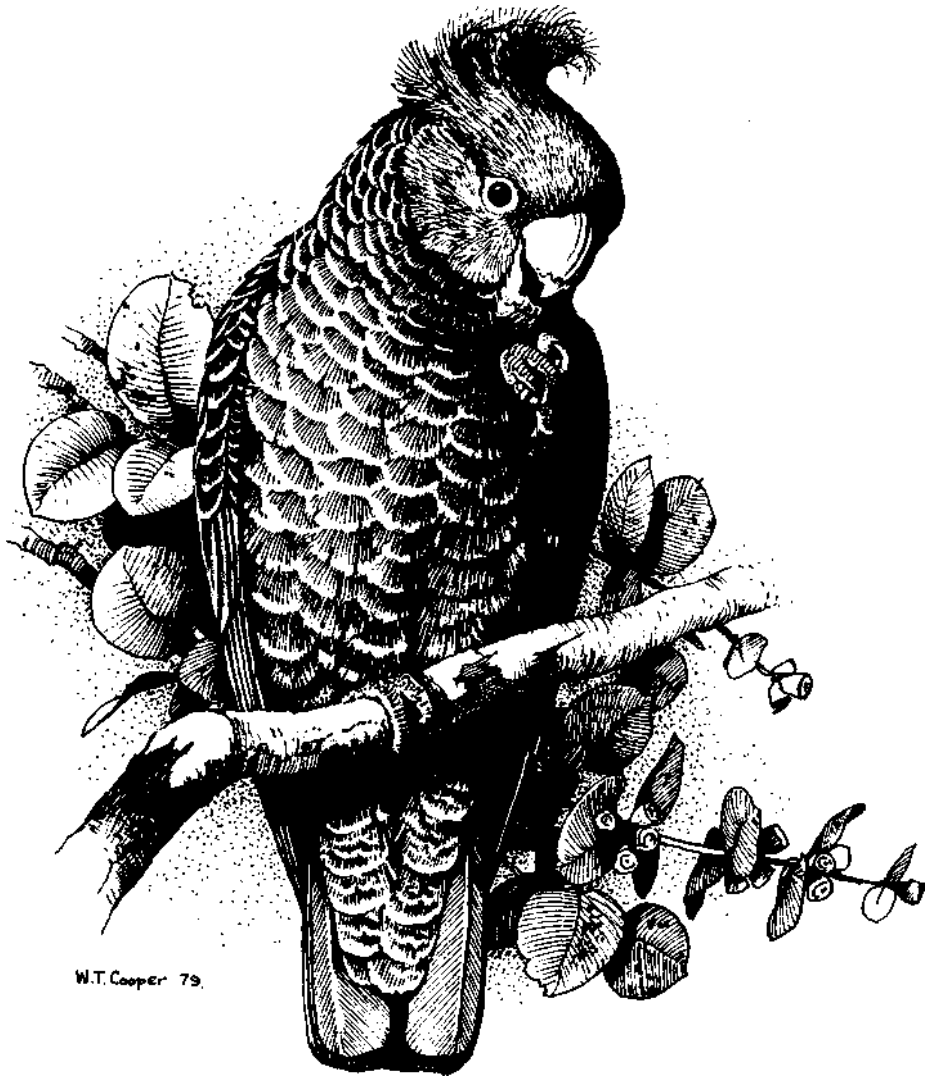


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CANBERRA BIRD NOTES

Volume 5
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EDITORIAL

The editorial in Vol. 4 No. 2 contrasted the contents of Vols. 2 and 3 and showed a marked increase in all aspects of the publication.

The following is a comparison of Vols 3 and 4.

	Vol 3	Vol 4	
Birds	76	74	-2
Bird reports & Status notes	4	6	2
Area bird lists	5	14	9
Topics	77	51	-26
Excursion reports	10	13	3
Where to watch birds	-	5	5
Letters to Editor	1	5	4
Reviews	13	3	-10
Book & periodical news	-	12	12
Snippets	-	26	26
Authors (Papers)	129	113	-16
Authors (Individuals)	50	50	-

The real point is that eight numbers of Vol 4 compare well in content with twelve in Vol 3.

The situation is a healthy one and generally speaking material continues to come forward for publication in a steady manner. At times the Editor is not quite satisfied with the balance within an issue but it is hoped to improve this aspect.

The first papers in recent issues (including this issue) have been much longer than those usually published. The result has been delay in the appearance of shorter papers from members. The next issue should do much to clear the backlog. Apologies to the authors concerned.

APOLOGY

Editor

The gremlins struck Vol 5 No 2. The article "Some Birds of the South-west Pacific" by Richard Gregory-Smith should have been accompanied by maps of New Hebrides and New Caledonia. Apologies Richard.

BIRDS OF THE BHERWERRE PENINSULA,
JERVIS BAY, A.C.T.

Chris Sonter

During the period 22 September, 1974 to 20 June, 1976 regular visits were made to the Bherwerre Peninsula, A.C.T. which is the area between Jervis Bay and Sussex Inlet (Sonter 1978). One visit was made in 1973 and three since regular visits ceased. Much time was spent in Jervis Bay Nature Reserve which is slightly more than half of the total area of this section of the A.C.T. The emphasis was on beach and sea work and no effort was made to cover all habitats nor was there a regular pattern of observations. Nevertheless all areas were covered to some degree.

There is little published evidence of studies of the avifauna of the area. Details of visits to Jervis Bay by ornithologists have been discussed previously (Sonter 1978).

The vegetation and geology of the area have been well documented (Ingwerson 1976 & Pollard 1973).

Figure 1 is a sketch map of the area.

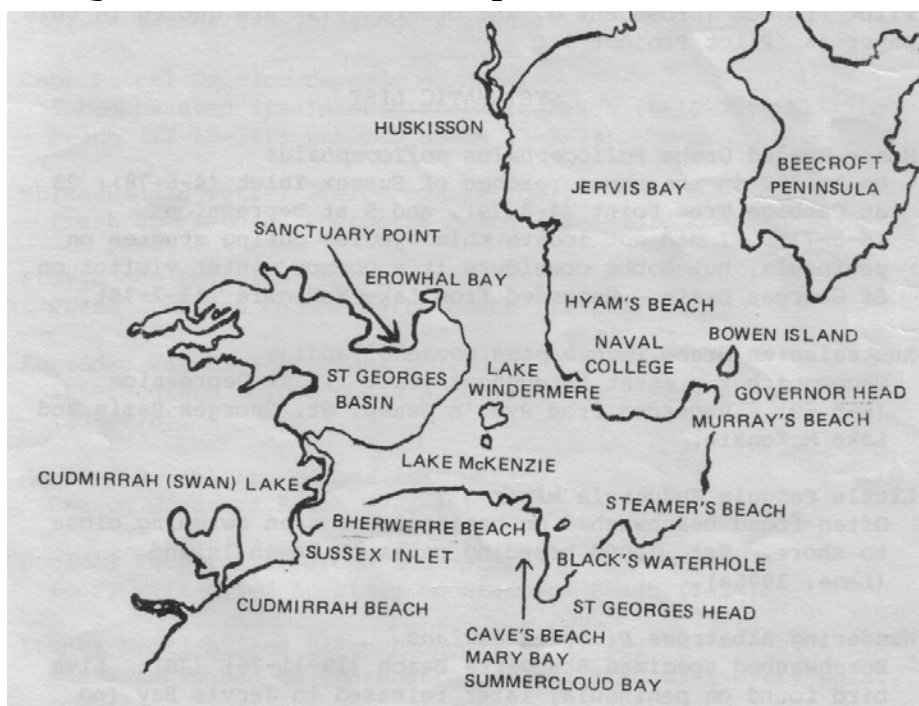


Figure 1. The survey Area

Habitats

Superficially much of the Nature Reserve looks the same with little change in vegetation. However it is a variety of different plant communities and micro-habitats. The Steamers Beach trail is a good example as it traverses open heathland, dry native forest, hanging swamp, medium-wet native scrubland, creeks with rank vegetation and stands of *Banksia integrifolia* and *Leptospermum laevigatum*. Ryan's Swamp, immediately behind the junction of Cave's and Bherwerre Beaches, is a valuable wetland habitat for swamp birds. Lakes McKenzie and Windermere and Black's Waterhole do not seem important to waterfowl. Within and behind the dunes of Bherwerre Beach are soaks which are important to some species. The Depression which is a large hollow midway between Greenpatch and the abandoned nuclear site at times contains brackish water and then attracts many birds. The effect of pine plantations appears minimal.

Records of the survey area from the Australian Bird Atlas -Pilot Project (Broadbent J. and others 1973) are quoted in this paper as "Pilot Project".

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Hoary-Headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

Up to 300 in the upper reaches of Sussex Inlet (4-6-78); 23 at Cabbage Tree Point (4-8-79), and 9 at Depression (6-5-77). I did not locate this species during studies on peninsula, but Hobbs considers it a common winter visitor on St Georges Basin. Recorded from Lake McKenzie (13-7-75).

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

Uncommon but present throughout year. 12 at Depression (6-5-69). Recorded from Ryan's Swamp, St. Georges Basin and Lake McKenzie.

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*

Often found beachwashed on peninsula or seen swimming close to shore. Est. 1,000 breeding pairs on Bowen Island (Lane, 1976a).

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*

Beachwashed specimen Bherwerre Beach (19-11-76) (JH). Live bird found on peninsula, later released in Jervis Bay (no

date). Regularly recorded during Pilot Project.

Black-Browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophrys*

Immature found beachwashed, Steamers Beach (6-6-75).

Shy Albatross *Diomedea cauta*

4 beachwashed on Steamers Beach (29-9-74; 15-6-75(2); 13-7-75). Recorded during Pilot Project.

Sooty Albatross *Phoebetria fusca*

One found on rocks, southern end of Summercloud Bay Beach (15-6-75).

Sooty Albatross Sp. *Phoebetria* sp.

Specimen with head missing, Steamers Beach (15-6-75).

Giant Petrel *Macronectes* sp.

Parts of a specimen on Mary Bay Beach (26-10-75). Recorded off peninsula during Pilot Project.

Southern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialoides*

One on Steamers Beach (22-9-74) (6th NSW record). One on Caves Beach (5-9-75) (Rogers 1976) .

Cape Petrel *Daption capense*

3 beachwashed specimens: Steamers Beach (6-10-73); Whiting Beach (12-10-74); unnamed beach (7-7-73).

White-Headed Petrel *Pterodroma lessonii*

Fresh specimen on Bherwerre Beach (20-6-76).

Providence Petrel *Pterodroma solandri*

Fresh specimen on Bherwerre Beach (11-2-76).

Kermadec Petrel *Pterodroma neglecta*

Intermediate colour phase specimen on Steamers Beach (20-6-76).

Mottled Petrel *Pterodroma inexpectata* One on Steamers Beach (7-3-76).

Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera*

Poor, well-dried specimen on Steamers Beach (7-3-76).

Lesser Broad-billed Prion *Pachyptila salvini*

One beachwashed on Bherwerre Beach (1973, D. Sawyer, pers. Comm.).

Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila desolata*

7 specimens on Bherwerre Peninsula. Sawyer collected beachwashed specimens in July 1973 (Morris 1974).

Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur*

Common off peninsula.

Prion Spp. *Pachyptila spp.*

162 specimens not identified because of loss of key parts.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*

6 beachwashed specimens, all in Feb. (5 on Caves Beach, 1 on Bherwerre Beach). Lane (1976a) estimated 100 breeding pairs on Bowen Island.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Uncommon in area. 2 beachwashed on Caves Beach (15-6-76), and one found during Pilot Project (7-10-73).

Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*

Very common beachwashed species (see Holmes & Morris (1975). Fresh specimen found in July.

Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia*

Fairly common beachwashed species. Common in waters off peninsular in summer and winter.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

Wing (167mm) plus other parts on Steamers Beach (27-12-77) (Sonter 1979a).

White-faced Storm-Petrel *Pelagodroma marina*

4 beachwashed (Mary Bay (12-10-74); Caves Beach (6-10-74) and (22-9-78); Steamers Beach (22-9-78)). Breeding on Grasshopper Island and Wasp Island (Lane 1976b and 1976c).

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

2 records from the Pilot Project. Hobbs recorded major influx in 1978 (up to 40 birds in Sussex Inlet and 14 on St Georges Basin).

Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator*

Not common off peninsula but recorded in Jervis Bay. well-dried specimen found near Caves Beach.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

One record off Bherwerre (30-1-78) (McKean & Stewart 1978).

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common species often seen resting on rocks near headlands.
2 beachwashed specimens.

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

One record of 2 birds. Hobbs recorded groups of up to 8
birds in 1978.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* Very
common in both salt and freshwater habitats.

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

Common, with records from Black's Waterhole, Lake McKenzie,
Ryan's Swamp and from rock outcrops and headlands.

Pacific Heron *Ardea pacifica* Probably a nomadic visitor.

One bird in swampland dunes of Bherwerre Beach (31-8-78)
(JH).

White-faced Heron *Ardea novaehollandiae*

Common on creeks entering beaches and on Ryan's Swamp.
Beachwashed specimen at Summercloud Bay (9-9-75). 16 in
Depression (6-5-77) (JH).

Great Egret *Egretta alba*

Uncommon, nomadic visitor. Recorded only from Ryan's Swamp
in deep water. Only solitary birds seen.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Uncommon visitor. A few solitary birds seen on Ryan's
Swamp.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

Single specimen on Ryan's Swamp in company with *E. alba*.
All three species of Egret are common to uncommon to the
west of the Bherwerre Peninsula where land has been
cleared and is grazed.

Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*

Uncommon in area. Never numerous. Most records are of
solitary birds on rock shelf at southern end of Steamers
Beach. Recorded elsewhere during Pilot Project.

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis*

One bird on Ryan's Swamp (6-5-77) (JH). Gibson (1977) describes species as rare and nomadic in County of Camden but records for County of Cumberland during 1977 seem numerous (Rogers & Lindsey 1978).

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Present throughout year, though numbers fluctuate. Records from Ryan's Swamp and St Georges Basin.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Resident breeding species. Most records from Ryan's Swamp, occasionally from outlet creeks.

Grey Teal *Anas gibberifrons*

A nomadic species, though some birds remain throughout the year. Prefers Ryan's Swamp and Lake McKenzie, but probably occurs in backwaters of St Georges Basin and other watered areas.

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

May visit area regularly. One recorded from St Georges Basin during Pilot Project (7-10-73). 12 on Depression (6-5-77, JH).

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

Nomadic in area. Nine on Depression (6-5-77, JH).

Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

Small flock on Depression (6-5-77, JH); 14 that appeared to fly from Lake Windermere to Hyam's Beach (4-8-79, JH).

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

Recorded from St Georges Basin during Pilot Project (7-7-73). Often observed around Sanctuary Point and Erowal Bay (JH).

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus notatus*

Uncommon on peninsula, with 2 records, each of 2 birds, from track at Steamers Beach. (15-4-78 and 26-4-78) and one in Naval College grounds (6-5-77, JH).

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

Common and apparently resident species. Most observations are for Bherwerre Beach area.

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

Probably regular but uncommon on peninsula. 2 near Steamers Beach (26-4-78, JH).

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*

Several (all apparently solitary birds) recorded by Hobbs. One near beacon west of Naval College and another at Ryan's Swamp (1-6-79); one near Huskisson Trig on Lumeah track (4-8-79).

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

Very rare. 2 records, possibly of same bird, or a resident pair: one in heavily forested country behind Murray's Beach (26-10-74) and one near Cabbage Tree Point (4-8-79, JH).

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Common, resident and breeding. At least three resident pairs along peninsula. An old, large nest near Black's Harbour contained a down-covered chick (15-9-73).

Wedge-Tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

Uncommon. An infrequent visitor, usually observed in pairs soaring above beaches and timber. Probably resident to west of study area.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Recorded 4 times by Hobbs at widespread locations. One bird over Bowen Island (22-11-78).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

A pair frequenting cliff face of northern headland of Steamers Beach may have bred there. Seen twice over heathland en route to Steamers Beach.

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

One bird near Lumeah track (31-3-78, JH).

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

Pair near dunes behind Bherwerre Beach (31-8-78, JH).

Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

Very common and probably breeding species. Usually solitary birds seen in open areas near heathland and along sea cliffs.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Introduced species on Bowen Island. Occasional sightings in Murrays Beach area.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

Resident on Ryan's Swamp and probably Lake McKenzie, though no breeding records. Immature female with down still adhering to breast, found dead in creek flowing out of Ryan's Swamp (15-6-75). 14 in Depression (6-5-77, JH).

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Common and breeding. Resident throughout year at Ryan's Swamp. No records from other parts of Reserve.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Recorded only from Ryan's Swamp, but should occur elsewhere. Resident throughout year, though numbers fluctuate. 50+ on Depression (6-5-77, JH).

Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

One record from Pilot Project (7-7-73). I did not record this species or the Sooty Oystercatcher *H. fuliginosus*.

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

Few records from peninsula. 2 from Pilot Project (1-75 and 4-5-74). 2 at Wreck Bay Settlement (15-4-78, JH) and 2 at nuclear site (22-11-78, JH).

Hooded Plover *Charadrius rubricollis*

Bherwerre Beach appears to be the most northern stronghold for this species on NSW coast. Only record found for this species north of Bherwerre is for Shoalhaven Heads (Gibson, 1977). Said by R. Moffat (pers. comm.) to be common on Cudmirrah Beach, south of Bherwerre. On Bherwerre, it was found in pairs or small groups (5-7) on all visits. Becomes very active towards dusk and rests on high tide zone for long periods during day. Birds are difficult to detect among tidal debris.

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*

Regular and common winter migrant with birds arriving in nearly full breeding plumage. Usually singly or in pairs. Favours ocean beaches.

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*

Common and resident species with most records from Bherwerre Beach.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

May frequent Bherwerre Beach regularly. Flock of 7 birds (20-6-76) and another of 6 birds (19-11-76, JH).

Eastern Curlew *Numenius Madagascariensis*

Hobbs observed 3 or 4 birds near mangroves in Lumeah Park (31-3-78).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

One bird seen flying over St Georges Basin near Cabbage Tree Point (31-3-78, JH).

Bar-Tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Recorded during Pilot Project (7-10-73). 2 birds on Bherwerre Beach (19-11-76, JH).

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

One recorded during Pilot Project (7-10-73).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

One record of a single bird in partial breeding plumage on Bherwerre Beach (22-9-78).

Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Uncommon summer migrant. One specimen apparently light-phase found on Steamers Beach (11-1-76) (Sonter 1979c).

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Common summer migrant. One beachwashed specimen, a light-phase bird well advanced into summer moult, on Steamers Beach (11-1-76).

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*

Resident and common in sheltered areas, but uncommon on oceanic shoreline. Two beachwashed juveniles (28-3-75).

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Common but nomadic visitor. Said by rangers to be found at times resting on beach at southern end of Bherwerre Beach and on Sussex Inlet.

White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*

One beachwashed on Steamers Beach (15-6-75). 2 records (July 73) for Pilot Project.

Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata*

Apparently more common in south coast waters than previously thought. One beachwashed, headless, Mary Bay (18-2-75). Other records for County of Camden (Gibson, 1977), and observations by McKean & Stewart (1978).

Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*

Common and resident on peninsula. One beachwashed at Mary Bay (13-7-75).

Common Noddy Anous stolidus

Rare. One sight record of a single bird off Bherwerre Peninsula (30-1-78). See McKean & Stewart, 1978.

Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* Resident near settlements.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*

Uncommon resident species. 4 flushed from track near Cabbage Tree Point (27-10-74).

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

Rare migrant. One record (7-10-73) during Pilot Project.

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

Common resident. Found in heathland as well as denser timber. Many records.

Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

Resident. Probably more common than Common Bronzewing, and found in pairs or solitary. Once seen in company with Common Bronzewing.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus*

Can be common in reserve with records from most parts. Numbers build up during winter, but the species is very nomadic. Usually in small flocks of 5-15 but larger flocks not uncommon. May breed, as adults have been observed feeding immatures.

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

Uncommon, resident breeding species, mainly found in pairs and small flocks. Two young were observed at entrance to hollow tree spout being fed by an adult female (26-10-74).

Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla*

My only record is based on a fragment found at Steamers Beach (26-10-74). Observed during Pilot Project (7-10-73). Seems this species is becoming more common on peninsula; now regularly observed around settlements.

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

Most likely a nomadic visitor to peninsula. Not recorded by me or Pilot Project, but Hobbs has seen 300+ between Murray Beach and Governor Head (22-11-78) and 60+ west of Naval College.

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*

Nomadic but regular visitor to peninsula, usually when eucalypts are flowering. Pairs to small flocks.

Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*

Uncommon visitor to area, in small flocks, pairs or solitary. More common during autumn and winter. Possibly retreats to nearby ranges to breed.

Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii*

One bird, clearly an escape, seen with Crimson Rosellas *Platycercus elegans* at Greenpatch area for 3-4 months.

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

Widespread and common throughout reserve. Breeding.

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

Habitat seems unsuitable. Two records during Pilot Project. Two birds in Caves Beach area (19-11-76, JH).

Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*

May be a regular but uncommon migrant to peninsula. One bird in Caves Beach area (1-11-76, JH).

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cuculus pyrrhophanus*

Common resident species found throughout year. Seems commoner during spring and summer than in winter, though it is less vocal in winter. In pairs or solitary.

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis* Uncommon and mainly a winter migrant to peninsula.

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

Moderately common spring and summer migrant to many areas of reserve. Not recorded in winter.

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

Resident and most likely a common species, though not recorded during Pilot Project. One bird flushed from dense bush near Steamers Beach walking track (26-10-74).

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*

Resident and common species, according to Rangers; regularly seen during night patrols. Road killed victims found outside reserve.

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*

Common summer migrant. Often seen in large flocks over beach areas. One flock covered an area from the northern end of Caves Beach to halfway along Bherwerre Beach (27-12-77). Careful checking revealed no other Swift species.

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azurea*

Uncommon resident in reserve. Recorded from Ryan's Swamp and its outlet creek and from St Georges Basin. Usually solitary.

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae* Common breeding resident.

Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*

Breeding summer migrant; pairs occupying territory in drier forest.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

Uncommon summer migrant. 2 records of pairs near Cabbage Tree Point (26-10-74 and 27-10-75).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Uncommon visitor to study area. Recorded once during Pilot Project (6-10-73).

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

Common breeding resident, found throughout year in most parts of reserve. Nests regularly in entrance to caves on southern end of Caves Beach.

Tree Martin *Cecropis nigricans*

Common resident breeder. Fairly abundant during spring - autumn, but also recorded at other times of year.

Fairy Martin *Cecropis ariel*

Uncommon summer migrant. May have been overlooked.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Common resident. Particularly common near airfield and in fore-dune areas.

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*
Common breeding resident in most areas of peninsula, though numbers fluctuate.

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*
Rare nomad. One record of a solitary bird near Cabbage Tree Point (26-10-74).

White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma*
Surprisingly rare. One record of a single bird near dense undergrowth in Summercloud Bay car park.

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*
Single record from track along St Georges Basin north of Lake Windermere (31-3-78, JH).

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*
Status uncertain. Two possible winter sightings by me and a winter record during Pilot Project (7-7-73). However Hobbs failed to record it from peninsula.

Scarlet Robin *Petroica multicolor*
Uncommon resident on peninsula. Recorded during Pilot Project.

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*
Common breeding species in most parts of peninsula. Avoids heathlands and open areas.

Jacky Winter *Microeca leucophaea*
Recorded from peninsula only during Pilot Study. Hobbs believes it is absent from area.

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*
Resident throughout year. Migrants increase the numbers in spring and summer.

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*
Common breeding species, widespread throughout peninsula, with some present during winter. Avoids open heathland.

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*
Very common, widespread resident throughout the peninsula.

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*

2 records: one during Pilot Project (7-10-73) and one near Ryan's Swamp (19-11-76, JH). With introduction of rainforest vegetation in Canberra Botanical Gardens Annex it should appear in future as a summer migrant.

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula* Uncommon summer migrant in area. Project (7-10-73). One record during Pilot.

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

Uncommon spring-summer migrant, with a few birds at other times. Seen on edge of St Georges Basin and regularly at Ryan's Swamp.

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

Rare summer migrant. Not recorded during Pilot Project, seen near St. Georges Basin (31-3-78, JH).

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

Common resident breeder over much of peninsula. Tends to flock during winter.

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

Uncommon breeding resident. Favours areas near fresh water, e.g. near Ryan's Swamp.

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*

Common breeding resident. One bird was seen with nesting material. Appears to be territorial but found over most of reserve.

Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma punctatum*

Reasonably common resident, but hard to observe. Pair often seen near walking track to Flat Rock in open heathland. Another pair seen regularly near southern end of Steamers Beach.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

Uncommon. Recorded twice during Pilot Project (7-10-73). Hobbs saw one bird (19-11-76) and 3 birds (6-5-77) in dunes behind Bherwerre Beach.

Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*

Common and widespread breeding resident.

Variegated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti*

Common resident, probably more common than Superb Fairy-wren in some areas such as Governor Head (JH).

Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*

Numerous in wetter heathland and rank vegetation.

Eastern Bristlebird *Dasyornis brachypterus*

Common in isolated pockets of suitable habitat - heathland with a good coverage of small trees and shrubs. Very common on Steamers Beach track (highest count 6 pairs) and near junction of Steamers Beach - Flat Rock tracks. They are inquisitive, and will come close to an observer who remains quiet and still.

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

Common resident. Widespread throughout reserve, especially in creekside vegetation, but tends to avoid heathlands.

Chestnut-rumped Hylacola *Sericornis pyrrhopygius*

Uncommon resident, though it is common behind the dunes of Bherwerre Beach (JH). On the 2 occasions I saw them, they were with Eastern Bristlebirds.

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*

May be common in suitable habitat. Recorded once during Pilot Project (8-7-73), and at both Cabbage Tree Point and near Sussex Inlet on 27-10-74. 2 birds seen by Hobbs at Caves Beach (6-5-77) and several near St Georges Basin (31-3-78).

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*

Very common breeding resident widespread through most of reserve.

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*

Recorded by Hobbs: 2 birds in mallee near old lighthouse (25-2-78); 2 behind dunes of Bherwerre Beach (31-8-78); and 3 at St Georges Basin (31-8-78). May prove to be common.

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

Uncommon breeding resident frequenting lightly timbered grassy areas, such as old farm site at Lake McKenzie.

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*

Common and widespread resident. Avoids heathland.

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*

Common breeding resident, favouring wetter habitats such as creeks and gullies in dense timber. Often found with both Brown and Yellow Thornbills.

Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

Uncommon breeding resident, preferring more open areas and dry forests. Several small flocks seen.

White-throated Treecreeper *Climacteris leucophaea* Very common resident, favouring forest areas.

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptera*

Uncommon resident, probably breeding. Favours wetter habitats and trees with smooth bark on upper sections. Most of its food is taken from loose and hanging bark. Also seen in Casuarinas.

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*

Very common, but highly nomadic breeding species.

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

Very common but nomadic breeder, whose presence is governed by availability of flowers and nectar. Usually avoids company of Red Wattlebirds. 2 nests found (both 22-9-78): one at Steamers Beach with a down-covered chick; the other at Caves Beach with a heavily incubated egg. Both nests were within 2m of ground and less than 1.5m from edge of walking track.

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

Common and nomadic visitor. Usually more common in spring and summer, but can be found throughout the year. Usually associated with flowering plants especially eucalypts.

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

Uncommon resident, though recorded extensively during Pilot Project. Favours wetter sclerophyll forests and creeksides.

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*

Common and widespread breeder. Some remain throughout year.

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis*

Possibly a nomadic but rare visitor to study area. Recorded twice during Pilot Project.

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

Hobbs observed a single bird amongst Yellow-faced and Fuscous honeyeaters in *Banksia ericifolia* on western side of A.C.T. boundary near main road (1-6-79).

Fuscous Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fuscus*

According to Hobbs, common in heath during a recent influx of this species (Rogers & Lindsey, 1978). Reported along frontage of St Georges Basin near Lumeah Road and Cabbage Tree Point (less than 100, 4-8-79). One record during Pilot Project (4-5-74).

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*

Fairly common resident where it prefers forest.

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*

Uncommon migrant or nomad, though some birds remain over winter. Occurs in taller trees of forested areas.

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylodonyris pyrrhoptera*

Hobbs recorded 2 birds from Ryan's Swamp (31-8-78) and one in *Pinus* sp. near Lake Windermere (4-8-79).

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

Very common breeding resident. Found in many habitats.

White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris nigra*

Large flock feeding in flowering eucalypts near Summercloud Bay car park (22-9-78) and a smaller flock later on the same day on southern headland of Steamers Beach. One from Summercloud Bay car park (15-4-78); another from St Georges Basin (31-3-78); and 9 from Governor Head (22-11-78) (all by JH). See also Sonter, 1979b.

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Phylidonyris melanops*

Though often recorded during Pilot Project, it seemed uncommon and difficult to observe. Usually on heathlands.

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

Very common breeding resident, in all areas at all seasons.

Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

Only record for study area was from Pilot Project (7-7-74).

Note: John Penhallurick advises that several of this species were seen at Burrewarra Point in August 1979. This record is quite acceptable - Ed.

White-fronted Chat *Ephthianura albifrons*

Groups of 2-3 birds recorded by Hobbs from dunes behind Bherwerre Beach, mangroves, west of Lumeah and in rushes along St Georges Basin.

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

Uncommon resident. Recorded once during Pilot Project (4-5-74). All of my records are of solitary birds.

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

Very common breeding resident, favouring timbered areas. Usually in pairs or solitary.

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*

Status on peninsula in need of review. According to Hobbs, rare east of hills west of Nowra. He has not recorded it on peninsula. I found a 'Striated' form of pardalote common and breeding. Recorded during Pilot Project (23-6-73).

Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*

Status of different forms, needs further study. Mainland form present throughout year, though much less common from late autumn to early spring, when numbers of the chestnut-flanked Tasmanian form increase. Almost all records for Silvereyes during Pilot Project are for winter months. Some chestnut-flanked birds were present throughout the year.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Recorded only during Pilot Project (7-10-73). May have been outside study area.

Red-browed Firetail *Emblema temporalis*

Very common breeding resident. Mostly in heavier-timbered areas, but also in grassy clearings and creekside vegetation.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* All records are from Pilot Project. May be resident in R.A.N. College area.

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

Common summer migrant with most records for Sept-Nov during Pilot Project. I found it common from Sept-April. But some birds may overwinter, as there are records of 2 birds in Botanic Gardens (13-7-75), one at Greenpatch and 2 at Lake Windermere (4-8-79, JH).

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

Common breeding resident which avoids heathland. Common and confiding around the Caves Beach picnic area with at least 2 resident blue males. A bower was constructed about 3m from door to one of the ablution blocks, beneath a thickly-foliaged shrub *Leptospermum laevigatum*. Once a green bird (presumably a female) that I was feeding carried off several pieces of apple in the same direction. She may have been feeding young.

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphus*

Only one record, during Pilot Project (7-10-73), which may have been from outside study area. Hobbs agrees it is probably not present.

Australian Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca* Uncommon resident. Many records during Pilot Project either in or close to study area. Found around R.A.N. College area.

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

Uncommon summer migrant. Usually over more open areas and timber near heathlands. Only 2 records for peninsula from Pilot Project.

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*

Common breeding resident which has adjusted well to human foodstuffs around picnic areas. Observed feeding newly-fledged young at Caves Beach.

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

Uncommon in reserve, preferring open grassland such as the airfield. A few pairs resident at Wreck Bay settlement. Pairs and small flocks.

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

Breeding (?) resident whose numbers build up over autumn and winter but decline markedly after winter.

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*

Very common resident that occurs in almost all habitats. Main scavenger on beaches and responds quickly to any beachwashed carcasses. Regarding its scavenging on sea-birds, see Sonter 1978.

Discussion

The Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus* was not recorded by me or during the Pilot Project; this was remarkable considering their status nearby.

I am familiar with the appearance, calls and habitat needs of the Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*. Much of the study area appears suitable for this species but again there is no record of it.

Despite several visits to outcrops of Hawksbury Sandstone in the area, the Origma *Origma solitaria* was not located. Also while there is an abundance of suitable habitat for the Beautiful Firetail *Emblema bella* this too was not found.

Flocks of Corvid species in late autumn and winter may have been Little Ravens *Corvus mellori* but positive identification is lacking.

This area would be ideal for the establishment of a permanent seawatch station or a field study centre; birds are abundant at sea, along the coasts and in the great variety of habitat.

Acknowledgements

The staff of the Jervis Bay Nature Reserve provided much valuable advice and help and I extend my thanks. As this paper was written far from the study area I sought the help of Sgt. John Hobbs of Nowra Police Station. John read the earlier draft of the paper and provided many valuable records used in the systematic list; my sincere thanks to him also.

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13: 54-55

Mr. C. Sonter, 72 San Mateo Avenue, Mildura, Vic., 3500

OUT AND ABOUT

G. Tibicen

Recently an associate of mine, P. Jocosus, told me about a novel new way of recovering bird bands. Last January a lady discovered a bird band near Heathcote, Victoria which was hidden in some leaves. She made her discovery by using that new technological status symbol - a metal detector. So if you have always wanted to go fossicking for gold but have been ashamed to admit such avariciousness to friends and/or relatives you can now go and buy a metal detector 'to help with bird banding'!

For the record the band came from a Magpie banded as a young bird in 1958 but of course as the band was found on its own, we don't know how long the bird lived.

The number of people who think of a suburban garden as an extension of the local environment (rather than a collection of plants maintained by liberal doses of fertilisers, herbicides and insecticides) is growing. If you are one of these people or would like to know more about this method of gardening then the Organic Growers Association (W.A.) have just published a little book called *The Self-Effacing Gardener* which could help. Although the book is written basically for the Perth area and plant lists and soil types reflect that, the basic ideas are applicable anywhere in Australia. Copies are available from the Association, Box 213, P.O. Wembley, 6014 priced \$2.45 including postage.

The Canberra and South-East Region Environment Centre have started publishing a journal called *Bogong*. Most C.O.G. members should have received a specimen copy, if you haven't then write to CASEREC at P.O. Box 1875, Canberra City, A.C.T., 2601. Subscription rates are \$10 for a wage earner, \$6 for a non-wage earner. C.O.G. has just become a member of CASEREC.

In the April newsletter of the A.C.F. there was an item which mentioned that the Victorian Ministry for Conservation has asked hunters to spare the rare and protected Freckled Duck after it was reported that 200 were shot in Victoria at the opening of the duck season and more that 500 were killed at a single location in South

Australia.

I am informed by those who should know that one of the side-effects of over-indulgence in the juice of the grape (or grain) is a propensity to imagine that you are seeing coloured fauna - especially pachyderms. However if you do see any waders with bright yellow or orange underparts don't think you are imagining things. Over 800 waders have been dyed near Melbourne in an attempt to discover how waders move around Port Phillip Bay. Seriously if you do see a yellow or orange dyed wader(s), could you please send details (numbers, date, place) to R.A.O.U., 21 Gladstone St, Moonee Ponds, 3039 or telephone Clive Minton on (03)99-1134 (home), (03)267-5800 (business).

BOOK MARKET

WANTED: Copies of the old Jacaranda pocket guides. If any member of C.O.G. has any copies of these little guides (any titles) for sale could they please send details (titles, price wanted) to Bookmarket, P.O. Box 301, Civic Square, 2608.

ODD OBS

GOLDEN PLOVER

Editor

A single Golden Plover in eclipse plumage was reported from Dairy Plat Road on 25 and 29 October by Jim McNaughton and the record verified by sightings by Peter Fullager and Mark Clayton. Doug Ross reported what was probably the same bird on 4 and 11 November 1979.

WATERBIRD SURVEY

Doug Ross & Richard Schodde

The waterbird survey on 16 December 1979 turned up some interesting sightings:

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Glossy Ibis, Red-kneed Dotterel
Latham's Snipe

GLOSSY IBIS

Steve Wilson S Ian Baird

The Glossy Ibis is an uncommon bird in our area so we were pleased to record a pair resting on the edge of a sewage pond during the Water-bird survey on 24 February only 50 yards from Dairy Flat Road.

WHITE-BACKED SWALLOW IN THE A.C.T.

Henry Nix

Each year, in April, C.O.G. organises a field outing to Point Hut Crossing to view the honeyeater migration. This year the members attending the outing, which was on 13 April, were treated to a bonus. A passing comment, that one of the only two records of White-backed Swallow in the A.C.T. came from that section of the Murrumbidgee River led to closer inspection of wheeling flights of Welcome Swallows. David Pfanner was the first to pick out some distinctive foreigners and lo and behold, there were the White-backed Swallows!

Closer inspection revealed a total of five birds and two were observed to fly down and perch beside a tunnel in an eroded section of riverbank some 300 metres upstream from the crossing. The harsh 'check' of the calling birds was very distinctive and provided a means of locating the birds when they were flying at height or at a considerable distance.

The White-backed Swallow, *Cheramoeca leucosternum* is endemic and characteristic of much of inland Australia, where it is common. Usually found in the vicinity of rivers and channels that provide the necessary eroded banks for nesting tunnels. Winter movements in the northern inland suggest that part of the population is migratory, but there is also evidence that some southern birds may overwinter in nest tunnels in a torpid state. Certainly we need to find out much more about this species.

Two previous published records for the A.C.T. are for a nesting pair near Tharwa in January 1971, observed by Neil Hermes and Michael Fleming. Also in that year, on 2 February 1971, more than 30 birds of this species were seen in flight on the edge of Stromlo Forest at the Coppins Crossing/Uriarra Road intersection by Terry Gourlay. Both records are in CBN 11.

Various sections of the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee River corridors in the A.C.T. would appear to provide suitable habitat for the White-backed Swallow. Its habit of flying with other swallows and martins may lead to it being overlooked. Certainly any late summer and autumn flocks are worthy of closer inspection. Listen carefully for the harsh 'check check' among the more musical twittering of the

other species.

Mr. B. Nix, 22 Syme Cres, O'Connor, A.C.T., 2601

SEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA'S RAREST BIRDS

R.A.O.U.

The Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union is conducting a study, supported by the World Wildlife Fund Australia, to determine the distribution and abundance of Australia's rare and declining birds.

The project involves researching published reports and seeking information from observers to find out what is already known about each species; and conducting field work to fill the gaps in our knowledge. The search will identify those species most in need of a detailed study and enable recommendations to be made on the requirements necessary for their conservation.

A number of birds occurring in the A.C.T. Region are included on the species sought: Plains-wanderer, Grey Falcon, Masked Owl, Sooty Owl and the Regent Honeyeater. We would greatly appreciate any details of sightings of these birds. Information needed includes exact locality, date, numbers of birds seen, status in the area, habitat, details of breeding, feeding and other general behaviour, and any special techniques used in discovery. If you would like further information or wish to report sightings, please contact:

Mr. Simon Bennett, 21 Gladstone Street, Moonee Ponds, Vic, 3039 Tel: (03) 370 1272

R.A.O.U., 21 Gladstone Street, Moonee Ponds, Victoria, 3039. Tel: (03) 370 1272.

ODD OBS

A ROYAL SPOONBILL IN BREEDING PLUMAGE

Doug Ross

The Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia* appears from time to time in the Kelly's Swamp area, generally in ones or twos. Sightings by me since January 1979 have been:

1979			1980
April	June	Oct	Jan
(1 twice)	1	1 twice &	1
		2 twice	

The bird seen in Jan 1980 was in breeding plumage. The nuptial plumes on crown and nape being very conspicuous even at a distance which precluded picking up the red forehead patch.

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