counters on the day and to those people who have informed me of possible areas to include in future counts.

John Blyth

GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

A Thanks to Our Sponsors

With the support of members, the community and sponsors, we continue to have a number of successful projects in a variety of fields, in many regions of Western Australia.

* **The Gordon Reid Foundation**, an initiative of the Lotteries Commission, has made a further grant of \$5000 to meet the demand for bird brochures. Brochures are being prepared for Melville City, Bold Park, Onslow, Norseman and Dalwallinu.



Melville City and Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority have given further financial support for their brochures to be A3 size in full colour.

* A brochure on the 'Birds of Cambridge' is now at the printer. Thanks to the **Town of Cambridge** for this grant.

We have just been advised that the Walpole Group has received a **Gordon Reid Grant** for two-colour brochures, the water birds and bush birds of Walpole.

When at the office, be sure to examine the range of similar brochures on birding areas of Western Australia.

* **Healthway** has again sponsored walks, talks and displays and some of the Atlas newsletters.



* A separate article in this issue tells us about the Hooded Plover Project sponsored by **Coast and Clean Seas**. Brenda Newbey and Julie Raines with the Hooded Plover Sub-committee have made a very active beginning to this project.



* Finally, Tony Bennett has the grant from the **Department of Communications Information Technology and the Arts** to commence constructing the Centenary Walk from Perry House to Camel Lake which will be ready for the official opening in 2001.

* An application is at present with **Gordon Reid Foundation** to sponsor a survey of breeding areas of Carnaby's (Short-billed) Black-Cockatoo.

Many thanks to all the workers on the above projects.

Allan, Tony, Liz

HOODED PLOVER PROJECT



Birds Australia (WA Group) recently obtained a grant from the Coasts and Clean Seas program of the National Heritage Trust. The application, based on past research by Birds Australia (WA Group), was prepared by Allan Jones and Sandra McKenzie. The project is to continue for two years, with most effort being spent in the first year.

Two part time Project Officers have been appointed. Julie Raines is organising most of the meetings and

research (two days per week for the first year), and Brenda Newbey provides support in various ways (one day per fortnight for the first year). The Hooded Plover Sub-Committee is actively supporting the project. Members are Phyllis Bentley, David Free, Sandra McKenzie and Marcus Singor.

The aim of the project is to improve protection of Hooded Plovers in areas that are important for them. Nesting is a vulnerable time for Hooded Plovers as the nest site is usually an open area of beach or lake shore. Some Hooded Plovers breed on inland lakes, while others breed on coastal and near coastal sites. Where the beach is shared with 4WDs and dogs, breeding is often unsuccessful.

Four shires (Esperance, Augusta-Margaret River, Jerramungup and Waroona), shown in past projects to have areas well used by Hooded Plovers, are targeted. Each area will be visited and contacts made with local bird-watchers and land managers of the Hooded Plovers' preferred sites. Where relevant, contact will be made with other (human) users of the sites. It is hoped that local bird-watchers will undertake a monitoring program.

A brochure will be prepared with Hooded Plover Committee and community input. Where appropriate, beach signs or other aids to protection may be designed. A document with background information and local management strategies for Hooded Plovers will be developed during the course of the project.

The first of the regional meetings has been held in Preston Beach near Yalgorup National Park, with the CALM ranger Steve Dutton, three Hooded Plover enthusiasts Bill Russell, Frank Pridham and Dick Rule, and the two Project Officers. Hooded Plovers have been more thoroughly surveyed in this area than any other in Western Australia. It was decided that a cumulative mapping system for placement of records would be most useful here.

Special assistance requested 23 to 30 September. An important part of the project is to do some broad-scale surveying of Hooded Plover locations and numbers, and to gather as much breeding information as possible. The emphasis for the project is coastal, but any Hooded Plover records over the life of the project will be of value. The first two of three co-ordinated survey times will be late September this year and early February next year. If you can assist with the September survey in southern Western Australia (inland on salt lakes, or coastal areas from Geraldton to Eyre Bird Observatory), please contact Phyllis Bentley (9354 0127) or one of the Project Officers (Julie 9306 1642 or Brenda 9337 5673). It's a huge area and any help will be very welcome. If you are willing to participate in the September survey, and are to be in a particular area at the time, we can supply information about past records in the area, or likely spots to check out.

By the end of the project, information about Hooded Plovers should be more readily available where it will be of most use and some practical aids to Hooded Plover conservation and management should be in place.

Brenda Newbey

