

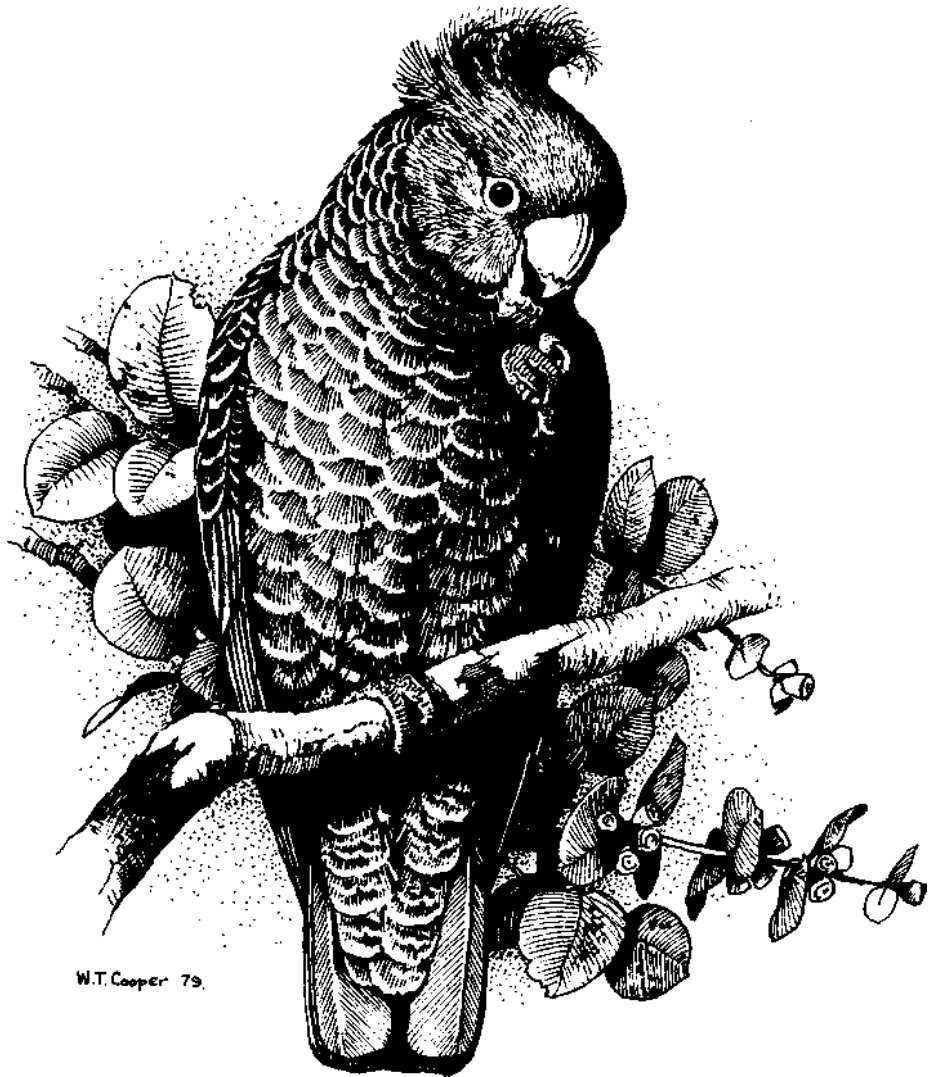
ISSN 0314-8211

# CANBERRA BIRD NOTES

Volume 17  
Number 4  
December 1992

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Registered by Australia Post - publication No NBH 0255



W.T. Cooper 79.

**CANBERRA ORNITHOLOGISTS GROUP INC.**

P.O. Box 301, Civic Square, ACT 2608

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(Continued inside back cover)

## WHITE'S THRUSH IN THE STROMLO PINE FOREST, ACT - AND RELATED MATTERS

*Geoffrey Dabb*

On the afternoon of 2 August 1992 while walking the dog in the part of the Stromlo pine forest immediately to the east (Canberra side) of the junction of Uriarra Road and Cotter Road I came across a pair of White's Thrushes *Zoothera dauma*. They were in an area of midsize Monterey Pine *Pinus radiata*, most trees being delimbed to 2 m or more above ground. The birds were feeding at the foot of one tree and flew up into the lower branches of one behind where they perched motionless as I approached to 6 or 7 m. The ground cover in that area was low grass and pine needles with dead pine limbs and some scattered shrub growth (Firethorn *Pyracantha* sp.), not enough to provide much concealment.

Looking for the birds in the afternoon two weeks later (16 August) I found one feeding on earthworms by a decaying fallen pine about 100 m from the previous spot. It ran under a patch of Firethorn scrub giving intermittent warning calls - a clear 1 or 2 syllable whistle.

The first sighting was towards the end of a dryish spell (for the Canberra winter). The second was soon after a couple of days of moderately heavy rain.

### **Status and distribution**

The observed birds were probably in winter feeding habitat, as the non-breeding movement of this species to dryer or more open conditions is well-known. Indeed, Gould noticed it on his visit to Australia in 1838-1840: "During the summer it ascends high up the mountain sides, but in winter it descends to the lower districts, the outskirts of the forests, and occasionally visits the gardens of the settlers" (Gould 1865). That pattern of movement, although with some variation in the details, is mentioned in most Australian guides and references (Frith 1976; Pizzey 1980; Simpson and Day 1984; Slater et al. 1986; Boles et al. 1988).

McComas Taylor et al. (1992) designates the species in relation to the ACT as an "uncommon breeding altitudinal migrant and says it is observed in (ACT) low-altitude locations only in winter.

These movements do not seem to be completely understood e.g. exactly where the Canberra-observed birds travel to or from and what differentiates them from the birds that remain year-round in breeding habitat. It is relevant therefore to note the complexity of the Asian distribution for the species. Some populations, while not markedly migratory, range seasonally between different kinds of habitats (Ali and Ripley 1987; Brazil 1991) - e.g. Japanese birds turn up in winter in parks and gardens in the middle of Tokyo. Other Asian populations are short- or medium-range north-south migrants (Harrison 1982; Flint et al 1984; De Schauensee 1984; Ali and Ripley



1987; Brazil 1991). On top of this, birds from the Siberian population that normally winters in south-eastern Asia occasionally turn up in western Europe where the species is designated, typically, as "rare winter visitor" (e.g. Bruun et al. 1986).

### **The pine forest connection**

It seems reasonable to assume that the birds I saw were in the pine forest over at least the two week period. McComas Taylor et al. (1992) mentions Stromlo among other sites of previous observations, although their map indicates its occurrence there to be the same as inside Parliament House i.e. nil to minimal. The species was not recorded during an intensive 1974 survey of birds in pine plantations east of Canberra, although significantly that was limited to summer months (Davidson 1976). On the other hand Australian birds have been recorded as breeding in plantations of introduced pine (Blakers et al. (1984) citing RAOU Nest Record Scheme; also Boles et al. (1988) possibly relying on same record(s)).

The principal habitat of the Siberian breeders is *taiga* i.e. conifer forest, where the principal food is earthworms (Flint et al. 1984; Knystautas 1987). If *Z. dauma* is, as the above evidence suggests, one of those Australian species comfortable in exotic pine (whether or not needing some underscrub), there are no doubt food supply reasons for it.

### **The "Split"**

Whatever might be made of the Asian populations (and Howard and Moore (1980) list 13 subspecies between the Urals and the Solomon), it is currently proposed to separate (or rather re-separate) the Australian birds from them. Within Australia, a northern and a southern species have been proposed with an overlap somewhere near and south of Brisbane and an isolated outpost of the southern one in north east Queensland (Ford 1983). The ACT birds would, of course, belong to the southern species.

The proposed split has created some awkwardness in the popular literature. Boles et al. (1988) and Slater et al. (1986 and 1989) simply accept the two new species - although their maps differ on the status of the north east Queensland group. Morcombe (1986) does likewise. Pizzey (1991) and Rogers et al. (1990) do not but describe the proposed split as an alternative view. Others, including McComas Taylor et al. (1992) and *Canberra Bird Notes*, regard *Zoothera dauma* as the only Australian *Zoothera* species pending authoritative recognition of the proposed split. Given the complexity of the group under review, caution seems justified as local solutions can create new problems.

Confused bystanders can only hope that the treatment by the professionals of the Australian end of a continuous complex will not get out of kilter with that given to the rest of it.

## End of a European connection?

If the proposed Australian species are authoritatively recognised, the connection thus severed would deserve comment on a couple of grounds, albeit non-scientific ones.

Firstly, our bird(s) would of course no longer be "White's Thrush" - the common name for *Z. dauma* in Australia preferred by the RAOU in 1978 (Schodde et al. 1978). That choice over several other local names and various other "English" names for the bird across its Asian range maintained consistency with British practice. The commemorated "White" was Gilbert White (1720-1793), the English naturalist famous for *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*. However, the insistence on the eponym for Britain's "rare winter visitor" already known from elsewhere was an act of nomenclatural imperialism:

"The first time that it was met with in England was in 1828, when a specimen obtained in Hampshire was described as *Turdus whitei* by Eyton, who believed it to be a new species, and named it in honour of Gilbert White of Selborne. The title of White's Thrush, thus acquired, has been universally recognised by British naturalists, and may well commemorate the name of an observer of bird-life, than whom no one is more venerated in this country at the present day." (Bowdler Sharpe 1896). (Those who like the Union Jack on the Australian flag will shed a tear at a reversal.)

Secondly, very few passerine species, introductions apart, are shared between Australia and Europe. For the Canberra area the deletion of White's Thrush from the list would leave Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* as the only passerine, naturally occurring, that the local area shares with Europe.

## Stromlo birds - and earthworms

Getting back to that particular area of Stromlo pine forest, although it is not particularly rich in birds it is by no means bare of them. Eastern Yellow Robins *Eopsaltria australis*, White-browed Scrubwrens *Sericornis frontalis* and Grey Shrike-thrushes *Colluricincla harmonica* are common. Surprisingly common, also are Speckled Warblers *S. sagittatus*, often to be found in mixed insect-hunting parties with Eastern Yellow Robins, White-browed Scrubwrens, and Brown Thornbills *Acanthiza pusilla* or Yellow-rumped Thornbills *A. chrysorrhoa*. Blackbirds *Turdus merula* are frequently around the Firethorn - also, unsurprisingly, much favoured by Crimson Rosellas *Platycercus elegans*. Platoons of White-winged Choughs *Corcorax melanorhamphos* are particularly common and active feeders and one would imagine they could be stiff competition as general foragers for the ground-feeding thrush.

On the other hand, there is the earthworm factor. As a feeder principally on earthworms (e.g. Boles et al. 1988) the thrush may be able to target concentrations of these in a way White-winged Choughs or even Blackbirds do not and don't need to. Casual observation shows its effective technique for this: moving large chunks of litter

(larger than Blackbirds do?); listening (more acutely?). Boles mentions anecdotally. other specialised techniques: "vibrating"; skilful extraction; collecting. As earth-worms are themselves of seasonal and patchy occurrence around Canberra there may well be a strong link between such occurrence and the bird's local movements and favoured haunts.

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## BLACK SWAN STAND-OFF OR "SWIM-OFF" - TERRITORIAL INTERACTION BETWEEN MALE BLACK SWANS

Jenny Bounds

At Shortland Wetland Centre, Newcastle, NSW, on 12 July 1992, I observed an interesting territorial interaction between which, based on their behaviour. I assumed to be two male Black Swans *Cygnus atratus*. Although the behaviour is consistent with that described in Marchant and Higgins (1990) and took place outside of the region usually covered by *Canberra Bird Notes*. it is hoped the observation will stimulate members to observe, record, and where appropriate, publish information about the behaviour of birds in our local area.

The scene was the paperbark *Melaleuca* sp. swamp on the western side of Shortland, where there were numerous waterbirds; Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopica*, spoonbills *Platalea* sp., Grey Teal *Anas gibberifrons*, Pacific Black Duck *A. superciliosa*, Chestnut Teal *A. castanea*, to name a few; both on the water and in the trees.

One pair of swans was nesting on the exposed root system of a paperbark, about 21 m from the edge of the swamp; the female sitting on the nest, presumably on eggs, the male patrolling in open water nearby. A second swan family with several small cygnets swam slowly past, about 21 m from the nesting bird.

The males of both pairs immediately moved towards each other, neck feathers bristling and necks straight; they met, swimming about 30 cm apart, parallel and around each other, but never presenting their rears to each other. This stand-off or "swim-off" continued for about five minutes, neither one seemed willing to break it off. One male, the one with the brood, seemed to be smaller than the other as it did not have the same neck height.

The female on the nest became amused, but the other female with the brood continued to swim on quite unconcerned and waited with the cygnets at a distance, out of view of the nesting female but still within the view of the males.

Finally, it was all over in a moment. Simultaneously the two males swam away from each other, neck feathers still bristling. The male with the cygnets swam slowly to its family. The male with the female on the nest swam slowly back to the nest, where the pair engaged in triumphal bugling and head/neck raising in formal greeting.

Such activity must occur many times a day in a densely populated area such as this swamp. In the general area, there were at least four groups of swans with cygnets, along with many other waterbirds, although the latter were not generally nesting.

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*Jenny Bounds, PO Box 403, WODENACT 2606*

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**COMMENTS ON DAVID McDONALD'S PAPER "MORPHS, PHASES AND FORMS: SEMANTIC OR FACTUAL CONFUSION?" (CBN 17(3): 77-81)**

*Graham Pizzey*

As author of one of the field guides mentioned I must immediately say that Mr McDonald has done us a service by highlighting a persistent error in the use of the word "phase" in respect of such species as the Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*, Eastern Reef Egret *Ardea sacra* – and, for that matter, Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*. He has done so in an informative way that will help future authors decide which terms they should use: "phase", "morph" or "form".

When I prepared the original text for my guide (completed in 1977), I did consider abandoning "phase" in favour of the more correct "morph", where appropriate, but decided, I believe correctly, that use of a word unfamiliar to the general public would cause more confusion than the continued use of "phase", zoologically insanitary though "phase" may have been.

Remember that the word "phase" had then been in use for at least seventy years, by authors from A.J. Campbell to Neville Cayley, D.L, Serventy, David Fleay, J.D. Macdonald, H.J. Frith and others; in applications that would be judged incorrect by the criteria David McDonald proposes.

Bearing in mind that I wanted a wide cross-section of the public to use my book, I believe my decision to continue to use "phase" rather than "morph" was justified.

Fifteen years on it is a different matter. As McDonald points out, several major references have already begun to use "morph" where appropriate and others are bound to do so. My revised guide will be among them.

This more correct state of affairs will be due in large part to David McDonald's timely, sensible, and informative paper.

*Graham Pizzey, AM, DUNKELD VIC 3294*

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## A REPORT ON THE CAMPAIGN AND SUBMISSION TO PRESERVE MULLIGAN'S FLAT, GUNGAHLIN, ACT

*Bruce Lindenmayer*

In mid 1991, COG's attention was drawn to the impending development of the northern area of Gungahlin and the potential fragmentation and destruction of prime bird habitat at Mulligan's Flat.

I had early consultations with Rodney Falconer (Director, Conservation Council of the South-East Region and Canberra) who confirmed that although the draft plans for development included the preservation of the northern forested and hilly area along the NSW border, there would be extensive fragmentation and development of the southern flatter area of lowland forest, woodland and grassland - areas which, in the view of Rodney and myself, were of greater conservation significance. Of particular concern was a proposed ring road which would bisect the southern area and obliterate sections of the well preserved route of a 19th century road which contains many old gum trees with well developed hollows and has both conservation and historic value.

We organised a series of visits to the area with appropriate politicians and ACT government officials. Rodney Falconer and Jenny Bounds visited the area with Bill Wood, the ACT Environment Minister, and Rodney and I made subsequent visits with Michael Moore MLA and John Langmore MP. All were impressed with the environment at Mulligan's Flat - particularly John Langmore (an avid bird watcher and COG member) who, during the course of his visit, had his first ever sighting of a Western Gerygone, *Gerygone fusca*! On these visits we were well supported by representatives of the ACT Herpetological Association (ACTHA), Field Naturalists Association of Canberra (FNAC), National Parks Association (NPA), and Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP).

Given the number of planning, conservation, natural history, and scientific groups interested in Mulligan's Flat; the clear conservation sensitivity of the area; and the need for early planning decisions; Kevin Frawley of the National Capital Planning Authority (the federal body responsible for planning in the ACT) and also a member of the NPA, organised a "Grand Tour" of the area on 15 September by fifteen planners, agriculturists, scientists and representatives of natural history and conservation groups. Seven hours were spent walking over much of the area, including a paddock of Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra* to the north of the Gundaroo Road. David Purchase and I represented COG on this occasion. The visit gave us the opportunity to make contacts, get some indication of what the planners had in mind, and to argue our case. This visit, in my view, had a major bearing on subsequent events. It was clear that the planners appreciated the natural and cultural values of Mulligan's Flat, but needed a strong submission to their political masters to change current attitudes to what should be preserved. Our case was bolstered by the chance discovery of a rare Black Shingleback *Trachydosaurus rugosus*, which was closely viewed by all present.

Following this outing and particularly our discussions with staff of the Wildlife Research Unit of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service, it was decided to prepare a major submission, based in outline on one previously prepared by five ACT natural history and conservation groups (including COG) which resulted in the trail-bike track at Mt Stromlo being closed and moved to a less sensitive area, I agreed to coordinate and edit the submission, draft the summary and recommendations, prepare the bird section, and draft sections on the history, mammals, reptiles, frogs, invertebrates, and planning proposals from information provided by other groups and individuals. Rodney Falconer drafted the sections on topography, vegetation, geology, and soils, and prepared the maps. Valuable input was provided by Will Osborne and Kruno Kuclic (reptiles, mammals, and frogs), Helen Cooke and Kevin Frawley (history and planning), and Brendan Lepschi (plants and birds). The bird chapter used data from the COG Database (obtained from McComas Taylor). Jenny Bounds, Brendan Lepschi, David Pfanner, David Purchase and Philip Veerman reviewed the text of the bird section, and made useful suggestions on layout and approach.

An ad hoc working party from the various participating groups had several meetings to coordinate the work associated with the submission and to organise its launch, Kevin Frawley arranged with Roger Green (of the desktop publishers "Green Words" who produce NPA's newsletter) to produce the final copies of the submission using computer floppy disks prepared by Rodney Falconer and me. Kevin arranged separately for coloured photocopies of plates for 20 VIP copies of the report. Approximately 100 black and white reports were printed. The report was titled "The Natural and Cultural Values of Mulligan's Flat, Gungahlin, ACT: A Nature Reserve Proposal."

Production and launch costs were shared 30% each by COG and NPA, and 10% each by ACTHA, Canberra Archaeological Society, FNAC, and SGAP. We did not ask the impoverished Conservation Council of the South-East Region and Canberra to contribute financially.

On 27 September, Bill Wood told me that he had directed his planning organisation to finalise the boundaries for the new area by the end of October. Jacqui Rees (President, Conservation Council of the South-East Region and Canberra) told me that she and Rodney have had several recent meetings with Bill Wood at which the matter has been discussed.

In late 1992, Rodney Falconer, George Tomlin (the Chief Planner for the ACT), officers from the ACT Planning Authority and ACT Parks and Conservation Service, and I, visited the area to examine the proposed boundaries of the reserve. This was to ensure the areas of most natural and cultural significance had been included while at the same time leaving adequate land for housing. There was general agreement on site that this had been achieved.

A draft plan prepared by the ACT Planning Authority will be submitted for public comment in early 1993, and all being well, it is expected the reserve will be gazetted in late 1993.

### **Some observations:**

Given the current and probable future growth in the ACT region, the Mulligan's Flat campaign is unlikely to be an isolated event. Therefore, it is worth listing the following useful lessons gained from the campaign:

1. Conservation and Natural History Groups can achieve important results for conservation in the ACT if they are prepared to put in the work.
2. A multi-group approach with a pooling of knowledge is essential.
3. If a submission is prepared it needs to be well-written and produced, desirably with glossy copies for VIPs and the media.
4. Good lobbying with politicians both before and after the submission is essential.
5. The involvement and role of the Conservation Council of the South-East Region and Canberra is absolutely vital in making contacts and particularly in the follow-up stage to ensure that political undertakings are met in the spirit as well as the letter.
6. The campaign has demonstrated the usefulness of the COG Database in providing detailed data for such a program.

*Bruce Lindenmayer, President Canberra Ornithologists Group,  
PO Box 301, CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608*

### **ODD OB**

#### **PIED CURRAWONGS EATING RUBBER BANDS**

*Dewi Prawiradilaga*

Pied Currawongs *Strepera graculina* are omnivorous birds. Their diet ranges from plants and invertebrates like insects, snails and earthworms, to vertebrates such as other bird species and small mammals. They also regurgitate the undigested food as pellets. As a part of my study on the feeding ecology of the Pied Currawong I have been collecting pellets from nests in the campus of the Australian National University, and in the Australian National Botanic Gardens. Five pellets, each containing a rubber band, were collected from two nests in the campus of the university on 29 October and 26 November 1992, and from a nest in the botanic gardens on 20 and 25 November 1992. There is no doubt that the currawongs in both study areas feed on food scraps from bins and forage on the ground. Perhaps the birds which ate the rubber bands thought they could have been earthworms.

*Dewi Prawiradilaga, Division of Botany and Zoology,  
ANU, ACTON ACT 2601*

## OUT AND ABOUT

G. Tibicen

A great deal of publicity is now being given to the problem of domestic cats and their toll on native wildlife. This is not just an Australian problem but a worldwide one. A recent article in the journal of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (*Observer* No. 91 Spring/Summer 1991) gave a conservative figure of 4.4 million birds being killed DAILY by cats in the USA. It also quoted the case of five cats taken to Marion Island in the sub-Antarctic Indian Ocean in 1949 to control mice at the new meteorological station. They were the only cats present. In 1975 a study estimated that the 2200 cats which were by then on the island (nearly 40 per square mile, or 15 per square kilometre) were killing 600,000 seabirds (mostly prions and petrels) annually. And cats look so harmless and purr so prettily! There was also an article in a recent issue of the RAOU's magazine *Wingspan* which quoted some Queensland government sharpshooters patrolling 20 km along each of three creeks. They shot 420 cats in three days, including 170 in one day, 40 in one night, and 23 in one hour.

Bird-banding is an important way of finding out more about a bird's lifestyle and behaviour. It has been one of the basic tools of ornithology for many years and the results from banding studies have played an essential role in the conservation of many birds. However, there is a proven risk to the birds involved and even the most competent banders can cause casualties because of their activities. In order to reduce the risk to birds, Australia has a strict licensing system which requires banders to undergo appropriate training before being allowed to trap and handle birds.

Recently I discovered that some banders measure the wing-span of birds. This would be a difficult measurement to replicate between banders and, more importantly, there is a high risk of injury to the bird. What is more, it cannot be used on museum specimens. What then, is the value of this measurement? Another matter which disturbs me is the growing tendency at "open days", bird watching trips, and similar events for banders to give demonstrations of mist-netting (a commonly used method of capturing birds) and banding so that casual observers can see (and hold) birds in the hand. This is often done in the name of "education". I have some difficulty with this concept as the more birds that are trapped and handled, the more there are that are going to be injured or killed. I can accept this when there is an ultimate benefit to science and conservation, but when mist-netting and banding are carried out, with the inevitable casualties, simply for the vicarious pleasure of observers, I feel it is in a similar category (although not as extreme) as bullfighting.

The following item from the *Sydney Morning Herald* dated 11 February 1992 was recently sent to me by a reader:

### **73 messages from on high sent to Keating**

Among those amused by Paul Keating's comment on Sunday that he was about serious government, not "doing bird calls" or "cooing" around the media, was the Governor-General. Bill Hayden.

Following the comment, on the Nine Network's *Sunday* program, Bill sent Paul a tape, *Bird Songs of Canberra*, which records the calls of 73 of the most commonly heard species of the Canberra region.

With the tape, Bill sent a note to the effect that the Prime Minister may find it useful during his next television appearance.

It is understood His Excellency found the tape in Government House when he moved in.

No hawks feature on the tape, but there are a number of species one could associate with the seat of government - several types of Warbler, no fewer than five types of Cuckoo, the Skylark, and the Galah (very common in the national capital).

Oh, and a favourite of Mr Keating's, the Dollar Bird.

Previously in "Out and About" I have commented on the lack of interest by Field and Game Associations in the question of lead poisoning in waterfowl. Overseas the problems caused by lead shot lying on the bottom of wetlands being ingested by waterfowl and causing their death is well known and documented. In Australia the position is less well documented. However, I was shown the results of a small survey conducted by the Queensland Field and Game Association of lead shot content in waterfowl gizzards. The survey of 373 gizzards was conducted over a large area of south-east Queensland. Although no lead shot was found the authors of the report stated that in south-east Queensland the majority of hunting groups consist of from two to four hunters, and seldom exceed a group of ten. In other Australian states three to four hundred shooters could be on a single impoundment or wetland. It is good to see at least some groups of shooters are prepared to carry out research on their prey species.

Last April I heard officially on the ABC News that Paradise Parrots *Psephotus pulcherrimus* had recently been located in Queensland. Before then I had heard conflicting rumours that Paradise Parrots had been seen. Since then, however, I have heard nothing more. Can any reader enlighten me (via the editors) as to what was located? Was it mistaken identity or a hybrid?

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## LETTER TO THE EDITORS

### CONTROL OF INTRODUCED BIRDS

16 November 1992

We are all aware of the "poaching" role played by non-indigenous birds in the habitat of our local wildlife and the damage that some cause to property. Populations of Common Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* and Common Mynas *Acridotheres tristis* are continuously competing with native birds for nesting sites. Feral Pigeons *Columba livia* cause flooding in some large buildings in downpours with nesting material and bodies blocking downpipes. The nests of House Sparrows *Passer domesticus* and Common Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* are a fire hazard in roofs creating ignition points from sparks.

Although these introduced species are "controlled" under the Nature Conservation Act 1980, they are not afforded the same protection as wildlife, defined under the Act as plants and animals indigenous to Australia. Therefore they can be subject to eradication techniques.

All methods of disposal must be legal and humane and one possible method of disposing of "non-wildlife" birds is to set up a ladder to their nest, let them settle in for the night, sneak up after dark and plug the entrance with a wad of cloth. The birds may then be removed by holding a butterfly net or a fish landing net over the entrance, removing the plug and chasing them into the net with a few taps over the nest area.

Remember that both male and female Common Starlings and possibly other species, spend the night in the nest, so replace the plug before disposing of the first bird. Some birds will sit tight no matter how much you bang and rattle over the hollow, and you may have to reach in to remove them by hand. Another option is to fit a small wire netting trap with a funnel (so they can not go back into the hollow) over the entrance to catch them when they think the coast is clear and come out.

Peter Ormay

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## RARITIES PANEL NEWS

The two most unusual sightings in this list must be the Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis* and the Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*. The Bar-shouldered Dove normally stays away from high country and would be expected to be recorded either around Canberra itself, along the Yass River, or other watercourses in the north of our area. Indeed, this must be the first record in our region away from the urban area. The Lewin's Honeyeaters have been seen at Gungahlin Hill Nature Reserve in a previous year and the question can be asked - are they migrants in our area? Two interesting waterbird records are the Ruddy Turnstones *Arenaria interpres* at Yarralumla Bay and the White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucoptera* at Lake Bathurst.

The record of a Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia* in the botanic gardens feeding on a grevillea is so far the only one from around the Canberra district this year. Does anybody have any further records, especially for the Mulligan's Flat area?

There are more records of the Glossy Black-Cockatoos *Calyptorhynchus lathami* on Mt Majura. So far the earliest date we have recorded is 23 May 1992 and the latest 29 August 1992. Has anybody further records of these birds please?

After our comments in the Rarities Panel News about single autumn records of Grey Goshawks *Accipiter novaehollandiae* there is a single record in spring in the list. This tends to suggest birds are migrating rather than just dispersing after breeding, although one swallow does not make a summer!

The record of twelve Little Corellas *Cacatua sanguinea* near Mt Mugga Mugga in July, compared with records of smaller numbers in the warmer months, may mean flocks are splitting up to breed and then reforming in winter to use the food resources available around Mugga Lane Zoo and Narrabundah.

Finally, for those who want an interesting area to go bird-watching, the Bungendore area features well in this list with quite a few records from R. Rehwinkel and others.

## RARITIES PANEL ENDORSED LIST NO 34

### Category 3

#### Freckled Duck

5; 26 Jul 92; I.McMahon; Kelly's Swamp  
19; 22 May 92;/ 8 Jun 92;/ 4; 27 Jun 92; R. Rehwinkel; Lake Road,  
Lake George  
5; 23 Aug 92; M. Fyfe; Lake Road, Lake George

- Whistling Kite  
2; 5 Apr 92 3; 23 May 92 1; 27 Jun 92;/ 2; 1 Aug 92; R. Rehwinkel;  
Lake Road, Lake George
- Grey Goshawk  
1; 2 Oct 92; S. Webb; Aranda Bushland
- White-bellied Sea-Eagle  
1; 23 Aug 92; M.Fyfe; Lake Road. Lake George
- Red-necked Avocet  
1; 19 Jul 92 1; 1 Aug 92; R. Rehwinkel; Lake Road, Lake George
- Ruddy Turnstone  
1; 25 Sep 91; P. Bolger, Yarralumla Bay, Lake Burley Griffin
- White-winged Tern  
1; 20 Jan 90; P. Milburn; west side of East Basin, Lake Bathurst  
1; 25 Mar 90; M. Lenz; north end of East Basin, Lake Bathurst
- Bar-shouldered Dove  
1; 29 Jun 92; B. Martin; approx 4 km from Mt Clear toward Horse  
Gully Hut
- Glossy Black-Cockatoo  
5; 20 Jun 92 8; 22 Aug 92; B. Horrigan; north slopes of Mt Majura  
11; 29 Aug 92; I. McMahon; north-west slopes of Mt Majura
- Little Corella  
12; 13 Jul 92; D. Abigail; east of Mt Mugga Mugga, Narrabundah
- Red-capped Robin  
1; 12 Mar 92; S. Mugford; Campbell Park  
1; 12 Aug 92; M. Moffatt; Grid 114. near Mt Stromlo
- Regent Honeyeater  
1; 11 Oct 92; C. Lane; Australian National Botanic Gardens
- Lewin's Honeyeater  
2; 28 Jul 92 2; 29 Jul 92; J. Gleeson. Gungahlin Hill Nature Reserve

## Escapees

Alexandra's Parrot

1; 5 Oct 92; S. Webb; Aranda Bushland

Cockatiel

1; 6 Feb 92;/ 1; 21 Apr 92; A. McKenzie; Chapman

Port Lincoln Parrot

1; 12 Sep 92; T. Lally; Campbell, close to Canberra Nature Park

### Category 2

Rose Robin

1; 27 Jun 92; R. Rehwinkel; Lake Road, Lake George

Hooded Robin

3; 31 May 92; R. Rehwinkel; Millpost, NSW (just north of eastern border of ACT)

Diamond Firetail

2; 12 Feb 90; R. Rehwinkel; Brook's Hill Reserve, Kings Highway 15;  
14 Jun 92;/ Flock; 21 Jun 92; R. Rehwinkel; Bungendore Rodeo Ground.

6; 8 Jul 92; R. Rehwinkel; railway line 1 km north of Bungendore

Grey Butcherbird

2; 27 Jun 92;/ 1; 19 Jul 92; R. Rehwinkel; Lake Road. Lake George

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*Projects Subcommittee:*

Malcolm Fyfe (Secretary - 254 3310), Grahame Clark, Chris Davey, Michael Lenz.  
David Purchase.

*Rarities Panel:*

Sue Webb (Secretary - 251 5407), Barry Baker, Graeme Chapman, Grahame Clark,  
Mark Clayton, Jack Holland, Bruce Male.

*Records and Library Subcommittee:*

Malcolm Fyfe, Graham Browning.

*Shopfront Management Subcommittee:*

Sarah Thomas (Convenor - 281 4982), Jenny Bounds. Grahame Elliott, Robyn Elliott.

Annual Subscriptions for 1992 are: Student (18 years of age and younger) \$8.50;  
Individual \$17.00; Family \$20.00; Institutions \$20.00. All receive one copy of  
*Canberra Bird Notes*.

Production and distribution of *Canberra Bird Notes*:

**Typing:** Louise Russell

**Camera-ready Copy:** Cedric Bear

**Printing:** Lowes - Printer

**Distribution:** Ann McKenzie and helpers

**Shopfront:**

Natural History Shopfront, Room G5, Griffin Centre, Bunda Street, Civic,  
**ACT**

**Hours:**

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*Canberra Bird Notes* is published quarterly by the Canberra Ornithologists Group. Contributions are welcome. These should fit into one of the following categories: major articles (up to about 3000 words); short notes and "Odd Obs" (up to about 300 words); reviews of books and articles (up to about 500 words); and where to watch birds (up to about 800 words). The articles and notes should cover matters of the distribution, identification, and behaviour of birds occurring in the Australian Capital Territory and surrounding area (i.e. New South Wales coast north to Jervis Bay, and west to the Riverina). Contributions can be sent to the editors c/o David Purchase, 5 Orchard Place, Melba, ACT 2615 (Tel 258 2252).

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