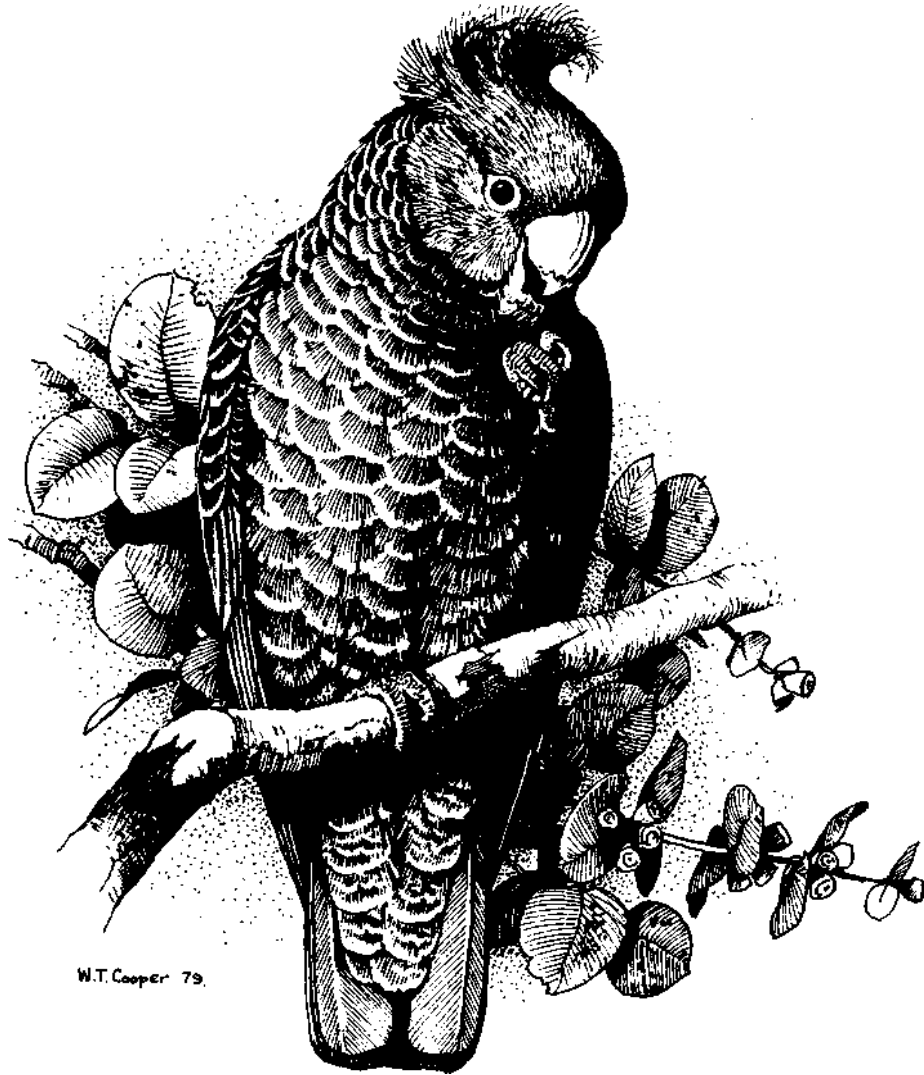


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REGIONAL RARITIES RECORDS REVIEW 1964-1974

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INTRODUCTION

Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG) began in July 1964 with the inauguration of the ACT Branch of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (RAOU). Monthly meetings were held, at which 'attendances varied from a minimum of 16 to a maximum of 48' (Chapman 1968). At these monthly meetings an observations book was circulated, in which members listed interesting sightings. However as the chairman noted "the observations book ... merely attracts the spectacular and the unusual. As far as I know there are in the ACT only two people who keep regular ... notes of all birds seen when they are in the field, with data on numbers and movements and habits" (Marchant 1965). This lack of systematic detail for this early period makes it a difficult job to find what previously common species, if any, have changed their status. Therefore, as common birds were not regularly reported the following is a list of all records (from the sources listed) of the rarer species, defined as those with a current status of 3 in 'A Field list of the Birds of Canberra and District' (COG 1985). The reason for compiling this list is that most records are in manuscript or typescript and many have never been published. It is hoped that these records will provide a quick reference to the rare species and stimulate systematic re-assessment of the changing status of birds in the ACT, especially when combined with the more recent annual reports and the results of the ACT Bird Atlas. In doing so however, it is important to consider the changes in observers' numbers, skills and surveying and reporting patterns over the years.

EXPLANATION OF LIST

The list covers the period 1964-1974, with occasional reference to records from before 1964. Further detail from this earlier period may be found in the articles quoted in the bibliography, which discuss the status of birds in the ACT before the establishment of the ACT branch of the RAOU in 1964. There seems to have been no Annual Bird Report published between the years 1969/70 and 1973/74. In 1974/75 the Annual Bird Report reappeared evolving into its current format so it was decided to end this report at that date.

Records contained here are, with a few exceptions, from within the COG area of concern as defined in the Field List (COG 1985). COG members visited some areas regularly, such as Lakes George and Bathurst, Jerrabomberra wetlands, (listed as Molonglo R. Flats, Molonglo R., Fyshwick, Kelly's Swamp and Dairy Flat), Black Mountain and the National

Botanic Gardens. Apart from regular visits to Tidbinbilla and banding trips to New Chums Rd in the Brindabellas, few records exist for the ranges.

Common names of many species have changed in the last twenty years. They were checked in Cayley (1958) and the Readers Digest (1976) and changed to the recommended names (RAOU 1978). Records mostly consist of: number of birds observed, location of record, date, observer and notes as appropriate. Much effort has gone into making the list as complete and accurate as possible but due to the nature of the source material perfection is unlikely.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Ian Taylor for the idea to tackle this project and for willingly giving time and suggestions throughout. Also to Brendan Lepschi for additions.

ABBREVIATIONS

AD'A	A. D'Andria	A/R	Annual Report
BB	B. Baker	CBN	Canberra Bird Notes
DJ	D. Judge	LBG	Lake Burley Griffin
DR	D. Ross	Status =	A series of articles published in CBN from 1972 to 1979, on the status of birds in the ACT, followed by details of the issue and page, for more information.
GC	G. Clark		
IB	I. Betts		
IG	I. Grant		
JB	J. Bywater		
JF	J. Forshaw		
JMcK	J. McKean		
JMcN	J. McNaughton		
JS	J. Stevens		
MC	M. Clayton	? =	Part of details eg. date, locality.etc. are unknown. It does not question the validity of the record.
MR	M. Rowe		
NC	N. Clark		
NH	N. Hermes		
RB	R. Brown		
RE	R. Elvish		
RG	R. Gibson		
SB	S. Bennett		
SM	S. Marchant		
SJW	S.J. Wilson		
TG	T. Gourlay		
TS	T. Stokes		

ANNOTATED LIST

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

- 2 2.5 miles West of Michelago at the foot of Mt Yarara. 18/3/72 Neil Hermes' brother and property owner. 'This is the first record of wild Emus in the ACT area for at least 50 years.'
- 4 2/3 grown, on 'Springfield' property, Narima Rd via Hall 8/7/73. B. Parker CSIRO.

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

- 1 Molonglo R. 2/6/65 R. Schodde and D.J. Wilson. '1
first record for the ACT'
6 Lake George 29/8/65 JMCK & IB
1 Molonglo R. flats 21/11/65, 27/11/65 RG & BB
3 LBG 31/1/66 A/R 64/65
1 Molonglo R. flats 4/2/66 RG & BB
3 LBG 6/2/66 A/R 64/65
1 Molonglo R. 2/7/66 JMCK & IB
2 Molonglo R. flats 16/10/66
1 Molonglo R. flats 9/4/67
1 Molonglo R. flats 17/12/67 JMcN
1 Molonglo R. flats 14/2/67 JMcN
1 Molonglo R. flats 23/3/68 JMcN
1 Molonglo R. flats 20/4/68 JMcN
2 Molonglo R. flats 4/5/68 JMcN
1 6/10/68 A/R 68/69
2 10/11/68 A/R 68/69
1 13/11/68 A/R 68/69

'singly or in small groups throughout the year (maximum 6)
There are usually up to 6 records annually' Status CBN 1972
2(2):13.

- 1 Molonglo R. Duntroon 20/4/73 RE
1 Molonglo R. 11/6/73 JS

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

- 1 Molonglo R. flats 1/11/67 A/R 67/68
1 Molonglo R. flats 27/11/67 A/R 67/68
'Regularly reported between Nov 10 (68) and June 8 (69)
Molonglo R. flats. Highest count 2.' A/R 68/69.
'All occurrences have been at the east end of LBG and
there were no records before the lake filled. A rare
vagrant.' Status CBN 2(3):9.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

- 1 LBG 1/6/65 SJW
'5 records between 31st Oct (67) and 7th Feb (68).
Molonglo R. flats. Highest number 6' A/R 67/68.
1 Kellys swamp 27/7/69 MC CEN 1(5):10
1 Kellys swamp 12/9/69 MC CEN 1(5):10
1 Jerrabomberra Ck 27/7/69 MC CEN 1(5):10
1 Jerrabomberra Ck 12/8/69 MC CEN 1(5):10
'Regularly reported between Nov 6 (68) and June 8 (69)
Molonglo R. flats and the lake' A/R 68/69.
'No breeding record'. Status CBN 2(3):9.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

- 1 Molonglo R. flats 6/1/68 'First ACT record'
1 13 Holmes Cres Campbell 1/11/72 M. Basten

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

- Lake George March-Sept 1961-63 Lamm CBN 2(3):10
1 Mulwaree Ponds (near Lake Bathurst) 28/4/69 A/R 68/69.
See also page 22 of this issue.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

'There are certain birds which, although not yet recorded from the ACT may be expected to appear in the region.. These include the Glossy Ibis seen at Bungendore' (Lamm & White 1950a)

1	Bungendore Marsh	6/3/65	JMcK
1	Lake George	7/3/65	JMcK
1	Murphy's Swamp (1 mile south of SW corner of Lake George)	8/3/65	SJW
1	Bungendore Marsh	8/3/65	SJW
4	Jerrabomberra Ck	29/3/65	W.A. Martin 'First ACT record'
12	Lake George	29/10/65	JMcK
18	'Present Molonglo Regularly Between Fyshwick and Duntroon in flocks of 5 to 37 R. BB & RG	1/1/66	JMcN to 2/1/66' BB&RG BB&RG IB BB&RG JMcN
1	Molonglo R. flats	20/1/66	between Nov 10
1	Molonglo R. flats	4/2/66	A/R 68/69
1	Yowani Golf Club	3/8/66	JMcN JMcN JMcN 72
1	Molonglo R. flats	12/2/67	JMcN (maximum 5)
20	Fyshwick	2/2/69	TG TG
1968	reported from Molonglo R.		fS. Kennedy
20	and Mar 9 1969. Highest number 27'		SJW SJW
1	Fyshwick	10/10/71	AD'A
1	Fyshwick	17/10/71	SJW
1	Fyshwick	24/10/71	J. Mollison
1	Fyshwick	Feb72-Nov	DR DR
1	Kellys Swamp	2/11/72	
1	Kellys Swamp	6/11/72	
1	Kellys Swamp	5/11/72	
5	Kellys Swamp	10/12/72	
5	Jerrabomberra Ck		
4	East end of LBG	1/1/73	
4	Kellys Swamp	18/1/73	
1	Pools behind Causeway Tip	?/2/73	
1	Pools behind Causeway Tip	24/2/73	
1		25/2/73	
1		1/3/73	

3

Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytonis*

20 Lake George 17/5/65 JMcK 'First record for area'

30 LBG 12/2/66 DJ

9 Gungahlin 6-14/4/66 JMcK

9 Wild birds joined captive birds at Gungahlin ... First ACT record' A/R 65/66.

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

50 Lake George July-Sept 64

2 Wallagerang SWamp 2/9/64 JMcK

20+ Lake George 6/3/65 JMcK

5 Yarralumla Bay 1/4/65 Frith? 'First ACT record'

... cont.

300	Lake George	27/8/65	JMcK&IB
4		6/10/65	P. Bolger
4	Duntroon	?/11/65	IB
6	Lake George	8/9/66	A/R 66/67
20	Molonglo R. flats	30/7/67	JMcN

Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

'Report from friend on Umarralla R. last weekend' 8/2/72 TG
2 adults 2 goslings Bungendore ?/11/73 J. Slatter

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*

2	Molonglo R.	2/7/66	A/R 66/67	'First ACT record'
1	Molonglo R. (near Duntroon)	10/3/73	JS	

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

'An unconfirmed record of an apparent immature bird, LBG on 13/2/66' Status CBN 2(5):23.

1	Lake George	16/9/68	WJM Vestjens	CBN 2(5):23.
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Letter-winged Kite *Elanus scriptus*

1	Deakin	23/12/67	A/R 67/68	'First ACT record'
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Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

1	Lyneham	23/1/67	L. Moore (marked doubtful)
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'The few ACT records are all associated with known irruptions. No breeding record.' Status CBN2(5):18.

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

3	Scrivener Dam	26/12/67	'First ACT record'
			(marked doubtful) A/R 67/68

'The few records ... are most probably pale immature forms of the Fork tailed Kite' Status CBN 1973 2(5):19.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

Bred along Murrumbidgee 1947-49 Lamm & Calaby (1950)

'May have bred on Black Mtn' A/R 64/65.

	Lake George	27/8/65	JMcK
	Mt Pleasant	12/2/66	DJ
2	Molonglo R. flats	16/7/66	BB
1	Lake George	19/9/66	?
1	Lake George	3/10/66	MC, BB et al
2	Molonglo R. flats	1/10/66	BB&RG
1	Molonglo R. flats	1/2/67 - ?/6/67	BB&RG
1	Lake George	11/3/67	See list for Stilt
1	Lake George	22/4/67	BB et al
1	Molonglo R.	30/4/67	BB et al
1	Lake George	18/6/67	JMcN
2	Lake Bathurst	11/7/67	MC
1	Fyshwick	30/11/68	JMcN
1	Royalla	?/4/69	A/R 68/69
1	Kellys Swamp	9/6/73	DR

This list is very likely incomplete as the species is generally not regarded as 'rare' so more observations would have gone unrecorded than for rarer species.

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*
 Observed four times along Murrumbidgee 1947-1949 Lamm &
 Calaby (1950).

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

1	imm. Southern end of Lake George	?/3/66	AD'A
2	Lake George	12/6/66	BB&RG
?	Lake George	24/9/66	AIR 66/67
1	Lake George	4/11/66	A/R 66/67
2	Lake George	22/4/67	BB et al
1	Lake George	17/6/67	JMcN
1	Lake Bathurst	11/7/67	SJW
1	LBG	5/11/67	A/R 67/68
	'Nested Lake Bathurst	Sept/Oct 67	AIR 67/68
2	Lake Bathurst	29/9/68	A/R 68/69
2	pairs Lake Bathurst	6/8/68	A/R 68/69
2	Sthn end Lake George	25/1/72	SJW
1	West Basin LBG	16/12/72	D.Wilson
1	dead - Lake George	5/8/73	CBN 2(9):21
1	Kellys Swamp	1/9/73	JMcN

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

2	Collector	?/9/68	A/R 68/69
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Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

1	Ulmarra (13 miles north of Cooma)	26/4/65	?
1	Oakey Hill Reserve Lyons	13/3/66	JMcN
1	Oakey Hill, Curtin	7/3/66	JMcN
1	Black Mtn Peninsula	18/3/66	JMcN
1	9 miles from Goulburn	2/1/67	
1	O'Connor	11/1/67	BB
1	Russell Hill	8/2/67	A/R 66/67
1	Fyshwick	23/1/68	JMcN
1	Wee Jasper	17/5/69	A/R 68/69

Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos*

1	Belconnen	16/1/67	BB
1	Ginninderra/Gundaroo Rd	27/1/69	G&N Clark
1	Gungahlin	26/10/71	'seen by 8 members of CSIRO'

Brown Quail *Coturnix australis*

1	Colinton	4/10/61	B. Temple Watts
	'Several round LBG as it filled	1963/64'	A/R 64/65
3	Molonglo R. flats	16/10/66	BB&RG
1	Black Mtn	15/4/67	MC et al
1	Wells Station	23/4/67	
2	?	15/11/68	A/R 68/69
1	Fyshwick	30/11/68	JMcN
1	Fyshwick	19/1/69	JMcN
2	FoxloW Stud	30/12/73	TG

Red-backed Button-quail *Turnix maculosa*

2 12km northeast of Braidwood 30/11/73 M.D. Bruce

Painted Button-quail *Turnix varia*

'Regular Black Mtn, Mt Pleasant and in area Where Curtin now built' A/R 64/65

5 Mt Pleasant 1/5/64 IG
 1 Botanic Gardens (banded) 19/9/65 ?
 1 Mt Pleasant 12/12/65 IG
 1 Black Mtn 14/10/66 MC
 2 Black Mtn 6/11/66 BB, MC et al
 1 Black Mtn 18/1/67 BB
 1 Belconnen 7/1/67 BB
 1 Belconnen 11/9/67
 2 groups of IF and 2M Belconnen 12/9/67 SM
 1 Gundgenby 18/11/67 SM

'Regular March 68, two nests Nov-Dec 67 Black Mtn.' AIR 67/68.

'Regular Mt Pleasant Nov (68) - Jan (69). Black Mtn. July-Dec 68 A/R 68/69.

2 Black Mtn 7/10/71 SB
 1 Botanic Gardens 9/1/73 JS

Red-chested Button-quail *Turnix pyrrhotorax*

1 near library CSIRO Gungahlin 28/9/68 Frith et al
 The bird was caught and it was decided that it was not an escaped bird. 'The species previous claim to a place on the bird list is a record of a nest found near Braidwood in 1863' *CBN* 1(2):11.

1 F. collected at Bungendore 14/11/68 *CBN* 1(2):11
 Belconnen 29/1/69 A/R 68/69
 Lyneham 24/1/69 A/R 68/69
 Lyneham (Juvenile) 4/2/69 A/R 68/69

Buff-banded Rail *Rallus philippensis*

1 Yarralumla 28/10/62 Calaby (Lamm 1963)

'Last recorded Jan 64 as LBG filled' A/R 64/65

1 Molonglo R. flats 21/12/66 A/R 66/67

'Pair nested successfully LBG Nov-Dec 68' A/R 68/69

1 ANU 8-9/10/73 RE

Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis*

CSIRO 71 collected 19/3/55 near Hall (Lamm 1963)

1 Gudgenby 2/2/68 A/R 67/68

1 Fyshwick 12/7/70 JMcN

Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis*

3 Molonglo R. flats 8/10/67 A/R 67/68

1 Molonglo R. flats 24/11/68 A/R 68/69

1 Molonglo R. flats 12/1/69 A/R 68/69

1 Molonglo R. flats 16/2/69 A/R 68/69

Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis*
 2 Molonglo R. flats 5/1/69 JMcN 'First ACT record'
 1 Molonglo R. flats 12/1/69 JMcN
 2 Fyshwick 25/5/69 JMcN

Brolga *Grus rubicundus*
 1 Government House Aug or Sept 1965 seen by Mr Tyrrell,
 reported by JMcK 'Lake level was low'.

Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*
 'A few in Jan and Feb 65 as LBG filled. No records since'
 A/R 64/65
 1 Fyshwick 24/9/72 JMcN
 2 Fyshwick 30/9/72 JMcN
 2 Fyshwick 2/10/72 JMcN
 2 Fyshwick 7/10/72 JMcN
 2 Fyshwick 31/12/72 JMcN

Bush Thick-knee *Burhinus magnirostris*
 1 Balmain Cres Acton 6/11/65 Mr & Mrs Hodgson
 1 Weetangera Lane turnoff 9/7/67 MC
 to Belconnen
 2 Weetangera Lane turnoff 7/8/67 MC
 to Belconnen
 'heard calling' Burrinjuck Dam 69-70? MR CBN 1(6):3

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*
 'several records at Fairbairn Aerodrome and near Bungendore'
 A/R 64/65
 4 Government House 17/10/65 A/R 65/66
 4 Uriarra Homestead 17/10/65 A/R 65/66
 4 Molonglo R. flats 21/11/65 BB&RG
 4 Fyshwick 21/11/65 IB
 4 Kings Ave Bridge 1/4/66 IB
 2 Duntroon 9/4/66 IB
 'Non flying young. Kings Ave Bridge 24/2/66 A/R 65/66
 4 Molonglo R. flats 12/5/66 BB&RG
 8 Molonglo R. flats 20/11/66 BB
 22 Bungendore 25/4/67 JMcN
 1 Lake George 12/5/67 MC
 2 Gungahlin 6/6/67 MC
 21 Bungendore 17/6/67 JMcN
 2 Wells Station 29/8/67 MC
 1 Cooma Rd turnoff 5/5/68 BB
 1 Airport 28/9/68 BB
 1 Airport 29/9/68 BB
 1 Airport 6/10/68 BB

Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
 1 Molonglo R. Duntroon 18/11/65 BB&RG 'First ACT record'
 4 Fyshwick (Kelly's Farm) 4/11/70 AD'A
 1 Fyshwick 23/9/72 JMcN
 1 Fyshwick 24/9/72 JMcN

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*

'Reported in winter Lake George' A/R 64/65

30+	Lake George	29/8/65	JMcK
4	Lake George	9/4/67	BB
4	Lake George	25/4/67	A/R 66/67
1	Fyshwick	15/3/71	AD'A
500	Lake Bathurst	26/6/71	MC
1000	Lake Bathurst	4/7/71	MC
1000	Lake Bathurst	11/7/71	MC
15	Lake Bathurst	13/3/74	RE et al

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*'Not yet recorded from the ACT may be expected to appear'
(Lamm & White 1950)

?	Lake George	27/8/65	JMcK
2	Molonglo R. flats	16/22/65	BB&RG 'First ACT record'
1	Lake George	25/4/67	MC
?	Lake Bathurst	1/10/67	MC

'Small numbers at Lake George throughout the year' A/R 68/69.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

4	Lake George	27/8/65	JMcK
4	Lake Bathurst	?/10/65	?
2	East Basin LBG	14/9/65	SJW

'Recorded at Lake George from Aug 65 to Apr 66' A/R 65/66

'Singly or in pairs during Sept-Nov 65 Molonglo R' BB&RG

4	Lake George	30/1/66	JMcN
2	Lake Bathurst	11/7/66	RG
2	Molonglo R.	23/10/66	BB
2	Molonglo R.	10/12/66	BB
2	with young Lake George	11/3/67	A/R 66/67
'one taken by Whistling Kite'			2
2	Molonglo R.	12/2/67	BB&RG
2	Lake Bathurst	1/10/67	BB
2	Lake Bathurst	4/11/67	MC
2	Lake Bathurst	29/9/68	BB
30-40	Lake Bathurst	6/10/68	BB
5	Molonglo R. flats	23/10/68	SJW
2	Molonglo R. flats	13/11/68	SJW
2	Fyshwick	16/11/68	JMcN
2	Fyshwick	23/3/69	JMcN
2	Fyshwick	30/3/69	JMcN
2	Fyshwick	5/10/69	JMcN

Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

1	Kellys Swamp	2/12/67	JMcN 'First ACT record'
1	Kellys Swamp	14/1/68	JMcN
1	Kellys Swamp	28/1/68	JMcN
1	LBG	7/2/68	MC

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

1 Molonglo R. 21/11/65 BB&RG 'First ACT record'
 1 Molonglo R. 27/11/65 BB&RG
 1 Molonglo R. 23/10/66 BB&RG
 2 Molonglo R. 6/11/66 BB&RG

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*

1 Acacia Inlet LBG 1/11/66 AD'A 'First ACT record'
 1 Molonglo R. 28/8/67 BB
 1 Black Mtn Peninsula 23/3/68 GC
 1 East Basin LBG 22/3/71 AD'A
 1 Molonglo R. entrance LBG 25/1/72 SJW

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

2 Lake George Feb 63 CBN 6(3):80-81
 2 Lake George Nov 67

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

1 LBG 8/10/67 MC&TS
 2 Fyshwick 24/11/68 JMcN
 2 Fyshwick 5/1/69 JMcN
 2 Fyshwick 30/9/72 JMcN
 2 Fyshwick 1/10/72 JMcN

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

1 Jerrabomberra Ck 17/12/72 JMcN 'First ACT record'

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

1 Kellys Swamp 17/9/72 'First ACT record'

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

Lake George 14/9/64 'First record for area' AIR 64/65
 6 Lake Bathurst ?/12/66 JMCK
 4 Lake George 9/4/67 BB&RG
 1 Dairy Flat Rd 17/10/71 JMcN 'photograph'
 150 Lake Bathurst 13/3/74 RE et al

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

1 Fyshwick 12/1/69 JMcN 'First ACT record'
 2 Fyshwick 2/2/69 JMcN
 'Later inspection of photographs at the time casts doubt as to the identification, so these are best left as possible records' Status CBN 1979 4(7):21.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

1 LBG Jan 64 T. Lowe 'First ACT record' A/R 64/
 1 LBG 11/10/64 T. Lowe AIR 64/
 3 East Basin LBG 21/9/65 'then regularly Oct 65'
 (breeding plumage)
 ... cont.

15	East Basin LBG	30/10/65	
	'several other sightings during last month' Lake Bathurst	3/10/65	
2	Molonglo R.	25/9/65	BB&RG
2	Molonglo R.	6/11/65	BB&RG
5	Molonglo R.	13/11/65	BB&RG
1	Molonglo R.	27/11/65	BB&RG
10	Molonglo R.	10/1/67	RG(breeding plumage)
1	Lake George	24/6/67	JMcN
1	Lake George	17/6/67	A/R 66/67
1	Fyshwick	27/10/68	JMcN
2	Fyshwick	9/11/68	JMcN
2	Molonglo R.	10/11/68	BB
12	Molonglo R.	13/11/68	SJW
16	Fyshwick	16/11/68	JMcN
5	Fyshwick	24/11/68	JMcN
5	Fyshwick	30/11/68	JMcN
16	Lake Bathurst (breeding plumage)	5/12/70	V. Kowalski
2	Fyshwick	10/10/71	JMcN
2	Fyshwick	17/9/72	JMcN
1	Kellys Swamp	8/10/72	TG
3	Kellys Swamp	13-14/3/73	JMcN

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Fyshwick 17/9/72 'Seen by several observers.' 'First ACT record'

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

3	Lake George	2/9/64	JMcK
1	Yarralumla Bay	1/6/69	P.J. Fullagar

'First ACT record'

Spotted TurtleDove *Streptopelia chinensis*

1	attracted to aviary Gungahlin	30/10/66	Frith
1	attracted to aviary Braddon	15/6/67	JB
1	Botanic Gardens	1/10/73	M.Maher

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*

'A single bird found along the Murrumbidgee by Lamm 21 March 1948 ... others have been found close to ACT' (Lamm & White 1950)

	Duntroon	28/5/65	SJW
2	O'Connor	2/11/66	?
1	O'Connor	24/3/67	MC

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

1	Lyneham	2-5/12/66	MC
1	Burrinjuck Dam	?/5/68	MR CBN 1(6):3
1	[Canberra]	?/12/69	Status CBN 2(12):4
2	?	18/3/73	CBN 2(9):21

Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

2	Bushrangers Ck & New Chums Rd - Oct 65		
2	New Chums Rd	7/5/66	SJW
2	New Chums Rd (1 banded)	?/12/66	SJW
3	Bushrangers Ck	13/5/66	
1	Black Mtn (probable)	27/6/66	
1	New Chums Rd	3/10/66	AIR 66/67
1	New Chums Rd	29/4/67	BB et al
1	Black Mtn (nest)	Nov 67	A/R 67/68
1	Ranges	1/1/68	A/R 67/68
1	Ranges	15/1/68	A/R 67/68
1	Ranges	12/2/68	A/R 67/68
3	pairs Black Mtn	late/1/68	AIR 67/68
1	Ranges	?/6/69	AIR 68/69
4	Bushrangers Ck	9/10/71	MC
1	Nesting (2 eggs)	6/1/73	BB
	New Chums Rd		

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

'Reported in the north of the ACT Oct 65' A/R 65/66

6	Ginninderra	?/3/66	JB
2	Ginninderra	2/12/67	A/R 67/68
1	Gungahlin	10/2/68	A/R 67/68

'unconfirmed breeding record Dec 67-Jan 68'

Status CBN 2(12):5

1	O'Connor	31/10/68	A/R 68/69
1	Ginninderra	9/11/68	A/R 68/69
2	O'Connor	1/11/68	A/R 68/69
1	Mt Tinderry	15/12/68	A/R 68/69
1	(dead) Gungahlin	12/5/71	MC
1	Gungahlin	13/5/72	MC

Glossy BlackCockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

6	Tharwa/Tidbinbilla Rd	17/3/74	M. Scrivener
3	East of Michelago, top of Tinderry Range	24/3/74	BB&SB
3	Tinderry Range	20/4/74	
2	Tinderry Range	21/4/74	

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*

1	Gungahlin (feeding with Galahs)	17/10/71	MC
1	Jerrabomberra Ave Narrabundah (alone)	15/2/72	SJW
1	Narrabundah (flying With 14 White Cockatoos)	12/4/74	SJW
1	Weston Park	3/2/74	A. Pennefather

Pink Cockatoo *Cacatua leadbeateri*

2	near Gungahlin	7/5/65	G. Chapman
2	Black Mtn	14/11/65	SM
1	Red Hill	9/8/66	RB
1		18/2/67	JMcN

'Probably a small population has originated from escapees' A/R 65/66. 'The possibility that all sightings were aviary escapees cannot be discounted' Status 1974 CBN 2(12):9.

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

1 Lyneham 29/6/66 MC&BB
 1 Deakin 24/2/68 - 26/5/68A/R 67/68
 Tidbinbilla 23/6/73 JS

'Single birds and small flocks have been recorded in Canberra mostly during summer' Status 1974 CBN 2(12):6.

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

24 Rifle Range 12/5/66 MC&BB
 8 Botanic Gardens 31/10/71 GC&NC

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*

Flock Lake George 9/2/65 G. Chapman
 Flocks Gungahlin 1-3/3/65 JF
 Flocks Hackett ?/2/66
 Flocks Hackett ?/3/66
 Flock Ainslie ?/8/66
 1 Wells Station 25/9/66 MC&BB
 5-8 Weetangera Rd 22/12/66 BB
 6 Weetangera Rd 4/1/67 BB
 12 Black Mtn 14/1/67 SM
 1 Belconnen Dec 66-Jan 67 BB
 1 O'Connor 23/1/67 BB
 12 Narrabundah 15/1/67 SJW
 7 Black Mtn 4/2/67 SM
 4 O'Connor 16/2/67 MC
 2 O'Connor 31/10/67 A/R 67/68
 3 Narrabundah 5-12/11/67 A/R 67/68
 8 Black Mtn 25/11/68 SM
 2 Lees Creek 1/3/69 A/R 68/69

Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii*

1 Bungendore 24/9/66 A/R 66/67
 1 Hall 5/11/66 A/R 66/67
 1 Hall 10-11/12/66 A/R 66/67
 2 Lyneham 19/9/68 A/R 68/69
 4 Lyneham 28/9/68 A/R 68/69
 3 Ginninderra 1/11/68 A/R 68/69
 6 Hall ?/10/71 JF
 1 Melba 2/11/72 M. Fleming
 8 Barton & Hume Hwy junction 4/11/72 S. Kennedy
 2 Ginninderra 20/10/73 BB

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Pair Southwell Park 6/8/64
 Pair Northbourne Ave (near ABC) 13/2/65
 IG 1 Lyneham HS
 ('at school 18/7/66
 BB
 since July')
 1 Lyneham 10/8/66
 4 21/10/66 MC

Pair Lyneham 23/10/67 A/R 67/68
 7 O'Connor 22/10/68 CBN 1(2):12
 Flock Lake George Spring 68 CBN 1(2):12
 1 Deakin 5/2/69 A/R 68/69
 1 Hackett 6-8/3/71 D. Peters
 Pair Warramanga 3//6/72 J. Weekes
 up to 4 Warramanga ('over the last two years')

TG

Pair Weston 22/2/72 SJW
 12 Aerodrome Rd 9/1/73 P. Ormay
 Latham 10/7/72 CBN 2(9):21
 4 Curtin 20/10/73
 3 Murrumbateman 23/10/73 JF
 6 South of Gundaroo 1/1/74 SB

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

4 'outskirts Canberra' 21-22/10/66 A/R 66/67
 'In the woodlands near Lake George, small flocks are
 not uncommon' Spring 68 CBN 1(2):12.

15 Gundaroo Rd 27/1/69 A/R 68/69

Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*

9 Narrabundah 10/5/65 SJW
 30 Dickson 7/7/70 JMCK

Mallee Ringneck *Barnardius barnardi*

1 Campbell 27/6/67 J. Rowe

Blue Bonnet *Northiella haematogaster*

1 Campbell 11/11/66 ?
 1 Campbell 6/12/66 TS
 1 Campbell 2/9/67 A/R 67/68

Blue-winged Parrot *Neophema chrysostoma*

2 Chakola Rd north of Cooma 24/4/65 JF
 1 Weetangera 'First ACT record' 3/5/65 G. Chapman
 2 Ginninderra 6/6/65 G. Chapman
 1 Federal Golf Club (possible) 23/10/65 A/11 67/68
 1 Federal Golf Club (possible) 4/2/68 AIR 67/68

Blackeared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*

1 'heard calling' Black Mtn Sept-Oct 68 Status CBN
 2(12):14 1 Mt Pleasant Jan 69 Status CBN
 2(12):14 First record for the ACT was in 1946 (Lamm
 & White 1950)

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

1 Tidbinbilla 8/9/60 Status CBN 2(12)
 1 Lake George 26/11/66 P.J. Fullagar
 1 juv Black Mtn 17/2/69 H.A. Nix

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

1 Lake George 27/8/65 JMCK&IB
 1 Kambah Rd (possible) 7/9/69 MC
 (First ACT record was 13/2/49 Bungendore Rd) Lamm
 (1950).

White-throated Nightjar *Caprimulgus mystacalis*

- 1 Coura Creek near Bredbo - late 19th or early 20th century (North)
1 'hit by car' Gungahlin 5/2/59 'First ACT record'
1 Drive-in theatre late/2/65 JMCK
1 Canberra Grammar Red Hill 15-17/2/66 BB
1 Tidbinbilla Road (dead) 21/2/68 JB (CSIRO 10103)
1 Brindabella Rd near 12/12/73 MC, TG and GC
Blundells Ck Rd
2 dead on road from 8/12/73 GC
Queanbeyan to Captains Flat

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azurea*

- 2 Duntroon (Molonglo) 22-23/11/65 IB
'First ACT record'
2 Fyshwick 9/3/69 JMCK
1 East end LBG 30/7/72 Status CBN 2(12):17

Red-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon pyrrhopygia*

- 1 Tidbinbilla 2/12/68 GC
1 Between Lotus Bay and 17/9/72 W. Gregson
US Embassy
two prior records Nov 53 & Sept 62 Status CBN 1974 2(12):18.

White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosternum*

- Nesting pair Murrumbidgee River 13/1/72
near Tharwa - NH & M. Fleming 'First ACT record'
30 Stromlo Forest, Coppins Crossing/Uriarra Rd junction
2/2/71 TG (CBN (1)11:16-17)

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*

- 2 Narrabundah (1 adult, 30/5/65 SJW
1 juv)
1 O'Connor 6/6/65
2 Russell 9/4/66 IB
2 Boldrewood St 18/4/66 B. Temple Watts

Pink Robin *Petroica rodinogaster*

- 1 April 62 New Chums Rd 'First record for ACT' SJW
Lake George 23 Apr 63 'First record for NSW' SJW
'Taken regularly in mist nets between April and July 1962 in
the western ranges' (Lamm 1963)
'Regular visitor to Brindabella Range Winter ... an adult
male banded New Chums Rd winter 63 recaptured Winter 64' SJW
1 female Yarralumla 15/5/65 JMCK
1 adult male, banded, 21/6/65
New Chums Rd
1 New Chums Rd 20/8/66 A/R 66/67
1 male Uriarra Homestead 25/9/66 A/R 66/67
1 female Mt Franklin 11/12/66 MC
'Recorded at New Chums Rd and Lees Ck from 6/4/68 - 29/6/68'
A/R 67/68
1 female banded New Chums Rd 2/8/69 SJW

'This species has been mist netted for the 9th consecutive year' CBN 1(5):12 '20 birds banded in 1960s' SJW.

1 female Black Mtn ?/11/73 RE
Not seen (at New Chums rd) 1973 to 1976 SJW CBN 8(1):53.

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*
Bred along Murrumbidgee 1947-49. Lamm & Calaby (1950)

1 female banded Botanic Gdns 5/10/64 SJW
'First of species banded in ACT'
Pair Black Mtn 12/12/64
1 male banded New Chums Rd 14/11/65 'a most unusual habitat'
1 Cotter Reserve 17/4/66 11/11/67-
Pair Black Mtn, bred 6/3/68 SM
successfully

Recorded from New Chums Rd 3/12/67-10/2/68 A/R 67/68

Lees Creek 10/12/67 A/R 67/68

'Regular reports from 1/9/68-30/12/68 A/R 68/69

1 male, Botanic Gardens 10/3/73 GC
1 male, Black Mtn 7/4/73 JS
1 male, Black Mtn 20/5/73 JS
1 male, Mt Ainslie 22/7/73 JS
1 Black Mtn Peninsula 30/7/73 TG
I male, Mt Ainslie - 3&12/8/73 JS CBN 2(9):21
Majura saddle
1 Scullin 29/8/73 MC, BB&RG

Hooded Robin ~~Melanot~~

Bred Black Mtn early Sept 64
Bred Black Mtn Nov 65 A/R
2 Botanic Gardens 21/2/66
2 Botanic Gardens 13/9/66 occurrences
2 Cooma Hwy (3 miles from Point Hut turnoff) 13/10/66 JMcN LBG'
3-4 breeding pairs Black M also recorded
Botanic Gardens, Pine Island and Tharwa' A/R CBN 2(9):21
2 Tidbinbilla 9/6/68 A/R
3-4 pairs breeding Black M A/R
'Regular reports of single birds or pairs' A/R 64/65
3 Long Gully Rd 1/1/71 JMcN 65/66
6 Mugga Lane & Long Gully Rd 2/5/71 JMcN
2 Glencoe Homestead, Top Naas 9/5/71 NH
1 female Mugga Lane & Long Gully Rd 6/6/71 JMcN Belconnen,
3 Mugga Lane 9/1/72 JMcN 66/67
2 Black Mtn 20/5/73 JS 67/68
67/68 A/R
68/69

Jacky winter *microeca lk*

'Not common; bred near Mt Mugga irregular and not understood' Nov 64. in ACT
'Only noted on Mt Ainslie and A/R 64/65. at west end A/R 65/66
1 Belconnen 19/12/66 A/R 66/67
1 Lake George 17/6/67 A/R 66/67 A/R
'Regular reports between 8/7/68 and 9/9/68' 68/69

/Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*

'Observed in the Tidbinbilla Range May 62' (Lamm 63)
1 immature flew into window, Curtin taken to CSIRO' 28/3/67

Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*

2 Majura Rd pines 21/2/66 AD'A
4 Ginninderra (plus one 4/2/67 MC
dead in nest) - area where Fraser now built.
3 Ginninderra 17/8/67 BB
3 Ginninderra 12/12/67 BB
1 Ginninderra 1/11/68 BB
? Gidleigh Station 23/2/74 Prof. Johnson
Bungendore
8 Bungendore 16/3/74 GC

Origma *Origma solitaria*

8 Badger Hill (near Braidwood) 7/5/72 I. Gourlay

Chestnut-rumped Hylacola *Sericornis pyrrhopygius*

2 Badger Hill (near 7/5/72 I. Gourlay
Braidwood)
1 Black Mtn 7/10/73 M. Chuk
2 (possible) Tinderry Range 11/11/73 H. Bell, H.A. Nix

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

? Forest early/1/65 ?
1 O'Connor 19/10/65 GF&PA van Tets
2 ? 28/4/66 ?
? O'Connor 24-29/6/66 MC&BB
1 O'Connor 20-28/9/68 MC&BB
1 O'Connor 13/10/66 MC&BB
1 Lake George 17/6/67 JMcN
3 Botanic Gardens 25/10/67 A/R 67/68
1 Gudgenby 28/9/67 A/R 67/68
1 Cotter 24/12/67 A/R 67/68
1 Cotter 7/1/68 A/R 67/68
5 Yarralumla nursery 27/10/68
2 Botanic Gardens ?/8/73 JS
1 Botanic Gardens 9/9/73 C. Appleby
1 Botanic Gardens 7/10/73 C. Appleby
1 Botanic Gardens (banded) 14/10/73 C. Appleby
1 Botanic Gardens 13/11/73 JS

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

Recorded near Wee Jasper, March 66, has not been recorded in our area
for many years' A/R 65/66

Wee Jasper

1 Wee Jasper 13/3/66 JMCK
1 O'Connor 31/10/67 ?

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

1 juv Downer 15/1/68 'First ACT record'
A/R 67/68
1 Russell Hill 17/10/68 AIR 68/69
1 Botanic Gardens 26/1/69 AIR 68/69
Lake Burrinjuck 23/10/69 MR
1 Garran 'seen or calling 14/10/71 H. Elliott
everyday' to 5/11/71
Hughes 8/11/71 to 7/12/71 NH
2 adults, 2 juveniles 21/1/74 S. Davey
Hughes

Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia*

1 Mt Pleasant 1/9/64 IG
1 Pine Island (banded) 10/10/64 SJW
1 Rifle Range Dec 64-Jan 65 D. Wilson
2 flocks of 20+ Mt Pleasant 27/2/65
small numbers seen regularly at Hackett 26/4/65-9/5/65
IG small numbers seen regularly at Hackett 16/2/66-
2/4/66
2 O'Connor 21/12/66 MC
2 Belconnen 22/12/66 MC
2 Belconnen 15/12/66-19/12/66 BB
2 Weetangera Rd 4/1/67 BB
1 young fed by adults 7/1/67 BB 6
O'Connor
1 Belconnen 10/1/67 BB
'unsuccessful breeding attempt by one pair' A/R 66/67
small flock Downer 25-26/1/68 IG
2 O'Connor 27/10/68 BB
Pair Botanic Gardens 17-18/9/73 M. Clark
2 Ginns Gap (ACT/NSW border) 16/12/73 SB

Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*

8 Murrumbidgee River 4/12/1948 ... numbers increased to
over 20 6/2/49 ... 'one seen incubating, prior to these
records the Painted Honeyeater had not been found in the
ACT' (Lamm and White 1950)
Pair Casuarina Sands 14/1/71 MC et a/

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Phylidonyris melanops*

1 O'Connor (banded) 30-31/7/65 'First ACT record'
1 Narrabundah 6-7/9/68 SJW
1 Narrabundah daily 1/11/71-23/11/71 SJW
1 Torrens 23/8/73 CBN 2(9):22

Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

2 males 2.5 miles from Goulburn 1/9/72 J. Hone

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

2 Dickson 18/3/69 JMCK 'First ACT record'
and still the only record

Plum-headed Finch *Aidemosyne modesta*

'listed by Mathews but [does] not appear to be present in the ACT now' (Lamm & White 1950)

'A small flock, which included immature birds, was seen by Wilson near Uriarra Crossing on Jan 24, 1960, and by other ornithologists a few days later' (Lamm 1963)

1 Hughes (escapee?) 1/10/65 P. Bolger

Zebra Finch *Poephila guttata*

Flocks Mt Pleasant Feb/May/Aug 65 IG

4 Canberra 14/9/65

1 Molonglo R. -/11/65 BB&RG

26 Duntroun 12/2/66 DJ

3 Weetangera Lane 6-14/2/66 MC

4 Olympic Swimming Pool 30/7/66 MC

1 Lyneham 17/8/66 MC, BB&RG

2 Kings Ave Bridge 6/10/66 MC, BB&RG

'6 fairly regular near Nerang Pool' A/R 65/66

'small breeding population Regatta Point A/R 66/67

3 Wakefield Gardens 9/11/67 JMcN

7 Molonglo R. 14/1/68 JMcN

7 Molonglo R. 20/1/68 JMcN

7 Molonglo R. 7/6/68 JMcN

'Regular group at Regatta Point' A/R 67/68

'small flocks occasionally, including one breeding colony' A/R 68/69

10 Wollongong St Fyshwick 8/2/72 TG

Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*

10 Campbell 10/10/65 B. Temple Watts

2 Northbourne Ave 28/4/66 B. Temple Watts

'Two reports of single birds with flocks of White-browed Woodswallows *A. superciliosus* on 25/10/67 Rifle Range TS and Federal Golf Course' BB A/R 67/68

1 Black Mtn 26/10/68 SM

10 Gungahlin 15/10/71 MC

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

1 Yowani Golf Course 28/2/67 JB

1 Reid ?/?/68 CBN 1(2):12

1 Tuggeranong ?/?/68 CBN 1(2):12

1 Gungahlin 10/4/69 J.H. Calaby

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NOTES ON SOME EARLY BIRD RECORDS FOR THE ACT

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Received: 17 April 1987

Most early published ornithological observations in the ACT are well known and frequently quoted; papers such as those of Barrett (1922) and Jones (1928) give brief insights into the avifauna of the area in the 1920's, while the extensive work of D.W. Lamm and his associates (see Lamm 1964, Lamm & Calaby 1950, Lamm & White 1950, Lamm & Wilson 1966, and Lamm et al/ 1963), present more recent information. Other records of this period have been dealt with by Hermes (1982) and Veerman (1986). However, a previously overlooked paper by a Charles Daley, of Melbourne, (1946) contains additional, important information.

No dates are given, although the observations were probably made in the early to mid 1940's, and centre around Acton and the Molonglo River, with odd records from surrounding areas. Daley mentions 19 species, with references to another five or more groups or species, which are now unidentifiable. Three species are of particular interest, and these are discussed further here.

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*.

This species is a rare visitor to our area, and no other records exist for the ACT proper. Daley notes: 'Recently for about a week the boom of a Bittern sounded nightly from the Molonglo down by the golf links.' This can only refer to this species (also known as the Brown Bittern), as the only other local bittern, the Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* (not recorded until 1968 (Anon 1972)) is generally silent, and its calls, when given, are of a harsher, croaking quality. This record, therefore, is the first for Canberra and District (previously the earliest sighting was at Lake George in 1961 (Lamm 1964)), and to date, the only one for the ACT. The '? bittern' recorded by G.M. Mathews in the early 1940's (Veerman 1986) could refer to either species.

Glossy BlackCockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

Most comprehensive early lists (Hermes 1982, Mathews 1943, Veerman 1986), include the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus magnificus*, but these are clearly mis-identifications for the Glossy Black-Cockatoo which Daley states '... appears once in a while'. Prior to the location of Daley's article, the earliest confirmed records of the species in the Canberra District was 1974 (Baker & Bennett 1974, McRae 1974, Scrivenor 1974).

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

Daley records this species as 'rarer [than the Willie Wagtail]' and his observation predates Lamm and White (1950) by four years as the first published record for the ACT.

The following is a list of the other sixteen identifiable species mentioned by Daley; nomenclature has been altered to fit current standards: White-faced Heron, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Galah, Laughing Kookaburra, Superb Lyrebird, Scarlet Robin, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Willie Wagtail, Clamorous Reed-Warbler, Superb Fairy-wren, Noisy Miner, White-fronted Chat, Australian Magpie-Lark, Australian Magpie and Grey Currawong.

Unidentifiable names used were: 'Shag', 'Wildfowl', 'Parrots', 'Smaller Parrots', 'Mopoke', (unfortunately referable to either Southern Boobook or Tawny Frogmouth). He states: 'Introduced birds have as yet been inconspicuous at Canberra' and none are listed by Daley.

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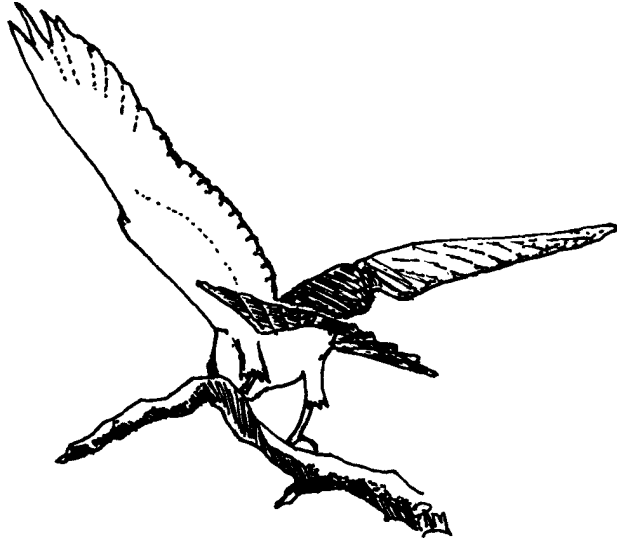
NOTES ON AUSTRALIAN BIRDS RAIN AND FOLIAGE BATHING

IT'S ONLY A HOBBY - OBSERVATIONS ON AUSTRALIAN HOBBY FOLIAGE BATHING

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Further to the discussion on Grey Goshawk Rainbathing (Veerman 1987), specifically the observation that bathing by raptors is rarely reported, we offer a few notes on the presumed bathing habits of a local raptor.

The bird pictured below (drawing by RAM, from a photograph by RAM) is a juvenile female Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis* 20 days after fledging. That day (17 January 1986) was one of the light rain showers, the first substantial precipitation for more than 20 days. A few minutes previously this bird had been flying at moderately fast speed through the eucalypt scrub at canopy height apparently deliberately colliding with bunches of wet leaves and collecting their moisture. She then spent the next three or four minutes, as pictured, with spread wings drying off. The drying posture used is similar to the sunning posture described and illustrated in Cade (1982) for another hobby, the Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis*.



Drying Posture of Australian Hobby

Seven years of watching Hobbies has produced three other observations which may be connected with this form of bathing: the first concerning an adult and the other two concerning two post-fledging young birds. In none of these four occasions were the birds observed actually preening.

The first occurred one morning of heavy fog in the 1981-2 breeding season when the nestlings were 25 days old. The arrival of the male parent at the nest freed the female for her usual morning flight but this time instead of leaving the area immediately she made four sweeping circles through the dripping scrub before disappearing from view. ECM was then unsure of any significance of this action.

The next breeding season ECM observed the intense training that young Hobbies undergo in their first two weeks after fledging. On the 10th to 12th days the three juvenile birds, accompanied by an adult were observed flying through the canopy and down almost to ground level over an open paddock of *Phalaris* grass. No doubt this was good training in manoeuvrability but the young were observed flicking their wings against the wet vegetation in the manner of the young female described initially. In 1984 a juvenile was observed ten days after fledging, flying along a wet high-tension electricity wire flicking at it with its wings.

Such aerial bathing could be expected in Hobbies, which spend most of their time either flying or perched in treetops and appear reluctant to come to the ground. Indeed, the active foliage bathing noted here is appropriate for this active species, compared with the immersion bathing noted for the Collared Sparrowhawk (Watts 1979 and Mooney 1984) and the Osprey (Bell 1980) and the passive rainbathing noted in the Goshawk (Knight 1976 and Higgins 1987) and suggested (Veerman 1987) as a possible ruse. Does anyone else have relevant observations on bathing behaviour of hawks?

By contrast V. and J. Stevenson (1985), reported observing a Hobby alight on the surface of a lake. This may have been bathing behaviour, which seems unlikely. The context of the observation may also be consistent with exhaustion or an attempt at predation on some small aquatic animal not seen by the observers.

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COCKATOOS RAIN AND FOLIAGE BATHING

Philip Veerman

The late afternoons of 18 and 19 January 1988 saw short rainstorms in Canberra which broke a long hot, dry period. Like many others must have, I observed Galahs *Cacatua roseicapilla* and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos *C. galerita* engaged in their typical noisy rainbathing antics. Whilst the Galahs mostly did this perched and swinging from the powerlines, the cockatoos perched in the Eucalypts. One Cockatoo, screeching and hanging upside-down in the tree, released its grip and half flew, half tumbled, crashing heavily into a lower clump of wet leaves, still upside-down it continued to flap its wings and then repeated the procedure. It then flew away. It thus combined rain bathing with foliage bathing.

BLACK-FACED CUCKOO SHRIKES RAIN BATHING

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Received: 11 November 1987

During a very violent thunderstorm, late in 1986, I observed a pair of Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes *Coracina novaehollandiae* rain bathing on powerlines outside my house. The birds changed their position regularly, first leaning forward with their wings held somewhat away from their body, at an angle of some 40 degrees (more remarkable for the fact that the storm was accompanied by violent wind gusts which made maintaining balance extremely difficult), then alternatively lifting their wings so the rain struck the wing underside and side of their bodies. The bathing behaviour was carried out for a period of some ten minutes.

NEW HOLLAND HONEYEATERS FOLIAGE BATHING

Leonie Andrews

On 7 November 1987, on the edge of Murrumurang National Park bordering Maloney's Beach, I observed several New Holland Honeyeaters *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae* using the rain-soaked foliage of *Casuarina litoralis* to bath. The birds would fly into the tree and move through the dense foliage getting quite wet in the process, then fly out to a nearby sapling where they unruffled their plumage before repeating the process several more times.

Philip Veerman

Whilst various small birds, engage in foliage bathing, the usual method is immersion bathing (standing in water and doing a stereotype fluttering). In contrast, honeyeaters normally plunge bathe, that is fly over deeper water and drop in, then fly off. There are prior records of one honeyeater species engaging in foliage bathing. F.T. Morris (1976 *Aust Bird Watcher* 6:183), V. Hubregtse (1987 *The Bird Observer* 665:71) and M. MacNevin (1988 *The Bird Observer* 672:22) all describe this behaviour by the Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata* (in a Lillypilly and gum tree, a gum tree both in Melbourne and a Kaffir bean tree in Rockhampton, respectively).

There is a scattering of records of other birds foliage bathing or rain bathing: M. MacNevin also noted Rainbow Lorikeets *Trichoglossus haematodus*, a Butcherbird *Cracticus* sp. and Southern Figbirds *Sphecotheres viridis* "showering in the damp leaves of the *Schotia brachypetala*"; J.N. Yates (1982, *Sunbird* 12:55) noted more exaggerated rain-bathing behaviour in Southern Figbirds, in which the birds perched upside-down during heavy showers; S. Bennett and N. Hermes (1974 *CBN* 2(11):1) noted a female Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum* foliage bathing; I have observed Silvereyes *Zosterops lateralis* foliage bathing; T. Stokes (1980 *CBN* 5(4):27) observed foliage bathing by Spangled Drongos *Dicrurus hottentottus* and Brown Thornbills *Acanthiza pusilla*; K. Hawkey (1985 *The Bird Observer* 645:102) reported on Galahs rainbathing, including hanging upside down; P. Green (1985 *The Bird Observer* 641:58) noted a Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes* rain-bathing on the ground by lying on the ground with upper side, Wing raised. H.J. Frith (1982 *Pigeons and Doves of Australia*) states "Most pigeons frequently bathe in the rain and in the totally arboreal species no other method is known". He then describes and provides illustrations of the postures used.

R.E. Vellenga (1965 *Aust. Bird Watcher* 2:144-146) in her discussion of the bathing of birds, noted that whilst birds may bathe in very cold weather, in very cold water, also during light rain or mist, they "do not enter the water on very windy days or during heavy rain." One can wonder whether this is for reasons of thermo-regulation or perhaps it is just unnecessary. Maybe deliberate (or enforced) rain bathing and foliage bathing by birds is more common than the few published records would suggest. It may also be both an adaptation to dry country where surface water is scarce and rain-forest where birds of the canopy rarely come to ground level. Clearly there is scope for many more records of this nature and more complete indexing of newsletters and journals so that any conclusions may be drawn from a wider sample.

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