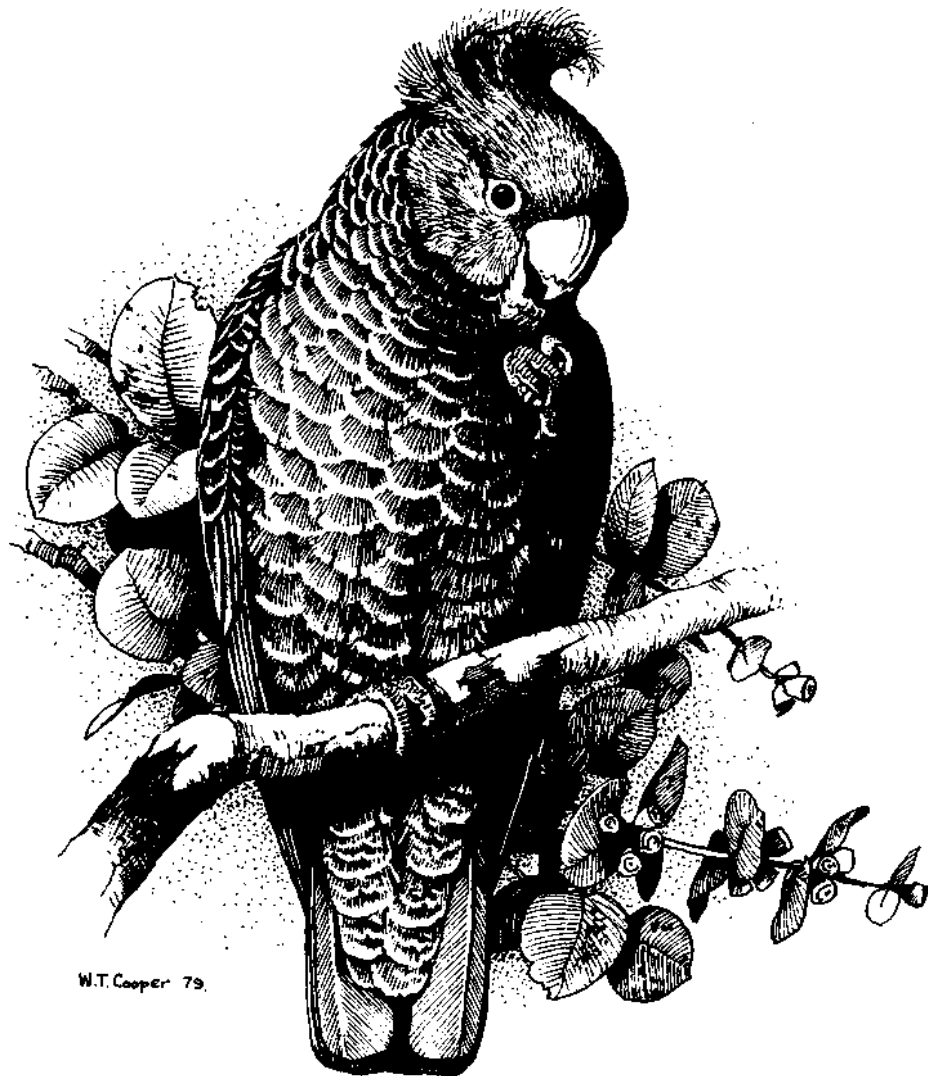


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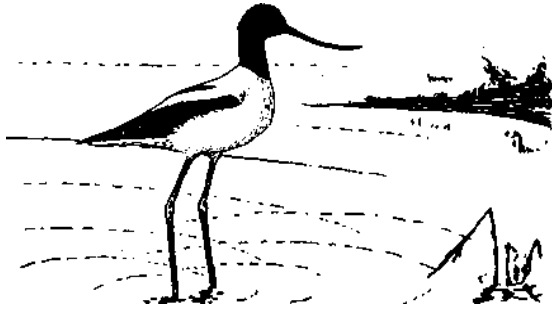


ANNUAL BIRD REPORT: 1 JULY 1982 TO 30 JUNE
1983

Ian Taylor

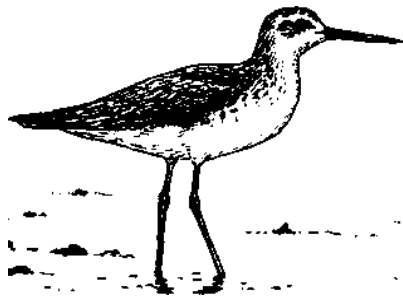
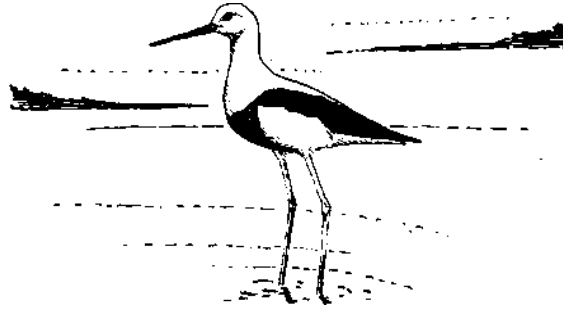
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LEFT: Red-necked
Avocet
*Recurvirostra
novaehollandiae* One
individual of this
species, rarely
recorded locally,
was seen at Lake
Bathurst in
February 1983.

RIGHT: Banded
Stilt
*Cladorhynchus
leucocephalus* The
first sighting of
this species for
the region was
made at Lake
Bathurst in
January 1983.



LEFT: Marsh
Sandpiper
*Tringa
stagnatilis* This
rare visitor to the
local region was
present at Lake
Bathurst during the
Spring and Summer.

The above illustrations are taken from the recently published 'Atlas of Australian Birds', and are reprinted with the kind permission of the Royal Australian Ornithologist's Union.

INTRODUCTION

The 1982-83 Annual Bird Report features a new format and improvements in both the quality and the quantity of records. We have tried to make this year's Report more readable without detracting from its value as a repository of useful data. The major trends of 1982-83 have been summarised in the introduction. Species have been grouped in the body of the Report and comments have been added where a trend has been apparent for a particular group. Details are given under individual species entries. As far as possible, tables have been separated from the written remarks and are to be found at the end of each section. The names of birds in the Report and the order in which species are listed conform with the RAOU's 'Recommended English Names for Australian Birds', Emu, Vol 77, Supplement, May 1978.

This year's Report contains the names of all species ever recorded in the Canberra area irrespective of whether they were recorded in 1982-83. The status of the species is given as an estimate of the chance of recording the species in the nominated habitat. This chance is defined as follows:

Very common _	9 chances in 10
Common	7 chances in 10
Moderately common	5 chances in 10
Uncommon	3 chances in 10
Very uncommon	1 chances in 10
Rare	1 chances in 100
Very rare	1 chances in 1000

The status may be further qualified by designating the bird as a visitor, migrant or resident species, and as non-breeding or breeding in the area. The status of each species, which has been included in individual species entries, is taken from Henry Nix's forthcoming book on the birds of the Canberra area.

A further innovation is the introduction of a decimal point into the analysis of the Garden Bird Survey (GBS) results. Last year, figures were rounded off to the nearest whole number. Thus figures for infrequently recorded species were rounded off to zero, and did not appear in the Report. GBS data is presented for over twice as many species this year. There are also more histograms at the back of the Report.

Both the Garden Bird Survey and the Waterbird Survey have marched from strength to strength in the past year. The information collected during these surveys is both unique and valuable and can be made available to any interested members for research purposes. For example, Garden Bird Charts contain a wealth of information on breeding, migration patterns and distribution of birds within Canberra which is yet to be tapped.

The richness and quality of the Garden Bird and Waterbird records has accentuated a serious deficiency in our records of land birds outside the urban area. We do not know, for example, how populations of many species fluctuate in their natural environment and there are a number of common species for which we have no records at all.

With a view to rectifying this situation, a new set of surveys will be launched early this year. Transect or spot surveys will be conducted at places to be decided in undisturbed habitats near Canberra. The idea of such surveys has already generated much enthusiasm among COG members and we are looking forward to a good deal of popular support.

Casual records will continue to play a very important role. All records of unusual species, odd behaviour, or of common species in unusual places will be gratefully received. The COG Observations Books are made available at monthly meetings for this purpose. While the Annual Bird Report addresses itself to the avifauna of the ACT and neighbouring shires, observations from further afield may be included in regular editions of Canberra Bird Notes.

Both the Garden Bird Survey and the Waterbird Survey rely on the participation of large numbers of people. If you care about Canberra's birds, why not keep a Garden Bird Chart? If you already have a chart at home, why not start one up at work? If you visit a park or sports-ground regularly, you could embark on a survey there. Do not forget the Waterbird Survey either. The occasional Sunday morning on the Lake makes an enjoyable and valuable outing.

The Annual Bird Report represents the culmination of many hours of dedicated work on the part of many contributors. Our heartfelt thanks to the following people who completed Garden Bird Charts, took part in the Waterbird Survey, provided casual observations or assisted with the analysis of the huge body of

data on which this Report is based:

Ian Anderson	J Mcllroy
Eric Andrew	C McKenny
D C Ayliffe	Eric McMaster
Barry & Denise Baker J P	Ian & Judy Marshman
Barr	Richard Mason
Cedric Bear	Kathy Masters
Ross Bennett	E C (Slim) Metcalf
W J L & H R Brooke	Rosemary Metcalf
M & B Brooker	M Moncur
Graham & Ruth Browning	Keith Morris
Rob & Chris Cannon	Alastair Morrison
Shirley Chittick	Louise Morson
Graham Clark	H A & K F Nix
Mark Clayton	Peter Ormay and others
J Cooper	John Penhallurick
Caroline & Richard Cornes	David Pfanner
Isobel Crawford	Ray Pierce
Chris Davey	Hew Prendergast
Peter Davidson	Rosemary Purdie
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Mike Doyle	J Redmond
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G Duggan	Joan Rigby
Enid Eliot	Peter Roberts
Paul & Pam Ferrar	A D Ross
Bryan FitzGerald	Alison Rowell
J Garran	Cecily Rowell
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Kay Hahne	Richard Thackway
John Hardwick	Jo Vandermark
I Highley	R C Weston
Chris Hole	Celia Westwood
Jack & Andrea Holland	Jean Whatman
Delia Johnson	Steve Wilson
D Judge	T Wolfe
P Kennenore	J Wombey
Anthony Lawson Michael	Don Wood
Lenz	T Woodburn
Bruce Lindenmayer	Eric & Michael Wright
M Lintermans	Carmen Zanett
Joan and Trevor Lipscombe	

The National Capital Development Commission generously permitted the inclusion of data gathered in surveys conducted on their behalf.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The four-year drought finally broke in March 1982 (see Table I) and since then, the Canberra area has experienced consistently above-average rainfall. Dry conditions during the spring of 1982 undoubtedly had a negative effect on the breeding success of many resident species. Some migratory species failed to appear or remained in Canberra in unusual numbers, and a number of irregular visitors were driven by the drought into our area from their homes in the interior. The full impact of these extraordinary conditions, on land birds at least, is difficult to assess in the absence of comparable GBS figures available for a 'normal' year. The results for 1983-84 with its unusually heavy spring rains may present a most interesting contrast to those for the preceding dry years.

On 9 January 1982 a major bushfire broke out in the Gudgenby Reserve in the south of the ACT. The main fire burned for three weeks, and was finally contained within 140 km of new and existing firetrails from which backburning had been carried out. 36,000 hectares of local forest habitat was damaged or destroyed by this fire.

Waterbird Survey

The Waterbird survey (WBS) data was collected in bi-monthly visits to the urban lakes and monthly visits to Lake Bathurst. A summary of the data appears below, and details will be found under species entries. Abbreviations for lakes:

LBG : Lake Burley Griffin
LBGE : Lake Burley Griffin East /Jerrabomberra Wetland^
LGIN : Lake Ginninderra
LGeo : Lake George
LBath : Lake Bathurst

The drought had only a minor effect on the water levels of the two artificial urban lakes. Only Kelly's Swamp at the east end of Lake Burley Griffin dried up. Total waterbird numbers (see Table II) were comparable to those of previous years.

Lake George dried out completely by August (see Table III). Waterbirds had largely deserted the lake many months before. Increasing salinity of the water and the decreasing food

TABLE I: SUMMARY OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FROM CANBERRA CITY, JULY 1982-JUNE 1983

	1982						1983					
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Mean Temperature (Celsius)												
82-83	5.0	8.7	10.1	13.2	19.3	20.6	21.4	23.6	20.3	12.3	11.0	6.9
LTA*	5.4	6.8	9.4	12.6	15.5	18.7	12.9	20.4	19.8	13.1	8.9	6.5
Rainfall (mm)												
82-83	4.6	12.6	62.8	12.4	0.2	17.2	36.8	21.8	76.8	60.2	101.6	40.4
LTA	38	45	52	69	62	52	60	60	53	48	49	39
Mean Daily Sunshine (Hours)												
82-83	6.5	7.9	7.8	9.1	11.2	8.0	10.8	8.1	7.9	5.4	4.8	4.5
LTA	5.2	6.2	7.3	7.9	8.8	9.1	8.9	8.3	7.4	6.9	5.6	4.8
* Long Term Average												

TABLE II: TOTAL NUMBER OF WATERBIRDS AND SPECIES

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
L Bath												
No. birds	7120	10900	14100	18250	20600	(16100)*	18800	1900	(9600)	6800	(1860)	2160
No. species	32	30	29	30	30	(28)*	31	29	(19)	20	(5)	13
L BG												
No. birds	--	3340	--	(3940)	--	4620	--	5690	--	(3775)	--	(2175)
No. species	--	30	--	(35)	--	36	--	35	--	(29)	--	(20)
L Gin												
No. birds	--	1395	--	1123	--	842	--	857	--	1398	--	1442
No. species	--	15	--	18	--	16	--	13	--	13	--	13

* Values in brackets results from incomplete surveys ; -- No count done

TABLE III: WATER LEVELS (m)*

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
L Bath	1.99	1.94	1.84	1.85	1.62	1.22	1.11	0.79	0.66	0.67	0.69	0.81
L George	0.42	dry	dry	dry	dry	dry	dry	dry	dry	0.51	0.48	0.53

* Values kindly supplied by the Bureau of Mineral Resources

supplies could have been among the reasons. At Lake Bathurst water levels fell steadily, but only the Morass dried up. However, the lake still supported a substantial and diverse population of waterbirds (see Table II). This lake carries rich aquatic life, especially dense stands of underwater plants. They provide sustenance not only for many waterbirds but even for stock. We are not yet in a position to say to what extent observed population changes were influenced by the drought. The current report year is the first one with complete surveys for the entire lake area. For this lake we have thus established the basis for future comparisons. There was a fairly rapid decline in numbers from April onwards *after* the rains had set in. This trend continued into the second half of 1983 and was, though with some delay, paralleled at the urban lakes. Birds dispersed, presumably to breeding grounds, at a rate we have not noticed since 1979, when the surveys started.

Tables IV, V and VI provide a summary of information related to waterbirds.

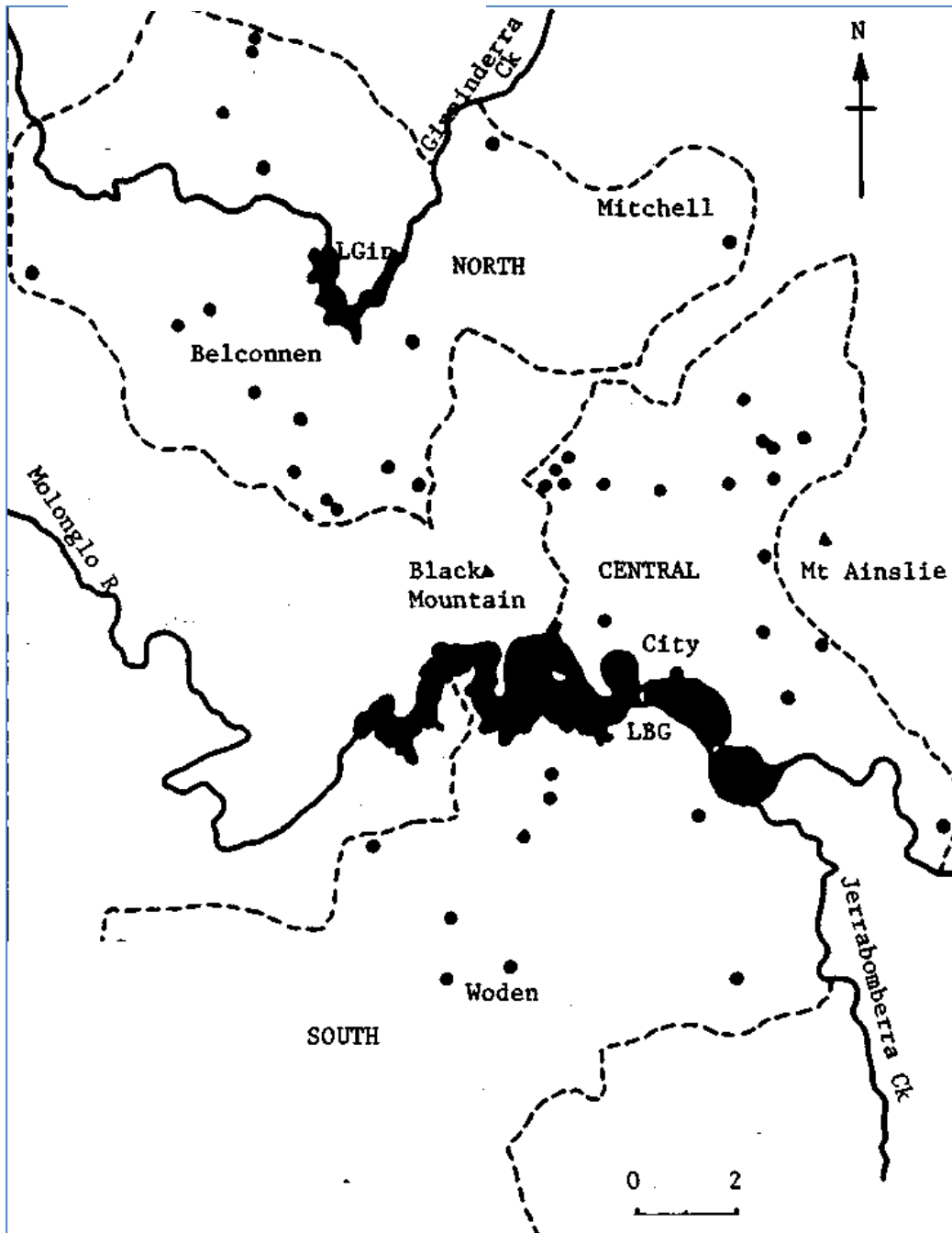
Garden Bird Survey - What the Numbers Mean

The Garden Bird Survey (GBS) is based on information recorded on Garden Bird Charts. 60 charts were received for 1982-83. The survey sites are marked on Map 1. 40 of these sites were surveyed in 1981-82. Observers recorded the maximum number of each species seen on any one occasion within 100 m of their house or office during each seven day period for the twelve months from July to June. Monthly averages have been calculated from the weekly figures.

The monthly GBS figures show the average number of each species recorded per ten garden areas (approximately 30 hectares). These figures are a useful measure of seasonal fluctuation. As a rough guide, a single record of a single bird yielded a monthly figure of about 0.1 this year, although this will vary from one year to the next, depending on the number of gardens surveyed.

The figures labelled 'N', 'C' and 'S' are the sums of these twelve monthly averages for ten garden areas in North, Central and South Canberra respectively (see Map 1). These figures can be used for comparing the numbers of each species recorded in the various regions. These figures are also given as percentages. Note that the suburb of Griffith was included in South Canberra in 1981-82, but is in the Central region in this and future reports.

The average of *these* three figures is labelled 'T'. This provides a convenient index by which overall numbers of different species can be compared and by which numbers of a particular species can be compared from one year to the next,



MAP 1: Observation points (•) for Garden Bird Survey

TABLE IV:

WATERBIRD SPECIES LIST

LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN	AUG	OCT	DEC	FEB	APR	JUN
Hoary-headed Grebe	80	(120)k	154	286	(220)	(43)
Australasian Grebe	50	(60)	55	49	(65)	(50)
Small Grebes (total)	141	(191)	199	335	(285)	(93)]
Australian Pelican	31	(71)	70	81	(10)	(26)
Darter	1	(0)	1	1	(1)	(0)
Great Cormorant	31	(129)	96	123	(53)	(11)
Pied Cormorant	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	(0)
Little Black Cormorant	50	(74)	27	76	(109)	(38)
Little Pied Cormorant	37	(39)	33	45	(53)	(26)
White-faced Heron	3	(4)	5	9	(5)	(5)
Cattle Egret	2	(2)	0	0	(2)	(0)
Great Egret	0	(2)	0	3	(1)	(0)
Little Egret	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	(0)
Intermediate Egret	0	(2)	0	0	(0)	(0)
Little Bittern	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	(0)
Glossy Ibis	0	(0)	7	3	(0)	(0)
Sacred Ibis	1	(1)	1	4	(3)	(0)
Straw-necked Ibis	8	(10)	1	1	(25)	(0)
Royal Spoonbill	0	(0)	3	6	(1)	(0)
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	0	(0)	2	0	(1)	(0)
Black Swan	5	(9)	11	12	(11)	(5)
Freckled Duck	0	(7)	5	0	(0)	(0)
Australian Shelduck	5	(5)	46	16	(8)	(1)
Pacific Black Duck	306	(243)	255	312	(294)	(126)
Mallard/Domestic Duck	9	(1)	2	8	(1)	(3)
Grey Teal	60	(215)	245	220	(25)	(4)
Chestnut Teal	2	(2)	1	1	(0)	(0)
Australasian Shoveler	33	(87)	22	9	(18)	(2)
Pink-eared Duck	47	(18)	6	0	(0)	(0)
Hardhead	93	(75)	109	134	(16)	(2)
Maned Duck	179	(209)	424	534	(50)	(0)
Musk Duck	36	(25)	28	24	(10)	(33)
Baillon's Crake	0	(0)	1	0	(0)	(0)
Australian Crake	0	0	2	0	(0)	(0)
Dusky Moorhen	73	(67)	41	36	(29)	(38)
Purple Swamphen	73	(83)	67	73	(121)	(124)
Eurasian Coot	1615	(1595)	1718	2364	(1681)	(1601)
Masked Lapwing	16	(13)	58	49	(31)	(37)
Red-kneed Dotterel	0	(2)	12	7	(0)	(0)
Black-fronted Plover	5	(2)	6	4	(0)	(0)
Black-winged Stilt	2	(2)	2	4	(2)	(0)
Greenshank	0	(1)	0	0	(0)	(0)
Latham's Snipe	6	(22)	21	16	(0)	(0)
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	0	(10)	0	0	(0)	(0)
Silver Gull	468	(718)	1082	1176	(929)	(429)
Whiskered Tern	0	(1)	0	0	(0)	(0)

*Values in brackets results from incomplete surveys

TABLE V: WATERBIRD SPECIES LIST

LAKE GINNINDERRA

	AUG	OCT	DEC	FEB	APR	JUN
<i>Hoary-headed Grebe</i>	?	19	1	0	87	?
<i>Australasian Grebe</i>	?	52	3	3	1	?
[<i>Small Grebes (total)</i>]	115	71	4	3	88	80]
<i>Australian Pelican</i>	1	8	0	3	0	1
<i>Great Cormorant</i>	4	7	9	1	4	0
<i>Little Black Cormorant</i>	103	4	0	1	86	27
<i>Little Pied Cormorant</i>	32	9	6	0	20	48
<i>Pacific Heron</i>	0	0	3	0	0	0
<i>White-faced Heron</i>	3	0	1	1	0	0
<i>Great Egret</i>	1	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Black Swan</i>	0	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Freckled Duck</i>	0	8	0	0	0	0
<i>Pacific Black Duck</i>	37	32	40	70	34	20
<i>Mallard/Domestic Duck</i>	5	?	3	2	1	2
<i>Grey Teal</i>	0	3	0	1	0	0
<i>Hardhead</i>	0	0	9	0	0	0
<i>Maned Duck</i>	75	14	330	8	4	0
<i>Musk Duck</i>	12	8	7	4	11	4
<i>Dusky Moorhen</i>	35	15	11	36	23	8
<i>Purple Swamphen</i>	24	3	4	13	16	21
<i>Eurasian Coot</i>	946	924	406	714	¹¹⁰⁹	1227
<i>Masked Lapwing</i>	2	2	8	0	2	2
<i>Latham's Snipe</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0

Garden Bird Survey- Relative Abundance

Table VII shows a list of species recorded in the Garden Bird Survey in descending order of relative abundance (T). Where GBS figures for 1981-82 are available, percentage increase (positive numbers) or decrease (negative numbers) is given (dT). A dT value of, for example, 50 means that records for 1982-83 were 50% higher than in 1981-82. Similarly, if dT = -20, then records were 20% lower for that period. A blank in this column indicates that T-values were not calculated for the species in 1981-82. The percentage which each species represents of the total number of birds recorded in the Garden Bird survey is shown in the third column. Some seldom recorded species ($T < 1$) have been omitted.

As was the case in 1981-82, the Common Starling was the most common species in Canberra, followed by the House Sparrow. With the exception of the Yellow-faced Honeyeater, the order in which the major species appear is largely unchanged. Canberra's avifauna is typified by a small number of species which account for a great proportion of overall numbers, and a large number of species which only occur in very small numbers. The ten most common species make up about two-thirds of the total number of birds recorded. The other one hundred-odd species account for the remainder.

Numbers of many of Canberra's commonest species were considerably lower in 1982-83 than in the preceding year. Starlings, sparrows, galahs, silvereyes and currawongs, which between them account for over half of all land-birds recorded in our area, were all less numerous than last year. The prolonged drought, which reduced the amount of food available for many insectivorous and seed-eating species, appears to have drastically affected the breeding of many species. It may take a number of years for such species to build up numbers again.

Other species, such as the Noisy Friarbird and the Double-barred Finch, were far more conspicuous in 1982-83. Two species which deserve a mention are the King-Parrot and the Crescent Honeyeater. Numbers were not sufficiently high in 1981-82 to yield reliable GBS figures for the Crescent Honeyeater but this year's data gave a T-value of 21. Many observers reported that both these species were present in their areas for the first time in 1982-83 and even in those

locations where they were recorded regularly, numbers were uncommonly high. Many King-Parrots remained in the city over the summer instead of departing for other areas to breed.

Many of the less common species (particularly those where $T < 10$) were recorded in greater numbers. While spectacular increases in records of species with very low T-values must be treated with a degree of scepticism, this overall trend seems undeniable.

General trends are also apparent for some families: the smaller, common honeyeaters of genus *Meliphaga* (i.e. the Yellow-faced, White-plumed, Fuscous and White-eared) all fared poorly in the drought. For example, numbers of Yellow-faced Honeyeaters were down by 75% over last year.

Three of the four more common species of thornbill were recorded more frequently. It seems likely that some of these birds may have failed to breed under the harsh, dry conditions and instead of remaining inconspicuously in the breeding areas, more took up residence in suburban areas during the drought.

Similarly, numbers of Blackbirds, Thrushes and Whistlers were similar to, or higher than, last year's levels. It is interesting to compare figures for the White-throated Treecreeper and the Varied Sittella. Both species feed on insects on the trunks and limbs of trees, and both were recorded more frequently in 1982-33.

SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION

TABLE VIII: TOTAL OF GBS INDICES FOR EACH MONTH

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
2760	2109	1758	1521	1419	1704	2127	2082	2355	2463	2034	2439

The monthly figures above are the sums of all the monthly averages for North, Central and South Canberra for the species listed in Table VII. Numbers fell over the late winter and through the spring- to a minimum in November. Summer saw a gradual build up after which the overall numbers remained relatively high and stable, except for a sharp dip in May.

Figures from July to October are not very different from last year's. However, the spectacular increase in overall numbers

which was observed in November and December 1981 as numbers of starlings grew was not repeated in 1982-83, nor was the peak which coincided with the honeyeater migrations in April and May observed. In short, the overall numbers were much more stable this year than last.

TABLE IX: DISTRIBUTION WITHIN CANBERRA

	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	T
Incl Common	5845	10221	8618	8228
Starling	(24%)	(41%)	(35%)	6630
Excl Common	4750	8172	6967	
Starling	(24%)	(41%)	(35%)	

This table shows the sums of the N, C, S and T values for the species listed in Table VII. On first sight, there appeared to be considerably fewer records from South Canberra in 1982-83. In fact, the 1981-82 figures for this region were greatly inflated by numbers of starlings.

If starlings are excluded from both the 1981-82 and 1982-83 figures, the following becomes apparent: a drop of about 20% in the numbers recorded in Central and South Canberra with no significant change in numbers in the Northern region.

Overall numbers for 1982-83 expressed as T dropped by 45%. Again, this figure is distorted by a massive drop in numbers of starlings. Setting aside starlings, the total number of all other species still fell by 20%.

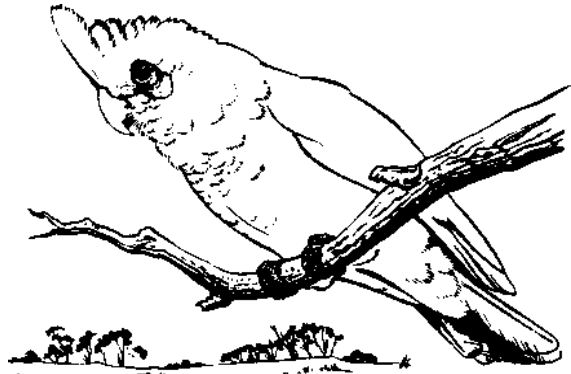
HIGHLIGHTS

The features of the 1982-83 bird-watching year include the following:

1. substantially lower numbers of land birds, particularly in the summer and autumn;
2. the first records of Banded Stilt and Ruddy Turnstone for the Canberra region;
3. records of a number of rare visitors such as the Red-necked Avocet, Marsh Sandpiper, Grey Goshawk, Peaceful and Diamond Doves (both birds of the interior), Little Corella, and White-throated Nightjar;
4. regular records of a flock of up to 14 Glossy Black-Cockatoos, a species rarely recorded in our area before this year;

5. unprecedented numbers of Australian King-Parrots in all areas;
6. the apparent spread of the Common Mynah, accompanied by a substantial increase in the number of records for this species;
7. the greatly reduced autumn migration of many of the familiar species of honeyeater, including the Yellow-faced, White-naped and Fuscous Honeyeaters.

RIGHT: Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*. This unusual visitor to the local area was recorded in February 1983.



RIGHT: White-throated Nightjar *Caprimulgus mystacalis*. One of these rarely seen birds was recorded from Ainslie in March.



The above illustrations are taken from the recently published 'Atlas of Australian Birds', and are reprinted with the kind permission of the Royal Australian Ornithologist's Union.

NON-PASSERINES

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

Not recorded 1982-83 apart from population in Tidbinbilla Reserve.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Status uncertain, but usually uncommon visitor.

Urban lakes: recorded only from LBG- 1/25, 27, 31 May (Doyle).

LBath: more common than in previous years, numbers fluctuating.

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
8	8	30	0	12	(2)	4	5	(0)	1	(0)	0

Small Grebes

Urban lakes: in larger numbers than in previous year (WES).

LBath: (Hoary-headed Grebe only) numbers comparable to previous year, but no breeding as in 1981 (WES).

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

Nomadic, breeding, very common, but numbers fluctuate considerably.

Urban lakes: LBG max Feb/Apr; LGIN 'small grebes' (mainly this species?) most common Aug/(Oct) and to lesser extent Apr/Jun (WES).

LBath: max Jan-Mar, sharp decline thereafter (WES).

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

Very common breeding resident.

Urban lakes: in contrast to previous years a noticeably even distribution of numbers throughout the year, max normally in winter months. Drought refuge? (WES)

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
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Hoary-headed Grebe

LBG	/	80	/	(120)	/		154	/	286	/	(220) / (43)	
LGIN	/	?	/	19	/	1	/	0	/	87	/	?
LBath		130		555		310		285		965		(300)
												1367
												1530
												(1388)
												170
												(0)
												30

Australasian Grebe

LBG	/	50	/	(60)	/	55	/	49	/	(65)	/	(50)
LGIN	/	?	/	52	/	3	/	3	/	1	/	?

Small Grebes (including birds not identified to species level)

LBG	/	141	/	(191)	/	199	/	335	/	(285)	/	(93)
LGIN	/	115	/	71	/	4	/	3	/	88	/	80

NOTE: / = no count done, 0 = no birds, () = incomplete count

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Moderately common visitor

In much lower numbers than in previous years, LBG max Oct-Feb.

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	31	/	(71)	/	70	/	81	/	(10)	/	(26)
LGin	/	I	/	8	/	0	/	3	/	0	/	1
LBath	2	1	10	4	14	(4)	21	7	(0)	0	(0)	0

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

Originally uncommon, but now common on city lakes and local rivers since successful breeding colony Duntroon Reach, LBG.

During WES only 1 bird recorded LBG Aug, Dec, Feb, Apr.

However breeding LBG, east end.

Cormorants

Numbers overall above those of last year, with a more even distribution of numbers especially in the smaller species.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common on city lakes, fewer in winter months, breeding recorded LBath, LGeo.

In our area mainly LBG, on other lakes in small numbers (LGin) and irregular (LBath); LBG max Oct-Feb (WBS).

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

Very uncommon visitor.

Only one positive record 1982-83: 1/13 Feb, LBG (Ross, R Metcalf).

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Very common breeding resident.

Urban lakes: more regular and in higher numbers than in previous year. LBG, LGin with max Aug and Apr and hardly any birds in between.

LBath: irregular in small numbers.

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

Very common breeding resident.

Urban lakes: only LBG in similar numbers throughout the year.

LBath: the only regularly recorded cormorant species with small max Nov-Feb.

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Great Cormorant												
LBG	/	31	/	(129)	/	96	/	123	/	(53)	/	(11)
LGin	/	4	/	7	/	9	/	I/	4	/		0
LBath	1	3	0	0	0	(3)	2	3	(0)	4	(0)	0

Little Black Cormorant												
LBG	/	50	/	(74)	/	27	/	76	/	(109)	/	(38)
LGin	/	103	/	4	/	0	/	1	/	86	/	27
LBath	8	0	0	3	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0

Little Pied Cormorant												
LBG	/	37	/	(39)	/	33	/	45	/	(53)	/	(26)
LBath	8	7	4	8	15	(15)	15	17	(2)	0	(0)	0

Herons/Egrets

In smaller numbers than in previous years.

Pacific Heron *Ardea pacifica*

Moderately common visitor summer-autumn, rare at other times.
Possibly breeds locally.

Several records Dec and Apr/May; 3/12 Dec, LGin (WBS); 1/13, 15 Dec, ANU, Sullivan's Creek (Lenz); 2/1 Apr; 1/3 Apr, Tuggeranong Creek; 2/15 May, Kambah dam (J Holland).

White-faced Heron *Ardea novaehollandiae*

Very common breeding resident.

The most regularly recorded species, but LBG less common than in previous years, max Feb.

Cattle Egret *Ardeola ibis*

Moderately common visitor to LBGE, rare elsewhere.

Few records from LBGE where usually found (WBS); but also up to 5/May, Gungahlin, feeding with cattle (Clayton).

Great Egret *Egretta alba*

Common visitor.

Small numbers, only from urban lakes.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Very uncommon visitor.

Only one record: 1/13 Feb, LBGE (Ross, R Metcalf).

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*
 Uncommon visitor.

Varying number of observations from year to year, several records for report year, all from LBG area: 2/24 Oct, LBG (WBS); 1/7, 20 Nov, LBG, Warrina Inlet (Warrina Inlet Survey); 2/25 Mar, 3/29 Apr, Kelly's Swamp (Gregory-Smith); 1/14, 17 May, ANU, Sullivan's Creek (Prendergast).

Rufous Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*
 Moderately common breeding resident.

Irregularly recorded, observations hardly representative of true population. Only recorded LBG: 1/30 Aug, Molonglo, Dairy Flat Bridge (Lintermans); 1/23 Nov, ANU, Sullivan's Creek (Lenz).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Pacific Heron												
LGin	/	0	/	0	/	3	/	0	/	0	/	0
White-faced Heron												
LBG	/	3	/	(4)	/	5	/	9	5	/	5	
LGin	/	3	/	0	/	1	/	1	/	0	/	0
LBath 1	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cattle Egret												
LBG	/	2	/	(2)	/	0	/	0	/	2	/	0
Great Egret												
LBG	/	0	/	2	/	0	/	3	/	1	/	0
LGin	/	1	/	1	/	0	/	0	/	0	/	1

Bitterns

Continuation of records from LBG for Little Bittern, potential breeding species?

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*
 Very rare visitor.

2 records: 1 female/20 Nov, LBG, Warrina Inlet (Lenz); 2/13 Feb, LBG, west end (Lawson, Morrison).

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

Status uncertain, possibly very uncommon breeding resident. Not recorded for several years.

Black-necked Stork *Xenorhynchus asiaticus*
 Very rare visitor, record of single adult bird, LBGE> 17,18 May 1981.
 No records 1982-83.

Ibises

During WBS only small numbers recorded; LBGE larger numbers of Glossy Ibises than in previous years; further observations of Straw-necked Ibises feeding on urban grasslands as is common in northern Australia.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
 Uncommon visitor.
 Regular November to March, LBGE, max 28/2 Nov (Lintermans).

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopica*
 Moderately common visitor.
 In smaller numbers than in previous years.

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*
 Moderately common visitor.
 Small numbers, LBG (WBS); notable observation: 100/28 Jan, Holder High School playing fields (R Gregory-Smith).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Glossy Ibis												
LBG /	0	/	(0)	/	7	/	3	/	(0)	/	0	
LBath	0	0	2	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0		
Sacred Ibis												
LBG /	1	/	(1)	/	1	/	4	/	(3)	/	0	
LBath 3	0	11	0	0	(3)	6	3	(0)	0	0	0	
Straw-necked Ibis												
LBG /	8	/	(10)	/	1	/	1	/	(25)	/	0	
LBath 8	0	0	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	

Spoonbills

Recorded irregularly, and in small numbers, with Royal Spoonbill mainly LBG and Yellow-billed Spoonbill mainly LBath (WBS).

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*
 Uncommon visitor.
 LBG max Feb; outside LBG only one observed at LBath, Jun (WBS).

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*

Uncommon visitor.

Irregular; LBG only Dec and Apr; LBath more common, Jul-Nov (WBS)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
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Royal Spoonbill

LBG	/	0	/	(0)	/	3	/	6	/	(1)	/	(0)
LBath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Yellow-billed Spoonbill

LBG	/	0	/	(0)	/	2	/	0	/	1	/	0
LBath	12	17	0	10	4	0	0	2	0	3	0	0

Swan and Ducks

Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

Rare summer-autumn visitor, with few recent records.

No records 1982-83.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Common on urban lakes. Breed in large colonies on LGeo, LBath.

Single pairs have bred LBGE.

Urban lakes: in smaller numbers than in previous years, especially noticeable decline on LGin; regular only LBG (WBS). LBath: max Oct-Feb with over 4000 birds; highest number since WBS began; very pronounced decline from April to May with less than 100 birds by June.

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

LBG	/	5	/	(9)	/	11	/	12	/	(11)	/	(5)
LGin	/	0	/									
LBath	825	1653	1912	4306	4300	(2630)	3300	4044	(1306)	1455	(132)	91

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

Regular, moderately common visitor. No breeding records.

Urban lakes: several records Oct-Jan, 8/24 Oct first record for LGin (Digan, WBS); 7/16 Jan, LBGE (Doyle).

LBath: regular until Apr with max Aug and Jan/Feb.

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
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LBG	/	0	/	(7)	/	5	/	0	/	0	/	0
LGin	/	0	/	8	/	0	/	0	/	0	/	0
LBath	28	69	9	33	40	(11)	102	166	(17)	25	(0)	0

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*

Common breeding resident LGeo, LBath; moderately common on urban lakes.

Urban: only LBG, regular in small numbers with max Dec (WBS).

Rural: LBath pronounced max Jan/Feb, with ca 1500 highest concentration of this species since start of WBS.

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	5	/	(5)	/	46	/	16	/	(8)	/	(1)
LBath	0	49	208	150	370	(371)	1493	1515	(52)	67	(34)	135

Dabbling Ducks (*Anas* species)

Urban: numbers Aug-Dec (Feb) above those of previous years, usually numbers lowest at this time (breeding season), probably indication of the severe drought conditions.

Rural: for LBath insufficient comparative figures from previous years available; no parallel pattern to urban lakes; max for the common species at different times.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Very common breeding resident.

Urban: LBG max Aug and Feb, with numbers in between also higher than usual, but low in winter 1983 (WBS). LGIN numbers lower than usual with max Feb (WBS).

Rural: LBath not very common as a rule, with max Jul/Aug (WBS).

Mallard/Domestic ducks *Anas platyrhynchos* Small

breeding populations on LBG and LGIN. Small numbers only on urban lakes (WBS).

Grey Teal *Anas gibberifrons*

Status uncertain. Common all seasons, breeds locally, very nomadic species.

Urban: max usually Feb, this year max numbers Oct-Feb (WBS).

LBath: max Aug-Oct and Apr (WBS).

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

Uncommon on urban lakes, moderately common on LBath, where breeding recorded.

Urban: regular in 1-2 Aug-Feb LBG (WBS).

LBath: recorded in 7 out of 12 months with max Oct and Apr.

Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchotis*

Regular common visitor to urban lakes and LGBE, breeds LGeo, LBath.

Urban: highest numbers Aug-Dec with max Oct, low numbers Feb-Jun, pattern usually reversed.

LBath: steady rise in numbers to max Jan-Mar, absent May-Jun.

Dabbling Ducks (*Anas* species)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Pacific Black Duck												
LBG	/	306	/	(243)	/	255	/	312	/	(294)	/	(126)
LGin	/	37	/	32	/	40	/	70	/	34	/	20
LBath	114	106	43	45	32	53	16	25	(0)	56	(0)	0

Mallard/domestic ducks

LBG	/	9	/	(1)	/	2	/	8	/	(1)	/	(3)
LGin	/	5	/	?	/	3	/	2	/	1	/	2

Grey Teal

LBG	/	60	/	(215)	/	245	/	220	/	(25)	/	(4)
LGin	/	0	/	3	/	0	/	1	/	0	/	0
LBath	1210	1985	2536	2092	1440	(1000)	1090	779	(400)	1432	(0)	200

Chestnut Teal

LBG	/	2	/	(2)	/	1	/	1	/	0	/	0
LBath	10	1	23	124	0	(0)	8	0	0	51	0	25

Australasian Shoveler

LBG	/	33	/	(87)	/	22	/	9	/	(18)	/	(2)
LBath	214	345	751	853	888	(1227)	1564	1605	(657)	425	(0)	0

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

Moderately common visitor.

Urban: LBG present Aug-Dec, with max Aug.

LBath: highest numbers locally recorded since commencement of WBS; present Jul-Apr with always at least 700 birds, max Oct and Jan.

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	47	/	(18)	/	6	/	0	/	(0)	/	(0)
LBath	1020	830	710	1812	1050	(106)	1601	705	(800)	990	(0)	0

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

Moderately common, few breeding records in local region.

Urban: regular only LBG, lower numbers than in previous years with max as usual Dec/Feb and lowest numbers Jun.

LBath: regular Jul-Apr in fluctuating numbers, max (Aug)/Sep.

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	93	/	(75)	/	109	/	134	/	(16)	/	(2)
LGin	/	0	/	0	/	9	/	0	/	0	/	0
LBath	9	71	128	19	60	(4)	15	34	(1)	10	(0)	0

Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

Very common breeding resident.

Urban: max Dec-Feb with a notable max also for LGin.

LBath: usually only in small numbers at lake and nearby farm dams, but noticeable max Jan in accordance with pattern at urban lakes.

Pair with 5 or 6 three-quarter grown young/28 Sep, Yowani Golf Course (Clayton).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	179	/	(209)	/	424	/	534	/	(50)	/	(0)
LGin	/	75	/	14	/	330	/	8	/	4	/	0
LBath	15	2	23	2	14	(30)	420	2	(0)	0	(0)	0

Stiff-tailed Ducks

Urban: in similar numbers to previous years.

LBath: more common than in previous years.

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*

Apparently rare locally, status uncertain because easily overlooked.

Only recorded for LBath, recorded in 8 months, in some other months probably overlooked, max Aug and Apr.

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

Common throughout year, few breeding records.

Urban: regular throughout the year with fluctuations in numbers difficult to interpret.

LBath: present throughout the year with max Jul and especially Mar.

Stiff-tailed Ducks

	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
Blue-billed Duck												
LBath	19	84	1	0	16	(0)	3	7	(12)	30	(0)	0

Musk Duck

LBG	/	36	/	25	/	28	/	24	/	10	/	33
LGin	/	12	/	8	/	7	/	4	/	11	/	4
LBath	97	43	48	18	5	8	21	160	84	0	17	

Raptors

Lack of systematic records from previous years makes the comparison of overall numbers of the species in this group difficult. Those species for which GBS figures were available in 1981-82 appeared to be present in similar numbers this year.

Osprey Pandion haliaetus

Very rare visitor to larger lakes.
No records 1982-83.

Black-shouldered Kite Elanus notatus

Common breeding resident.

GBS : recorded regularly in small numbers from Jul to Jan and in Mar. This pattern of lower summer and autumn numbers has been noted in previous years. Most records originated in the Southern region with a small number from the North. Other interesting records: 3/9 Jul, Belconnen Mall; 5/28 Jul, Eurambie Lagoon, Tuggeranong (Ormay) . 1-2 recorded most months, LBGE (Ross). See Fig. 1.

Black Kite Milvus migrans

Very rare visitor.

1/2 Apr, Kaleen (Clayton).

Whistling Kite Haliastur sphenurus

Common breeding resident.

More common than in previous years. 1/22 Aug, overhead, LBath West Basin (Rowell, Morris, Lenz) ; 2/26 Sep, LBath (Lenz) ; 2/23 Nov, Uriarra Crossing (Holland); 1/28 Nov, LBath (Lenz); 2 immatures hunting/18 Jan, Uriarra Crossing (Gregory-Smith) ; 2/23 Jan, LBath (Nix, Vandermark) ; 2 immatures hunting/26 Jan, Uriarra Crossing (Gregory-Smith); 2 (one carrying sticks)/25 Apr, LBGE (Prendergast) ; 1/7 May, LGin and the same bird again (?) over Latham Oval (Clayton). Individuals recorded Sep, Oct, Apr, May and Jun, LBGE (Ross).

Brown Goshawk Accipiter fasciatus

Common breeding resident.

GBS: recorded in small numbers all months except May and Jun with a peak in records in Jan. Most records from South Canberra. Other records: female with 2 fledglings/3 Dec, Cotter Road (Ormay). See Fig. 2.

Collared Sparrowhawk Accipiter

Uncommon breeding resident.

GBS: small numbers recorded from Oct until May, with the great majority of records originating in the Central region.

Present in typical numbers.

Other records: pair feeding one young, West end of Haig Park (Metcalf) ; 1 harassed by Magpies/9 May, Kaleen (Clayton); 1/22 May, LBGE (Ross). See Fig. 3.

Grey Goshawk Accipiter novaehollandiae

Very rare visitor.

One record: 1/4th week Jan, O'Connor (Westwood).

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Uncommon breeding resident.

A typical number of records: 1/9 Sep, Googong Dam (Cooper); 1/20 Jan, near Hall (McIlroy); 1/23 Jan, LBath (Nix, Vandermark, Lenz); 1/13 Feb, LBath (Lenz); 1/15 Apr, Dairy Flat Road (Gregory-Smith); 1/5 May, near Hall (McIlroy); 1 mobbed by gulls/28 Jun, LGin (Davey).

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

Common breeding resident. Apparently present in typical numbers.

GBS: occasional individuals recorded in all three areas at various times.

Other records: 1/7 Jul, Chapman (Holland); 1/24 Oct, LBath south side (Bennett, Vandermark); 1/20 Nov, Chapman (Holland); 2/29 May, Molonglo Gorge. See Fig. 4.

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

Moderately common breeding resident.

GBS: Occasional individuals recorded in Central and Southern regions, mainly in the cooler months. Other records: Jul, Oct,

Dec, Jan and Feb, individuals recorded at LBGE (Ross).

1/4 Dec, over Mt Ainslie and Ainslie (Lenz); 2/11 Sep, Chapman (Holland); 1/24 Nov, Black Mountain Peninsula (Lenz); adult and fledgling in nest in *Eucalyptus rossii* about 10 m above the ground/3 Sep, Cotter Road (Ormay). See Fig. 5.

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

Very uncommon visitor

More records than in previous years. Interesting suburban record: 1/7 Sep, flying over grassland near Tuggeranong Telephone Exchange (Ormay).

Other records: 1/28 Nov, LBath (Drake); 1 or 2/28 Nov, LBath western section (Brooke); 1/23 Jan, LBath (Nix, Vandermark).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Probably moderately common, but localised, breeding resident. Recorded more frequently than in previous years. Individuals recorded Aug, Sep, Apr and Jun, LBGE (Ross).

Other records: 1/26 Sep, LBath (Pfanner, Seymour, Lenz); 1/20 Oct, Fyshwick Sewerage Ponds (Holland); 3/24 Oct, LBath southwest corner (Nix, Drake); 1/23 Jan, LBath (Cornes); 1/7 Apr, Kelly's Swamp (Clayton).

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

Very uncommon breeding summer migrant.

More records than last year: 2/26 Sep, LBath (Lenz, Nix);
2/23 Jan, LBath (Nix, Vandermark); 1/13 Feb, LBath (Lenz).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Common breeding resident.

GBS: a small number of individuals were recorded between Nov and Apr. This species has been recorded more frequently in the warmer months in previous years as well. Other records: 1/30 Jul, Federal Highway, Queanbeyan turnoff (Lenz); 1 attacking domestic pigeons/7 Mar, high over Kaleen (Clayton); 1/7 Mar, Ainslie (Lenz); 1/26 Jun, LBath (Lenz). See Fig. 6.

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

Common breeding resident.

GBS: numbers built up gradually during the year to a peak in Feb, then declined again during the autumn. No records in May or Jun. This summer peak has been noted in previous years.

Few

records from North Canberra as was the case last year.

Overall

numbers similar.

Other records: 1 took Welcome Swallow from the mud on the edge of the Lake and carried it to a nearby snow-gum to feed on it/ 11 Jul, LBath west basin (Rowell, Morris). See Fig. 7.

Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos*

Very rare visitor, a few local records in drought years.

No records 1982-83.

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

Common breeding resident.

Apparently present in typical numbers.

GBS: recorded in small numbers during the year, mostly in the Southern region.

Other records: 3 including 1 juvenile/24 Oct, LBath south side (Bennett, Vandermark); 3/11 Dec, LBath southeast section (Pfanter); 5/23 Jan, LBath (Nix, Vandermark). See Fig. 8.

Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

Common breeding resident

GBS: recorded all months except Jun but more records in the spring and summer. Distribution within Canberra and overall numbers similar to last year's.

Other records: 7/23 Jan, LBath (Nix, Vandermark). See Fig. 9.

GBS FIGURES: RAPTORS

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
Black-shouldered	.2	.3	.5	.4	.3	.1	.4	0	.1	0	0	0	
Whistling Kite	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.1	0	
Brown Goshawk	.1	.2	.1	.1	.2	.1	.6	.3	.2	.1	0	0	
Collared Sparrowhawk	0	0.3		.3	.2	.2	.3	.2	.1	.2	.1	0	
Australian Hobby	.3	.2	.5	.6	.7	1.0	1.3	2.1	1.1	.5	0	0	
Wedge-tailed Eagle	.1	0		0	.1	0	0	.2	0	.1	0	.1	
Little Eagle	.2	.1	.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.1	0	0	
Black Falcon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.1	0	
Brown Falcon	.1	.2	0	.1	0	.1	0	.1	0	0	.1	0	
Peregrine Falcon	0	0	0	0	0	.1	.1	.2	.2	.1	0	0	
Australian Kestrel	.4	.9	1.0	1.3	.9	1.0	.9	.5	.8	.1	.3	0	1

	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	T
Black-shouldered	1.7(23%)	0	5.6(77%)	2.4
Whistling Kite	0	0	.2(100%)	0
Brown Goshawk	.9(17%)	1.0(18%)	3.5(65%)	1.8
Collared Sparrowhawk	.9(20%)	3.7(76%)	.2(4%)	1.6
Australian Hobby	1.9(8%)	10.2(41%)	12.5(51%)	8.2
Wedge-tailed Eagle	.3(19%)	.4(25%)	1.0(56%)	.5
Little Eagle	0	1.4(86%)	.2(14%)	.5
Black Falcon	.2(60%)	.1(40%)	0	.1
Brown Falcon	0	.2(12%)	1.3(88%)	.4
Peregrine Falcon	.4(25%)	.9(53%)	.4(22%)	.6
Australian Kestrel	6.3(26%)	2.2(9%)	16.2(66%)	8.2

Quail, Button-quail and Plains-Wanderer

Stubble Quail *Coturnix novaeseelandiae*

Probably moderately common breeding resident but large fluctuations in numbers recorded.

No records 1982-83.

King Quail *Coturnix chinensis*

Probably a rare visitor but single record unrepresentative.

No records 1982-83.

Brown Quail *Coturnix australis*

Probably uncommon breeding resident No records 1982-83.

Red-backed Button-quail *Turnix maculosa*

Probably rare summer visitor. No records 1982-83.

Painted Button-quail *Turnix varia*

Moderately common breeding resident in open forest remnants of local region.

No records 1982-83.

Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*

Probably rare summer visitor, possibly breeding when present.

No records 1982-83.

Red-chested Button-quail *Turnix pyrrhothorax*

Probably rare summer visitor. No records 1982-83,

Plains-Wanderer *Pedionomus torquatus*

Very rare visitor on basis of single record for Gungahlin on 10 May 1954.

No records 1982-83.

Crakes and Rails

Buff-banded Rail *Rallus philippensis* Rare summer visitor to local wetlands, Oct-Feb. Breeding record, Yarralumla Bay LBG, Nov-Dec 1968. No records 1982-83.

Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis*

Uncommon spring-summer visitor, possibly breeding LBGE with records Aug-Mar.

No records 1982-83.

Small Crakes (*Porzana* spp)

Actual status of these species difficult to assess due to their secretive habits. Only records for report year in Dec.

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*

Uncommon spring/summer visitor, possibly breeding in Jerrabomberra wetlands.
1/13 Dec, LBGE (Ross).

Australian Crake *Porzana fluminea*

Uncommon spring/summer visitor, possibly breeding.
2/13 Dec, LBGE (Ross).

Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis*

Rare spring/summer visitor, with few records Aug-Feb.
No records 1982-83.

Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis* Very rare visitor, small numbers LBGE in 1969. No records 1982-83.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

Very common breeding resident on city lakes.
LBG: decline continuing, lowest numbers yet recorded.
LGin: over the years numbers increasing, numbers in report year overall comparable to previous year.
LBath: not recorded (WBS).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	7	73	/	67	/	41	/	36	/	29	/	38
LGin	/	35	/	15	/	11	/	36	/	23	/	8

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Common breeding resident LBG, LBGE, localised.
LBG: numbers somewhat lower than in previous years.
LGin: numbers comparable to last year.
LBath: not recorded (WBS).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	73	/	(83)	/	67	/	73	/	(121)	/	(124)
LGin	/	24	/	3	/	4	/	13	/	16	/	21

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Very common on urban lakes throughout the year, large fluctuations
LGeo, LBath indicate highly nomadic.
Numbers comparable to previous years.

LBG: fairly constant numbers with a max Feb.

LGin: fairly constant numbers, with a marked drop in Dec and max Jun.

LBath: gradual build-up in numbers to max Nov/Dec and a marked decline towards Jun.

It is noteworthy that, as often in the past, the distribution patterns differ at the three lakes.

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LGB	/	1615	/	(1595)	/	1718	/	2364	/	(1681)	/	(1601)
LGin	/	946	/	924	/	406	/	714	/	109	/	1227
LBath	2150	3320	4900	6600	8600	(8600)	6050	7325	(2800)	1456	(1200)	573

Brolga Grus rubicundus

Once common locally, now very rare. Records of single birds in winter 1965 and 10 Nov 1978, both LBG.

No records 1982-83.

Australian Bustard Ardeotis australis

Formerly common, last recorded sighting in region Jun 1920.

Bush Thick-knee Burhinus magnirostris

Very rare breeding resident, few records in last decade.

1/Jan-Jun 1976, road near Jeir Creek between Hall and Murrumbateman (Cooper).

No records 1982-83.

Painted Snipe Rostratula benghalensis

Very rare visitor to local wetlands, most records spring/summer, 24 Sep-7 Jan.

No records 1982-83.

Lapwings (*Vanellus* spp)

Masked Lapwing Vanellus miles

Very common breeding resident.

Urban: numbers comparable to previous years with max Dec/Feb.

Rural: LBath max Jul and Apr. Figure for Jul one of the highest for one lake since start of WBS.

Banded Lapwing Vanellus tricolor

Very uncommon breeding resident.

Urban: 2 Aug, flying over Kaleen at 2000 hrs (Clayton).

Rural: only recorded from LBath, noted in 5 out of 12 months, at other times probably also present in wider surroundings of lake.

Lapwings (*Vanellus* spp)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Masked Lapwing												
LBG	/	16	/	(13)	/	58	/	49	/	(31)	/	(37)
LGin	/	2	/	2	/	8	/	0	/	2	/	2
LBath	200	49	132	86	82	(57)	93	108	(65)	175	(20)	73

Banded Lapwing

LBath	11	0	0	15	21	(23)	2	0	(0)	0	(0)	0
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Dotterels/Plovers

Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

Very rare summer visitor, few records LGeo, LBath, LBGE.

No records 1982-83.

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus*

Uncommon but regular summer visitor in small numbers, mainly LBGE, also LGeo, LBath.

Urban: LBG present Oct-Dec in similar numbers to previous year.

Rural: LBath present already from Jul onwards until Jan; species usually recorded in our area from Sept onwards (WBS).

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*

Moderately common autumn/winter visitor to LGeo, LBath. Very rare visitor to urban lakes.

Only recorded LBath with good numbers Jul/Aug and few birds again Feb/Mar.

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*

Common breeding resident LGeo, LBath. Rare visitor to urban lakes.

Only recorded LBath; high numbers Jul-Feb, thereafter only below 100 birds. Outstanding max Aug, when most of the 680 birds were concentrated on the nearly dried out Morass (WBS).

Black-fronted Plover *Charadrius melanops*

Common breeding resident.

Urban: only LBG, in small numbers Aug-Jan. Rural:

LBath only Jul-Aug.

Dotterels/Plovers

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Red-kneed Dotterel												
LBG	/	0	/	(2)	1	12	1	7	/	0	/	0
LBath	6	14	11	6	15	(2)	9	0	0	0	0	0
Double-banded Plover												
LBath	62	47	0	0	0	(0)	0	1	(4)	0	(0)	0
Red-capped Plover												
LBath	267	680	152	167	153	(333)	172	218	(2)	21	(0)	71
Black-fronted Plover												
LBG	/	5	/	(2)	/	6	/	4	/	0	/	0
LBath	10	5	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0

Stilts and Avocets

Black-winged Stilt in numbers similar to last year, but with highest max so far since start of WBS.
First record of a Banded Stilt for our region and a rare record of the Red-necked Avocet.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Moderately common in warmer months, LGeo, LBath; small numbers LBGE. Known to breed on the larger lakes.
Urban: LBG present in small numbers similar to previous year Aug-Apr.
Rural: LBath present Jul-Apr, with max numbers Nov-Jan. Nov figure of 463 highest recorded number since start of WBS.

Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*
First record for region: 1 immature/23 Jan, LBath (Lenz); and again among Black-winged Stilts/13 Feb, LBath (Lenz, Read); 1/26 Feb, LBath (Drake); see CBN 8(4):98-99.

Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*
Very rare visitor, a few records LGeo, LBath, 1 bird 2 Dec 1967-7 Feb 1968, LBGE.
1 record 1982-83: 1/26 Feb, LBath (Drake); see CBN 8(4):98-99.

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN

Black-winged Stilt

LBG / 2 / (2) / 2 / 4 / (2) / (0)
 LBath 37 140 83 206 463 (124) 379 213 (2) 60 (0) 0

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

First record for our region: 1/12 Dec, LBath (Doyle).

Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

Very rare summer visitor. Single record 9 Dec 1977, LBGE.

No records 1982-83.

Sandpipers and Snipe

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Rare summer visitor with records late Nov to late Jan, LBGE.

No records 1982-83.

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*

Rare summer visitor to local wetlands, records late Aug to late Mar.

No records 1982-83.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Very uncommon visitor, mainly summer.

Recorded Sep-Nov with only one record LBGE Oct, all others observed at LBath (WBS).

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Very rare summer visitor to local wetlands.

Series of observations from LBath of this previously rarely recorded species: Sep-Nov and Jan/Feb with max a group of 41/ Feb (WBS), only 6 previous records.

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

Regular, moderately common visitor to local wetlands. Numbers well above those of previous years. Recorded Aug-Feb with most of the observations LBG (this species can be found on most of the vegetated shorelines) with only 1 bird each noted at LGIN and LBath (WBS).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Very rare summer visitor. Records of single birds 17 Dec 1972, 26 Nov 1979, 10 Dec 1979, LBGE.

No records 1982-83.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris aawninata* Moderately common visitor to local wetlands, Aug-Apr. Urban: small numbers Oct LBGE. Rural: LBath Aug-Mar; abrupt increase from Aug to Sep and decline from Feb to Mar, max with nearly 1000 birds Nov, three months earlier than previous year (WBS). 1/7 Sep, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, waterbird enclosure, still in partial summer plumage (Drake).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Very rare visitor, with only 2 records: LBGE, 17 Sep 1972 and 28 Nov 1977.

No records 1982-83.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

Probably moderately common visitor to LGeo, LBath, very rare on urban wetlands.

Only LBath: Jul-Feb and Jun again, with max numbers Jul, Sep, Jan; noticeable winter records. Since LBath surveys more regularly recorded than in the past (WBS).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Very uncommon visitor to local wetlands.

Urban: Observed LBGE, where usually rarely seen: 1/16,29 Oct (Lintermans).

Rural: LBath recorded Jul-Feb with max Nov. Different distribution pattern to previous year when present Feb-Jun (WBS).

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

Very rare summer visitor, 2 records LBGE. No records 1982-83.

Sandpipers and Snipe

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Greenshank												
LBG	/	0	1	/	0	/	0	/	0	/	0	
LBath	0	0	7	10	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Marsh Sandpiper												
LBath	0	0	1	3	5	0	10	41	0	0	0	
Latham's Snipe												
LBG	/	6	(22)	/	0	/	0	21	1	(0)	0	
LGin	/	0										
LBath	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper												
LBG	/	0	/	(10)	/	0	/	0	/	(0)	/	(0)
LBath	0	8	427	820	987	(821)	895	450	(1)	0	(0)	0

Red-necked Stint												
LBath	93	10	99	73	80	(58)	106	50	(0)	0	(0)	1

Curlew Sandpiper												
LBath	5	4	8	64	97	(37)	20	6	(0)	0	(0)	0

Gulls and Terns

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*

Occasional records before LBG filled, now very common around urban area. Breeds regularly LBath.

Urban: only LBG, numbers more evenly distributed than previous year with max Dec-Apr.

Rural: LBath numbers more fluctuating, max Sep.

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	468	/	718	/	1082	/	1176	/	929	/	429
LBath	540	780	1500	338	890	(113)	58	159	(162)	318	(470)	940

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Urban: some records from LBGE: 3/28 Sep (Gregory-Smith); 1/16 Nov (Lintermans).

Rural: LBath present Dec-Feb, max 126/Feb, highest number recorded for some time (WES).

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucoptera*

Very rare visitor, single record LBath. No records 1982-83.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Very rare visitor to local wetlands. One record: 1/23 Jan, Morass.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne Caspia*

Very rare visitor to local lakes: 3/Sep 1964, LGeo; 1/Jun 1969, Yarralumla Bay, LBG; 1/Oct 1979.

No records 1982-83.

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN

Whiskered Tern

LBath 0 0 0 0 0 (13) 103 126 (0) 0 (0) 0

Pigeons and Doves

With the exception of the Feral Pigeon, the species in this group are seldom, if ever, recorded in the urban area. Regular surveys of the bushland habitats around Canberra will reveal more about them, but until these surveys can be arranged, our knowledge of how their populations fluctuate will remain sketchy. All reports of these species are potentially useful; please submit all records. Three species, the Peaceful and Diamond Doves and the Crested Pigeon, are not common around Canberra and their appearance is usually linked with periods of drought.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common breeding resident.

GBS: records from all areas and overall numbers were considerably lower this year. See Fig.10.

Erratum: 1981-82, T = 207.

Spotted Turtle-dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Rare visitor.

No records 1982-83.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*

Rare visitor.

Two records: 2/19 May, LBGE (Ross); 4/11 Jun, LBGE (Bird Observers Club).

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

Rare visitor.

Two records: 1/2nd week Apr, garden backing on to Mt Ainslie (FitzGerald); 1/1-2 May, Black Mountain Peninsula (Prendergast).

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

Moderately common breeding resident.

Fewer records than in previous years; not indicative of its true status. Interesting record: 3/12 Sept, Mt Ainslie (Drake).

Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

Moderately common breeding resident in wetter *Eucalyptus* forests, no records in urban area.

No records 1982-83.

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

Very uncommon visitor.

Three records: 1/18 Oct, LBGE (Ross); 1/19 Jan, Cotter Road (Ormay); 7/18 Apr, Cotter Road. 'According to the lessee of the property, the Crested Pigeons bred there last summer and had been there for about two years.' (Ormay).

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

Uncommon breeding resident, no records within city boundaries of Canberra.

One record: 1/24 Apr, Picadilly Circus (Prendergast). Please submit all records of this species.

GBS FIGURES: PIGEONS

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Feral Pigeon	20	11	15	7.6	8.4	8.7	9.6	16	17	12	15	12
Common Bronzewing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.2
	NORTH			SOUTH			CENTRAL		T			

Feral Pigeon	64(14%)	347 (77%)	42(9)	151
Common Bronzewing	0	.6(100%)	0	.2

Parrots

Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

Rare visitor.

Up to 14 were recorded regularly on Mt Ainslie from April onwards. Details of these sightings are given below:

9 April, am,	6, Western slopes (Morrison)
9 April, pm	6, Western slopes (COG Party)
10 April, am	6, Western slopes (COG Party)
13 April, pm	5, Western slopes (COG Party)
16 April, am	6, Western slopes (COG Party)
28 April, pm	4, Western slopes (FitzGerald)
3 May, am	14, Western slopes (FitzGerald)
2 June, pm	10, Western slopes (FitzGerald)
8 June, am	14, Northeast ridge, (Morrison, FitzGerald)
11 June, am,	6, Northeast ridge, (Morrison)
12 June,	7, Northeast ridge, (Bird Observers Club)
29 June, 5 males	5 males + 3 females (Holland)

One other interesting record: 9/8 Jan, overhead LBGE (Ross). It seems likely that these were a part of the flock which was observed on Mt Ainslie earlier that day. This would also account for the subsequent drop in numbers recorded on Mt Ainslie. It may also coincide with the appearance of this species on Red Hill.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus* Moderately common breeding resident of open forest in adjacent ranges, but rarely seen in urban areas.

Two records: 15/30 Apr, Tidbinbilla; 25/19 Jun, Cotter Crossing (Prendergast). Habitat surveys will reveal more about the movements of this species.

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*
Common breeding resident.

GBS: numbers fell to a minimum in Nov then climbed steadily through the summer and autumn to a peak in Jun. The main feature of this pattern coincided with those of 1981-82, but the rates at which the population grew or shrank were rather different. Fewer records than in the previous year (1981-82: T = 92). Notably more common in the Northern region. See Fig. 11.

Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla*

Very common breeding resident.

GBS: more common in the Central region than last year.

Overall numbers similar. See Fig. 12.

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*

Rare visitor.

One record of this unusual visitor: 2 with a flock of 50 Sulphur-crested Cockatoos/13 Feb (Lenz).

Pink Cockatoo *Cacatua Leadbeateri*

Very rare visitor. No records 1982-83.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

Moderately common breeding resident.

GBS: fewer records in late winter and spring than in the corresponding period last year. The population declined as the weather warmed up but grew steadily again after a minimum in Nov. There was a major influx in Jun. A corresponding influx was noted in May last year. Total numbers and distribution within Canberra were largely unchanged. Note strong preference for Central and Southern regions. Interesting records: 500/11 Jul, LBath (any connection with low numbers in Canberra in Jul?); 270/20 Jun

and 600/2 Jul, roosting at CSIRO, Black Mountain (Lenz) .
Breeding record: 3 entering a hollow in a eucalypt/25 Aug,
Emu Flats near Booroomba Rocks (Ormay) . See Fig. 13.

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

Rare visitor.

No records 1982-83.

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

Rare visitor, no recent records. No
records 1982-83.

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*

Uncommon visitor.

One record: 1/3rd week Nov, O'Connor (Thackway).

Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*

Common breeding resident.

GBS: considerably more numerous and widespread than in the pre-
vious year. Recorded for the first time in many localities. Spring
exodus took place one month later than in 1981-82, and a number
remained in Canberra over the summer. Many returned in Feb - a
marked contrast to last year when most returned in Apr and May.
Records for south Canberra up by 350% ! Total numbers up by 100%.
Interesting record: 1058/4 Jul, roost flight at Scrivener Dam
(Lenz). See Fig. 14.

Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii*

Moderately common in certain areas west of Yass. Uncommon visitor
to urban area.

Recorded in small numbers most years. Five records: 1/2nd week
Sep, overhead Torrens (Brooke); 4/30-31 Oct, Button (Wombey) ;
4/4th week Nov, Melba (Bear); 1/4 Dec, Kambah (Lenz); 1/19 May,
Sutton (Lenz).

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Very uncommon visitor.

Three records: 2/21 Aug, over Evatt (Pfitzner) ; 2/10 Nov, Cotter
Road (Ormay); 2/24 Jan, near Hall (McIlroy) .

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

Very rare visitor to region.

GBS: odd individuals 1982-83, mainly escapees, recorded Sept,
Nov and Dec.

Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*

Uncommon visitor.

Three records: 1/28 Jan, ANU (Lenz); 7/19 Apr, Wildlife Research, Gungahlin (Clayton); 3/19 Jun, feeding in profusely flowering ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*) Chapman (Holland).

Recorded at Gungahlin once in 1981-82, this species had not been sighted for several years before that.

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

Very common breeding resident.

GBS: numbers declined sharply after Jul and continued to fall to a minimum in Jan. Records increased again to a peak in Jun.

While the curve is not as smooth as last year's, these major features were common to both. Distribution within Canberra and overall numbers were similar to those of 1981-82. See Fig. 15.

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

Common breeding resident.

GBS: numbers fell to a minimum in Dec, but remained consistently low for the remainder of the year. The numbers recorded in the Central region were comparable with those recorded in 1981-82, records for North and South Canberra were both about 25% lower. Overall numbers were down by about 20%. See Fig. 16.

Port Lincoln Ringneck *Barnardius zonarius*

Very uncommon breeding resident. Originally escapees, now a small breeding population.

One record: 1/4th week June, Cook (Brooker).

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*

Common breeding resident.

GBS: from a minimum in Oct, numbers increased rapidly to peak levels in Feb. This maximum was followed by a sharp reduction in numbers. This general pattern and overall numbers were similar to those of 1981-82, although there was a significant increase in numbers recorded in the northern region. See Fig. 17.

Blue Bonnet *Northiella haematogaster*

Rare visitor.

No records 1982-83.

Blue-winged Parrot *Neophema chrysostoma*

Very rare visitor. No records 1982-83.

Peachface *Agapornis* sp.

Four records of escapees: 1/3rd week Jul, Kambah (Wilson); 1/3rd week Dec, Cook (Brooker); 1/3rd and 4th weeks Jan, Rivett (Gregory-Smith).

GBS FIGURES: PARROTS

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Gang-gang Cockatoo	6.8	7.2	6	3.8	1.7	3	2.7	3.5	4.7	5.2	8.3	11.2
Galah	136	71	34	58	36	49	68	70	52	79	94	151
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	21	17.2	14.9	15.2	11	12	14.6	20.6	22.9	27.2	33.8	53.8
Australian King-Parrot	6.3	6	7.6	3	.8	.7	2.2	7.4	8.5	5.9	10	11.4
Superb Parrot	0	0	.1	0	.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Budgerigar	0	0	.1	0	.2	.1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crimson Rosella	31.1	22	23.2	18.7	14.6	15.3	14.3	19.2	15.1	20.7	24.4	25.4
Eastern Rosella	17.7	17.8	14.7	12.5	12.3	11.7	13.9	11.5	12.1	12.1	11.3	14.1
Red-rumped Parrot	4	5.9	5.7	3.8	4.8	7.3	7.9	9.9	6.5	5.5	6.6	7.7
Peachface	.1	0	0	0	0	.1	.1	0	0	0	0	0

NORTH

CENTRAL

SOUTH

Gang-gang Cockatoo	33.2(17%)	139.6(72%)	20.2(10%)	64.3
Galah	569 (21%)	960 (36%)	1157 (43%)	896
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	84.7(11%)	454 (57%)	254.2(32%)	264.3
Australian King-Parrot	6.4(3%)	120.7(58%)	82.3(39%)	69.8
Crimson Rosella	196.8(27%)	342.8(47%)	192.8(26%)	244.1
Eastern Rosella	130 (27%)	183.1(38%)	172.1(35%)	161.7
Red-rumped Parrot	27.4(12%)	34.9(15%)	164.8(73%)	75.6

Cuckoos

Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*

Common breeding summer migrant.

GBS: first record: 3rd week Aug (same week as last year). Peak in records in Oct - although this may reflect peak in calling activity, rather than actual numbers. One late record: 1 adult/ 24 Mar, Kambah (Wilson). Latest record in the preceding year was in the 1st week of Feb. Fewer records from the Southern region than last year. Overall numbers slightly lower than in 1981-82. Interesting record: 1 juvenile fed by Red Wattlebird/ 29 Nov, ANU (Lenz). See Fig. 18.

Brush Cuckoo *Cuculus variolosus* Uncommon breeding summer migrant. No records 1982-83.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cuculus pyrrhophanus*

Common breeding summer migrant.

GBS: recorded regularly from 2nd week Aug (two weeks earlier than last year) until Dec with a peak in Oct. (Recorded 4th week Aug to 1st week Nov 1981.) Note unusual record: 1/2nd week Apr, Scullin (Clark). Fewer records from the Southern region than in 1981-82. See Fig. 19.

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*

Rare summer migrant, possibly breeding. No records 1982-83.

Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalts*

Common breeding summer migrant.

GBS: first record: 16 Aug. (same week as in preceding year). Last record: 4th week Feb, approximately one month later than in 1981-82. Greatest numbers recorded in the spring. Less common in Central Canberra than last year. Similar numbers in the Northern and Southern regions. See Fig. 20.

Shining Bronze-cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

Common breeding summer migrant.

GBS: recorded in small numbers from Sep to Nov with peak in Oct. Less common in the North this year.

Common Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*

Very rare summer visitor. No records 1982-83.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*
 Very rare summer visitor. No records 1982-83.

GBS FIGURES: CUCKOOS

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Pallid Cuckoo	0	.5	2.2	3	2	.5	.3	.1	.1	0	0	0
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	0	.2	.5	.9	.5	.1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo	0	.5	.7	1	1	.3	.1	.2	0	0	0	0
Shining Bronze-cuckoo	0	0	.3	.6	.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
					NORTH		CENTRAL		SOUTH		T	
Pallid Cuckoo					15.2(58%)	5.9(23%)	5.1(19%)	8.7				
Fan-tailed Cuckoo					3.4(51%)	2.3(34%)	1 (15%)	2.2				
Horsfield's Bronze-					4.8(43%)	1.9(17%)	4.6(40%)	3.7				
Shining Bronze-cuckoo					.3(11%)	1.2(41%)	1.4(48%)	.9				

Owls, Frogmouth and Nightjars

Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*

Moderately common breeding resident.

Two records: 1/10 Apr, Botanic Gardens (Thaler); 1/27 Apr, Blundell's Creek (Gregory-Smith).

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

Probably a moderately common breeding resident.

GBS: gradual increase in the number of records until a peak was reached in Oct - coinciding with the height of the breeding season. Varying numbers of records each month for the remainder of the year. Most records were aural and reflect calling activity rather than actual numbers present. Some records from the Northern region where it was not recorded in 1981-82. Although fewer were recorded in South Canberra, overall numbers were comparable with those of the previous year. See Fig. 21.

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*
 Probably an uncommon breeding resident.
 No records 1982-83.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*
 Probably a moderately common breeding resident.
 One record: 1/1st week Oct, Holt (Davey).

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae* Possibly an
 uncommon breeding resident. No records 1982-
 83.

Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris*
 Status unknown.
 No records 1982-83.

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*
 Moderately common breeding resident in less disturbed habitat,
 uncommon in urban environment.
 GBS: only one record during the period Jul to Nov, but recorded
 regularly throughout the summer and autumn with an apparent
 increase in numbers towards winter. More data required to
 illuminate this curious pattern. More frequently recorded in the
 Southern region this year. Like the Boobook, it is relatively
 unknown in North Canberra. See Fig. 22.

Australian Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*
 Probably a moderately common breeding resident.
 Two records: 1 heard/4th week Jan, Ainslie (FitzGerald); 1 heard/
 2nd week Mar, Ainslie (Zanetti). Several records on Mt Ainslie
 last year.

White-throated Nightjar *Caprimulgus mystacalis*
 Possibly very uncommon summer visitor or passage migrant.
 One record: 1/1st week Mar, Ainslie (FitzGerald).

GBS FIGURES: OWLS, FROGMOUTH AND NIGHTJARS

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Southern Boobook	.8	1.2	1.3	1.7	.9	.6	.8	.5	.9	.6	0	0
Tawny Frogmouth	0	0	0	0	0	.1	.1	.1	.1	.3	.4	.4

	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	T
Southern	2.7(10%)	17.9(65%)	7.1(26%)	9.2
Boobook Tawny	.2 (4%)	1.8(37%)	2.8(60%)	1.6
Frogmouth				

Swifts

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*

Moderately common non-breeding summer migrant.

GBS: recorded in Jan, Feb and Mar, as was the case in 1981-82, but overall numbers were greater this year. The bulk of records consist of large flocks of up to 200, so distribution within Canberra will vary markedly from year to year. The sudden appearance of this species is usually associated with summer thunderstorms. See Fig. 23.

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

Very uncommon non-breeding summer migrant.

GBS:, several records of 1-3 individuals with flocks of White-throated Needletails. Last recorded in Jan 1980.

GBS FIGURES: SWIFTS

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
White-throated Needletail	0	0	0	0	0	0	35.9	11.7	30.4	0	0	0
Fork-tailed Swift	0	0	0	0	0	.1	.1	0	.4	0	0	0

	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	T
White-throated Needletail	25.8(11%)	121.1(52%)	87(37%)	77.9
Fork-tailed Swift	1.1(64%)	.6 (36%)	0	.5

Kingfishers, Bee-eater and Dollarbird

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azurea*
Rare visitor.
No records 1982-83

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*
Common breeding resident.
GBS: recorded all months in fluctuating numbers. Figures suggest a peak in population from Jan until Mar. This maximum, which was also apparent in 1981-82, is difficult to interpret in terms of the known life-cycle of this species. More data is required. Numbers recorded in the Central and South regions fell, while marginally more were recorded in the North this year. Overall numbers were about 20% lower. See Fig. 24.

Red-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon pyrrhopygia*
Probably a very uncommon summer migrant to surrounding open pastoral lands, and rare summer migrant in urban and near-urban areas.
No records 1982-83.

Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*
Common breeding summer migrant.
GBS: first record: 2nd week Oct, one week later than last year. Last record: 4th week Mar, same week as in the previous year. Much less frequently recorded in North Canberra this year. Overall numbers were significantly lower, (1981-82, T=4). See Fig.25.

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*
Moderately common breeding summer migrant along Murrumbidgee corridor, less common along Molonglo corridor.
GBS: conspicuously less common than in previous years. Occasional small flocks recorded from Oct onwards.
12-14/13 Oct, McIlroy's property via Hall; 6/26 Jan, Uriarra Crossing (Gregory-Smith). See Fig. 26.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*
Common breeding summer migrant.
GBS: first record: 1st week Oct, same week as last year. Large numbers arrived in Nov - rather earlier than in 1981-82. Numbers continued to rise rapidly to a strong peak in Jan. Only a few remained by Mar. Last record: 4th week Mar, two weeks later than last year. In 1981-82, this species was less conspicuous in the early part of its stay. More frequently recorded in North Canberra this year. Overall numbers unchanged. See Fig. 27.

GBS FIGURES:

KINGFISHERS, BEE-EATER AND DOLLARBIRD

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Laughing Kookaburra	4.3	6.5	5.3	4.4	4.9	4.1	6.3	6.3	6	3.8	3.8	5.3
Sacred Kingfisher	0	0	0	.5	.4	.3	.4	.1	.2	0	0	0
Rainbow Bee-eater	0	0	0	.2	.4	0	.4	0	1	0	0	0
Dollarbird	0	0	0	1	3.5	2.9	5.3	2.6	.5	0	0	0

	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	T
Laughing	50.2(27%)	71.1(39%)	62 (34%)	61.1
Sacred Kingfisher	1 (17%)	3.1(54%)	1.7(29%)	1.9
Rainbow Bee-eater	2 (34%)	2.7(46%)	1.2(21%)	1.9
Dollarbird	12.5(26%)	21.2(45%)	13.6(29%)	15.8

PASSERINES

Lyrebird

Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae*

Moderately common breeding resident in wet open forests in ranges east and west of Canberra.

One record: nest with one juvenile/11 Nov, Tidbinbilla (Ormay).

Please submit all records of this species.

Larks

Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*

Probably an uncommon breeding summer migrant.

No records 1982-83.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Moderately common breeding resident in suitable habitat.

No records 1982-83.

Swallows and Martins

White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosternum*

Possibly very uncommon breeding summer migrant. No records 1982-83.

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

Very common breeding summer migrant.

GBS: numbers fluctuated during the year with little discernible pattern. More frequently recorded in the spring but the orderly build up noted in 1981-82 was not repeated this year.

Note possible secondary peak in April. Overall numbers and distribution within Canberra were largely unchanged.

Breeding records: 1 pair with 5 juveniles/25 Nov, ANU (Lenz); 4, nest with young under culvert/3 Dec, Cotter Road (Ormay). See Fig. 28.

Tree Martin *Coreopsis nigricans*

Common breeding migrant.

GBS: numbers grew to a strong peak in Dec then declined rapidly.

Not recorded after Apr. No GBS figure was available for 1981-82, but appeared to be much more common this year. Note strong preference for the Southern region. See Fig. 29.

Fairy Martin *Coreopsis ariel*

Common breeding migrant.

GBS: records were restricted to Jan and Feb: flocks of 30 on several occasions, Hughes (Wright).

Flocks of 20 and 25 were also recorded at LBGE in Oct (Ross).

Breeding record: 6-2 nests under culvert/3 Dec, Cotter Road (Ormay).

GBS FIGURES: SWALLOWS AND MARTINS

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Welcome Swallow	.9	2.8	4.5	4	3.1	4.5	2.7	1.4	4.2	1.7	1.6	.1
Tree Martin	.2	.6	1	1.6	1.4	3.9	2.1	1.1	.2	0	0	0
Fairy Martin	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	1.4	0	0	0	0

	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH
Welcome Swallow	17.3(18%)	9 (10%)	67.8(72%) 31.4
Tree Martin	3.2(9%)	2.1(6%)	31.2(86%) 12.1
Fairy Martin	0	0	11.8(100%) 3.9

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Common breeding resident.

GBS: recorded most months in fluctuating numbers.

Present most months LBGE, (Ross). Please submit all records of this species.

GBS FIGURES: PIPIT

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Richard's Pipit	.2	.2	.1	.3	0	.1	.2	.1	0	0	.1	0

	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	T
Richard's Pipit	1.2(34%)	0	2.3(66%)	1.1

Cuckoo-Shrikes, Cicadabird and Triller

Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

Common breeding summer migrant.

GBS: numbers rose to a peak in Oct. Apart from a slight drop in Dec, the numbers remained relatively stable until they declined rapidly in Mar and Apr, as they did in 1981-82. Fluctuations were rather different from last year's and overall numbers were 30% lower. See Fig. 30.

White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina papuensis*

Very uncommon visitor, No records 1982-83.

Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*

Uncommon breeding summer migrant to adjacent forested ranges.

One record of this species which rarely leaves its forest habitat: 1 male/1st week Nov, Ainslie, (FitzGerald). Last recorded in Nov 1980.

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*

Breeding summer migrant.

GBS: recorded regularly from 3rd week Oct to 4th week Mar, arriving nine weeks later and departing seven weeks earlier than in 1981-82. Numbers reached a peak in Dec. Far less

common than in the previous year (1981-82, T=10). Distribution within the urban area was also markedly different but should be treated with caution because of the small numbers involved. See Fig. 31.

GBS FIGURES: CUCKOO-SHRIKE AND TRILLER

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	3.5	5.5	7.6	10.9	10.3	7.1	9.9	8.8	9.9	5	1.9	1.4
White-winged Triller	0	0	0	.1	.3	.4	.1	0	.1	0	0	0

	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	T
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	90(37%)	60.4(25%)	95.2(39%)	81.8
White-winged Triller	1.5(47%)	1.5(47%)	.2(6%)	1.1

Blackbird, Thrush, Robins and Whistlers

White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma*

Common breeding resident/partial migrant in adjacent mountain ranges. Uncommon winter migrant to lowlands around Canberra, some birds present in most winters in National Botanic Gardens. No records 1982-83.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Common breeding resident.

GBS: a slight drop in numbers in Sep, possibly coinciding with the onset of the breeding season. The number of records increased steadily thereafter to a peak in Dec, then declined rapidly to a minimum in Feb. These fluctuations and overall numbers were remarkably similar to last year's. Note, however, that records for the Northern region have more than doubled, indicating that this species is continuing to spread.

First record for Kaleen.: 1/2 May, (Clayton). Please submit all records. See Fig. 32.

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

Common breeding summer migrant to primary habitat in the Brindabellas. Occasional visitor to urban gardens during spring and autumn movements.

GBS: records restricted to the cooler months. Last spring record: 4th week Sep; first autumn record: 3rd week Apr.

No GBS figures are available for 1981-82, but this species is apparently present in average numbers.
Other records: 1 male/8 Jul, Aranda (Clayton)J 1 male/3,4 Apr, Chapman (Holland).

Pink Robin *Petroica Rodinogaster*

Uncommon winter migrant.

Three records: 2 males and 1 female/10 Oct, Brindabella (Ormay); 1 male/1 Jun, ANU Staff Centre (Mason); 2nd week Jun, Botanical Gardens (Bird Observers Club). Last recorded in Canberra in Mar 1980.

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*

Moderately common winter migrant.

GBS: present throughout the cooler months. Note large numbers in July. Last spring record: 4th week Oct; 1st autumn record: 4th week Mar. Departed eight weeks later and returned three weeks earlier than in 1981-82. Overall numbers were comparable with those of 1981-82 although it was not recorded in the Central region this year.

Scarlet Robin *Petroica multicolor*

Common breeding resident in open forest of adjacent hills and ranges, moderately common winter migrant in urban area.

Like the Flame Robin, this species is also present during the cooler weather.

GBS: last spring record: 1st week Oct, 1st autumn record: 2nd week Mar. Remained six weeks longer and departed four weeks later than last year. Overall numbers were comparable but numbers in the North dropped and records from South Canberra increased. See Fig. 33.

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*

Rare breeding resident.

Several records: 1 male/11 Jul, Queanbeyan near Mt Jerrabomberra (Cooper); 1-3 on various occasions/ Oct-Mar, Mt Ainslie (Lenz, Clayton); 2 males/12 Oct, Gungahlin (Rushton); 1 male/15 Oct, Gungahlin (Clayton).

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*

Uncommon breeding resident, very rarely recorded in urban area.

Three records: 2 males and 1 female/4 Sep, Burra (Ormay);

1 pair/19 May, Sutton (Lenz); 2/13 Jun, Sutton (Wombey).

Present in typical numbers. This species was not recorded in O'Connor as mistakenly reported in last year's Bird Report.

Please submit all records.

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

Common breeding resident in suitable habitat in ranges adjacent to Canberra,

GBS: recorded regularly in small numbers in the central region with odd records from other areas. Appears to be less common in the spring. More data needed.

Jacky Winter *Microeca leucophaea*

Status uncertain, probably a very uncommon breeding resident/migrant.

Several records in 1982-83; even less common than in the previous year: 1/5th week Jul and 1st week Aug, Ainslie (Barr); 1/4 Oct, Mt Ainslie near Pistol Club (Lenz); 1st-4th weeks Apr, Kambah (Highley).

Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus*

Uncommon breeding resident in local hills and ranges, very uncommon in urban area.

Four records: 1/4 Sep, Burra (Ormay); 1/4th week Mar; 1/1st week Apr and 1st-2nd weeks May, Holt (Davey). A typical number of records.

Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea*

Very uncommon winter visitor to urban area.

No records 1982-83.

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

Moderately common breeding summer migrant to adjacent hills and ranges, moderately common in urban area in non-breeding season.

GBS: recorded all months except Dec. Relatively common until Oct after which numbers declined rapidly. A few records over the summer months. The autumn influx commenced in Mar and numbers reached a peak in May. Considerably more common in the summer and autumn than in 1981-82, although overall numbers remained comparable. Distribution within Canberra was more uniform with fewer records originating in the Central region. See Fig. 34.

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*

Moderately common breeding summer migrant with a few birds overwintering in urban area.

GBS: recorded all months. Spring influx commenced in Oct, one month later than in 1981-82. Numbers remained high and constant until Jan, when many departed, then declined further in Mar. Note that this species was not recorded in May or Jun in the previous year. Distribution within Canberra and overall numbers are roughly comparable with those of 1981-82. See Fig. 35.

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

Moderately common breeding resident.

GBS: numbers fell from a peak in Aug to a minimum in Dec. The autumn influx took place in Apr. Like the Golden Whistler, this species was more common in the summer months and returned to Canberra earlier than in the preceding year. While the number of records from the North and Central regions did not change, there were over three times as many records in the South. Overall numbers were about 70% higher than in 1981-82. See Fig.36.

GBS FIGURES: BLACKBIRD, ROBINS AND WHISTLERS

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Blackbird	13	13.1	10.7	11.4	12.7	14.2	11.5	8.1	10.7	10.1	10.9	10.6
Rose Robin	.1	0	.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.1	0	0
Flame Robin	1.9	.4	.1	.5	0	0	0	0	.1	.2	.1	.3
Scarlet Robin	1	.3	0	.1	0	0	0	0	.3	1.1	.3	.3
Eastern Yellow Robin	.3	.3	.1	0	.2	.1	.2	.3	.2	.3	.4	.4
Jacky Winter	0	.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.2	0	0
Crested Shrike-tit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.1	0	.1	0
Golden Whistler	1.1	1	1.5	1.2	.5	0	0.2	.2	.9	1.4	1.5	.9
Rufous Whistler	1.1	.8	1.3	3.1	3	3	2.6	1.5	1.7	1.7	.7	.8
Grey Shrike-thrush	2.2	2.9	1.5	.9	.4	.1	.3	.3	.6	2.5	3.1	3.2

	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	T
Blackbird	93 (23%)	213.3(52%)	104.7(25%)	137
Rose Robin	0	.9(100%)	0	.3
Flame Robin	7.4(69%)	0	3.3(31%)	3.6
Scarlet Robin	2.2(21%)	2.5(24%)	5.5(54%)	3.4
Red-capped Robin	0	.1(100%)	0	0
Eastern Yellow	.1(2%)	6.9(79%)	1.7(20%)	2.9
Jacky Winter	0	.3(28%)	.7(72%)	.3
Crested Shrike-	.5(100%)	0	0	.1
Golden Whistler	9.1(30%)	13.5(44%)	8.2(27%)	10.2
Rufous Whistler	15.2(24%)	22.2(35%)	26.8(42%)	21.4
Grey Shrike-	12.9(24%)	14.6(27%)	26.5(49%)	17.9

Flycatchers, Fantails and Wagtail

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*

Rare visitor.

No records 1982-83.

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*

Common breeding summer migrant to drier open forests and woodlands

GBS: present from 3rd week Oct to 2nd week Apr with a peak in Jan. Arrived and departed two weeks later than in 1981-82. Numbers seem rather low in Dec. More data required. Overall numbers and distribution within Canberra largely unchanged. Breeding record: 1 pair building nest/28 Dec, Corroboree Park Ainslie (Lenz). See Fig. 37.

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

Uncommon breeding summer migrant to adjacent ranges.

GBS: occasional records from all three regions. 1st record: 5th week Oct. Last record: 2nd week Apr, later, than usual. In recent years, most records have been from country areas.

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

Status uncertain, probably an uncommon breeding migrant or partial migrant.

GBS: a typical number of records from gardens in North and South Canberra.

One non-urban record: 2/23 Nov, Uriarra Crossing (Holland).

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

Moderately common breeding summer migrant to adjacent ranges. GBS: apparently present in typical numbers. Occasional records from Dec to Apr.

One non-urban record: 1 Apr, Village Creek, Kambah (Holland).

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

Very common breeding summer migrant, some birds overwinter in and around Canberra.

GBS: recorded all months. Large numbers present in Sep and Oct. Number of records declined markedly in Nov but built up again to a peak in the autumn. This pattern of summer and winter minima was also noted last year. Overall numbers were almost 40% higher than in 1981-82, while distribution within Canberra remained roughly similar. See Fig. 38.

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

Apparently a common breeding resident/partial migrant. GBS: numbers remained fairly constant until Nov when they declined suddenly. Note that the surprising peak which was noted in Oct 1981 was not recorded in 1982. After Nov, the number of records increased to a peak in Jan then declined again over the late summer and autumn. Autumn figures were much lower than last year's. Overall numbers were about 40% lower than the previous year. Distribution within Canberra remained largely unchanged. See Fig. 39.

GBS FIGURES: FLYCATCHERS, FANTAILS AND WAGTAIL

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Leaden Flycatcher	0	0	0	1	.8	.4	1.3	1.2	.5	0	0	0
Satin Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	0	.1	0	.1	.1	.1	0	0
Restless Flycatcher	.3	.4	0	0	.1	0	0	0	.1	0	0	0
Rufous Fantail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.2	.1	0	0
Grey Fantail	2.2	1.7	3.6	4.5	1.6	2.1	2.7	3.3	5	5	1	.7
Willie Wagtail	3.5	2.9	3.4	3.6	2	3.1	4.4	3.4	2.7	2.2	2.1	2.5

	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	T
Leaden Flycatcher	2.2(14%)	9.7(61%)	3.9(25%)	5.2
Satin Flycatcher	.5(33%)	.8(54%)	.2(13%)	.4
Restless	.4(12%)	0	2.7(88%)	1
Rufous Fantail	.4(32%)	.8(68%)	0	.3
Grey Fantail	29 (29%)	29.9(30%)	41 (41%)	33.3
Willie Wagtail	26.1(24%)	31.5(29%)	49.4(46%)	35.7

Whipbird, Quailthrush and Babblers

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*

Moderately common breeding resident in suitable habitat in ranges adjacent to Canberra.

No records 1982-83.

Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinolosoma punetatum*

Uncommon breeding resident. No records 1982-83.

Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporal-is*

Very rare breeding resident. No. records 1982-83.

White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superei-liosus*

Status unknown.

No records 1982-83.

Old World Warblers

With the exception of 'the Reed-Warbler, the species of this group are all birds of the open grassland and are rarely recorded in the urban habitat. Our knowledge of these species is rather scanty - simply because we lack sufficient records. Regular surveys of suitable habitats will yield much data on these rather secretive species. Until these surveys can be arranged, transect reports and casual observations are our only sources of information. Please submit all records.

Clamorous Reed-Warbler *Aotoccephalus stentoreus*

Very common breeding migrant.

Present all months LBGE, with approximately 150 in Oct (Ross).

GBS: unusually common in gardens this year. It seems probable that many were driven from their usual homes by the drought and

came to Canberra where they found permanent water. Once all the territories along the banks of the creeks and lakes were occupied, the latecomers were forced to nest in trees and shrubs well away from water, hence the relatively high numbers of GBS records. See Fig. 40.

Little Grassbird *Megalurus grconineus*

Moderately common breeding resident.

A small number recorded all months, LBGE (Ross). Also recorded occasionally at Village Creek, Kambah (Holland).

Breeding record: 1 pair and juvenile/11 Dec, Warrina Inlet, LBG (Lenz) .

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

Moderately common breeding resident.

Recorded in small numbers most months with higher numbers in the spring and summer, maximum 10/ December, LBGE (Ross) . Also recorded at Village Creek, Kambah (Holland) .

Rufous Songlark *Cinclorhamphus mathewsi*

Irregular summer breeding migrant.

GBS: recorded from 1st week Oct to 5th week Jan. A similar number of records last year. Mostly in gardens in the North and South regions.

Brown Songlark *Cinclorhamphus*

Probably irregular summer breeding migrant.

Few records 1982-83: 1/Oct, LBGE (Ross); 1/Nov-Dec, Chapman (Browning). See Fig. 41.

GBS FIGURES: OLD WORLD WARBLERS

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Clamorous Reed-Warbler	0	0	0	.1	.1	.2	.3	.2	0	0	0	0
Rufous Songlark	0	0	0	.8	.4	.2	.6	.3	0	0	0	0
Brown Songlark	0	0	0	0	.1	.1	0	0	0	0	0	0
							NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	T		
Clamorous Reed-							1.3(44%	0	1.7(56%)	1		
Rufous Songlark							4	.6(9%)	2.1(32%)	2.2		
Brown Songlark							0	0	.4(100%	.1		

Wrens, Thornbills and their Allies

Superb Fairy Wren *Malurus cyaneus*

Common breeding resident.

GBS: numbers declined steadily over the spring to a minimum in Dec, then shot up to a peak in Feb. The number of records declined to the Dec level as the weather cooled. This pattern is almost identical to last year's. The one major difference was that both minimum and maximum levels were reached one month later this year. Numbers in North and Central Canberra were unchanged but there were over 40% more records from the Southern region. See Fig. 42.

Pilotbird *Pycnoptilus floccosus*

Moderately common breeding resident in suitable habitat in ranges adjacent to Canberra.

No records in 1982-83.

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

Common breeding resident in primary habitat in adjacent ranges, only moderately common in near-urban habitats and uncommon in urban gardens.

GBS: recorded occasionally throughout the year. As this species has not adapted well to suburban gardens, GBS figures may not give an accurate picture of its status. More data required.

Chestnut-rumped Hylacola *Sericornis pyrrhopygius*

Rare visitor, one record at Gundaroo and 2 records of single birds near entrance of National Botanic Gardens.

No records 1982-83.

Speckled Warbler *Sericornis sagittatus*

Moderately common breeding resident.

GBS: recorded in small numbers most months but only in the Central region. More data required.

Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris*

Common breeding resident.

GBS: more common in the cooler months. Considerably more conspicuous in the spring and early summer than in the preceding year when it had all but disappeared. Overall numbers were 20% higher and although it was recorded far more frequently in the Central and Southern regions this year, records in North Canberra were down by 60%.

Breeding record: 2, nest with 2 eggs/31 Oct, southern slopes of Mt Ainslie (Clayton). See Fig. 43.

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*
Rare visitor.
No records 1982-83.

Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*
Uncommon breeding summer migrant or partial migrant.
GBS: recorded regularly from 3rd week Aug to 4th week Mar with peak late summer and early autumn. No GBS figures are available for 1981-82, but this species appeared to be rather more common this year than last. Showed a strong preference for the Northern region. See Fig. 44.

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*
Common breeding summer migrant.
GBS: recorded regularly from 1st week Sep to 2nd week Apr, arriving two weeks earlier than in 1981-82. From the time of its first appearance, numbers built up steadily to a peak in Jan. Like the Western Gerygone, this species was apparently more common than in the preceding year. Unlike last year, however, there was a significant number of records in the Northern region. Overall, records were distributed much more uniformly than last year.
Breeding record: 1, with almost completed nest/31 Oct, southern slopes of Mt Ainslie (Clayton). See Fig. 45.
ERRATUM: in last year's Bird Report the records were said to be equally divided between Central and South Canberra. In fact, the population was almost exclusively restricted to the Central region (1981-82, N=0, C=12, S=1, T=4.7).

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*
Moderately common breeding resident.
GBS: present in small numbers all months. More common in May and Jun. Overall numbers were considerably greater than last year. Last year there were few records from the Central region. This year it was most common in the South. See Fig. 46.

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*
Moderately common breeding resident.
GBS: recorded all months but present in greatest numbers in the summer and autumn. Overall numbers were about 30% higher than last year. Note the great increase in records from the Southern region. See Fig. 47.

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*
Common breeding resident.
GBS: numbers fell rapidly in Aug and Sep, as was the case last year. There was a substantial leap in numbers in Nov (a similar increase was noted in Dec in the previous year), with the

number of records reaching a peak in Mar, then falling in the last months of the year. This formed an interesting contrast with the preceding year when numbers recorded continued to increase through the autumn and early winter. There was a 25% drop in the number recorded in Central Canberra while numbers in the other regions remained largely unchanged. A 13% drop in overall numbers was noted. See Fig. 48.

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*

Uncommon breeding resident.

Small parties recorded regularly during Nov and Dec at the following locations: Warrina Inlet LBG; ANU; Mt Ainslie (near transformer) and Fisher Place, Ainslie (Lenz).

Breeding records: 3 adults and 2 begging juveniles/19 Dec, Fisher Place, Ainslie; 5 including 2 young being fed by the others/29 Dec, Mt Ainslie, Pistol Club (Lenz).

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*

Common breeding resident.

GBS: very few records between Jun and Sep, but numbers grew steadily thereafter to reach a peak in May and Jun. Fluctuations bear little resemblance to those of 1981-82. More data required. Central records unchanged but much more common in the North and South regions this year. Overall numbers up by over 100%. See Fig.

Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala Leucopsis*

Very uncommon breeding resident. Three records, all from non-urban habitats; apparently present in typical numbers: 2/2nd week Nov and 3rd week Apr, Kambah (Bennett); 3/29 May, Lake Road near Bungendore (Drake).

GBS FIGURES: WRENS, THORNBILLS AND THEIR ALLIES

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Superb Fairy-wren	5.9	5.1	4	3.9	3.1	2.6	5.1	8	7.1	4.5	3	3.4
White-browed Scrubwren	.2	.3	.1	0	0	.4	.3	0	0	0	0	0
Speckled Warbler	0	.1	0	.1	.3	0	.1	0	0	.1	.2	.1
Weebill	4.5	4.1	3.3	2.2	3	3.3	3.2	2.5	4.2	4.7	3.9	5.2

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Western Gerygone	0	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.6	1	.7	0	0	0
White-throated Gerygone	0	.5	.8	1	.9	1	.3	1	.6	.1	0	0
Brown Thornbill	.6	.6	.5	.8	.8	1	1.2	.7	.5	1	1.5	3.4
Buff-rumped Thornbill	2.1	.3	.4	.3	1.5	.7	2.5	3.7	3.3	3.5	1.4	.8
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	27.2	14.3	9.6	10.4	16.4	14.6	18.7	18.7	22.3	18.5	13.7	18.1
Yellow Thornbill	0	0	0	0	0	0	.2	0	0	0	0	0
Striated Thornbill	.8	.2	.3	1.9	3.1	2.6	4.2	3.8	3.9	6	9.1	9.4
Southern Whiteface	0	0	0	0	.1	0	0	0	0	.1	0	0

	NORTH	SOUTH	CENTRAL	T
Superb Fairy-wren	32.9(20%)	75.5(45%)	58.5(35%)	55.6
White-browed Scrubwren	0	1.6(42%)	2.2(58%)	1.3
Speckled Warbler	0	3.2(100%)	0	1
Weebill	10.1(8%)	64.2(49%)	58 (44%)	44.1
Western Gerygone	5.1(63%)	2 (24%)	1.1(13%)	2.7
White-throated	2.9(16%)	8.9(48%)	6.7(36%)	6.1
Brown Thornbill	2 (5%)	9.7(25%)	26.5(69%)	12.7
Buff-rumped Thornbill	11.1(18%)	32.4(53%)	17.8(29%)	20.4
Yellow-rumped	178.4(29%)	184.5(30%)	244.8(40%)	202.5
Yellow Thornbill	0	.5(100%)	0	.1
Striated Thornbill	21.5(16%)	63 (46%)	51.4(38%)	45.3
Southern Whiteface	.0	0	.7(100%)	.2

Sittella and Treecreepers

Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

Moderately common breeding resident.

GBS: only present in small numbers from Jul to Dec. There was a major increase in the numbers recorded in Jan followed by a second influx in Apr. Overall, numbers were far greater in the second half of the year than in the first and the total number recorded was more than double last year's figure.

Records in the Central region were largely unchanged, but records from North and South Canberra were both up by a factor of about four. See Fig. 50.

White-throated Treecreeper *Climacteris leucophaea* Common breeding resident.

Recorded in small but constant numbers in the last half of 1982. Like the Varied Sittella, there was a considerable increase in numbers in Jan. Numbers reached peak levels in Mar and remained fairly stable during the late autumn and early winter. More common than in the previous year, with more uniform distribution within Canberra. Note great increase in records in the Northern region (1981-82: N=1, C=9, S=0, T=3.3). See Fig. 51.

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptera* Moderately common breeding resident in suitable habitat in adjacent ranges, but absent from urban and near-urban areas. No records 1982-83.

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*

Uncommon breeding resident.

Three records: 1/25 Sept, Acacia Inlet LBG (Lenz): 1/1st week Feb and 1st week Mar, O'Connor (Woodburn).

GBS FIGURES: SITTELLA AND TREECREEPERS

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Varied Sittella	.6	.2	.1	.4	.3	.3	1.7	1.5	1.2	2.2	2.1	1.4
White-throated Treecreeper	.6	.5	.4	.4	.4	.5	.9	.8	.1	.7	.8	.7
Brown Treecreeper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.1	.1	0	0	0

	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	T
Varied Sittella	14.4(40%)	13.5(38%)	8.0(22%)	11.9
White-throated	9.0(39%)	13.2(58%)	.8(3%)	7.6
Brown Treecreeper	0	0	.4(100%)	.1

Honeyeaters

Of the 23 species of this group which have been recorded in the Canberra area, 16 were sighted in 1982-83. With the exception of the Noisy Friarbird and the Eastern Spinebill, population patterns for the group were typified by substantially lower numbers than in the previous year. Many of the commonest, smaller species such as the Yellow-faced, Fuscous, White-plumed, and White-naped Honeyeaters were recorded in numbers approximately 50-75% lower. The huge flocks of honeyeaters which normally pass through the Canberra area in the autumn were conspicuous by their absence in 1982-83.

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*

Common breeding resident.

GBS: numbers declined to a minimum in Jan and Feb then climbed again to a peak in Apr. A maximum was also observed in the autumn last year. Distribution within Canberra was much more uniform and overall numbers were 25% lower than in the previous year. Early breeding record: 2 juveniles/20 Sep, ANU (Lenz). Two noteworthy records: 1 flock of over 60 in eucalypts/30 Apr, Rivett (Holland); 1 flock of at least 30/15 May, Rivett (Holland). See Fig. 52.

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

Uncommon visitor.

No records 1982-83.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

Very uncommon visitor.

No records 1982-83.

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

Common breeding summer migrant, with some birds overwintering.

GBS: present in small numbers in Jul and Aug. Numbers built up rapidly in Sep as in the previous year but continued to rise in Oct. More common during the summer this year. Most had

departed by Apr and only a few remained in May and Jun. Overall numbers were 30% greater than last year, mainly due to the high spring figures. Two unusual records: 30 non-breeding birds/5 Dec Corroboree Park, Ainslie (Lenz); 60 non-breeding birds/17 Dec, Coombs Building, ANU (Lenz). See Fig. 53.

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

Very uncommon summer visitor.

Three records: 1/3rd week Jan, Holder (Thackway); 1/4th week Mar, Ainslie (Taylor); 2/3rd week May, Holder (Thackway).

Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia*

Uncommon and irregular breeding visitor.

One record: 1 male/27 Oct, in willows on Sullivan's Creek, ANU (Lenz). Recorded on eight occasions in 1981-82, a year in which this species was unusually common.

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

Very rare visitor.

No records 1982-83.

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*

Common, but localised, breeding resident.

GBS: recorded all months except Sep. Records show a sudden build-up in May and Jun which was also noted in the previous year. Substantially fewer records in South and Central Canberra than in 1981-82. Overall numbers were approximately 25% lower than last year. See Fig. 54.

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

Records from areas east and south of Canberra, but only a few unconfirmed records locally.

No records 1982-83.

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*

Common breeding summer migrant to the ranges.

GBS: the failure of the autumn migration of this species was one of the features of 1982-83. Common from Jul to Oct, it departed somewhat later than in the previous year. Most had left by Nov. A small number remained in Canberra over the summer and numbers began to grow in Mar. Records for Apr and May, however, were only 14% and 5% of last year's levels. A higher percentage of records originated in the North this year. The overall numbers were approximately 75% lower than last year. The failure of the autumn migration may be a sign of poor breeding success due to drought or bushfires. See Figs. 55 and 56.

Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens*

Rare visitor, records of single birds in Aug 1962, Sep 1964.
No records 1982-83.

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis*

Common breeding summer migrant in adjacent ranges. Winter altitudinal migrant to urban parks and gardens.

GBS: one of the few honeyeaters to show similar population patterns in both 1981-82 and 1982-83. Numbers declined rapidly during the spring and most had departed by Oct. A few odd records over the summer. Reappeared in substantial numbers in Apr and the number of records increased during the winter. Distribution within Canberra and overall numbers were both comparable with those of the previous year. See Fig. 57.

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

Uncommon breeding resident.

Recorded in small numbers most years. Two records - both 2nd week May: 1, O'Connor (Nix); 1, Chapman (Holland). This species was only recorded in May in the previous year.

Fuscous Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fuscus*

Moderately common breeding summer migrant in the ranges. Some birds overwinter in urban area.

GBS: present in much greater numbers from Jul to Oct than during the same period in the previous year. Unusually late record: I/2nd week Nov, Ainslie (FitzGerald). Influx commenced in autumn (first autumn record: 2nd week Apr; the same week as last year) but numbers were well below their 1981-82 levels. Distribution within Canberra was far more uniform than in the previous year. Overall numbers were down by 45%. See Fig. 58.

White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus*

Moderately common breeding resident.

GBS: numbers declined to a minimum in the spring but climbed throughout the remainder of the year. Autumn build-up was not nearly as pronounced as in the preceding year. While distribution within Canberra was comparable, overall numbers were down by 52%. See Fig. 59.

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*

Moderately common breeding resident in open forest and woodland and uncommon visitor to urban parks and gardens. GBS: recorded in Aug and from Dec onwards. Particularly numerous in May and Jun. Significantly more records than in the previous year. Last year's preference for the Southern region was also noted this year. See Fig. 60.

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*

Common breeding summer migrant in local open forest, increasing numbers overwintering in urban native gardens. GBS: numbers peaked in Aug then declined rapidly. Last spring record: 5th week Oct, four weeks later than in 1981-82. Small flocks observed in the 3rd and 4th weeks Dec. An unusual flock was also recorded in the 4th week Dec in the previous year. Autumn influx began in 3rd week Apr, one week earlier than last year, but the numbers did not continue to climb as was the case in the previous year. Instead, numbers of records fell dramatically in May and Jun. Overall numbers were only 25% of last year's levels. Distribution within Canberra was more uniform than in 1981-82. See Fig. 61.

Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*

Rare breeding summer migrant.

No records 1982-83.

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*

Moderately common breeding resident in adjacent ranges, some altitudinal migration to urban area in winter. Small breeding population in National Botanic Gardens.

GBS: present throughout the cooler months. First record: 4th week Sep, last record: 1st week Apr. Overall, this species appears to have been considerably more common in Canberra than in previous years. Many observers reported unprecedented numbers. Recorded for the first time in many localities. Most records from the Southern region. See Fig. 62.

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

Moderately common breeding resident.

GBS: records in Jul and from Apr to Jun. More often observed in Southern region. More data required. See Fig. 63.

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Phylidonyris melanops*

Possibly a very uncommon irregular visitor. Few records for Canberra.

No records 1982-83.

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

Moderately common breeding resident in primary habitat, with altitudinal migration from adjacent ranges in winter, when it is most common in urban gardens.

GBS: numbers fell to a minimum in Oct and remained constant until the autumn influx commenced in Mar. The number of records continued to increase in Apr and reached a peak in May and Jun.

Overall numbers were comparable with 1981-82 levels, but fluctuations were less extreme. The winter maximum was not as pronounced and considerably greater numbers were recorded over the summer. Distribution within Canberra was more uniform than in the previous year. See Fig. 64.

GBS FIGURES: HONEYEATERS

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Red Wattlebird	9.9	9	10.1	7.1	7.1	7.5	5.3	5.6	9.3	19.1	13.9	14.4
Noisy Friarbird	2.3	2.5	12.9	27.3	26.6	31.8	35.8	34.4	23.7	8	.9	2.9
Little Friarbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	.1	0	.1	0	.1	0
Noisy Miner	2.1	2	0	1.5	1.6	2.2	2.3	2.8	2	1.2	5.3	6
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	27.2	18.9	24	15.3	1.5	2.3	1.7	1.8	26.1	81.9	9.2	7.6
White-eared Honeyeater	3.8	2.3	1.1	0	.1	.1	0	.1	.2	1.2	2.7	3.2
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.1	0
Fuscous Honeyeater	16	7.5	3.7	.3	.1	0	0	0	0	.6	4.1	9.7
White-plumed Honeyeater	3.1	2.7	1	.3	.4	1.2	.9	.9	1.3	2.5	2.2	2.4
Brown-headed Honeyeater	0	.2	0	0	0	.1	.2	1	.3	.2	2.1	3.3
White-naped Honeyeater	9.9	13	3.1	1.5	0	.2	0	0	.8	22.4	6.6	2.8
Crescent Honeyeater	1.2	1.6	.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	.5	1.6	1.5
New Holland Honeyeater	.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.1	.3	.1
Eastern Spinebill	8.3	7.2	4.7	1.9	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.8	3.2	6.6	7.8	7.8

	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	T
Red Wattlebird	11 .2(31%)	125. 3(35%)	119. 2(34%)	118. 2
Noisy Friarbird	0)	19 .1(32%)	186. 7(30%)	241. 8(39%) 209. 2
Little Friarbird	0		.2(20%)	. 6(80%) .
Noisy Miner	61 .6(71%)	6.	9(8%)	18.4(21%) 29
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	17 .9(27%)	158.	5(24%)	318. 3(49%) 217. 5
White-eared Honeyeater	8 .1(18%)	9.	2(21%)	27 (61%) 14. 7
Yellow-tufted	0	.	1(41%)	, 2(59%) • 1
Fuscous Honeyeater	46 (36%)	41.	1(33%)	39. 2(31%) 42. 1
White-plumed Honeyeater	20 .8(37%)	7.	2(13%)	28. 8(51%) 18. 9
Brown-headed Honeyeater	2 .5(12%)	1.	5(7%)	17. 9(81%) 7. 3
White-naped Honeyeater	46 .7(26%)	50.	9(28%)	82. 5(46%) 60. 3
Crescent Honeyeater	4 (20%)	1	(7%)	15 (73%) 21
New Holland Honeyeater	.3(19%)		.4 (.2	1. 1(59%) . 6
Eastern Spinebill	41 .6(26%)	67.	5(42%)	53. 2(33%) 54. 1

Australian Chats

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*

Uncommon breeding resident.

Recorded most months in small numbers. Eleven records totalling 54 birds. Records from Jerrabomberra Wetlands, Lake Bathurst, Sutton, Village Creek - Kambah and Lake Ginninderra West (Drake, Ross, Lenz, Holland, Ormay).

Mistletoe-bird, Pardalotes and Silvereye

Mistletoe-bird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

Moderately common breeding summer migrant, with a few birds overwintering.

GBS: present in small numbers from 2nd week Oct (one week later than last year), until 2nd week Mar with a peak in Dec. This species' period of residence in the Canberra area is said to coincide with the flowering of its main food-source, the mistletoe. Far more frequently reported and widespread than last year. See Fig. 65.

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

Common Breeding resident/migrant.

GBS: numbers declined slowly to a minimum in Nov; a considerably greater number were recorded then than in Nov 1981-82. The number of records increased during the summer and after a sudden

influx in Apr, numbers fell rapidly to their lowest for the year. This was in marked contrast with the pattern for the previous year when the autumn influx took place in Mar and numbers remained relatively high in May and Jun. Overall numbers were down by about 30%. Records in Central Canberra were down by approx 50% but the number in the Southern region while still small, rose by about 70%. See Fig. 66.

Yellow-rumped Pardalote *Pardalotus xanthopygus*
 Very rare visitor.
 No records 1982-83.

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*
 Common breeding resident.
 GBS: a sudden increase in Aug preceded a decline to a minimum in Dec. Numbers climbed rapidly to a peak in Apr. (In 1981-82, numbers peaked one month earlier and reached considerably higher levels.) Like the Spotted Pardalote, numbers then declined to an annual minimum in Jun. Overall numbers were comparable with the previous year's, mainly due to the Aug increase. Distribution within Canberra was similar. See Fig. 67.

Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*
 Very common breeding resident
 GBS: numbers fell to a minimum in Nov, then climbed to a peak in Apr. After May, the number of records declined rapidly. The fluctuations, numbers and distribution within Canberra were all similar to those of 1981-82. See Fig. 68.

GBS FIGURES: MISTLETOE-BIRD, PARDALOTES AND SILVEREYE

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Mistletoe-bird	0	0	0	.8	1.1	1.2	.9	.2	.2	0	0	0
Spotted Pardalote	10.6	7.6	5.5	4.6	3.5	4.2	5.2	6.7	5.7	19.2	3.7	2.7
Striated Pardalote	6.6	25.9	10.4	6.3	5.9	5.8	9.7	9.3	11.9	17.1	3.3	1.9
Silvereye	68.6	68.8	42.6	34.1	25.3	34.7	42.5	48.4	55.1	68.6	38.1	54.4

NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	T		
Mistletoe-bird		1.9(15%)	4.1(31%)	7.3(55%)	4.4
Spotted Pardalote		44.9(19%)	140.3(59%)	52.2(22%)	79.1
Striated Pardalote		62.3(18%)	190.6(56%)	89.5(26%)	114.1
Silvereye		428.6(25%)	773.8(44%)	542.7(31%)	581.7

Finches, Sparrows and Firetails

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common breeding resident.

GBS: the number of records was considerably smaller throughout the late winter and spring than in 1981-82. Numbers were stable until Jan when they began to decline. As was the case last year, the numbers were lowest in the autumn and began to build up in Jun. Overall numbers were about 45% lower than in 1981-82.

Distribution within Canberra was similar. See Fig. 69.

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Very uncommon localised breeding resident.

Noteworthy record from the north side of Lake Burley Griffin: I/4th week May, National Botanic Gardens (Purdie).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Very common breeding resident.

GBS: the number of records fell sharply to a minimum in Oct after which they grew again to a peak in Mar. Numbers in Apr and May showed a slight decline but rose again in Jun. This pattern is almost identical to that of 1981-82, except that the population was at its smallest in Oct, one month later than last year; an indication that the breeding season may have commenced rather later this year. Total numbers and distribution within Canberra closely resemble those of 1981-82. See Fig. 70.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Status unknown. Few records locally may be due to aviary escapees

or deliberate introduction.

No records 1982-83.

Canary *Serinus canarius*

One record: 1 (escapee)/2nd week Sep, Ainslie (Taylor).

Red-browed Firetail *Emblema temporalis*

Moderately common breeding resident.

GBS: a gradual increase in numbers until Oct was followed by a sharp decline. Very few recorded in Nov or Dec but reappeared in substantial numbers in Jan. Numbers grew steadily to a strong peak in Apr, then declined again during winter. This twin-peaked curve is less enigmatic than last year's, but more data is still needed. Total numbers recorded were similar to those of 1981-82 but distribution within Canberra was more uniform. See Fig. 71.

Beautiful Firetail *Emblema bella*

Very rare visitor or single record may have been an aviary escapee.

No records in 1982-83.

Diamond Firetail *Emblema guttata*

Uncommon localised breeding resident in local region outside urban area. Rarely recorded in urban area except at fringes. One to two recorded on 3 occasions/Jul, Kambah (Bennett).

Zebra Finch *Poephila guttata*

Rare visitor.

One record: 1/3rd week Sep, Cook (Digan).

Double-barred Finch *Poephila bichenovii*

Moderately common, but localised, breeding resident.

The numbers fluctuated during the year with little discernible pattern. Viewed in conjunction with last year's results, however, there is some evidence to suggest a minimum in the summer followed by a peak in the autumn. More data required. Considerably more common this year. Total numbers were 175% higher. Distribution within Canberra was also more uniform than last year. See Fig. 72.

Plum-headed Finch *Aidemosyne modesta*

Probably a rare visitor.

No records 1982-83.

GBS FIGURES: FINCHES, SPARROWS AND FIRETAILS

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN

European Goldfinch

3.3 5.2 5.4 5.2 5 5.8 6 3.3 1.9 1.8 2.8 7.2

House Sparrow

104.5 80.8 70.7 54.1 60.5 69.8 73.2 80.8 86.2 77.3 78.6 91

Red-browed Firetail

1.2 .5 1.8 2.7 .3 .1 .6 .8 1.9 3.5 1.6 1.2

Diamond Firetail

.3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Zebra Finch

0 0 .1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Double-barred Finch

6.8 5.6 6.3 3.7 5.3 3.2 4.1 4.5 5.2 3.4 5.6 2.2

	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	T
European Goldfinch	30.5(19%)	46.7(29%)	81.5(51%)	52.9
House Sparrow	949 (34%)	1105(40%)	727(26%)	927
Red-browed Firetail	4.9(10%)	32.5(67%)	11.3(23%)	16.2
Diamond Firetail	0	0	.8 (100%)	.2
Double-barred Finch	50.3(30%)	103.1(61%)	14.8 (9%)	56

Starling and Mynah

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Very common breeding resident.

GBS: numbers fell to a minimum in Oct, then rose again during the summer. The population reached a peak in Mar but declined as the weather cooled. This pattern and overall numbers were quite different from those of 1981-82 when the numbers were highest in Dec and the T-value was twice the 1982-83 figure. Distribution within Canberra was more uniform than in the preceding year. See Fig. 73.

Common Mynah *Acridotheres tristis*

Common breeding resident in the older suburbs south of LBG.

GBS: numbers increased during the year, as observed in 1981-82. In 1982-83 there were over twice the number of records of 1981-82. Recorded regularly in the North (Scullin) and Central regions while in the previous year, records were restricted to South Canberra. The increase in numbers and the greater geographical range of this species give serious cause for concern. See Fig. 74.

GBS FIGURES: STARLING AND MYNAH

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Common Starling	179.2		109.3		91.4		172.6		204.5		112.6	
		110.7		65.8		137.1		172.1		132.6		110.7
Common Mynah	1.2	3.3	3.2	3.7	2.6	3.4	3.6	3.0	2.8	2.8	3.8	4.0
				NORTH		CENTRAL		SOUTH			T	
Common				1095	(23%)	2049.1	(43%)	1651.4	(34%)	1598.5		
Starling				9.	1(8%)	37.5	(33%)	65.7	(58%)	37.4		
Common Mynah												

Oriole, Drongo and Bowerbird

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

Moderately common breeding summer migrant.

GBS: first arrival: 2nd week Sep, Weetangera (Wood), one week earlier than last year. Most arrived in Sep and Oct, although numbers did not reach a peak until Nov. The number of records fell dramatically after Dec but some individuals remained until Apr. Last record: 2nd week Apr, Scullin (Clark), three weeks earlier than in 1981-82. Present in considerably higher numbers than last year. Distribution within Canberra also more uniform than in the previous year but still more common in North Canberra. See Fig. 75.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*

Very rare visitor.

No records 1982-83.

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

Moderately common breeding resident in primary habitat in adjacent ranges.

Odd records from Southern gardens throughout the year. Has not widely adapted to the urban environment. Habitat surveys in the bushland around Canberra will reveal more about this species.

GBS FIGURES: ORIOLE AND BOWERBIRD

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Olive-backed Oriole	0	0	.6	1.5	1.8	1.7	.6	.3	.1	.1	0	0
Satin Bowerbird	0	0	.2	.3	.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	.1

NORTH CENTRAL SOUTH T

Olive-backed Oriole	10.1(52%)	5(25%)	4.5(23%)	6.5
Satin Bowerbird	0	0	3.4(100%)	1.1

Chough and Magpie-lark

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*

Moderately common, but often localised, breeding resident.

GBS: present in fluctuating numbers throughout the year. Overall levels were comparable with those of 1981-82. Minima were recorded in Oct and Jun. Records are mainly of flocks.

Fewer records from Northern region. Not recorded in the South in the preceding year.

See Fig. 76.

Apostlebird *Struthidea cinerea*

Very rare visitor.

No records 1982-83.

Australian Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

Very common breeding resident.

GBS: numbers fell to a minimum in Nov and reached a peak in Apr. Somewhat fewer records than in 1981-82, but distribution within Canberra was almost identical. This year's records suggest that the strong peak in Oct and Nov 1981 may not be a regular feature. See Fig. 77.

GBS FIGURES: CHOUGH AND MAGPIE-LARK

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN

White-winged Chough

5.1 3.5 .8 .6 3.1 4.2 3.2 3 3.9 2.9 2 .2

Australian Magpie-lark

15.2 12.9 13.4 11.7 9.6 14.8 15.1 15.6 14.6 18.6 11.7 14.6

NORTH CENTRAL SOUTH T

White-winged Chough 5.7(6%) 66.4(68%) 25.4(26%) 32.5

Australian Magpie-lark 100.8(20%) 237 (47%) 165.6(33%) 167.8

Woodswallows

Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*

Irregular summer breeding migrant.

One record: 5/3rd week Mar, Aranda (Hahne). There were three records of this species in 1981-82.

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*

Irregular summer breeding migrant.

GBS: 10/5th week Oct and 2/1st week Nov, Cook (Brooker); 12/2nd week Nov, Scullin (Clark). Other records: 50-60 flying high and moving North-west/25 Sep; Macgregor (Clayton); 200/31 Oct, eastern end Mack's Reef Road (Davidson); 40/5 Nov, Mt Ainslie (Lenz)

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

Common summer breeding migrant.

Recorded in fluctuating numbers between Aug and Apr. More records this spring than last. The largest flocks were seen in Oct, Jan and Apr, eg. 60/7 Oct, ANU (Lenz). Not recorded in the Northern region. More data required. Breeding records: three pairs bred successfully both at the ANU and on Mt Ainslie. See Fig. 78.

GBS FIGURES: WOODSWALLOWS

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Masked Woodswallow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.3	0	0	0
White-browed Woodswallow	0	0	0	.4	.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dusky Woodswallow	0	.4	.2	4.7	1.6	.3	4.8	.3	.1	2.7	0	0

	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	T
Masked Woodswallow	.9(100%)		0	0
White-browed Woodswallow	3.7		0	0
Dusky Woodswallow	0		13.7(30%)	31.7(70%)
				15.1

Butcherbirds, Magpie and Currawongs

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*

Moderately common breeding resident in adjacent forested ranges and foothills, but very uncommon to rare in urban and near-urban areas.

GBS: a small number recorded throughout the year in all regions. An increase in urban records for this species. Only two urban records in 1981-82 and 1980-81.

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

Very uncommon visitor.

One record for region: 1/21 Aug, near Royalla (Cooper).

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

Very common breeding resident.

GBS: numbers declined to a minimum in Sep then climbed again as juveniles left the nests in Oct. Numbers remained relatively stable throughout the summer but decreased again with the onset of cooler weather in Apr. This general pattern was similar to that of 1981-82. While distribution within Canberra remained almost unchanged, overall numbers were about 30% lower than in the previous year, possibly indicating poor breeding success. See Fig. 79.

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

Very common breeding resident with large altitudinal movements into urban area during autumn and winter.

GBS: numbers declined rapidly over the autumn and spring. A few remained throughout the summer. This resident population was apparently slightly larger than in the preceding year. The greatest influx took place between Mar and Apr when the numbers doubled. Numbers peaked in Jun - later than in 1981-82. The 1982-83 population histogram bears a striking resemblance to that of the previous year. Distribution within Canberra and overall numbers were largely unchanged. Noteworthy record: 1398/4 Jul, roost flight at Scrivener Dam (Lenz). See Fig. 80.

Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor*

Uncommon breeding resident.

GBS: the number of records decreased to a minimum in Oct but in contrast with 1981-82, they remained largely stable throughout the remainder of the year. Considerably more common than in the preceding year (1981-82, T=F?) and more uniformly distributed.

Only recorded in the Central region in 1981-82. See Fig. 81.

GBS FIGURES: BUTCHERBIRDS, MAGPIE AND CURRAWONGS

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN

Grey Butcherbird

0 .1 0 .1 0 0 0 .1 0 .1 .1 .1

Australian Magpie

21.3 17.3 16 20.7 21.5 23.1 21.9 21 24.2 19.6 16.6 19.8

Pied Currawong

78.8 52.7 36.4 17.5 11.3 11 13.7 15 25.7 53.9 62.2 80.9

Grey Currawong

3.6 2.4 1.1 1.7 1.1 1.5 1.3 1.6 1.8 1.1 1.6

NORTH CENTRAL SOUTH

Grey Butcherbird	.2(14%)	.5(38%)	.6(48%)	.4
Australian Magpie	185.2(25%)	292.5(40%)	251.7(35%)	243.1
Pied Currawong	238.2(17%)	562.3(41%)	577	459.1
Grey Currawong	22.1(38%)	26.6(45%)	9.8(17%)	19.5

Ravens

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides* Common breeding resident.

GBS: numbers remained relatively stable all year, although rather more were recorded in the summer and autumn. A substantial influx took place in Feb. Population pattern differed markedly from that of 1981-82. Overall numbers were approximately 10% lower than in the preceding year but distribution within Canberra was almost identical. Note low numbers in the Northern region. See Fig. 82.

Little Raven *Corvus meilovi*,

Moderately common breeding resident of open woodlands and grasslands of local region.

GBS: three records: 65/1st week Dec, Rivett (Judge); 1/2nd week Dec, Ainslie (Taylor); 60/3rd week Jan, Ainslie (Lenz). More data required.

GBS FIGURES: RAVENS

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Australian Raven	6.5	8	6.1	7.2	7.8	7.4	7.8	11	8.6	6	5.6	6.2

Little Raven	0	0	0	0	0	5	2.5	0	0	0	0	0
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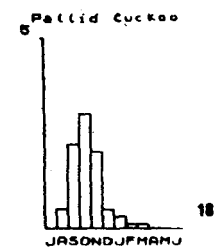
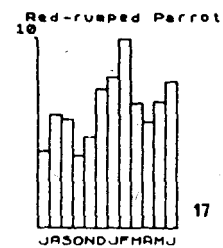
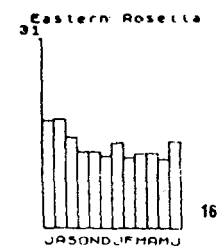
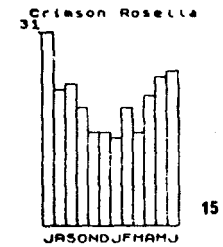
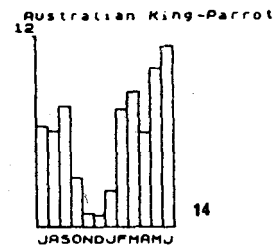
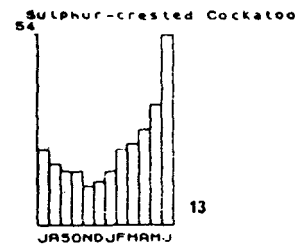
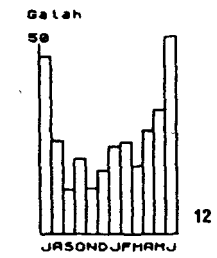
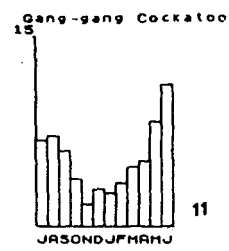
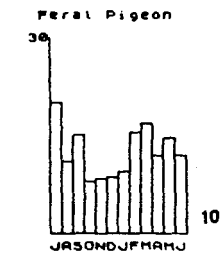
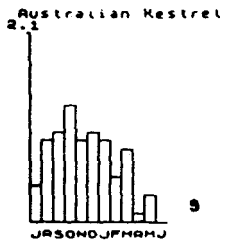
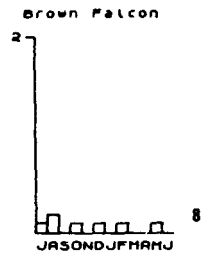
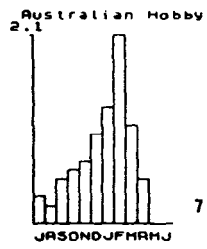
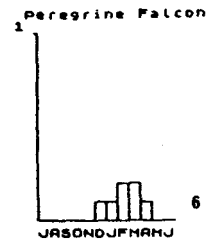
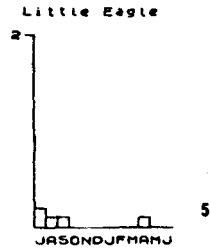
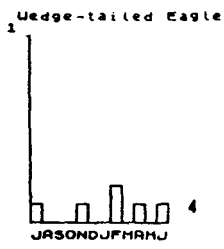
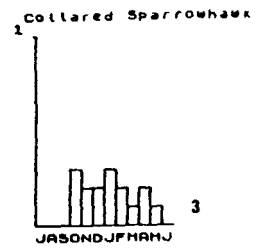
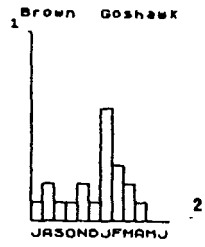
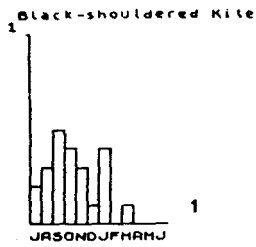
NORTH CENTRAL SOUTH

Australian Raven	28.5(11%)	119.8(45%)	116.3(44%)	88.1
Little Raven	0	7.6(34%)	14.8(66%)	7.4

FIGURES

The following figures show the Garden Bird Survey monthly values for 81 species, as tabulated in the text.

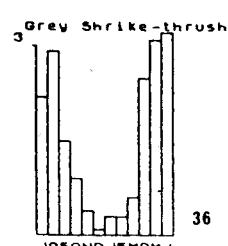
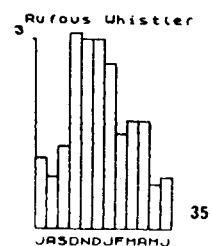
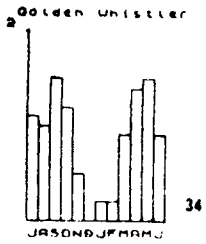
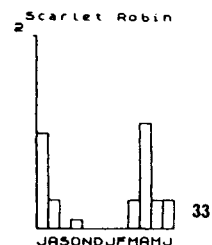
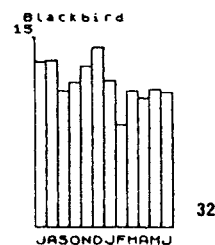
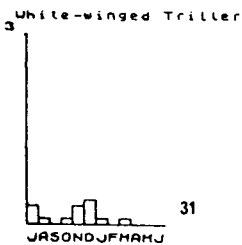
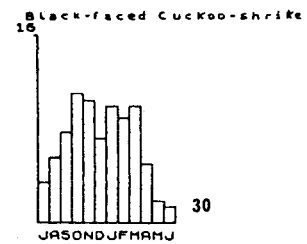
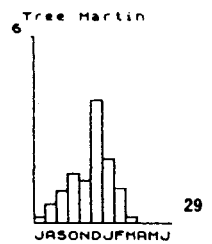
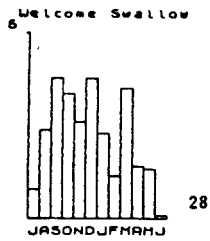
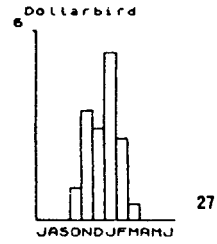
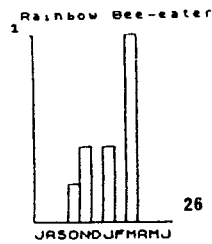
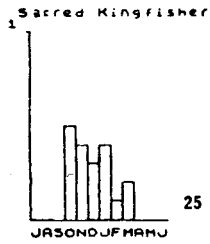
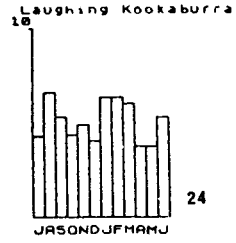
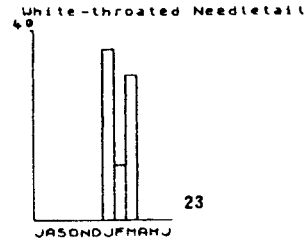
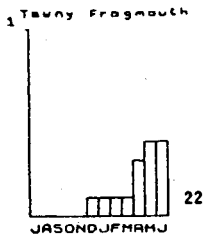
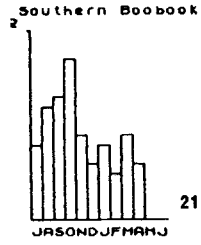
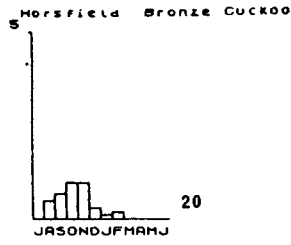
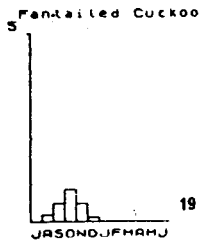
As the monthly GBS values are much greater for some species than for others, the vertical scale has been varied appropriately. Two figures are provided for the Yellow-faced Honeyeater to more clearly show monthly variations.



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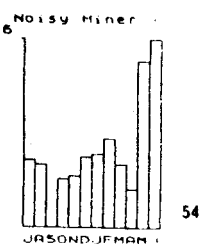
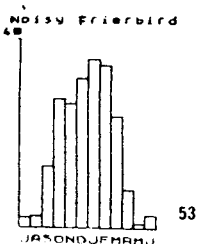
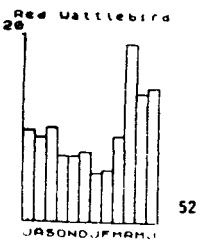
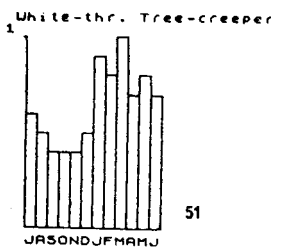
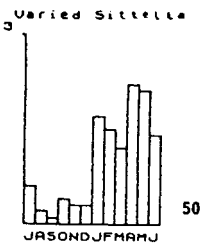
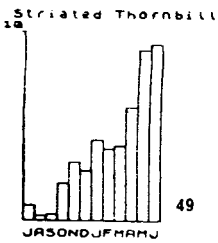
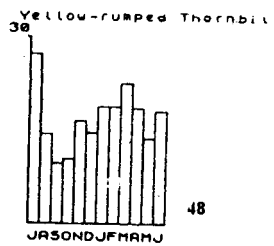
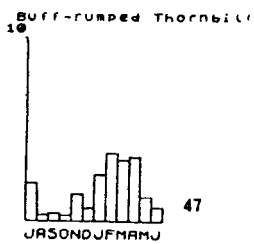
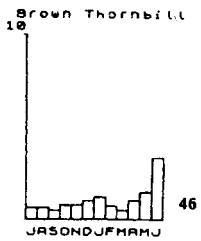
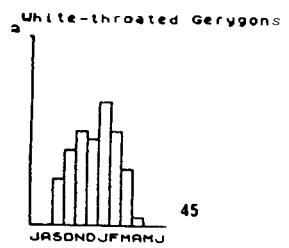
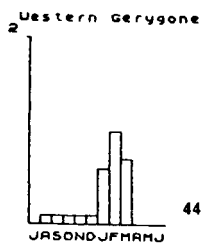
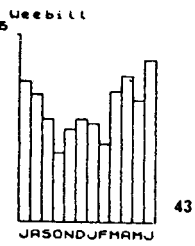
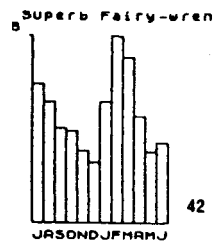
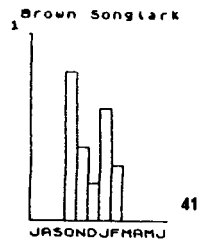
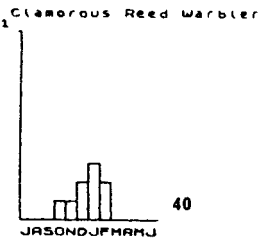
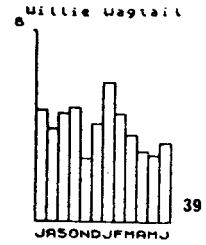
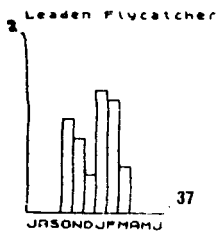
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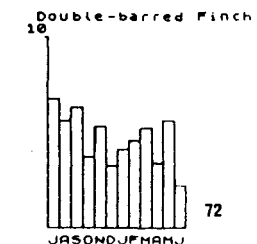
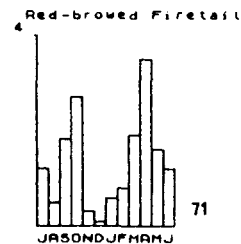
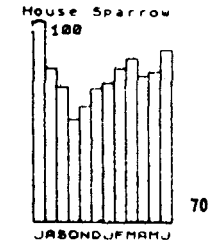
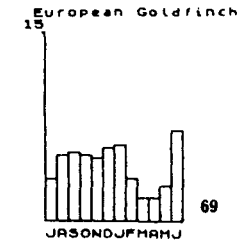
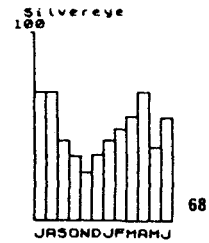
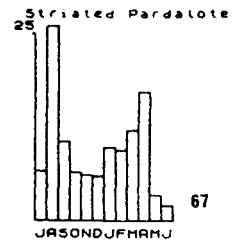
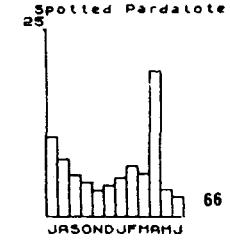
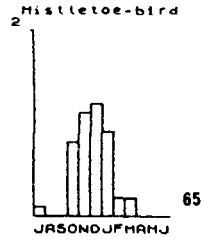
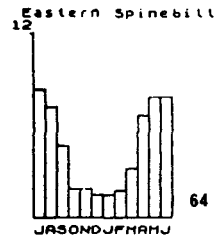
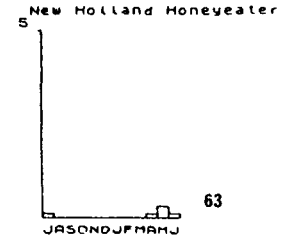
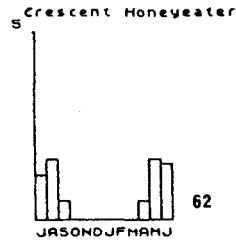
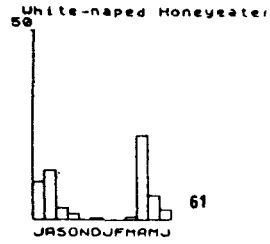
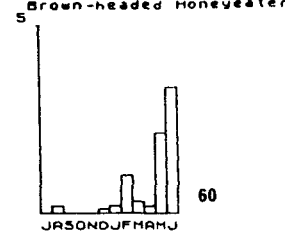
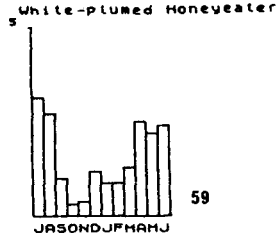
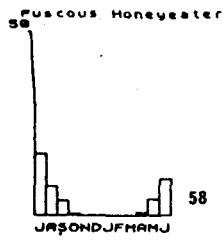
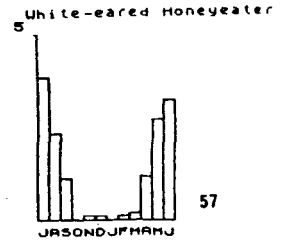
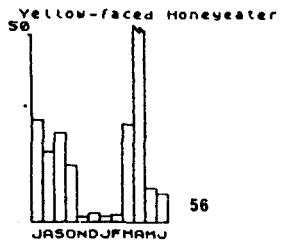
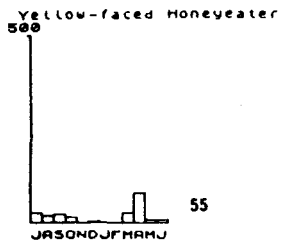
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