

# Western Australian Bird Notes



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



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## WESTERN GROUND PARROTS—TWO YEARS ON

Two years of intensive research recently culminated in a historic moment—when the Western Ground Parrot Recovery Project team obtained the first photograph of an adult bird in the wild.

The Western Ground Parrot Recovery Project was launched as a Priority Project for the South Coast Region in 2003. With the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) acting as the lead agency, funding was secured through the South Coast Regional Initiative Planning Team (SCRIPT) to allow the project to extend activities vital to the survival of this critically endangered parrot. The project operates under the close guidance of the South Coast Threatened Birds Recovery Team.

Since its inception the project has been operating in the Albany and Esperance regions with concentrated surveys in Cape Arid and Fitzgerald River National Parks. This massive survey effort has utilised over 80 volunteers from the local community, with significant input from Birds Australia and the Friends of the Western Ground Parrot. This has provided vital information on the distribution and status of the bird—information that will be invaluable for future management of the species. Data from these efforts are currently being analysed,

interpreted and written up. Activities last year helped identify the location and timing of breeding. This information aided researchers in their planning and implementation of the 2005 breeding season survey. It was during the last days of this survey that the historic photograph was taken.

At the time, a Western Ground Parrot Recovery Project expedition, consisting of myself, technical support officer David Chemello and field assistant Karl Edwards was operating recently in the Fitzgerald River National Park. The group was focusing all survey effort on one recently located sub-population of Western Ground Parrots. The objective was to record details of a full breeding season and to understand the breeding biology and conservation needs of this critically endangered parrot. A number of ground breaking results were obtained during this two month epic but the highest point of the expedition was a rare close encounter with this cryptic bird. In this one hour event the first photographs of a free-ranging adult Western Ground Parrot were taken.

Despite recent advances in knowledge, and due to the cryptic nature of this Western Australian endemic, little is known about its breeding biology. Through a two month concentrated effort this year knowledge has been gained that



Western Ground Parrot in Fitzgerald  
River National Park  
*Photo courtesy Brent Barrett*



Western Ground Parrot in Fitzgerald River National Park  
*Photo courtesy Brent Barrett*

will ultimately assist in the survival of this parrot on the south coast. Following this increase in understanding we were able to locate and photograph an adult that had recently been nesting in the study site. When David and Karl found this bird and its mate, I decided to try and photograph it. We headed towards the site. Just as we hit a thick patch of vegetation we heard a call from the other side. We all rushed quietly there and took up positions, Karl and myself with camera in hand, and David with the recording gear hoping to get any calls. We tried for some time but saw or heard nothing, then we detected a bird near Karl. It was in bushes less than five metres away. I skulked up closer. Then a bird flew across to a bush near me. I headed towards the bush hoping to get a shot of the bird as it next flew off. Then a call came from up the hill. It was possible that this was the same bird but it didn't seem right. So I sat tight and waited, and sure enough the bird called near me and then moved away. I finally got a glimpse of it on the far side of some high bushes. Got a quick shot then it walked off further away. I continued to track it and still it moved further away. Every shot I got was obscured or badly taken. I felt the chance slip away. Then it made the bold move, heading out towards Karl into the low open vegetation. I was able to get around it and shot a few frames. Then even more incredibly it moved to the top of a low (20 cm) bush and sat still looking sideways in Karl's direction. I couldn't believe how well placed it was and how strange it was that Karl wasn't taking any pictures, especially as he had his camera in his hand. It didn't take more than a glance and a shrug to realise he had no film left. I took what images I could, but then it flew off. I was not well placed but knew that the pictures were well exposed and contained a good close-cropped image of the full bird in vegetation. I sent Karl off to reload his film, put my camera flash card into its case safely and loaded a new fresh one. There was no way I was risking these images for anything. My hand was shaking and my heart

was pounding in my ears as I did it. I was sure that was the last we would see of the bird. It had realised finally we were there and it had taken a good long stare at us while frozen in the bushes.

We set ourselves up again, all in different directions. Remarkably, we quickly got onto the bird again. This time the bird walked straight past me. I got off some great shots. Various posed bird in vegetation or on the ground, calling from the bushes, and peeking over the vegetation. It was all too much to believe. We had smiles the size of watermelon slices and hearts as high as kites. The whole episode lasted an hour but it was two years in the making.

When capturing these images we were privileged to receive a front row glimpse into the life of a Western Ground Parrot. Details of plumage, method of calling, mode of travel and the extreme camouflage ability of the bird were

revealed in this one hour event. This detail will aid the project in better understanding habitat selection and predator avoidance techniques of this critically endangered bird.

There has never before been a successful attempt to get a good quality photograph of a Western Ground Parrot in the wild. In October 2004 during a nest searching expedition we obtained the first ever photograph of a juvenile. This was a universally significant event and is still fresh in the mind of many community people along the south coast. Despite the importance of this image for increasing awareness and identifying a unique juvenile plumage (compared to the Eastern sub-species) it was not very suitable for reproduction in black and white and the cryptic nature of the bird was very evident and made locating the bird in the image difficult. Since this first photograph the project has been poised for the opportunity to gain an image that can be used to indicate just how stunning this parrot really is. The first photograph of an



The team that got the pictures: left to right –  
 Brent Barrett, Karl Edwards, David Chemello  
*Photo courtesy David Chemello*

adult bird has achieved this. Because it was taken in natural light the iridescence of the feathers is preserved in the photographic process. It now serves as the only quality image ever collected.

**Brent Barrett**

Editors' note: Brent has now completed his stint as research scientist for the Western Ground Parrot survey and is returning to New Zealand, although he will continue to work on writing up results gained during the last two years. Fortunately, further funding has been received for this important work, which will continue under a new project officer, Michael Barth.

### WHERE ARE OUR ARTISTS?

Your drawings are invited for publication in *WA Bird Notes*.  
So when you go away for that weekend campout, take your sketch pad  
and draw that bird or special scene.

Black pen and ink drawings are preferred as they scan better.



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

### Rosellas on the Beach, continued...

Your Western Rosellas have the same taste for Sea Rocket seeds as have our own related Crimson Rosellas of the south-eastern states.

I have often seen small mixed groups of adult and juvenile Crimson Rosellas on the shore, feeding on the still succulent capsules of the Sea Rocket during summer and on the dry pods in winter.

This was in Waratah Bay, a long, mainly sandy stretch of shore between Cape Liptrap and Wilson's Promontory, with scrubby, heathy woodland behind the shore.

Eastern Rosellas are also found here but are less common than Crimson Rosellas and I have never seen them on the shore, let alone on Sea Rocket.

I suppose that we take for granted that someone before us must have seen and recorded such behaviour as our rosellas indulge in but somehow it very rarely gets published.

**Claire Appleby, Camberwell, Victoria**

(This letter was received in response to the article that appeared in the last issue of *Western Australian Bird Notes* (Sept 2005. No 115))

Dear Editors

### Where are the Mannikins?

After sighting Chestnut-breasted Mannikins at Careniup Swamp during the current Perth Biodiversity Project bird

surveys, I'd like to record other sightings of these mannikins in the SW of Western Australia including the Perth metropolitan area.

If you see any Chestnut-breasted Mannikins, please let me know where, when and how many by ringing me on (08) 9349 1898, preferably between 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm. Please do not ring between 2:30 pm and 4:30 pm.

**Hank van Wees**

Dear Editors

### Inland Thornbill

According to HANZAB, the voice of the Inland Thornbill is not well studied, and I was unable to find anything remotely resembling the double whistle in that work. Perhaps Johnstone & Storr come nearer, but it is a single whistle they describe, not a double, and therefore unlikely to be the same.

Wonderfully anecdotal is the statement by Serventy & Whittell (1976) that persons who are hard of hearing can hear *A. apicalis*, but not *A. pusilla*. Serventy must have regarded this as an important character, for he repeated it some years later (in Fremlin, 1983, *A Wildlife Heritage*). One just wonders whether the number of eastern states ornithologists visiting Serventy, and with just the required degree of deafness to hear the one species and not the other, was statistically significant. My guess would be that the size of the sample was one, but guessing is also unscientific, so that I'd better shut up.

**G F Mees**

This list has been compiled by the Observations Committee. Metropolitan suburbs or shires are in parentheses. Please report interesting observations to Frank O'Connor (9386 5694 or preferably <sightings@iinet.net.au>) or to the BAWA office (9383 7749). Sightings are included on the BAWA web site <birdswa.iinet.net.au> as soon as possible, and the most interesting are selected for inclusion in the next WABN.

The names and order follow Christidis, L. and Boles, W. (1994) (The Taxonomy and Species of Birds of Australia and its Territories. *RAOU Monograph No. 2*).

**Highlights.** There have been reports of **NIGHT PARROTS** in the Pilbara and south-east Kimberley. Full details of these sightings have not been included for this critically endangered species.

In the metropolitan area, there were five records of **Blue Petrels** found after the storms at the end of September. Up to five **Pacific Gulls** have been regularly seen between Hillarys and Burns Beach.

In the south-west, there was an extraordinary record of a **Malleefowl** in the Jarrah forest near Lake Muir. A survey of wetlands near Cranbrook for **Australasian Bitterns** was successful. The first confirmed breeding attempt in the south west of **Masked Lapwing** was reported at Lake Towerrining.

Two male **Painted Snipes** at Carnarvon is an important sighting for this species. There were encouraging sightings of **Princess Parrot** near Warburton and **Scarlet-chested Parrot** east of Payne's Find. The breeding record of **Wandering Whistling-Duck** at Carnarvon is significant.

In the Kimberley, the sightings of **Matsudaira's Storm-Petrels** at the Rowley Shoals are early records. The

**Australasian Shoveler** at Lake Gregory is exceptional for the Kimberley. **Grey Honeyeater** at Lake Willson is a hard to find species rarely reported in the Kimberley.

## METROPOLITAN (UBD Street Directory)

**Blue Petrel** – 1 beach washed, 29/09/05, South Cottesloe Beach (Cottesloe) – MG \* 1 dead, 01/10/05, Penelope Place Park (Innaloo) – AS \* 1 dead, 02/10/05, Shoalwater Bay (Shoalwater) – DF \* 1 beach washed, 04/10/05, Wanneroo Beach (Quinns Rock) – per WAM \* 1 beach washed, 05/10/05, Floreat Beach (City Beach) – RN (uncommon in the metropolitan area)

**Cattle Egret** – 3, 02/10/05, Pinjarra Road (Mandurah) – MN \* 6 in



Painted Snipe at McNeil Claypan  
Photo courtesy Les George

breeding plumage, 06/10/05, Pinjarra Road (Mandurah) – BS (uncommon in the metropolitan area)

**Little Bittern** – 1, 11/09/05, Maurice Hamer Park (Herdsmen) – MB (uncommon in WA)

**Spotted Harrier** – 1, 03/09/05, Dampier Drive (Golden Bay) – MN (uncommon in the south west)

**Red-capped Robin** – 1 male, 19/10/05, Herdsman Lake (Herdsmen) – CG

(unusual on the coastal plain at this time of year)

**Red-eared Firetail** – 1, 04/08/05, Lightning Swamp (Noranda) – PG (rare on the coastal plain)

## SOUTH WEST (Shark Bay to Cape Arid)

**Malleefowl** – 1, 04/10/05, south of Lake Muir (Manjimup) – IW (unusually, in forest)

**Black-browed Albatross** – 1 *impavida*, 01/11/05, Albany pelagic (Albany) – FO *et al.* (*impavida* rarely reported in WA; photograph)

**Australasian Bittern** – 2 heard, 24/09/05, Cobertup Swamp NR (Cranbrook) – PT, BAWA \* 2 heard, 25/09/05, Kulunilup Swamp NR (Cranbrook) – PT, BAWA (scarce in WA)

**Spotted Harrier** – 1, 15/07/05, near Yarloop (Harvey) – BR (uncommon in the south west)

**Black-tailed Native-hen** – 3, 06/10/05, Lake Cassencarry (Gnowangerup) – RP (uncommon in the south west)

**Masked Lapwing** – nesting, 17/10/05, Lake Towerrining (West Arthur) – WZ (1<sup>st</sup> confirmed breeding attempt in the south west; see article elsewhere in this issue)

**Barking Owl** – 2, 23/10/05, Snake Gully Shannon National Park (Manjimup) – RP (uncommon in the south west)

## ARID ZONE

**Wandering Whistling-Duck** – 80, 21/09/05, McNeil Claypan (Carnarvon) – LG \* 110 + 4 ducklings, 23/10/05, sewage ponds (Carnarvon) – LG (first breeding record south of the Kimberley; photograph)

**Freckled Duck** – 26, 21/09/05, McNeil Claypan (Carnarvon) – LG \* 25,

09/10/05, Boolathana Pool  
(Carnarvon) – LG (high counts for  
Carnarvon)

**Australasian Gannet** – 1 beach  
washed, 01/10/05, Barrow Island –  
MC (well north of usual range)

**Grey Falcon** – 2, 13/07/05, Wanna  
Homestead (Upper Gascoyne) –  
ASR \* 1, 2/10/05, Millstream-  
Chichester NP (Roebourne) – EP  
(uncommon in WA)

**Painted Snipe** – 2 males, 23/10/05,  
McNeil Claypan (Carnarvon) – LG  
(uncommon in WA; photograph)

**Masked Lapwing**, subspecies *miles* –  
1, 11/10/05, at tidal creek 30 km  
NE of De Grey HS (Port Hedland)  
– AB \* 4, 13/10/05, at tank  
overflow 20 km NE of De Grey HS  
(Port Hedland) – AB (vagrant in  
the Pilbara)

**Princess Parrot** – 19, 20/09/05,  
Warburton (Ngaanyatjarraku) –  
MH *et al.* \* 4, 21/09/05, Warburton  
Range (Ngaanyatjarraku) – HB *et al.*  
(uncommon)

**Scarlet-chested Parrot** – female,  
11/08/05, Warne River crossing  
(Sandstone) – WZ, BMc *et al.*  
(uncommon in WA)

**NIGHT PARROT** – 2-3, 12/04/05,  
near Fortescue Marshes  
(Ashburton) – RD, BM (critically  
endangered; see article elsewhere)

**Australian Raven** – 1, 07/08/05,  
Chinaman's Pool (Carnarvon) –  
LG \* 2, 19/09/05, Chinaman's Pool  
(Carnarvon) – LG (seen, and  
typical raven call heard; north of  
normal range)

## KIMBERLEY

**Radjah Shelduck** – 1, 09/08/05, Lake  
Willson (Halls Creek) – SM (south  
of normal range)

**Australasian Shoveler** – 4,  
31/07/05, Lake  
Gregory (Halls Creek)  
– AR (rare in the  
Kimberley)

**Matsudaira's Storm-  
Petrel** – 2, 20/08/05,  
Clerke Reef Rowley  
Shoals (Broome) – NB  
\* 3, 21/08/05,

Imperieuse Reef Rowley Shoals  
(Broome) – NB (uncommon in  
WA)

**Red Goshawk** – male, 16/07/05, Plain  
Creek (Wyndham – East  
Kimberley) – RGB (uncommon)

**Grey Falcon** – 1, 23/09/05, near  
Warmun (Wyndham – East  
Kimberley) – RD, JW (uncommon  
in WA)

**Common Redshank** – 1, 30/08/05,  
Cygnet Bay (Broome) – SM  
(uncommon in WA except for  
Roebuck Bay)

**Little Bronze-Cuckoo** – 1, 03/08/05,  
Little Merten Falls (Wyndham –  
East Kimberley) – FO (uncommon  
away from the coast in WA)

**Fork-tailed Swift** – 4, 17/09/05,  
Kununurra golf course (Wyndham  
– East Kimberley) – MCG (early  
return)

**Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater** – 1,  
10/08/05, Sturt Creek Station  
(Halls Creek) – SM (northern edge  
of range)

**Grey Honeyeater** – 2, 09/08/05, Lake  
Willson (Halls Creek) – SM (north  
of normal range)

**Crested Shrike-tit** – 1, 25/07/05, near  
Charnley River Homestead (Derby  
– West Kimberley) – RGB (rarely  
reported in the Kimberley)

**Grey Fantail** – 1, 19/05/05, Bellburn  
Creek Camp, Purnululu NP (Halls  
Creek) – JB \* 1, 29/08/05, near  
Willare Bridge (Derby – West  
Kimberley) – GS *et al.* (uncommon  
in the Kimberley)

**White-browed Woodswallow** – 2,  
17/08/05, Kachana Station  
(Wyndham – East Kimberley) – RP  
*et al.* (uncommon in WA)

**Star Finch** – 300+, 07/09/05, Gibb  
River Road west of Mt Hart (Derby)

– West Kimberley) – GS *et al.*  
(high count)

## OBSERVERS

AB = Allan Burbidge  
AR = Allan Richards (NSW)  
AS = Alicia Smith  
ASR = Allan & Sandy Rose  
BAWA = BAWA Excursion  
BK = Brendan Kinsella  
BM = Brenden Metcalf  
BMc = Bill McRoberts  
BR = Bill Russell  
BS = Bill Smart  
CG = Claire Gerrish  
DF = Dean Fisher  
EP = Easy Patterson  
FO = Frank O'Connor  
GL = Graham Little  
GS = George Swann  
HB = Hillary Brooke  
IW = Ian Wheeler  
JB = John Brooke  
JW = Jennifer Wilcox  
LG = Les George  
MB = Michael Bouette  
MC = Michael Craig  
MCG = Mat & Cathy Gilfedden  
MG = Mark Goddard  
MH = Marion Hercok  
MN = Mark Newman  
NB = Neil Broekhuizen  
PG = Peter Golos  
PT = Peter Taylor  
RD = Rob Davis  
RGB = Ruth & Geoff Byrne  
RN = Ray Nojek  
RP = Ryan Phillips  
SM = Sue Mather  
WAM = WA Museum  
WZ = Wayne Zadow



Wandering Whistling-Duck with young at Carnarvon  
Photo courtesy Les George



## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Birds Australia is at its core, a national conservation organisation with a reputation for quality research and conservation of our unique birdlife. I am very pleased to currently be involved in a new era of exciting conservation work for Birds Australia WA (BAWA). You are probably aware of the fact that we now have two enthusiastic and motivated project officers for our expanding Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Project. Ms Helen Pitman (Carnaby's Regional Project Officer) and Ms Bansi Shah (Carnaby's Swan Coastal Project Officer) bring with them a wealth of knowledge in various relevant roles including community liaison and conservation activities as well as administrative and research backgrounds.

The Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo project has recently received much interest from the public, conservation groups and government sectors, and BAWA is now well placed to lead and expand exciting research on this iconic species. While Helen builds on the solid work Leonie McMahon pioneered for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo in the wheatbelt region, Bansi will begin examining some of the critical issues associated with the impacts of urban development on feeding and nesting sites, affecting this species on the Swan Coastal Plain. The appointment of Bansi to the position of Swan Coastal Project Officer was made possible by a very generous and anonymous donation to BAWA. It had long been recognised that urgent research was required on the impact of urbanisation of the Swan Coastal Plain on Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos and our generous benefactor has allowed us to undertake this timely research. The Swan Coastal Project now has an official partnership with WWF and the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

The Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Project will offer many opportunities for volunteers and if you haven't done so already, I encourage you to take the opportunity to get involved, get out there and do it now to make a real difference to the future of this amazing species. There are many other ways you can help with the conservation of our birds. Other projects that often require assistance include the Western Ground Parrot and Hooded Plover projects. If you are interested in these or any activities I encourage you to contact the helpful office volunteers at Peregrine House and register your interest in helping our birds today.

Until nest time, Happy Birding!

**Rob Davis**

## LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

### New and Noteworthy

The Library at Peregrine House now has nearly 550 items, nearly all of which are available for loan.

Recent acquisitions include three beautifully illustrated works by David Hollands:

– Hollands, D. - *Eagles, Hawks and Falcons of Australia* (revised edition of a well-known work);

– Hollands, D. - *Birds of the Night* (owls, nightjars and frogmouths); and

– Hollands, D. - *Kingfishers and Kookaburras*

(all three consist of essays based on personal observations, plus some excellent photographs and detailed field guides.)

### Other items of note include:

– Newton, I., *et al.* - *The Ecology and Conservation of Owls* (a CSIRO publication based on the Owls 2000 Conference in Canberra, which was organised by the Australian Raptor Association; contains a Chapter on Owls in WA's South West Forests).

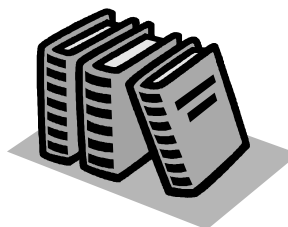
– Parsons, H. - *Caring for Australian Native Birds* (deals with first-aid, feeding housing and rehabilitation of injured birds)

– GEO Wildlife Documentary - *Oceans* (a video for seabird enthusiasts, featuring the Wandering Albatross, petrels, shearwaters, gannets, etc.)

### And two local publications:

– *Birds of Lake McLarty* (describes annual and seasonal fluctuations in bird numbers and water levels over the period 1996-2000); and

– *Conserving Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo* (Proceedings of the conservation symposium held in Perth in July 2003).



LIBRARY HOURS: Mon - Fri 9:30 am – 12:30 pm.

**Stewart Houghton**  
Hon. Librarian

## DRYANDRA BIRD SEMINAR with LAND FOR WILDLIFE

### A Frosty Weekend

Most of the Birds Australia members involved with this seminar arrived at Dryandra on Friday afternoon and settled into the cottages in Dryandra Village. Avril Baxter from Land for Wildlife in Narrogin, and our country members, joined us later and welcomed us at supper with drinks and snacks.

Being a very short weekend the sessions for new members/beginners was kept to the basics and followed by bird walks with leaders. It was a pleasure to have with us, as leaders, Chris Wilder from Margaret River, Simon Neville, author and photographer and as always Frank O'Connor and Brice Wells.

The morning started with an early bird walk and much to my surprise I awoke at 6:00 am to find the nearby paddock covered in white frost (-3°C). Never having seen frost in WA, I rushed to find my camera and take a picture, proof positive. With everyone wearing four or five layers of clothing, beanies and gloves we divided into small groups and went to find the birds, but it seemed the birds were waiting for the sun to shine and were very slow to show themselves. A highlight for me was to see the Bush Stone-curlew for the first time but the Crested Shrike-tit proved to be elusive. Back to the study centre for the lecture sessions, a warm fire and morning tea. The lectures that were given were:

- What makes a Bird Watcher?
- Field Guides
- Note Book
- The Parts of a Bird
- Where to Find Birds
- Bird Identification

We all enjoyed the trip to Barna Mia where we were able to see the nocturnal Woylie, Boodie, Bilby, bandicoot, Red-tailed Phascogale, and Quenda. Spotighting with Frank and Simon we saw Western Grey Kangaroos, Tawny Frogmouth, possum and Tammar Wallaby.



Chris Wilder and Frank O'Connor share their knowledge with the group at the Dryandra Bird Seminar  
*Photo courtesy Elsa Dabbs*



Dryandra Bird Seminar  
*Photo courtesy Elsa Dabbs*

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to visit areas outside of Perth and share our knowledge, make new friends and work together with other organisations.

**Elsa Dabbs, Publicity Officer**  
**Public Relations Sub-Committee**

## CARNABY'S BLACK-COCKATOO PROJECT

The Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Recovery Project has expanded and now has two Project Coordinators. Helen Pitman, formerly of WWF, started during September and is continuing with the cross-regional project. With the aid of a large number of volunteers, she has been concentrating on monitoring of nest sites from previous years, and determining which hollows continue to be active. During the non-breeding season, Helen will be concentrating her efforts on on-ground work including re-vegetation and fencing of Carnaby's feeding and breeding habitat, awareness raising and expanding the project into the other regions of the South West. Helen can be contacted on [h.pitman@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:h.pitman@birdsaustralia.com.au) or on 0428 762 292.

Bansi Shah, formerly of UWA, has just started and is going to be concentrating on the Swan Coastal Plain (SCP). This important project is aimed at collecting baseline data for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos on the SCP that will allow for conservation planning in this rapidly developing region. Surveys will be conducted to determine the distribution and numbers of birds in the area, and identify critical habitat requirements. Bansi can be contacted by email on [b.shah@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:b.shah@birdsaustralia.com.au) or on 0427 707 047. This project will have an ongoing requirement for a large number of volunteers, including for vegetation surveys, and anyone interested in helping in any way should contact Bansi to be placed on the register.

**“HAVE-A-GO-DAY”*****Bank West Seniors Week, 25 October***

The wind was blowing and the darkened clouds threatened rain as I drove into Burswood Park to help Brice Wells set up the canopy for our display. This is not an easy job when the enemy is the wind and our canopy is not in the best of shape, missing clips that hold the poles together. After several challenging attempts we did succeed and our display was pegged down.

Our new display now includes the use of a TV and DVD/Video player, which is proving to be a good attraction. We play John Hutchinson's new DVD showing birds singing and David Stewart's new CD, sound only, of the birds of south-western WA, including Perth. We managed to compete with the music playing for the Belly Dancers, Square dancers and the loudspeaker system. Despite the wind and showers the attendance was good, enabling us to talk to many people and also take bird walks.

Thanks to Ron Dibbons, Barry Angus and Merriam Kuerschner for helping with the bird walks and enlightening the senior community about Birds Australia WA.

**Elsa Dabbs, Publicity Officer  
Public Relations Sub-Committee**

**SHARK BAY BIRD WALKS REPORT  
FOR 26 SEPTEMBER – 7 OCTOBER 2005**

**The following has been based on Richard King's more extensive report.**

Overall, the Birds Australia, Healthways and CALM organised bird walks at Shark Bay for the period of 26 September – 7 October 2005, were very successful. A total of 82 people attended the walks with an average of just over five people per walk. Only one day out of 11 days of bird walks had no participants. Bird walks were conducted every day at Monkey Mia, with an extra bird walk in the afternoon on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Peron Homestead. All bird walks at Monkey Mia were conducted from 10 am along the CALM Nature Trail, taking about two hours to complete. Peron Homestead walks started at 5 pm and took about one hour to complete along tracks to the east of the homestead.

Windy conditions on most days at Shark Bay during this time of year often made birdwatching difficult, but a total of 39 species of birds were sighted on bird walks during the period. Bird walk participants were most interested and excited to see such birds as male Variegated and White-winged Fairy-wrens in breeding plumage and a pair of Brown Goshawks nesting at the Peron Homestead. Children were keen to see nesting birds at close range, such as Welcome Swallows at the Ranger's building. Thick-billed Grasswrens were also regularly seen at the Monkey Mia car park, often exciting those with some knowledge of Australian birds. Small groups of waders and terns were always seen on mudflats towards the end of the bird walk, usually allowing good comparisons of species and sizes.

Most bird walk participants were very pleased that binoculars were supplied by Birds Australia WA as very few people had their own. People also really enjoy viewing birds through a telescope, especially waders or nesting birds. At the end of the walk, younger people and families usually, were generally happy to accept the Healthways promotional products but these were often not accepted or required by older participants.

Our thanks to Richard King for giving his time and knowledge to help Birds Australia WA take these walks. Our thanks to Stella Stewart-Wynne also for taking the walks in April 2005. Anyone interested in going to Shark Bay for the school holiday periods next year (April, July and September/October—travel expenses are provided) should contact Brice Wells on 9255 3710.

**Elsa Dabbs, Publicity Officer  
Public Relations Sub-Committee**

**GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT****Its Role**

The role of the Grants Sub-committee is to publicise grants available and assist groups planning projects to follow guidelines established by the General Committee.

Before grants are lodged with the granting organisation, members must have first received acceptance and written authority from the relevant sub-committee e.g. Research and General Committee.

The BAWA Management Committee and Chairman must be aware of all applications in relation to the overall picture of its research and other activities.

**Volunteer Small Equipment Grant**

Birds Australia WA has received a grant from the Commonwealth VSEG program for the purchase of equipment to assist with preparation of displays, video programs and publications.

This equipment is available to members involved in such programs and includes, a digital projector and DVD player.

From all members our thanks to the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services for their support for our programs for members and the community.

**Allan K. Jones and Liz Walker**



## Members' Contributions



### STORM WRECKED SOUTHERN GIANT-PETREL

On 20 May 2005 a Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus* was washed up on the beaches near Mandurah.

The bird had been banded in Argentina and an interesting story was to unfold.

Dr Flavio Quintana had banded the bird on Isla Gran Robredo located off the Patagonian coast of Argentina.

There are two colonies of Southern Giant-Petrels in northern Patagonia: Isla Arce (~ 400 nests) and Isla Gran Robredo (~1850 nests). They are located around 45° S and 66° W and are two of the more northern colonies behind Gough Island and Tristan Da Cunha (personal communication, Dr F. Quintana, 2005).

Dr Quintana has studied and tracked seabirds on these islands.

The foraging tracks and range of two Southern Giant-Petrels, rearing chicks at Isla Gran Robredo, Patagonia, Argentina were determined by satellite telemetry.

The first Southern Giant-Petrel flew consistently eastwards. It was tracked for 44 days and performed a minimum of 11 foraging trips totalling 7700 km. The maximum trip duration was 7 days.

The second bird made one long trip to the south, covering a total distance of 2500 km in 15.5 days.

Even though both birds fed in waters within the continental shelf, bird 1 showed a more pelagic behaviour than bird 2, which foraged in coastal waters (Quintana *et al.*, 2000).

Throughout the colder months, the immatures and most adults disperse widely. The dispersal is circumpolar, extending north from 50° S to the Tropic of Capricorn and sometimes beyond. Young Southern Giant-Petrels disperse for several years.

Our banded bird would have been carried by prevailing western winds and travelled past the Falkland Islands and South Africa into the southern Indian Ocean.

A cold front moving up from the Antarctic most likely swept the bird up towards the Western Australian coastline where it unfortunately came to grief.

The time elapsed between banding and recovery of the Southern Giant-Petrel found at Mandurah was 1 month and 20 days.

In this time the bird had moved a distance of 11 376 km with a bearing of 182 degrees.

#### Banding details

The band was placed on a Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus* on 30 March 2005 at Isla Gran Robredo, Patagonia, Argentina

Latitude: 45° 7' 0" S

Longitude: 66° 6' 0" W

The bird was a female Nestling or Fledgling, and was banded by Dr F. Quintana.

#### Finding details

The Southern Giant-Petrel was found by Mr Hans Kotulla on 20 May 2005, on a sandy beach at the confluence of Peel/Harvey Estuary and the Indian Ocean at Mandurah, Western Australia, near former Yacht Club building.

Band number: AA1098 (+ readable band AZN)

Latitude: 32° 32' 0" S

Longitude: 115° 43' 0" E

Bird deceased.

#### References

Albatross and Giant-Petrel Recovery Team (2001) Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Giant-Petrels. Wildlife Scientific Advice, Environment Australia. Available at <http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/recovery/albatross/>

Quintana, F., *et al.* (2000) Foraging movements of Southern Giant-Petrels in waters of the Argentine continental shelf. 7th Seabird Group Conference 2000, Germany.

**Frank Pridham and Marcus Singor**

#### How to Report a Bird Band Recovery in Australia

If you find a band If you find a bird with a band, wing tag, or some other marking, the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme (ABBBS) would like to hear about it. Some kinds of bands cannot be reported to the ABBBS. These include pigeon bands and bands used by domestic bird breeders.

The ABBBS accepts reports of birds carrying foreign bands.

If you have found a band, please follow the instructions below.

Either write, email or telephone the ABBBS with the following information, or use the on-line reporting form:

- the band number;
- where you found the band;
- when you found the band (date);
- what you think happened to the bird;
- where the bird is now;
- where the band is now; and
- Notes about any other marks on the bird.

If the bird is dead, we would like you, if possible, to:

- take the band off;
- gently straighten it as much as you can;
- stick it to some cardboard;
- write the band number onto the cardboard;
- write whether you have telephoned the ABBBS about this band; and
- send the band to the ABBBS.

The ABBBS will be very glad to hear from you and will send you a letter telling you about where and when the bird was banded.

## Contacts

### The Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme (ABBBS)

GPO Box 8

Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6274 2407

Facsimile: (02) 6274 2455

Email: <abbbs@deh.gov.au>

## KUNUNURRA, July 2005

One of the more unfortunate aspects of birding in Australia is that the best birding times of many areas are climatically adverse for all those past the perils of youth. So is it with Kununurra. Being now past youth (just) Anne and I stayed at Kununurra for the last two weeks of July 2005, a time when temperatures and humidity are/were reasonable. Inevitably this is the prime tourist period for the area but despite the numbers most birding locations were quiet, for they lack 'tourist' attraction.

An interesting by-product of the division of the district for tourist promotion purposes is that Kununurra makes much of Lake Argyle but little of Parry Lagoons, for this latter falls within the Wyndham area of tourist jurisdiction, this despite the road distance from Kununurra to Lake Argyle and Parry Lagoons being much the same. The road into the Parry Lagoons is poor but is the more interesting place to visit.

Birding on Lake Argyle requires an expensive and uninteresting journey to the southern shores of the lake. The lake water level has been raised by some five metres since the late 90s and much former wetland/shoreline has been submerged. No species were seen at the south shore that were not seen elsewhere. At the time of visit the most notable feature was large 'rafts' of Hardhead, larger than we have seen previously, although these were ignored by the tour operator. Although 'birdwatching' tours are run on the lake, these are unavailable in prime season when boats can be filled with bored tourists trying to spend their time.

Much is also made of Hidden Valley National Park which does have the virtue of being close to the Kununurra town centre. The local literature would give the impression that during any visit one falls over White-quilled Rock-pigeons and Sandstone Shrike-thrushes. Possibly this may be the case at other seasons, but at the times we visited we saw one Sandstone Shrike-thrush only and no pigeons.

Being dry, much of the 'cane grass' bush outside the cultivated areas was notably lacking in birds. However, the cultivated and irrigated areas of the Ord scheme attract birds

and many small patches of undeveloped land close to the cropping areas proved surprisingly productive. We went to a small tree bare of leaves several times after finding five species of finch perched there at the same time on our first visit, with Golden-headed Cisticola on the vegetation beneath (Double-barred, Crimson, Star, Yellow-rumped and Chestnut-breasted).

Another notable occasion was seeing (at 3:00 pm) two Bush Stone-Curlews resting beneath a tree between the town and the airport, less than 20 metres from the Victoria Highway, despite vehicles passing regularly. Also of interest were Grey-crowned Babblers, in our previous experience rather shy birds. In the caravan parks (which occupy useful birding areas) the babblers were to be seen hopping boldly within a metre or so of seated persons and 'climbing' over their equipment.

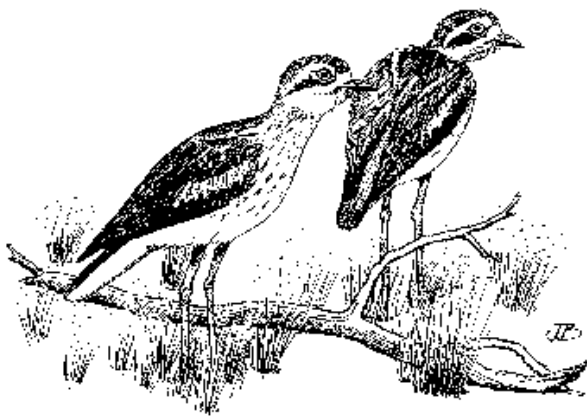
Being a 'big' country, many of the bird flocks were large. Little Corellas appeared over the cultivated areas late each afternoon, with flocks of some 2000, Magpie-larks gathered at

the difficult to pronounce 'Celebrity Tree Park' each morning during watering in flocks of up to 300. The Magpie Geese (so often a feature of illustrations) had nearly all made their regular departure and were being replaced by Brolgas with flocks of 300+ flying in, making a fine spectacle.

The banks of the Kununurra sewage ponds held between 3000 and 5000 Plumed Whistling-Duck every day. They must have been impressive departing each evening but we did not wait to witness this. The sewage ponds also contained a single Pink-eared Duck for three days (among other species), an addition to the New Atlas list for the time of year.

In all we saw 134 species. Kununurra is worth considering as an escape from the cool of the southern winter.

**Bruce Buchanan**



Bush Stone-Curlew  
*Drawing by Judy Blyth*

## A SPRING HAPPENING IN MY GARDEN!

I live opposite the Trigg Bushland and I have just returned from a three-month holiday with lots of work waiting for me. I am finding it extremely hard to concentrate on my jobs.

For the last two weeks a pair of Spotted Pardalotes, yellow rumped birds have been distracting me.

They tried to demolish a hanging basket in my front porch by digging up underneath the basket, dislodging sand down on to the patio.

While doing this the male bird seemed to be fascinated by my front window. Who is that handsome bird? Or have I got

competition here, or who is that other bird? Or don't I look great?

The female was fluttering in and out of the basket but didn't appear to be working at all (not at all like the human birds).

After a couple of days they moved around to the side of my house into another hanging basket, where another attempt was made. Now this was two baskets that they had disembowelled.

Does this information give you a picture of my poor neglected garden? I think the birds thought it was a pretty poor show what with working so hard and then running out of soil.

And they had an urgent job to do.

Now they have settled into another basket where the soil again has been chucked out and wonders of wonders I saw them taking in sticks so there must be enough soil in this one!!!

They are proving to be very patient. I am very impatient as I am spending a lot of time observing the goings on and hoping that they will be successful in their nesting.

It also means I cannot get on with my gardening WHAT A SHAME, WHAT A SHAME, joking of course.

I have been trying to restrain myself each day by not getting too close. But for the last few days there has been a lot of strange activity going on in the basket with banging as if they are using their wings to firm up the soil. Perhaps the experts can explain these noises.

Today I was watching again, HOW UNUSUAL, and thinking I heard little cheeps, I could not resist any longer. The male and the female left the nest and I got my little steps and a torch, but all I saw was a long black hole.

I received Bird Notes today and thought I would drop you a line and let you share a little of my excitement.

The big dilemma at the moment is, will I get to see the babies if there are any? And another problem is the Grey Butcherbird that lives in our bush. They have come into my garden before when the Laughing Turtle-doves have had babies and on the first day out of their nest the Grey Butcherbird swooped down and no doubt killed one of them.

BUT BIRDS ARE BIRDS and this bird is delighting in all the happenings as well as being frustrated.

**Maureen Redfern**

## NESTING SEASONS FOR BIRDS IN THE GREAT SOUTHERN REGION

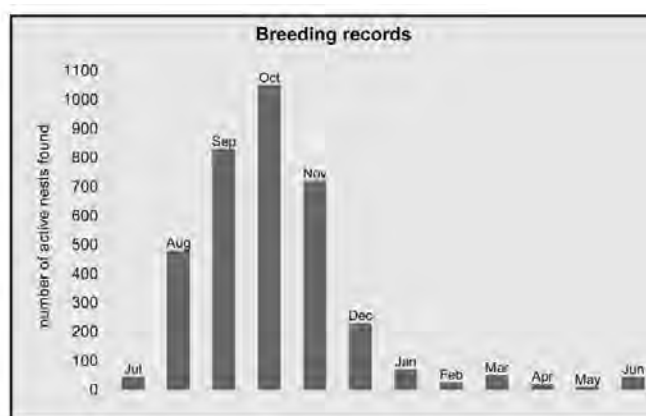
When I recently went through my extensive collection of breeding records, it occurred to me that not much information has been published about the nesting seasons of bushbirds in Western Australia. Encouraged by members of the Albany Bird Group, I sat down and compiled the data gathered over a period of more than thirty years.

Back in the early 1960s author and wildlife artist Peter Slater encouraged me to record my observations of breeding birds which resulted in a collection of many thousands of nesting records. Most of my field work was carried out in the Great Southern region of WA where I grew up and farmed.

During a period lasting from 1966 until 2000, my surveys resulted in a total of 3350 records. Observations were made in an area stretching from Narrogin in the north to Albany in the south, and also including parts of the Eastern Wheatbelt. The habitat surveyed consisted mainly of woodland, mallee, farmland and remnant vegetation patches. The 150 species of birds recorded nesting include mostly bushbirds, but also a small percentage of colony nesters such as cormorants and egrets.

All records relate to egg dates, the approximate time the egg would have been found in the nest.

## Breeding records



It is not surprising that the most active egg-laying period occurs from September – November with over 73% of the records obtained during that time. Taking both brooding and chick rearing into account, the main breeding season extends into December.

Many thanks to Peter and Pat Slater, and also to local naturalists Wayne Zadow and John Estbergs; without their help my records would have been much poorer.

**Ray Garstone**

## GREY CURRAWONG INSPECTING AN ELEGANT PARROT NEST

On 27 September I was observing an Elegant Parrot nest in a broken branch of a Yate tree at the Stirling Range Retreat when a Grey Currawong landed on the top of the broken branch. It clearly knew that there was a nest in the hole. It looked down the hole, and poked its head down into it. I then observed it regurgitating three quite large pellets into the hole. It tried to pull away some of the broken wood. It tried

again to put its head down the hole, but then gave up and flew off.

The Elegant Parrots are still returning to the nest, so I hope that they will succeed. But why did the Grey Currawong regurgitate the pellets and drop them in the hole? Has anyone else seen this before?

Frank O'Connor

## THE DOUBLE WHISTLE OF THE INLAND THORNBILL

Frank O'Connor (2005, WA Bird Notes 115:20) recorded a call of an Inland Thornbill (*Acanthiza apicalis*) greatly resembling that of a Shining Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*), heard in May of this year in Bedfordale. He interpreted this as a case of imitation.

I know what I presume to be the same call from Callcup (24 km W of Northcliffe), where local thornbills utter it regularly, although not commonly. The whistling notes are indeed confusingly similar to the shorter notes of the cuckoo: the call is a double whistle "fu-fu", and unlike the cuckoo's which is usually a longer series (about 8 to 11 notes), there never seem to be more than these two. My impression is that this is not a case of imitation, but is the thornbill's own call. If it was an imitation, one would expect variation in the number of notes and perhaps also inclusion of some of the longer, slower notes with which the cuckoo alternates its short ones.

Once one is aware of the difference, the call of the thornbill is not difficult to distinguish from that of the cuckoo. An additional argument for considering it the thornbill's own, is that it is not part of the song. Thornbills are noted for including much mimicry in their babbling song, but the double whistle is separate. Assuming that O'Connor indeed heard the same calls as described here, of which there is little doubt, the double whistle has now been recorded from Bedfordale and Callcup, several hundred kilometres apart, also suggesting its being the birds' own.

I do not know whether the double whistle has any particular meaning, although I would expect so. O'Connor heard it in May; I have a description of it in my diary for 6 February 2002, but have repeatedly heard it before and since that date, including this month (October). I can find no mention of it in the literature.

G F Mees

## MASKED LAPWING BREEDING IN SW WA

On 20 August 2005 I received a message from the owner of the caravan and camping area at Lake Towerinning that while they were preparing ground a few weeks earlier for planting a lawn area a pair of Masked Lapwings were coming in and feeding on the worked ground. Lake Towerinning is in the Shire of West Arthur, 32 km south of Darkan.

When I came to have a look a few days later they said they hadn't seen the birds for a while. A search was made of the lake area. The lapwings were found in a small swamp east of the main lake in a farm paddock. The birds appeared to be protecting a small island area in deeper water so I left them alone. I returned on the 1st of September to find the birds still on the small island so I waded out to investigate, and found a nest with three eggs.

On 21 September I returned to find one small chick a few days old and one egg a metre from the nest. I could not find any trace of the third egg.

On 3 November I visited the area but did not see any sign of the birds so I do not know if this breeding attempt was fully successful or not.

This appears to be the first specific report of breeding in SW WA, although juveniles have been reported from near Albany in recent years, and two adults of subspecies *miles* were reported with two juveniles from near Esperance in January 2002 (WABN 105: 5).

Wayne Zadow



Masked Lapwing chick (left side of photo) and egg (right side) at Lake Towerinning.

Photo courtesy Wayne Zadow

## METROPOLITAN NEW HOLLAND HONEYEATERS

In the last twelve months, it has begun to dawn on me that the abundance of New Holland Honeyeaters has greatly declined in the metropolitan area. I have no hard data for this, so I may be wrong. If true, I don't have any definite reasons why this has happened. I base my hypothesis on the reduction in numbers that I have seen at locations such as Kings Park, Bibra Lake, Bungendore State Forest, etc.

When I started birding in late 1987, New Holland Honeyeaters were fairly common in Kings Park, especially in the Botanic Gardens and where there is *Dryandra sessilis*. White-cheeked Honeyeaters were scarce. On the Kings Park excursion of Saturday 29 October, we failed to find a New

Holland Honeyeater, while the White-cheeked Honeyeater was reasonably common, especially in the Botanic Garden.

New Holland Honeyeaters were common on the east side of Bibra Lake in 1987. I haven't been there for a year or so, but on the last couple of visits I found them difficult to locate.

New Holland Honeyeaters were very common at Bungendore State Forest and along the Wungong Valley. I fail to see them now on many visits. The crash in numbers at Bungendore began with the large fires that killed much of the Dryandra in the areas that I visit. The Dryandra has now re-established but the New Holland Honeyeaters have not recovered, although Western Spinebills and White-naped Honeyeaters have recovered.

Is it just the metropolitan area? I consider that the numbers of New Holland Honeyeaters at Dryandra State Forest and the

Stirling Range Retreat have also dropped. There still seem to be large numbers along the south coast at Albany, Esperance, Eyre Bird Observatory, etc.

Is my hypothesis correct? Is the increase in the numbers of White-cheeked Honeyeaters a factor? Is the increase of

**“... Is my hypothesis correct?”**

Rainbow Lorikeets a factor where they compete on the flowering bottlebrush? Are the very dry seasons over the last decade a factor? I don't have the time to formally study this, but maybe someone else does. In any case, you can email me your opinions to

<foconnor@iinet.net.au> or, if you have specific information on population changes (or lack thereof) in New Holland Honeyeaters, please consider sending a note to WABN.

**Frank O'Connor**

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

### TOUR APRIL 2006

Expressions of interest are invited for our first ever guided tour to the Milne Bay area of Papua New Guinea.

You will be escorted by Stuart Andrews, Zookeeper specialising in birds, and Mike Harvey, specialising in orchids.

The two-week tour is designed for the nature lover, photographer and traveller interested in indigenous cultures.

#### Highlights

- **Milne Bay**
- **Bird watching, including the Goldie's Bird of Paradise and hornbills**
- **Jungle walks with trained local guides**
- **Bat caves and spotlighting**
- **Butterflies and orchids**
- **Skull cave**
- **Waders and pelagic birds**
- **Excellent photographic opportunities for all nature lovers**

This tour will support the critically endangered Tenkile Tree-Kangaroo Conservation Alliance.

If you would like to register your interest in joining the trip and receive a detailed itinerary and costing, please contact one of us:

#### **Stuart Andrews**

0431 196 454

stuart11@dodo.com.au

#### **Ratna**

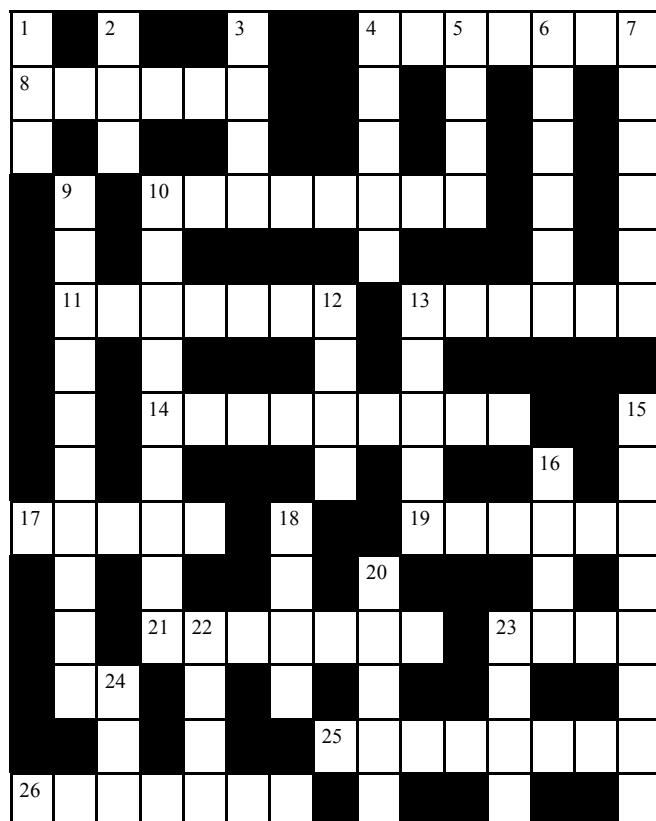
(08) 9310 7352

ratnasulastin@hotmail.com





By Pam Agar



## Clues across

4. Good birding near this NW town.
8. Sparse country noted for parrots.
10. Sociable seed-eater of NW.
11. Considered best for birding.
13. Raised a family.
14. Provides different birds from interior.
17. Pleasant site if birding in summer.
19. Conspicuous feature of swamphen.
21. Period when not in breeding plumage.
23. Beach area to see Sanderlings.
25. For common use.
26. Eggs need to be for success.

## Clues down

1. Seed eater of dry country.
2. This bird may have worn feathers.
3. Graceful, slender bird.
4. Organized weekly.
5. Not the best time for birding.
6. May provide clue to nest's owner.
7. Owl not commonly seen in metro area.
9. State of having two distinct forms.
10. Family name of bee-eaters.
12. In past, bustards were viewed this way.
13. Personal references.
15. Move this way and birds vanish.
16. Component of waterbird nest.
18. Good spot to see waders.
20. Suburban birding site.
22. Red or yellow, it's still impressive.
23. Not unheard of on beaches.
24. To consume.



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## AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Birds Australia WA Inc. will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm at the Ecology Centre, Bold Park.

**Nominations** for positions on committee are invited and can be lodged by contacting the office.

## Wader Study Group Summer Survey

Those interested in taking part in this year's count need to contact the office or **Bill Rutherford** direct at <calidris@inet.net.au> (0438 910 252). New count forms will be trialled at a number of sites this year including Rottnest and the Peel; these are available from either of the contacts listed above.

Forms will also be available from the Regional Organisers for these two sites.

For those counters who wish to take part in the Rottnest or Peel survey it is recommended they contact the respective ROs for these sites.

## Sunday 11 December: BAWA Christmas barbecue



A barbecue will be held on  
Sunday, 11 December  
at Peregrine House,  
commencing at 5:00 pm.  
BYO meat, drinks, and salads - all  
members are welcome!

For members and guests only.

## BAWA Volunteer Hours

From the 1st January 2006, the committee has decided to record all hours volunteered by BAWA members. The rationale for this is to support our arguments for support and funding from the BA National Office and when applying for grants. The hours will be recorded for each month. This will initially be only for 2006, but it could be extended.

The hours will be categorised for activities such as the office, committees, excursions, projects, etc. There will be sub categories where appropriate.

Many of the hours can be deduced automatically such as the office volunteers. For some hours, we will need you to submit the hours that you volunteered during each month. The committee asks for your support. I think that we will all be surprised by the final total.

*A decision will be made in December as to how the hours are recorded.*

Frank O'Connor

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Hooded Plover Count Saturday 25 February and Sunday 26 February 2006

Don't miss out on one of the birding highlights of the year!

Surveyors or co-ordinators needed.

**For details** please contact  
Marcus Singor

Tel: 93622742

e-mail: <msingor@iprimus.com.au>

Survey sheet is enclosed in this issue.

## Media Alert

### Build frog-friendly gardens with the Frog Doctor

With local frogs increasingly under threat from development, an exotic frog fungus, and the use of chemicals in the environment, industry, government and a dedicated conservationist have joined forces to help native frogs and beautify people's back yards in the process.

*Alcoa Frog Watch and the Western Australian Museum are sponsoring a new series of the popular Frog Friendly Gardens Workshops with The Frog Doctor, Johnny Prefumo, to help people make their back yards frog-friendly by building their own frog pond and creating gardens to entice frogs back into their area.*

The four-hour workshops will cover frog biology, pond

Sept 24	Shire of Mundaring, Mundaring Civic Centre, 7000 Gt Eastern Hwy	1000-1400
Sept 25	Swan Garden Centre, Lot 40 Farrall Rd, Midvale	1000-1400
Oct 1	City Of Joondalup, Boas Ave, Joondalup	1000-1400
Oct 2	Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre, Hope Road, Bibra Lake	1000-1400
Oct 22t	City of Bunbury, 61 Victoria St, Bunbury	0900-1300

structure and ecology, "frogscaping" and plant selection, a wetland walk and a question and answer session.

#### Frog Friendly Garden Workshops

When:

The workshops run for four hours and cost \$30 (per person) including a free "how to" booklet. For further information, visit <[www.museum.wa.gov.au/frogwatch](http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/frogwatch)>.

For bookings contact: The Frog Doctor – Johnny Prefumo on 08 9795 7780 or 0427 398 456

<[frogdoctor@westnet.com.au](mailto:frogdoctor@westnet.com.au)>

Workshops proudly brought to you by:



australia's aluminium



## SPECIMENS OF PELAGIC AND COASTAL BIRDS WANTED

The WA Museum is interested in obtaining good specimens of pelagic birds and coastal birds including albatrosses, penguins, gannets, petrels, shearwaters, skuas, terns or even Pied Cormorants, Osprey or White-bellied Sea-Eagle.

In the past, Birds Australia WA members have donated birds to the Museum that they have found as beach washes or blown in by storms. We would be interested in any of these birds that you may come across while in the field.

Alternatively, if you get enquiries from the public who have found such birds, please feel free to forward any enquiries to myself. The Museum does not have the facilities to take in live birds, nor do we want to euthanase any animals unnecessarily, so we would only be interested in already deceased animals.

Many thanks in advance for your help and I hope to hear from you soon.

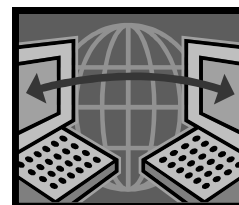
Claire Stevenson  
Technical Officer

Department of Terrestrial Vertebrates  
Western Australian Museum  
49 Kew Street, Welshpool WA 6106  
Tel: (08) 9427 2791

## NEW WEBSITE 'BIRDATA'

A new website called '**Birdata**' will allow volunteers to enter their bird survey information on-line and extract summaries of their records.

**Birdata** includes mapping technology so that volunteers can see their survey locations, while the public can map bird distributions in general. The site, developed by Birds Australia in conjunction with



Geographic Web Solutions, is underpinned by the enormous *Atlas of Australian Birds* database. The Atlas is Australia's foremost information source on birds, containing more than five million records collected by over 7000 volunteers. The site is at <[www.birdata.com.au](http://www.birdata.com.au)>

or may be accessed via a link on our own website at

<<http://www.birdswa.iinet.net.au>>

## STATION SURVEYS FOR 2006

Birds Australia WA has completed five years of station surveys on CALM acquisitions. Fifteen properties have been surveyed to provide CALM with base line data on the newly acquired land. The stations are usually bare of accommodation facilities and are many kilometres from towns or services. Roads range from rough down to horrible and require participating members to have genuine 4WDs with excellent tyre equipment.

The three properties selected for surveying in 2006 are in the area from just SE of Carnarvon to North of Mt Augustus. Surveys will commence on 9 July at Pimbee about 75 km NE of Wooramel Roadhouse and conclude at Wanna Station on 27 July. The above dates are subject to possible changes due to weather and road conditions.

All accommodation will be in tents or off road type camper vans, etc. Those participating must carry considerable fuel for all emergencies and food and water for the trip. After 6 July we will not see food stores until after the 27<sup>th</sup>. Fuel **at a price** will be available at Gascoyne Junction. All costs need to be borne by the participants. Experience with GPS use is essential.

We would like to hear from anyone who has the desire and capability to take part in the above.

**Further details and advice** can be obtained from the following.

Pam and George Agar 9457 2292  
e-mail <agar@openaccess.com.au>

Ruth and John Luyer 9384 2098  
e-mail <john@hibeach.net>

Wendy and Clive Napier 9332 7265  
<cnap@optusnet.com.au>

Allyson and Ed Paull 9299 6283  
e-mail <edpaull@bigpond.com>

No more than 20 people will be accepted so if you wish to be considered please contact any of the above as soon as you are reasonably sure of being able to make the trip.

*Clive Napier*

### BIRD SEMINAR FOR BEGINNERS 2006

Our popular Bird Seminar for beginners will be held again in Mar 2006. Dates have not yet been fixed so BAWA new members please check your **March** issue of Bird Notes. BAWA members will have first priority but all members of the community will be welcome.

The seminar will be held in the WA Ecology Centre and Atwell Art Gallery and include the following sessions:

- ⇒ Day 1. Lectures on basics, identification, habitat, use of notes and field guides, binoculars.
- ⇒ Day 2. Lecture and slide show of water birds followed by a walk at Lake Herdsman
- ⇒ Day 3. Lecture and slide show of bush birds followed by a walk in Bold Park.
- ⇒ Day 4. Lecture and slide show of waders followed by a walk at Alfred Cove.

**Don't forget to check the March issue of Bird Notes for the dates.**

**Elsa Dabbs, Publicity Officer**

## BIRDS AUSTRALIA ANNUAL CONGRESS 2006 ALBANY

**Thursday 19/Friday 20 October 2006**

**Call for refereed papers and workshop/poster sessions for the BAA Congress.**

**The Congress will be followed by excursions/campout in the Albany region.**

**For further details contact the Congress Organiser on 9384 7426 or b.haynes@ecu.edu.au**

### NEW MEMBERS

The following people joined Birds Australia between 1 August to 31 October 2005. We look forward to meeting you at our excursions and general meetings.

S Andrews, T Ballinger, L Brindle, A Cawley, E & M Cawley, K Chappell, C & J Creighton, J Fisher, B Forbes, R Fryer, P Hill, D Johnson, Kalamunda Library, P Kemp, L & E Martin, J Moyes, A & J Peach, S Phillips, J Scotford, A Silla, M Spence, J Waters, B Yonge



## Country Groups



### ALBANY BIRD GROUP

#### September Outing

A larger group of us than usual met on a beautiful sunny morning—a nice change after wet, cold, blustery days.

We headed for the Stirling Ranges opposite the Stirling Range Retreat. We saw a lot of birds and were lucky enough to meet up with Wayne Zadow who was that week's volunteer for BAWA. He of course had found several nests which he showed us including those of a Varied Sittella and a Restless Flycatcher. We also saw, a first for many of us, a pair of Crested Shrike-tits. After lunch Wayne pointed out an Australian Owlet-Nightjar sitting in a tree hollow.

We saw 53 species including several breeding birds.

Liz Davies

#### October 2005 Outing

The eleventh of October and 13 of us met at Mt Barker and went on to the Porongurups where we had rewarding bird watching near the shop. After picking up the key, we went to Twin Creeks Nature Reserve. Some parts were rather wet. It was a cold, dull day, but we did manage to see 43 species. There were plenty of mosquitoes, but no doubt there will be more later!

Most of us had excellent views of a pair of Western Yellow Robins and a Shining Bronze-Cuckoo. We saw Australian Magpies feeding young on a nest, and a Splendid Fairy-wren feeding young. Altogether a very enjoyable day.

Charlie Davies

#### Serpentine Café on the Dam

Do you enjoy a dining experience with sumptuous food, great coffee and excellent service?

The newly re-opened Serpentine Café on the Dam has all that and more! Located on the Darling Scarp in the Serpentine Hills (approx. 1 hour from Perth), the Café offers stunning views of the Serpentine Dam and is surrounded by State Forest adding a natural ambience that cannot be found elsewhere.

The local forest surrounding the Café is home to many species of birds including blue wrens, finches, kookaburras, ring neck parrots and the majestic wedge tail eagles. The parrots especially will be happy to join you for morning tea (uninvited of course) although we are discouraging the feeding of birds as a constant diet of devonshire

scones and home-made slices cannot be good for their waistlines! To compliment the natural aspects of the Café, Head Chef Sarah Maddern offers an extensive menu featuring local produce with a distinct bush flavour and everything including the cakes, slices and scones are made and cooked on the premises.

The Café on the Dam has been completely refurbished and offers an excellent venue for group meetings, luncheons or hearty breakfasts before a bush excursion in search of local wildlife.

The Café is open 7 days a week serving breakfasts, luncheons, morning and afternoon teas from 10am to 4pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 5pm on Sundays. Bookings can be made on 9525 9920.

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Web [www.kingfishergallery.com.au](http://www.kingfishergallery.com.au)

## WELLARD WETLANDS, 7 August

Twenty-four birders ably led by Les Harris enjoyed an overcast but fortunately dry, cool day's birdwatching at Lake Wellard. The day's count was 61 species. Wellard Wetlands is a series of ponds surrounded by eucalypts and other fringing native vegetation. Each pond offers different birds and we saw a good variety of ducks and other waterbirds. Bushbirds were also plentiful and most birders got excellent views of a Shining Bronze-Cuckoo.

Thanks to Les for his skills calling up the Shining Bronze-Cuckoo and for such an enjoyable birdwatching day.

Lorraine Chyne

## HELENA VALLEY, 13 August

The weather for the Helena Valley walk on 13 August was very unpromising with a forecast of strong winds and heavy showers to follow. Fifteen brave people arrived including four visitors. Most had come well equipped with rain gear and it was certainly needed although the showers were mostly gentle.

Surprisingly we saw a total of 32 species including beautiful views of Red-capped Parrots, Spotted and Striated Pardalotes and a fully coloured male Splendid Fairy-wren that was hopping up the wall of the Pipehead Dam. The water was not flowing over at the time as it has been on most of our previous visits. Waterbirds were scarce on the dam and the only ones we saw were a pair of Pacific Black Ducks flying up from the stream below.

Fan-tailed, Horsfield's and Shining Bronze-Cuckoos were all heard, but were not easy to see. Both Golden and Rufous Whistlers were seen clearly and the honeyeaters included Brown, New Holland and White-naped. The only raptors seen were two distant Wedge-tailed Eagles perched on trees against the skyline on the other side of the river.

While we were having our coffee near the entrance to the reserve male Splendid Fairy-wrens were attacking their images in one of our rear view mirrors. After most of us had left Paul Marty saw a small group of Red-browed Finches flying across the road. These are small flocks of aviary escapees that have established themselves in some hills areas.

Considering the conditions the walk was very rewarding.

Wendy Napier

## LITTLE RUSH LAKE, 11 August

Twelve walkers joined us for the circuit of Little Rush Lake on 11 August. The sun was shining, the sky was blue and there was no wind—a perfect morning for a bird walk.

Despite there being plenty of water in the lake, there were very few waterbirds—we saw more in the air flying over than on or near the lake. Three Grey Butcherbirds in one tree sang tunefully for us and at one stage a small flock of White-tailed Black-Cockatoos (presumably Carnaby's) flew noisily above our heads. Two clear sightings of Splendid Fairy-wrens were a delight, especially for Joan, a visitor from Sydney. One tree was alive with Spotted Pardalotes and the New Holland Honeyeaters were making their usual calls in several trees and bushes. A Brown Goshawk circled over us as we enjoyed our morning tea.

We were impressed by the nesting boxes in several of the big old gum trees. They were constructed from trees that had either been felled or had fallen and looked very natural high in the branches. We hope that the birds soon learn to call them home. The replanting programme around the lake is to be commended.

A total of 43 species were seen. Several were new to our list for the area including a Crested Pigeon, Weebill and Shining Bronze-Cuckoo.

Molly and Barry Angus



Scene of rocks, Reef Heron, whales and a White-naped Honeyeater at Cheynes Beach weekend, 24-26 September 2005.  
*Drawing by Penny Towells*

## SERPENTINE NATIONAL PARK, 21 August

A sunny day with very light winds made for an excellent day to be out birding. About 20 people met and walked the 2 kilometres from the top of Scrivener Road along the ridge to Baldwins Bluff and return.

The usual birds for the area were also making the most of the fine weather though of particular note were very cooperative

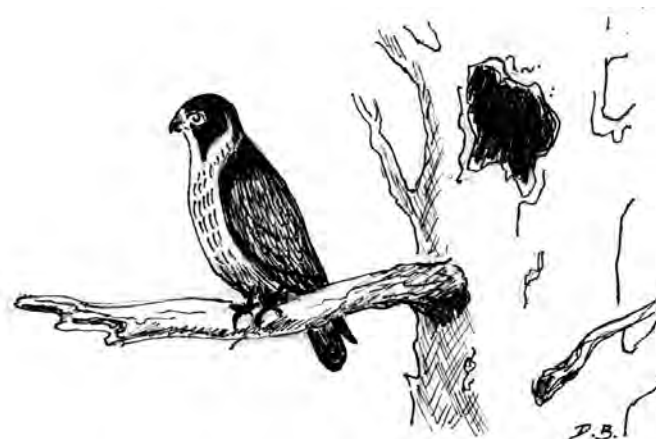
Red-eared Firetails and Elegant Parrots seen by all and an Australian Hobby. A highlight was the discovery of a very cryptic Scarlet Robin's nest where the parents were seen feeding their young. A Southern Emu-wren was also spotted and Purple-crowned Lorikeets were overhead. From the Bluff we had panoramic views of Serpentine Falls and across the plains to the sea.

After a late morning tea we drove via the back roads, across the Serpentine River to Jarrahdale and the top of Gooralong Brook Camp site where we walked along the Brook and added Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo to our list.

Following lunch most of the group went on to Webbs Lease, 5 kilometres from Jarrahdale, where we at last saw the White-breasted Robin and Red-winged Fairy-wren. A Pallid Cuckoo was seen as we departed.

A very pleasant day with a total of 46 species seen.

**Sue Abbotts**



Australian Hobby  
Drawing by Diane Beckingham

### PIPIDINNY ROAD AND YANCHEP NP, 28 August

Despite showers the radar looked encouraging so four members of the public joined 11 Birds Australia members for this outing and were treated to some special sightings over the course of the day. Meeting at the corner of Pipidanny and Wanneroo Roads the group had recorded around 15 species before moving further afield.

Splendid and Variegated Fairy-wrens were found in the dunes, the Splendid and Variegated before the skies opened up and everyone was forced to make a hasty retreat to their vehicles. Fortunately the rain did not last long and those who were wet dried out whilst walking in the heath closer to the main road. Here we added the White-winged Fairy-wren to our lists. Whilst at this site a large flock of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos were seen in the distance and later a number of them flew directly over the group which enabled good views. Tantalisingly, the Tawny-crowned Honeyeater was heard and seen to fly across the road but was not inclined to sit. Motor bikes were causing their usual disturbance in the dunes not far away which probably did not help matters.

The next stop was the Lacey Rd entry to Pipidanny Swamp. On arrival the group disturbed a Southern Boobook, which flew only a short way before perching again to observe those who had disturbed its day time rest. Everyone was able to view this striking creature of the night before sitting under the trees for a much needed lunch break. A walk around the swamp was disappointing as few birds were seen. The area had been badly burned earlier in the year and is still in the early stages of recovery and therefore not ideal for supporting bird life.

A total of 56 species were recorded for the day. Thanks to Brice for an enjoyable day.

**Merrian Kuerschner**

### WUNGONG GORGE, 4 September

Undaunted by the inclement weather a large group of enthusiasts presented themselves at the Gorge car park to brave the cold and periodic showers and once again wander the tracks of this Water Authority owned reserve (and former farm) to see what birdlife might be about.

While the weather as a whole favoured neither bird nor birdwatcher, periodic spells of sunshine did break through and, as if by magic produce a flurry of birds and binoculars. Surprisingly, given the conditions, around 30 species were recorded in all, amongst which the Red-eared Firetail, the Fairy-wrens (Splendid and Red-winged) and the White-breasted and Scarlet Robins were probably the most rewarding.

Thank you to the knowledgeable Bill McRoberts for once again doing the job.

**Ian Rudd**

### FLYNN ROAD, 10 September

On the second coldest morning of September, nine people took part in the walk around the Flynn Road area of Mundaring. The wind was very cold and it wasn't until the sun was shining brightly and the wind settled down that the birds started to sing and let themselves be seen by the keen birding eyes.

The most exciting views were of the Crested Shrike-tits and of the four Robins, Scarlet, Western Yellow, Hooded and White-breasted.

The usually noisy cuckoos were only heard a couple of times and from far away.

Three White-tailed Black-Cockatoos called out to us from a tall tree, making sure that we observed them clearly and Rufous Treecreepers and Varied Sittellas were observed going up and down the tree trunks.

In all, 43 species were seen before lunch and then three of the observers continued on to the heath lands saying they were sure they would add lots more species to our tally.

Thank you, Charles, for leading us.

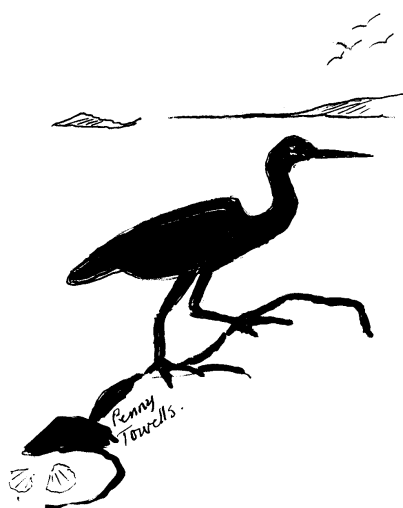
**Jim Sellers**

### ELLIS BROOK, 18 September

The spring excursion to the Ellis Brook area and Hillside farm gave the 25 people attending some great spring experiences. The flowers were out in force and we had some great views of nesting birds. Les Harris organised for Steve and Laurie to conduct the day's activities. We walked up the scarp with Steve pointing out active Yellow-rumped Thornbill nests in thick leaf foliage and Spotted Pardalote nests in the banks along the stream and road.

Back at Hillside farm, after seeing Laurie's excellent video of waders and sea birds, Steve showed us the breeding boxes located around the farm, inspiring a number of us to purchase bird boxes and assist metropolitan area Striated Pardalotes in finding a home. We also carefully noted the area behind Hillside farm on the scarp where Steve assured us we should be able to see emu-wrens on our return visits. The day's bird count came to 54 and it was a great day out for all concerned.

Thanks to Les, Steve and Laurie for providing such an enjoyable and inspirational day.



Reef Heron—pewter grey to match the rocks exactly, Cheynes Beach weekend, 24-26 September.

*Drawing by Penny Towells*

**Lorraine Chyne**

### LAKE MUIR-UNICUP CAMPOUT, 23 – 26 September

A previous campout held here in November 2004 surveyed a number of wetlands in the Muir-Unicup complex and reported a Little Bittern calling at Kulunilup Nature Reserve. The aim of this year's camp was to return to those sites plus others if possible and again search for elusive bitterns.

Base camp was set up at the Unicup Hall and 13-15 observers from Perth, Albany, Manjimup and Bridgetown took part over the long weekend. The weather was fine and sunny for all three days but heavy winter rains had filled most wetlands to capacity, limiting access to many. Regrowth of vegetation after recent fires was prolific and the display of orchids and other wildflowers was spectacular.

Over the three days, ten of the reserves were surveyed plus the two Mordalup lakes on private property. While visiting Cobertup Swamp on the Saturday night success was immediate with at least two and possibly three Australasian Bitterns heard calling as we got out of the vehicles. The closest bird was clearly heard calling in sets of three booms every 5-6 minutes or so from 7-7:30 pm. The following night another Australasian Bittern was heard calling at Kulunilup Nature Reserve but observers at Bokarup, Noobijup, and Yarnup Nature Reserves reported no calls.

Other interesting records for the trip included breeding Sacred Kingfishers at Kodjinup NR, an Emu nest with seven eggs at Bokarup NR and a Yellow-billed Spoonbill carrying nesting material near Noobijup NR. Subsequent visits to this site by Ian Wheeler of CALM have found nests with young spoonbills. Two Black-tailed Native-hens were spotted and a single White-winged Triller.

Total bird count for the weekend was 86 species, well short of last year's 98 but the high water levels and the fact that we visited earlier in the season may have limited the count. This year, only a single wader species was recorded (Banded Lapwing) at Mordalup lakes.

Many thanks again to Ian Wheeler of CALM for arranging accommodation and providing the barbecue dinners each night.

Another visit to the area in late summer/autumn is proposed to survey for waders and other species. By then it is hoped that the water levels will have receded, exposing sufficient areas of mudflats.

**Peter Taylor**

### KARNUP RESERVE, 25 September

Members and non-members, 24 in all, enjoyed a sunny day admiring three Western Yellow Robins and three Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos among many other birds that were seen at Karnup and Baldvis Reserves.

Twelve of the group were in a tour brought in by a member and these included enthusiasts from USA, UK, Switzerland and Spain. All were very pleased with the birds and the spring flora.

**Mary Vaughan**

### BOLD PARK, 2 October

This was the first of four planned surveys of the bird life of Bold Park. Seven survey sites were identified by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority to adequately cover the whole

area at one time. This involved BAWA finding seven walk leaders prepared to take a small group and identify the birds along the nominated transects. The added task was matching the plant communities where the birds were seen.

A busy morning, that seemed to be enjoyed by the 25 people who were there. There were 46 species seen, the highlights probably a breeding record of Brown Goshawk, Painted Button-quail and the return of the Rainbow Bee-eater. Many people commented on their delight in seeing areas of Bold Park they had not seen before.

The repeat surveys are 15 January, 9 April and 2 July 2006. The morning ended with a well-earned and delicious morning tea supplied by the Bold Park management.

A big thank you to all participants, especially the site leaders.

**Sue Mather**

### LAKE CLAREMONT, 12 October

It was overcast and threatening to drizzle but the six of us, including a visitor from Holland, took a stroll around Lake Claremont (formally Butler's Swamp). Thirty or so species were recorded. There were good views of young Eurasian Coots with the orange coloration around the head and neck clearly visible. The Little Grassbird was heard but not seen.

As a bird habitat, Lake Claremont has suffered over the years. Market gardens; an area that the youth of yesteryear used for cubbies, paddling homemade tin canoes and various nefarious activities; used as a rubbish tip for several years and then landfill to create a golf course and school playing fields have all taken their toll. Fortunately, in more recent times the Town of Claremont has developed an environmental management plan for the area. The community through the Friends of Lake Claremont also takes more interest in safeguarding the habitat.

Thank you, David Free, for an interesting and informative morning's birding. Just as we were leaving the sun came out and the weather improved.

**John Luyer**



Canning River excursion, 15 October.  
*Photo courtesy Elsa Dabbs*

### CANNING RIVER REGIONAL PARK, WILSON, 15 October

A small but enthusiastic group enjoyed warm spring sunshine as they covered the usual circuit from Kent Street Weir to Greenfield Street Bridge and back.

A pair of Australian Hobby harassing Tree Martins over the weir set the tone for the morning. Other highlights included excellent views of Clamorous Reed-Warbler, Sacred Kingfishers and White-winged Trillers, and a pair of Buff-banded Rail for some.

Fifteen species were recorded as building or sitting on nests, including Rufous Whistler. Eight species had young: Black Swan (at Wilson Lake), Australian Shelduck, Pacific Black Duck, Australasian Grebe, Darter, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot and Willie Wagtail.

The species total of 54 included two from Wilson Park Lake, which not everyone visited, but it was interesting to note that a pair of Great Egrets was seen at Wilson Lake immediately after the walk. Both had black bills and at least one had impressive breeding plumes. Are they nesting within the park, too?

**Pam Agar**

## BROOME BIRD OBSERVATORY

The Broome Bird Observatory is finally quiet enough again that we can take a moment to breathe here and watch the birds.



The September Birds of Broome course was a hit with hundreds of Oriental Plovers showing up on the plains along with Banded Honeyeaters; one Banded Honeyeater even visited the BBO bird baths. A Northern Fantail was also seen at Nimalaica claypan.

The waders are returning thick and fast to the bay. Eastern Curlew numbers suddenly skyrocketed in late August and the numbers of usual freshwater waders such as Wood, Marsh and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers are also up on the bay, probably due to the failed wet season not leaving much freshwater around the place! Whiskered and Little Terns are also now a common sight. The big four (Asian Dowitcher, Common Redshank, Lesser Sand Plover and Broad-billed Sandpiper) have been seen on the bay on multiple instances in the past few months, with Broad-billed Sandpiper being downright common.

A pair of Mangrove Golden Whistlers decided to be unconventional and nest in the Crab Creek mangroves, an unlikely spot for them. But even more unusual was the Beach Stone-Curlew that turned up there one morning!

Due to the dry wet, a lot of unusual birds made the BBO and its surrounds their home. Brolgas, which usually breed on the wetlands (which were bone dry this year) became plains natives. Painted Finches became commonplace at the bird baths and Varied Lorikeets flitted about feeding on the bauhinia flowers.

A recent all night mist-netting session at Taylor's Lagoon caught one of the regular Long-toed Stints in the lake, and a Flock Bronzewing was spotted skulking in the grass nearby.

Many of the regular birds of the region were scarce this year (Magpie Geese, which usually breed on the lakes were nowhere to be seen), but this was more than made up for with an abundance of less than usual species.

**Belinda Forbes, Assistant Warden**

## EYRE BIRD OBSERVATORY

### Volunteer Caretakers Report, April to July 2005



We arrived at Eyre Bird Observatory on 21 April 2005 to begin a handover/ takeover of the Volunteer Caretaker's position with Vicky Kleber and Brian Bilney. We are grateful to both Vicky and Brian (with priceless input from Gwen and Graham Goodreid) for the efficient way in which they managed this in between their continued duties as Caretakers until we took over from them on the morning of 23 April.

The Caretakers' day begins just after 6:00 am when it is time to go out and read the various reporting aspects of the overnight weather, and continues throughout the day, setting up breakfast for guests, preparing lunch and dinner, finalising accounts, feeding the decoy starlings, washing dishes and transferring water and preparing vacated rooms for the next set of guests. Coupled with this are tours of the building and surrounds with day and overnight visitors, bird surveys, stores ordering and collection, vehicle maintenance, tyre changes and visitor transfer fitted in too, but somehow, by about 9:30 pm the day seems to come to a close and we have been able to head off to bed and prepare for another day in paradise.

It never seems that any day can be viewed from its dawning as a day in which we knew exactly what was going to happen. Plans were made the previous night of course and some things had to be done but if a particular birding activity had been planned and unexpected day visitors arrived or the weather had taken an unexpected turn, those plans sometimes had to be shelved and others put in place. None of this was daunting; it was exciting and added to the sheer pleasure of being 458 km from the nearest milk bar and not being able to read a newspaper with all of the 'bad news' from other parts. It was a pleasure to be so isolated, and yet meet new people almost every day, hear of where they lived and in some instances the way that they had lived and came to be here. Our most memorable meeting was with 35 year old twins, Tiki and Danny (brother and sister) who came to stay and told us that they had only met four years ago. It was two years after their first meeting before they knew that they were even related, let alone being twins adopted out at birth. They were having a wonderful time getting to know each other and finding out about each other's past, fitting it all in with their present and future.

We had the Morsecodian Fraternity of WA here to install a closed circuit Morse code display 78 years after the Telegraph Repeating Station was closed.

We had to juggle their arrival and departure with the commencement of road-work on the escarpment track. The walls and halls of the old Eyre Telegraph Repeating Station once more echo to the tic-tac of Morse, and during the time of installation it was interesting to see these no-longer young-in-years men displaying their skill at the key with the enthusiasm and skill of perpetual youth. We built a table from the packing crates used to bring the satellite telephone equipment here for the interactive display of Morse equipment, a fitting end for the scrap of the new, to display the nostalgia of the old. Telegrams were sent and received and the history of telegraph experiences of all of the fraternity members made for wonderful meal-time repartee. We enjoyed their company and made friendships that will live on with us, as we are sure will do the same with them.

The men who rebuilt the escarpment track and the team from CALM here to see the job done were interesting. Terry the cook could be heard asking the workmen by UHF radio each day whether they wanted 'two eggs, or three with the bacon, sausages and beans' and the often witty replies going back. The hammering of the rock breaker could be heard here and 80 km away in Madura having echoed along the Baxter Cliff face. Lindsay Burnett found the blow holes in the rock face now bearing his name and he was like a boy with a new bag of marbles when we gave him a 'Certificate of the Naming of Lindsay's Blowholes', a feature now bearing a painted driftwood sign on the side of the track. Lindsay is a member of Rotary in Esperance and it was that fraternity that provided and installed the current solar water heating units that give us our hot water at Eyre.

The most challenging event was the Malleefowl Preservation Group (MPG) survey of Eyre. We had a total of 248 room nights in 18 days during this exercise and it was a creditable effort to get through it. We had tremendous assistance from Susanne and Alan Dennings as well as that of Joan and George White. The kitchen rang to the tune of many an old song with Alan in the lead role, as did the dining room after dinner as groups put acts together to entertain 'the troops'. It was like a war zone at times, vehicles coming and going, bucket brigades moving water from tank to tank and queues of people waiting for the scarce 'reading room' space or for a shower. Eyre would not have seen such frenzied activity since the heady days of the 1890s when it was said 17 people lived here. It may never see this sort of activity again. Three active Malleefowl mounds in a total of 62 were found and

many a scratch was received by the intrepid walkers pushing their way through the dense, unforgiving bush on each side of the North Track. A hastily designed and built extension to the kitchen bench got us through the meal time squeeze and the battery operated bilge pump showers provided by the MPG got us through the bathroom crush. Once more, friendships were forged, addresses and telephone numbers exchanged and Eyre fell back into the serendipity that one can attempt to describe, but possibly not ever fully understand until one comes to share it.

The excitement of seeing a rare bird like the Olive-backed Oriole and getting the bird positively identified was something that will be cherished by us both. Many digital photographs were taken of the bird and sent out by e-mail. Suggestions were made about its identity and finally, when we accepted that a bird from such a different climate could be here, the 'mystery bird' that appeared first on 2 June was recorded in the Daily Bird Log as the 'Olive-backed Oriole'. The bird now seems to have moved on; it was last seen on 5 July. We are heading off to Arubiddy Station to collect our caravan and then on to Alice Springs where we are going to take part in a

tag-a-long tour of the Canning Stock Route being catered for over a period of 26 days. Thank you to those on the Management Committee who advised us during our time here, and special thanks to Barbara and Peter Brown of Arubiddy who allowed us to store our caravan there for the past three months.



Willie Wagtails.  
*Watercolour painting courtesy Sue Kalab*

Happy birdwatching, tide dodging and cloud defining to all others who become Volunteer Caretakers at this wonderful place. We have enjoyed our time as Volunteer Caretakers, and we look forward to our return in 2006. May your time here be as pleasant as ours has been.

**Leon and Rhonda Sherwood**

### **Plastic Surgeon's Team Gives EBO a New Face**

After visiting Eyre Bird Observatory in spring last year, John Hanrahan and a group of his friends decided that they would like to help EBO by contributing to renovations of the 1897 telegraph station. Therefore, after meeting the Management Committee to outline their generous proposal, John Hanrahan, Murray Kornweibel and Rob Perrin came back in autumn to assess their proposed tasks.

They decided to up-grade the bathroom, paint the outside timberwork in original-like colour, improve

the kitchen, paint the three guest bedrooms and the passageway, and fit new timber lattice on the sleep-outs. Eventually work started on 10 October. After John Hanrahan (retired surgeon), Don Atwell (retired pilot), Murray Kornweibel (retired geologist), Rob Perrin (retired general manager) and Rob Devinish (chartered accountant) had spent more than 90 hours each working on the building, it was finished on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Although the projects mentioned above sound rather simple, there was a lot more work involved than one may anticipate. The bathroom had to be stripped completely and all plumbing and drainage redone. By reinforcing the rotting floorboards, installing a shower unit, tiling, fitting a new vanity unit and mirror, and laying new pipes to connect the bathroom with the overhead water tank and solar hot water system, Rob and Murray achieved their aim – a user-friendly, modern and beautiful bathroom. Staying with the plumbing, Rob and Murray replaced the old leaking tap in the kitchen with a new one, and Rob sanded and varnished the kitchen bench top. Rob and Murray also installed a stainless steel splashboard above the kitchen sink.

The painting itself was not much harder than any other painting, but obstacles were met there, too. Layer upon layer of old paint had to be stripped off the timber, victims of termites and old age had to be reinforced, and I don't even want to mention the amount of swallow-droppings Rob Devinish scraped off the roof rails. Once that was done, only one minor inconvenience occurred, a shortage of paint. However, this problem was overcome with the group's usual efficiency. After many phone calls two buckets of paint were purchased in Kalgoorlie, passed on to Ebenezer Transport (after Westrail had refused to help), and dropped off at the BP roadhouse in Norseman to be put on a truck travelling past Cocklebiddy.

Painting the walls and ceilings was not an easy task, either, as they are old and frail and had to be reinforced so that they did not crumble even more. John and Don were very lucky when painting the passageway – they thought the painting scaffold would be too wide, but when they measured both, they found out that they had one inch to spare. Otherwise, it would have been near impossible to fix and paint the 12 foot ceiling.

It's not only John, Murray, Rob, Rob and Don we're grateful to, but also a number of facilitators. Arubiddy Station helped by lending us their welder and donating plumbing bits, staff of the BP roadhouse in Norseman contributed by organising transport for paint and for Rob Devinish (as he'd joined the workforce later and just missed the last bus service across the Nullarbor).

Material was generously supplied by Peter Wilson of Swanbourne Hardware (he was the main organiser of the suppliers), Galvins Plumbing and Hardware Supply, Dulux Australia (they donated the paint), Peter Halliday (supply of instant glass) and Charles Laurenson of BSP Plumbing.

Brian's and my job was to keep the cakes coming, to feed the hungry workers, and generally give a hand wherever we could.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and efforts of all people involved, Eyre now truly has a new face.

Thank you very much again, guys! It was a pleasure to work for and with you and we greatly enjoyed your company at Eyre.

**Victoria Kleber**  
Caretaker



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## Coming Events



### Important Note re Campouts

Members anticipating attending campouts must notify the BA Office (9383 7749) of the number in their party and when they will arrive. When members arrive without notice it makes it difficult for leaders who have made arrangements only for the people on the list, so, if you are unsure, put your name down. You can always cancel, and then we can advise the next person on the waiting list. With this information we will be able to ensure the group will be together and will know when to expect people.

### New Members

Please let the leaders know that you are a new member and don't hesitate to ask for assistance with bird sightings.

#### **Sunday 4 December: Lake McLarty, Murray** **Full day excursion**

Meet at 7:30 am at the gate into the Lake McLarty Reserve: look for the BAWA sign. Travel down the South West Highway through Pinjarra, turning right along the Old Bunbury Rd (5 km south of Pinjarra), then right into Mills Road (fourth road). Continue along Mills Rd for approximately 10 km until you see the BAWA sign on the right. Take lunch, Wellington boots or old shoes, sun hats, insect repellent, water and telescopes. There should be a variety of waders at the lake, as well as many waterbirds and bushbirds.

For members and guests only.

*Leader: Les Harris*

#### **Wednesday 7 December: Garvey Park, Ascot** **Half-day excursion**

Meet at 8:00 am in the car park (next to the Rowing Club) at the western end of Fauntleroy Avenue, off Great Eastern Highway. This area has a good variety of waterbirds and bushbirds. Species recorded here have included Buff-banded Rail, Spotless Crake, and Mistletoebird.

For members and the general public.

*Leader: Hank van Wees*

#### **Saturday 10 December: Woodman Point and Kogolup Swamp, Cockburn** **Half or full day excursion**

Meet at 7:30 am in the car park at

Woodman Point, on Jervoise Bay. Turn right off Cockburn Road, into O'Kane Court, then left into Jervoise Bay Cove, and almost immediately right into Woodman Point Rd. Drive to the end of the road into Woodman Point car park. We will walk along the beach to Woodman Spit and back along the other side to Cockburn Cement Jetty to look for waders and sea birds. Bring your telescopes.

Later, we will travel to Kogolup Swamp on Beeliar Drive to look for the many crakes and rails that have been seen there in the Typha. There should also be plenty of waterbirds, and perhaps some waders. Those wishing to bring their lunch could go on to nearby Yangebup Lake, where there is a car park and grassed area, a pleasant place for lunch. There should also be lots of waterbirds on this large lake.

For members and the general public.

*Leader: Les Harris*

#### **Sunday 11 December: BAWA Christmas barbecue**

A barbecue will be held on Sunday, 11 December, at Peregrine House, commencing at 5:00 pm. BYO meat, drinks, and salads: all members are welcome!

For members and guests only.

**There will be no monthly meeting in December.**

#### **Saturday 31 December: Star Swamp, North Beach** **Half-day excursion**

Meet at 7:30 am at the off-street parking area, opposite the primary school, in North Beach Road. This parking area is adjacent to Charles Riley Reserve (a sporting venue), 1 km west of Marmion Avenue. Star Swamp has Tuart woodland, mixed Banksia woodland, and heath. A variety of bushbirds and raptors have been seen here.

For members and guests only.

*Leader: Rod Smith*

#### **Saturday 7 January 2006: Lake Joondalup, Joondalup** **Half-day excursion**

Meet at 8:00 am at Neil Hawkins Park, in the car park at the end of Boas Avenue. Sixty-nine species of birds have been seen here. There are always lots of waterbirds and bushbirds to be seen around this large lake, and there could be waders as well. Bring your telescope if you have one.

For members and guests only.

*Leader: Tom Delaney*

#### **Thursday 12 January: Waterford Foreshore, Salter Point, Manning** **Mid-week excursion**

Meet at 8:00 am at the Curtin University Boat Shed.

To reach the parking area travel along Manning Rd and turn into Elderfield St, which is on the western side of the Trinity College

playing fields. Proceed to the end of this street and the parking area is on the right side. The walk will proceed along the river front for about 1 km and return via a nearby park, taking about two hours. Several species of water and bushbirds have been seen. Bring morning tea and, if time permits, we will move on to Salter Point where other species can be seen.

For members and the general public.

*Leaders: Barry and Molly Angus*

**Sunday 15 January: Bold Park Bird Watch, Cambridge**  
**Half-day excursion (Note Early Start)**

Meet at 7:00 am at the Peregrine House car park off Perry Lakes Drive, Floreat. This is the second of four planned comprehensive surveys of Bold Park. It would be appreciated if the participants in the first survey were able to assist, particularly the seven site leaders. A minimum of 28 people is needed for this important task. Each group will survey one site, recording both the species seen and the habitat used.

The October survey was enjoyable, interesting and useful, recording 46 species overall. The survey will be followed by morning tea provided by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA).

For members and guests only.

*Leader: Sue Mather*

**Sunday 22 January: Thomsons Lake, Beeliar**

**Half-day excursion**

Meet at 7:30 am in the car park off Russell Rd, between Pearse and Hammond Roads. This is a good area for bushbirds and waterbirds.

For members and the general public.

*Leader: Sue Abbotts*

**Monday 23 January: Tamala Hall, Environment Centre, Floreat**  
**Meeting, 7:30 pm**

Susanne Dennings, Volunteer Project Coordinator, Malleefowl Preservation Group, will give an illustrated talk entitled *Working together – Malleefowl Survey at Eyre*. This will include film footage of the Olive-backed Oriole seen during the survey.

**Thursday-Sunday 26-29 January: Long week-end campout at Woodanilling, Shire of Woodanilling**

Woodanilling is approximately 250 km SE of Perth, in the Great Southern. An extensive lake system has been filled for the first time in at least 10 years, after a very wet winter. In January, as the lakes dry, it is anticipated that there will be favourable conditions for large congregations of waterbirds. The camp will coincide with the wader survey which this year will require help to cover all the lakes.

Travel down Albany Highway and turn left at Arthur River to Wagin. At Wagin turn right to Katanning and a further 30 km to Woodanilling. We will be staying at the Avalon Caravan Park, which is 100 m south of the turnoff to Woodanilling township. Cost is \$15 per night, but this may be cheaper with more participants. There is a small restaurant. Make your own bookings: phone 9823 1681.

For members and guests only.

*Leader: David Secomb*

**Saturday 28 January: Alfred Cove, Melville**

**Half-day excursion**

Meet at 7:30 am at the car park in Troy Park, off Burke Drive, Attadale (by the radio mast). There should be plenty of migratory waders and waterbirds round the river, and there are always

bushbirds in the park. Buff-banded Rail may be seen, as they sometimes breed here.

For members and guests only.

*Leader: Les Harris*

**Saturday-Sunday: 4-5 February: Rottnest wader count**

This list is already full, as numbers are restricted by the accommodation available.

For members and guests only.

*Leader: John Lauri*

**Saturday 4 February: Peel Inlet, Mandurah**

**Full day excursion**

Meet at 7:30 am in the car park at the western end of the Mandurah Estuary Bridge, under the bridge. We will first look around the bird hides, and the boardwalk associated with them. The shore at Coodanup may also be visited by those wishing to extend the excursion after lunch. Don't forget hats, insect repellent, old shoes/wellies, and lunch. Bring your telescope and come and learn about waders.

For members and guests only.

*Leader: Dick Rule*

**Saturday 11 February: Carine Lake, Stirling**

**Half-day excursion**

Meet at 7:30 am at the car park just past the skate board area. Enter the car park nearly opposite the Carine Glades Shopping Centre off Beach Road, and drive as far south as possible. Up to 100 species have been recorded here, including the three ibis, Buff-banded Rail, Freckled Duck and several raptors. Bring a telescope if you have one.

For members and guests only.

*Leader: Clive Nealon*

**Wednesday 15 February: Lake Gwelup, Stirling**  
**Mid-week excursion**

Meet at 8:00 am in the car park at the Scout Hall and Tennis Court off Huntriss Road, about 300 m north of Karrinyup Road, Gwelup. We should see a good variety of waterbirds, bushbirds, and maybe a few raptors.

For members and the general public.

*Leader: Hank van Wees*

**Saturday 18 February: Blackwall Reach, Bicton**  
**Half-day excursion**

Meet at 7:30 am at the junction of Kent Street and Blackwall Reach Parade. A pleasant walk above the Swan River along a bush track which is noted for its population of White-cheeked Honeyeaters. We will also look for waders along the Point Walter beach.

For members and the general public.

*Leader: Eric Pyatt*

**Sunday 26 February: Lake McLarty, Murray**  
**Full day excursion**

Meet at 7:30 am at the gate into Lake McLarty Reserve – look for the BAWA sign. Travel on the South West Highway through Pinjarra, turning right along the old Bunbury Road, 5 km south of Pinjarra. Turn right into Mills Road (fourth road) and continue along for about 10 km until you see the BAWA sign on the right. Take your lunch, wellies/old shoes, sun hat, insect repellent, water and telescopes. There should be a variety of waders at the lake, as well as many waterbirds and bushbirds.

For members and guests only.

*Leader: Les Harris*

**Monday 27 February: Tamala Hall, Environment Centre, Floreat**  
**Meeting, 7:30 pm and Annual General Meeting**

Steve Elson, of Hillside Farm, Gosnells, will give a talk entitled *Breeding ecology of the Birds of Perth*, based on his considerable experience of the past 20 years. This meeting also includes the Annual General Meeting of the WA Group. See elsewhere in this edition for details.

**Saturday-Monday 4-6 March: Campout at Busselton**

It is six years since a Busselton campout and a look at the diverse habitats of the area: the Vasse-Wonnerup estuary system – a RAMSAR site; the only remaining remnant bushland on the coastal plain near Busselton; pretty Meelup Creek; and Cowaramup Bay which has the most northerly stand of Karri to explore.

We will be staying at the Anglican Camp site, 185 Caves Road, Busselton. Travel through Busselton towards Dunsborough and the camp site is approximately a kilometre past the turn off to Margaret River. It is on the beach front and has powered camp sites. Cost is \$7.00 per person per night.

Accommodation is difficult to obtain at this time of the year and ten sites have been reserved. Phone 9755 4588 and say you are with Birds Australia.

For members and guests only.

*Leader: Sue Abbotts*

**Sunday 5 March: Ascot Waters, Ascot**  
**Half-day excursion**

Meet at 8:00 am in the car park at the end of Tidewater Way. To reach the area from Great Eastern Highway, turn into Stoneham Street, then into Resolution Drive, and left into Tidewater Way. Continue through two roundabouts, over the bridge, and up to the car park at the top of the rise. Lots of Buff-banded Rails were seen here last year, and several raptors are often seen.

For members and guests only.

*Leader: Tom Delaney*

**Saturday 11 March: Penguin Island, Rockingham**  
**Full day excursion**

A chartered ferry will depart from the Mersey Point Jetty, off Arcadia Drive, Shoalwater, at 9:00 am for an



Dell Forest excursion, 23 October.  
*Photo courtesy Elsa Dabbs*

hour's sail around birding spots in the Warnbro Sound. We will land on Penguin Island around 10:00 am.

The group will walk to the various places of interest on the Island, and if they wish, can attend the penguin feeding in the CALM facility housing injured or orphaned penguins.

The cost below covers the return trip to the mainland, which can be taken whenever individuals wish. Ferries return hourly. There is no shop on the Island so please bring all food and drink requirements. We will stay for lunch, probably before visiting the Penguin facility.

The cruise return and penguin viewing cost is \$31.50 for adults, \$28 for concession holders, and \$22.50 for children. For those not wishing to view the Penguin Experience the cost will be adults \$26 and concession holders \$23.50.

The above costs depend on at least 25 people attending. In all past visits we have had at least this number but a small extra charge is possible. It is essential to ring the BAWA office on 9383 7749 before 3 February and have your name added to the list.

For members and guests only.

*Leader: Clive Napier*

#### **Thursday 16 March: Woodman Point, Cockburn**

##### **Mid-week excursion**

Meet at 8:00 am in the car park at Woodman Point on Jervoise Bay. Turn right off Cockburn Road, into O'Kane Court, then left into Jervoise Bay Cove, and almost immediately right into Woodman Point Road. Drive to the end of the road into Woodman Point car park. We will walk along the beach to Woodman Spit, and back along the other side to Cockburn Cement Jetty to look for waders and sea birds. Bring your telescopes.

For members and the general public.

*Leader: Les Harris*

#### **Sunday 19 March: Herdsman Lake, Stirling**

##### **Half-day excursion**

Meet at 7:30 am in the Maurice Hamer car park. Turn off Pearson Street into Falcon Avenue, then right into Lakeside Road. The car park is on the left, opposite Heron Place.

This is one of the waterbird refuges that never dries up at the end of summer. If the water level is down, some interesting waders may be seen, such the Wood Sandpiper. Bring your telescope if you have one.

For members and guests only.

*Leader: Claire Gerrish*

#### **Saturday 25 March: Yangebup Lake, Cockburn**

##### **Half-day excursion**

There have been some changes to the roads around the Lake so read this carefully.

Turn into Osprey Drive from North Lake Road and immediately turn into Parkes Road. Parkes Road now only runs for about 200 m before being shut off. Park in this area and walk to the barrier across the road where we will meet at 8:00 am. It is a long walk to reach this point from the Hammond Road entrance to Parkes Road.

There may be muddy areas so wear rubber boots if possible and bring scopes if available. There should be good varieties of waterbirds and waders and three species of crane have been sighted here. If time permits, we will visit Kogolup Lake.

For members and the general public.

*Leader: Clive Napier*

#### **Monday 27 March: Tamala Hall, Environment Centre, Floreat**

**Meeting 7:30 pm**  
Michael Morcombe, a member and professional bird photographer, will give an illustrated talk.

#### **Friday-Monday 14-17 April: Easter Campout at Wogarno Station, Murchison**

Wogarno is a working sheep station on the Great Northern Highway in the Murchison, south of Mount Magnet. On their website <www.wogarno.com.au> is a list of over 85 bird species that have been recorded on the station. We will not see them all, but in addition to observing birds, participants can enjoy the outback.

The sign-posted turn off is 540 km north of Perth, and it is 15 km into the homestead. The hosts, Lesley-Jane and David Campbell, assure us that the station tracks are suitable for conventional vehicles.

Those attending please notify the BAWA office (9383 7749) and leave contact details. You will also need to book your accommodation (tent site, caravan site, shearers' quarters or homestead accommodation) by writing to Wogarno Station, PO Box 525, Mount Magnet, WA 6638, or by telephone 9963 5846, or fax 9963 5870, or by e-mail using the booking form on their website, <www.wogarno.com.au>. It is suggested that you book immediately to avoid disappointment and it is important to mention that you are booking as a participant in the BAWA campout.

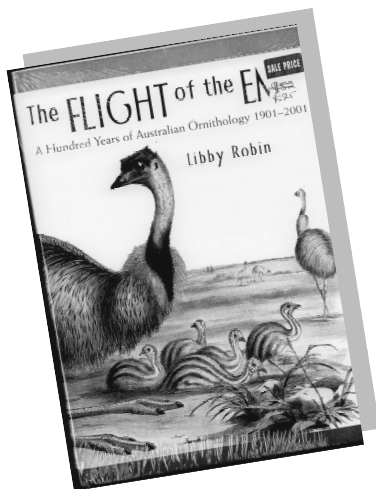
For members and guests only.

*Leaders: John and Ruth Luyer*



Australian Pelican  
*Watercolour painting by Sue Kalab*

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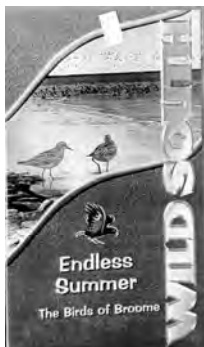
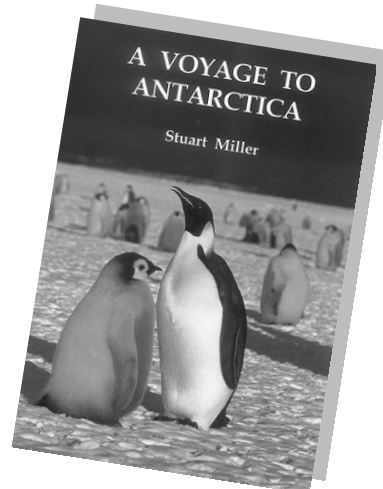
- Endless Summer: The Birds of Broome* \$20.00\*
- Wilderness Regained? Houtman Abrolhos* \$20.00\*

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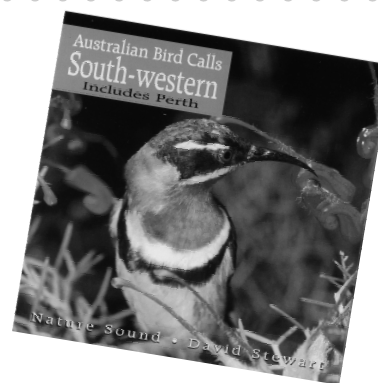


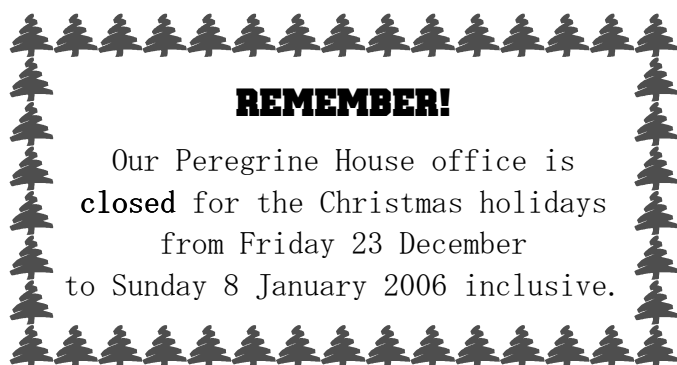
### We have two new multi-media items:

John Hutchinson's *Bird Song*  
(all WA birds) — DVD format: \$19.00\*

David Stewart's *Australian Bird Calls*,  
South-western includes Perth  
— CD-rom format: \$25.00\*

\* add \$5.00 for postage and packing





## Crossword Answers No 43

### Across

4 Wyndham, 8 mallee, 10 mannikin, 11 morning, 13 nested, 14 perimeter, 17 shady, 19 shield, 21 eclipse, 23 edge, 25 communal, 26 rotated.

### Down

1 emu, 2 old, 3 tern, 4 walks, 5 noon, 6 height, 7 masked, 9 dimorphism, 10 Meropidae, 12 game, 13 notes, 15 suddenly, 16 reed, 18 spit, 20 Ascot, 22 chat, 23 emus, 24 eat.

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8/2003



## Opportunities for Volunteers



This section gives members an avenue to advertise for voluntary assistance with projects, surveys, initiatives, office.

- ◆ **Eyre Bird Observatory volunteer caretakers** – contact
  - \* Caroline Comstock Phone 9450 5086, e-mail <caro@iinet.net.au>
  - \* or Rod Smith Phone 9447 3804, e-mail <rodjoyce@bigpond.net.au>
- ◆ **Atlas** – surveys for this are continuing – contact Cheryl Gole Phone 9293 4958, e-mail <cgole@westnet.com.au>
- ◆ **Excursion Leaders** – contact Sue Abbotts 9444 1607, e-mail <sabbotts1@bigpond.com>
- ◆ **Monthly Meeting Speakers** – contact Brian Wilson 9293 1094
- ◆ **Public Relations Sub-committee** – graphic artist, members willing to visit schools, set up displays, attend shows and help with administration – contact Elsa Dabbs e-mail <dabchic5@bigpond.net.au>
- ◆ **Western Ground Parrot search in Nuytsland Nature Reserve (NNR)** – the November trip to NNR which was to be the final in a series of three, had to be cancelled due to too much water in the study area; the trip should now take place late Feb. or early March – for more information contact Brenda Newbey 9337 5673; e-mail <wgparrot@iinet.net.au>
- ◆ **Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Project**—the new project on the Swan Coastal Plain (SCP) will have an ongoing requirement for a large number of volunteers, including for vegetation surveys, and anyone interested in helping in any way should contact Bansi by e-mail on <b.shah@birdsaustralia.com.au> or on 0427 707 047 to be placed on the register.

### Birds Australia Western Australia Inc

Office: **Peregrine House**

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**Production:** Margaret Philippon

**Distribution:** Rod Smith

#### 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 or emailed would assist, especially if in MSWord as a document **without** styles.
- WABN uses Birds Australia recommended English names
- except for Observations, contributions will be published unless the contributor is informed to the contrary.
- Full Editorial Policy is stated in WABN 74:10-12

#### Printing Deadlines (at the BAWA Office)

March 2006 issue: 1 February  
June 2006 issue: 1 May  
September 2006 issue: 1 August  
December 2006 issue: 1 November

### Advertising Rates

1/4 page	\$30.00
1/2 page	\$50.00
Full page	\$90.00

## Calendar of Events

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**Sun 11 Dec:** BAWA Christmas barbecue

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