

ISSN 0314-8211

# CANBERRA BIRD NOTES

---

Volume 6  
Number 1  
January 1981



## EDITORIAL

A further Annual Bird Report is presented in this enlarged issue. The Committee feels that if this format is continued it will be slightly larger in future. Its bulk is raising an important financial issue which we must consider.

One is struck by the Report's variation in quality of observations. There are three categories:

- (a) birds about Lake Burley Griffin which are regularly and quantitatively surveyed;
- (b) observations from regular surveys in the suburbs; and
- (c) casual observations, mostly of the unusual.

There is a great need for the reporting of all observations of all species and breeding records are especially valuable.

The quality of data would be immensely improved if regular notes regarding all species and numbers were available from say six to ten areas outside Canberra especially from different habitats eg. wet forests, river valleys, scrubby hillsides, but the available areas are virtually limitless.

One proposal is for a form for regular reporting of species and numbers. However, to make the information readily available, transcription to cards is a requirement. Data in a mass of forms cannot be readily referred to; cards sorted by species provide immediate information.

As the Atlas will soon begin to wind down, now is the time to think of more meaningful recording on the local scene. However, the size of the report creates financial problems; every extra page has to be paid for - from subscriptions.

We would like every member to give us thoughts on the following questions and related matters in the Report so that the Committee will know how to proceed. We must finally say that the production of a quality Annual Bird Report is the most important task we can set ourselves. Feedback is required urgently please. Questions arising include:

(i) Should the Report be contained within one 24 page issue of CBN?

(ii) Should the Report be published in full in CBN?

(iii) Should the Report be published as a separate item? If so it would probably have to be sold at say \$1.50 or subs increased.

(iv) Should the Report be short 'chatty' notes regarding known status?

(v) Should the Report be an exact notation of what has been seen and where, in stylised format - overseas societies publish such reports with information virtually coded and these are very well received.

(vi) We name each observer after the particular note. Should we do this or is the list of contributors sufficient?

(vii) Do you read the Report?

1. General

The call for more records, expressed in the last report and at various other occasions throughout the year has found a positive response among members. Many thanks! The considerable increase in single records and in results from systematic surveys and garden counts provides the opportunity to present status changes in the course of the year for many species, even very common ones, and hitherto often neglected. In as many cases as possible the monthly numbers of birds and/or records are given. At this stage it is not possible to say whether the described distribution pattern for a given species is the 'typical' one for this species or not. In future years we need at least the same amount of data or even more, in order to establish the 'normal' status picture for every species and to differentiate this from exceptional patterns which might be found eg. in a drought year (like the report year).

The results are drawn from a variety of sources depending on the species; for waterbirds mainly from our bi-monthly lake surveys and numerous checks of the wetlands at the East End of Lake Burley Griffin by a few observers; for many regular suburban species from counts of the birds in and around the gardens of several members; from regular surveys of reserves adjoining our suburbs or from transect counts in certain habitats. For other species the distribution characteristics are developed by pooling all available records from many observers, eg. for swallows, robins, whistlers, etc. The more observations of a species available the greater is the likelihood that the status description reflects the true status of the species. This clearly means, that the single Welcome Swallow you see over your house or the Golden Whistler in the nearby park are important enough to be recorded. Combined with the sightings of other members your observations help to draw a picture of status, the migration pattern or breeding status of our birds. And since all this does change from one year to the other, make it a rule to send in such single observations or the results from your garden count, rather than to decide from case to case what you consider to be worthwhile reporting. The importance of your own records can only be judged in the context of the observations from all other members.

In order to ease the task of compiling the Annual Report and to assist in the storage of all COG records for future use, just a few rules:

(a) use separate sheets of paper (preferably post card size) for each species; this in clear preference to tables (however sophisticated their design might be) and 'tick-lists';

(b) on each sheet give name of bird species, name of observer (no initials please), date of observation, number of birds seen. Avoid statements like 'many, several, few', indicate at least the minimum number even if it is only an estimate. For example, if you saw 6 Galahs, write down '6' instead of 'few' or just a tick, and put locality (if you give a grid reference, mention the name of the suburb or of a landmark in the grid for better orientation). Add remarks (whatever you think is of interest about your record, like: migrating N, names of food plants, etc.);

(c) in case of many observations of a species from one area or daily garden records of common species, send in such data in a summarized form: give the number of sightings/birds or the maximum number of birds per month, but better still for each ten days of a month. Use such summaries only in cases where you have a substantial series of observations for a given species from one area and please report smaller numbers of records in full detail.

Even though the number of records has risen considerably the request for more breeding bird observations remains almost unheard, the bulk of information on our breeding species coming from a few sources only. This means that only part of Canberra's bird life is accurately represented in this report; knowledge of our breeding bird populations remains poor.

Please report all observations indicating breeding from suburban Canberra and near surroundings for the following selected species: BLACK-FACED CUCKOO SHRIKE, WILLIE WAGTAIL, SUPERB FAIRY-WREN, NOISY FRIARBIRD, INDIAN MYNAH and AUSTRALIAN MAGPIE (for more detail see CBN 4, 7, p 8-9, 1979). All records from those species will be analysed after the 1980/81 breeding season and the results included in the forthcoming report. Observations of any other breeding species are also requested!

Last year was a severe drought year, as is clearly indicated in the monthly weather data for Canberra. How the drought has affected the bird life of our area with a continuing deficit in rainfall is difficult to tell. Certainly the strong fluctuations in numbers of several waterbird species on our lakes (possibly several waves of drought displaced birds) and good numbers of waders (more exposed mudflats than in other years) seem to be clearly related to the prevailing dry conditions. Indications are that autumn bird populations in some of the near suburban reserves, eg. Mt Ainslie/Mt Majura, were lower in numbers and species than at the same time in the year before. Reduced migration of Yellow-faced and White-naped Honeyeaters in autumn could reflect a lower breeding success than in the previous years, but whether this is also related to the dry weather pattern of the report year remains speculative.

During last year a number of new or rare species for our area were recorded: Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Spangled Drongo (new), Blue-billed Duck, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Blue Bonnet, Channel-billed Cuckoo and White-backed Swallow among the

most important. Very late or very early records were obtained for Australian Crake, Greenshank, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint. Unusual concentrations of birds were reported for Coot, Red-capped Plover and Rainbow Bee-eater, the number of records increased markedly for Restless Flycatcher, Satin Flycatcher in suburbs, and Jacky Winter.

Very many thanks to all members who contributed to this report and/or participated in the organized water bird surveys (names marked with an asterisk) for their co-operation:

Hilda Abbey R.	F. Gay	J. Penhallurick
Anderson*	F. Gowshall	D. Pfanner*
E. Andrew	B. Graham	S. Prowse
Kay Anway B. &	G.E. Guy	D. Purchase
Denise Baker*	J. Hardwick*	J. & Gillian Redmond
I.A. Baird*	J. Jarvis	Julie Roberts*
C. Bear*	B. & Delia Johnson*	A.D. Ross*
Rosemary Birch*	T. Jordan	Alison Rowell*
R. Blakers*	Rosemary Kennemore	R. Schodde
B. Blaylock*	W.J. Land	Margaret Scrivenor*
G. Clark	A. Lawson* Sue	J. Slobbe
M. Clayton*	Mathews*	A. Stokes
R. Cox*	R.H.P. Mason	D. Sutherland*
A. Cowan	E. McMaster*	G.F. van Tets
R. Digan*	J. McNaughton	K. Thaler
G. Duggan	A. McWhirter	L. Thorburn
H.M. Doyle*	E.G. Metcalf	J. Vandermark*
A. Drake*	Rosemarie Metcalf	J.A.L. Watson
B. Fitzgerald*	C. Hobbs	S.J. Wilson*
I. Fry	Susan Murray*	K. Windle
P. Fullager	H. & Katherine Nix*	Margot Zeggelink*

SUMMARY OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FROM CANBERRA CITY, JULY 1979 - JUNE 1980

		Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Mean temperature ( C)	actual	5.7	6.5	9.9	13.5	17.7	21.1	20.4	21.2	19.4	14.7	11.5	6.9
	normal	5.4	6.7	9.4	12.4	15.3	18.5	20.3	19.7	17.5	13.0	8.9	6.5
Rainfall (mm)	actual	7.6	44.4	53.6	38.4	40.2	0.6	99.6	49.6	11.8	6.2	54.8	40.2
	normal	38.0	45.0	54.0	72.0	62.0	54.0	61.0	59.0	55.0	50.0	50.0	37.0
Number of rain days	actual	6	12	12	12	6	1	11	5	5	3	5	8
	normal	10	12	10	12	10	8	8	7	7	8	9	9
Mean daily sunshine (hrs)	actual	6.2	5.9	6.9	8.4	9.6	11.2	8.6	10.2	9.1	7.9	4.7	6.0
	normal	5.2	6.2	7.3	7.9	8.8	9.1	8.3	8.2	7.4	6.9	5.6	4.8
Number of days with frost	actual	26	23	12	8	2	2	0	1	5	17	11	22
	normal	21.1	18.9	13.6	6.1	2.0	0.3	0	0	0.3	4.9	14.5	18.1

normal = long-term average

All values from 'Monthly Weather Review, New South Wales', Department of Science and the Environment, Bureau of Meteorology.

Abbreviations and explanations to localities:

ANU	The Australian National University
ANU, transect	route of about 4 km length through grounds of ANU, surveyed once per month
Bot G	Botanical Gardens
L Bath	Lake Bathurst
L Bath Mor	Lake Bathurst - Morass
LBG	Lake Burley Griffin
LBG, E	east end of Lake Burley Griffin with adjoining wetlands, including Kelly's Swamp and sewage ponds along Dairy Flat Road
L Geor, N or S	Lake George, north-west part along Federal Highway, or south-west part near Bungendore
L Gin	Lake Ginninderra
Mt Ainslie, ) transect SW slopes)	route of about 2 km length along lower slopes parallel to southern part of Ainslie, surveyed 1-4 times per month
Sull Cr	Sullivans Creek, part of which runs through ANU
Tharwa-N	survey route through parts of the Gudgenby Nature Reserve
Tidbin	Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve in the Brindabellas
E, M, L	early, middle, late part of a month (ten-day periods)
T	territory, area occupied by breeding pair/group
WBS	water bird study

The following symbols are used to qualify and explain breeding records:

A territorial singing in breeding season  
B resident pair/group in breeding season  
C carrying nest material or food  
D feeding fledged young ones  
E nest with content  
Juv juvenile  
P breeding pair

2. Species List, Non-Breeding Records

Note: To save space 'month' headings to the tables have been deleted. All tables read from July to June and nil in the particular month is indicated. Ed.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*. Only 3 records from urban lakes: 1/19 Aug, 1/24 Feb L Gin (Digan), 2/5 Mar LBG (Ross); L Geor mainly Aug-Oct, rare at other times (Drake, Lenz)

L Geor, N	?	67	1	0	0	0	/	0	/	0	2	?
L Geor, S	/	/	/	17	/	3	/	0	/	1	/	0

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*. Different distribution pattern for each lake: LBG largest numbers Sep/Oct and Mar/Apr (Ross, WBS); L Gin Aug and Jun (WBS); L Geor Feb/Apr (WBS, Lenz). Combined results indicate highest numbers during Aug and Feb/Apr in our area. Only limited information from L Bath so far: 400+/24 Feb (WBS).

LBG (WBS)	/	128	/	200	/	138	/	152	/	331	/	191
LBG, E	65	92	250	100	110	130	160	164	260	270	110	80
L Gin	/	210	/	45	/	0	/	3	/	115	/	154
		*										*
L Geor, N	0	/	0	0	67	148	/	313	/	144	10	?
L Geor, S	/	/	/	3*	/	8*	/	0	/	162	/	4

Totals for LBG, L Gin, L Geor, N? 338 ? 245 ? 286 ? 468 ? 590  
 \* small Grebes, mainly this species

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*. LBG mainly Aug and Apr/June, different pattern to previous year (WBS, Ross); L Gin fairly constant Aug/Dec, again Apr (WBS). L Geor only occasionally (WBS), max 5/Nov L Geor, N (Lenz).

LBG	/	22	/	5	/	2	/	16	/	48	/	94
LBG, E	18	11	11	3	3	5	3	4	16	20	35	41
L Gin	/	18+	/	16	/	15	/	1	/	9	/	?

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus eonspicillatus*. LBG and L Geor two well separated max, the first Oct/Nov, the second May/June, the latter possibly in connection with drought (WBS, Lenz, McNaughton, Ross). Interesting observation: 50/3 Feb in one flock over O'Conner (E.G. Metcalf).

LBG	/	11	/	62	/	25	/	25	/	12	/	62
LBG, E	8	8	8	20	108	60	48	10	22	30	29	21
L Geor, N	75	/	196	342	281	115	/	133	/	308	1150	?
L Geor, S	/	/	/	259	/	86	/	47	/	128	/	37



Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*. Mainly LBG with the following monthly max for entire lake (WBS) and the East End separately (Ross); from Nov onwards breeding (see Section 3), the 9 birds in Jan contained 5 immature, probably from the colony.

LBG (WBS)	/	4	/	1	/	3	/	5	/	4	/	2
LBG, E	3	3	2	1	5	3	9	3	5	5	6	3

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. On urban lakes mainly LBG, max Oct and Feb/Apr (WBS, Ross); identification of cormorants at L Geor often difficult as they stay mainly on the far eastern side which is as yet not surveyed. WBS results for this lake therefore up to now are not representative; 870+/May mainly this species L Geor, N plus many more unidentifiable cormorant species near resting place of Australian Pelican. This is possibly an indication of a drought related increase like for pelicans (Lenz).

LBG	LBG, E	L	Gin
/	119	/	204
/	68	/	105
/	115	/	63
14	16	80	27
40	60	60	75
50	25	17	15
/	17	/	2
/	3	/	17
/	3	/	0

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*. One record L Geor, N: 3/21 Oct on fence posts close to shore. It is possibly more common on this lake, but in most cases distance does not permit positive identification (Lenz).

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*. Most records from urban lakes: LBG max Aug/Oct and more noticeably Apr (WBS), the latter peak also apparent at East End alone, otherwise numbers there fairly constant throughout the year (Ross); L Gin only few birds for most of the year, but 41/Dec (WBS).

LBG	LBG, E	L	Gin
/	140	/	151
/	56	/	145
/	262	/	97
16	19	22	12
26	18	14	23
56	113	19	30
/	2	/	2
/	41	/	11
/	1	/	4

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*. Most records from urban lakes, in general more common than in previous years: LBG max Aug, second max Apr/Jun (WBS); at East End numbers fairly constant between 5-15 birds throughout the year (McNaughton, Ross); L Gin with corresponding pattern to LBG; max Aug and Jun (WBS).

Total	/	73	/	47	/	8	/	27	/	66	/	70
LBG, E	13	15	9	7	7	5	5	6	15	7	13	24
L Gin	1	18	1	1	/	0	/	5	1	1	/	23
Totals	/	91	/	48	/	8	/	32	/	67	/	93

Pacific Heron *Ardea pacifica*. In smaller numbers than last year, mainly Feb-Apr; only once 2, otherwise single birds (various observers).

Total birds 1 2 0 2 0 0 0 5 6 5 1 1

White-faced Heron *Ardea novaehollandiae*. Seen throughout the year, numbers fluctuated considerably; several 'waves' of birds in connection with drought LBG, E in much lower numbers than previous year (McNaughton, Ross)

Total 7 12 8 32 11 21 13 38 16 37 4 20  
 LBG, E only 4 8 3 9 9 5 5 12 8 4 2 2

Cattle Egret *Ardeola ibis*. With one exception records only from LBG, E; seasonal changes in status correspond well with those of the previous year, max Nov and Mar/Apr and almost no records Dec-Feb; monthly max (McNaughton, Ross).

LBG, E 5 6 6 8 25 1 0 0 14 16 0 7

1/14 Oct over O'Connor (E.G. Metcalf).

Great Egret *Egretta alba*. Recorded all months, mainly LBG (WBS, McNaughton, Ross and others).

LBG / 8 / 6 / 1 / 7 / 6 / 3  
 LBG, E 5 2 3 1 5 1 1 2 3 1 1 1  
 Other sites 1 5 1 1 0 1 0 0 0 2 1 1

Interesting observations: 2/24 Jul following plough Fyshwick (McNaughton); 1/21 May Gungahlin flying at 1530 into a pine tree (40 mins after sunset), apparently roosting (Purchase).

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*. LBG, E (Andrew).  
 Only one record: 1/7 Feb

Rufous Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*. Only a few records and only from LBG. Is this representative? Monthly max (Drake, Mason, McNaughton, Fitzgerald, Lawson and others).

LBG, E 5 14 1 0 5 0 1 0 0 0 0 0  
 LBG, 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 6  
 other parts

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*. Three records of this occasional visitor, all LBG, E: 1/16 Dec (Ross, Schodde, Wilson); 1/3 Feb (Ross); 2/24 Feb (Baird, Wilson).

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopica*. Most records LBG, E, in smaller numbers than previous year, but with a similar pattern, max, Aug/Sep and Mar (Drake, McNaughton, Ross).

LBG, E            25   66   68   24   11   1   5   10   25   4   3   2

Other areas: 6/8 Sep Long Gully Rd, Wanniasa (Guy); 1/16 Sep L Geor, N (Lenz); 4/15 Dec L Bath (WBS); 7 L Geor, S (Drake); 4/12 Apr Uriarra Homestead (Lenz); 16/20 Apr L Bath (WBS); 1/22 Jun L Geor, N (Clayton).

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*. LBG, E max Jul/Aug and Mar-May, rare Sep-Feb (McNaughton, Ross), in other areas mainly Apr (-Jun) (various observers).

LBG, E            64   50   3   0   3   0   0   5   35   50   42   25  
 Other sites 12   30   3   0   3   30   0   0   2   115   55   91

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*. No records Jul-Sep; from Oct onwards single birds or small groups, max 5 (Ross), mainly LBG and L Geor (Drake, Lenz, McNaughton, Ross).

Total birds 0   0   0   1   4   1   2   4   5   5   3   1

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*. LBG, E only in small numbers, max 2, Aug and Jan-Jun (McNaughton, Ross); more commonly at natural lakes, also at times when absent from LBG, E with max Jul, Mar-May (various observers).

Total birds 15   1   0   0   4   11   3   5   17   24   28   2

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*. At urban lakes in small numbers throughout the year except Oct, mainly Mar-Jun (WBS, Ross). Surveys at L Geor indicate marked movement of birds within the lake, numbers declined after Oct with lowest figures in Feb (related to fall in water level?), second peak in Apr (drought displaced birds?) (WBS, Lenz). Large numbers also at L Bath, but surveys as yet incomplete: 650/15 Dec Morass and W/SW Basin (WBS); 1000/26 Apr Morass and NE Basin (Lenz, Nix). Also possibility of exchange of birds between L Geor and L Bath.

LBG	/	3	/	0	/	1	/	8	/	9	/	20
LBG E	6	3	5	0	2	4	4	8	18	6	15	15
L Gin	/	1	/	0	/	13	/	6	/	28	/	3
L Geor,N	400	/	614	446	945	131	/	406	/	808	412	210
L Geor,S	/	/	/	838	/	925	/	140	/	309	/	46
L Geor,	?	?	?	128	/	105	/	546	/	111	/	256
N+S				4		6				7		

Frecked Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*. Recorded only from L Geor, max Jul and Oct, afterwards rare; built up in numbers again from Feb onwards, most likely in connection with drought (Drake, Lenz).

L Geor, N    260 / ?   160 15 0   /113   /   83 109 11  
 L Geor, S    / / /   0 / 0   / 0   /   70 / 4

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*. LBG, E with similar pattern to previous year: rare Jul-Nov, more common Dec-Apr with max Feb (Ross). Different pattern at L Geor: max Nov, before and afterwards in much smaller numbers (Drake, Lenz).

LBG, E	6	5	2	1	9	30	25	50	40	30	15	20
L Geor, N	11	/	58	45	288	75	/	47	/	66	92	?
L Geor, S	/	/	/	5	/	41	/	15	/	48	/	8

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*. Most common duck on urban lakes, but with differences in distribution patterns for each lake; LBG max Aug and Apr, in general most common Feb/Jun (WBS); at East End of this lake mainly Aug, Oct/Nov, Mar (McNaughton, Ross). L Gin max Dec/Feb (WBS). At L Geor one of the rarer species with only max 16/Oct (WBS). L Bath: 100+/20 Apr East Morass (Nix).

LBG	/	326	/	192	/	180	/	337	/	527	/	401
LBG, E	66	141	88	120	160	54	95	50	170	57	66	119
L Gin	/	44	/	34	/	104	/	114	/	41	/	21

Mallard Domestic Duck *Anas platyrhynchos*. Recorded all months at urban lakes (WBS).

LBG	/	13	/	9	/	1	/	6	/	9	/	13
L Gin	/	12	/	4	/	5	/	21	/	22	/	13

Grey Teal *Anas gibbenfrons*. Most common duck at L Geor, max Nov and Feb/Apr (low number in Oct at L Geor, N most likely due to movement of large number of ducks to other shore section, there it is impossible to identify or count). WBS figures for LBG indicate a peak Feb/Apr. At East End of this lake monthly max except for Jul and Oct always above 100 birds, more common than previous year (McNaughton, Ross). L Gin only in small numbers (Bear, Digan). L Bath 240/20 Apr Morass (Nix).

LBG	/	30	/	135	/	136	173	/	246	/	120	
LBG, E	59	140	125	90	200	170	127	180	180	120	120	
L Gin	/	8	/	5	/	1	/	4	/	0	0	
L Geor, N	1840	/	2150	766	2820	2235	/	3538	/	2615	2650	?
L Geor, S	/	/	/	1212	/	577	/	1175	/	1790	/	1032
L Geor, N+S	?	/	? 1978	/	2812	/	4713	/	4405	?	?	

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*. 12 records, an increase on last year: LBG, E: 1/16 Sept (Pfanner); 1M/9 Mar (Ross); L Bath: 9/15 Dec (Nix); 6/24 Feb (Clayton, Rowell, Schodde); IP/23 Mar (Drake); 6/20 Apr, including 2 possible hybrids with Grey Teal (Clayton, Rowell); 2/22 Jun (Rowell); L Geor: 1/9 Jul (Pfanner); 1M/16 Sep, 21 Oct, 16 Dec always in same area (Lenz); Pt Hut Crossing: 1M, 2F 13 Apr (Nix, Pfanner, Clayton)

Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynohotis*. On urban lakes only seen at LBG, E, max Sep and Mar/Apr (McNaughton, Ross); L Geor max Jul and May (WBS, Lenz); L Bath, SW Basin larger numbers Feb (Clayton, Rowell). Fluctuating numbers at L Geor and L Bath in second half of year could indicate movement of birds between lakes as well as drought related passage through our area.

LBG, E	10	22	48	16	4	7	17	12	38	43	20	25
L Geor, N	460	/	51	72	118	97	/	199	/	147	523	96
L Geor, S	/	/	/	4	/	4	/	5	/	189	/	115
L Bath, SW	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	597	/	368	/	1

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*. On urban lakes only seen at LBG, E Jul-Nov (McNaughton, Ross) with new max 21/14 Aug (Ross) for this area; L Geor numbers fluctuating, max Jul and May (WBS, Lenz). L Bath one record: 4/15 Dec Morass.

LBG, E	12	21	6	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
L Geor, N	406	/	16	2	173	62	/	50	/	0	926	?
L Geor, S	/	/	/	0	/	13	/	12	/	0	/	0

Hardhead *Aythya australis*. Larger numbers only on urban waters. LBG, E max Dec; in most months numbers above figures for previous year (McNaughton, Ross, WBS); L Gin max Apr (Bear, Digan); likewise small max LBG, E, related to drought? L Geor only Jul-Dec (WBS); small numbers L Bath with max 12/15 Dec Morass (WBS).

LBG, E	69	106	148	100	110	254	147	142	60	123	45	16
L Gin	/	7	/	2	/	0	/	0	/	77	/	6
L Geor, N	29	/	51	44	18	3	/	0	/	0	0	?
L Geor, S	/	/	/	6	/	0	/	0	/	0	/	0

Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*. Highest numbers on urban lakes; LBG, E in larger numbers and with later max (Apr) than previous year (Ross), max 500+/6 Apr (Ross), on day of WBS 20 Apr birds well dispersed over entire lake; L Gin max also Apr (Bear, Digan).

LBG	/	41	/	46	/	173	/	324	/	669	/	30
LBG, E	2	6	10	11	42	80	100	57	300	500	120	17
L Gin	/	1	/	0	/	61	/	77	/	91	/	5

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*. Several records of this species, normally rare in our area, from L Bath; birds always with Coots and easy to overlook; 5/24 Feb SW Basin (Clayton, Schodde, Rowell); 2 same area (Clayton, Rowell); and 8/20 Apr Morass (Nix).

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*. On urban lakes throughout the year, in comparable, fairly constant numbers LBG and L Gin; LBG, E in much smaller numbers than in previous years (Ross, WBS). L Geor only

Jul-Oct (and 1 bird in Feb) with max Sep (WBS); for L Bath, records only from Feb onwards available (WBS).

LBG	/	35	/	31	/	20	/	31	/	39	/	38
LBG, E	8	6	8	5	5	7	8	4	3	3	6	2
L Gin	/	43	/	26	/	44	/	22	/	28	/	27
L Geo N	32	/	111	6	0	0	/	0	/	0	/	?
L Geo S	/	/	/	4	/	0	/	1	/	0	/	0
L Bat sw	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21	/	10	/	22

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus notatus*. Recorded all months in various parts of Canberra, except for Oct/Nov when the species was only reported from LBG, E; max 8/9 Oct LBG, E (McNaughton). Is this monthly distribution representative? Please record all observations of this species.

No of records 4 2 7 3 3 2 6 2 10 5 7 7

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*. 1 rare record: 2/7 Jan Gungahlin (Clayton, Price), see also CBN 5, No 2, 12.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*. Observations for all months except Aug, most records Mar-May; max 4/24 May L Geor, N (Lenz).

No of records 3 0 1 2 1 1 1 2 7 4 3 3  
 No of birds 4 0 1 3 1 1 1 2 10 7 6 4

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*. Records for 9 months, mainly from LBG, E (Ross, McNaughton), Hughes (Johnson), Ainslie, L Geor. N (Lenz), O'Connor (Nix). This is certainly not representative.

No of records 2 2 3 2 2 1 0 3 4 2 0 0

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*. Records for 8 months, mainly Feb/Mar with birds appearing more in suburbs (various observers).

No of records 2 3 0 0 0 1 0 5 6 2 1 1

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*. One rare record from urban lakes: 1/18 Jan LBG, E (Andrew); several observations L Geor and L Bath of 1 to 2 birds Mar-Jun (WBS).

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*. 17 records in the following monthly distribution. Again is this representative?

No of records 4 0 1 0 2 1 2 3 2 0 0

Max 4/7 Jul and 5/27 Jan Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf). Please record in future all sightings of this species.

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*. 29 records in the following monthly distribution. Again is this representative?

No of records    3    5    5    1    0    3    1    5    5    4    3    0

6 times 2, otherwise single birds. Regular only at Sturt Island (Graham). 1/19 Apr hunting migrating Yellow-faced Honeyeaters Tidbin (Ormay).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*. 15 records fairly evenly spread over the year, no record Feb only; mainly LBG, E and L Geor; always single birds except 2/16 Dec L Geor, N (Lenz).

No of records    1    1    2    1    1    2    1    0    2    1    1    2

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*. 2 rare records: 1/9 Feb Shoalhaven River, 14 km SW Braidwood (Anderson); 1/20 Apr L Bath (Clayton, Rowell).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*. 3 records from Canberra: 1/15 Sep Weston Creek (Wilson); 1/28 Feb, 1/13 Mar both flying N O'Conner (E.G. Metcalf). Only other records from L Geor: 1 x Jul, 2 x Apr, 1x May (Drake, Lenz, Pfanner).

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*. Distribution of records could indicate movement through our area mainly Jul/Aug and Feb-Apr; peak in Dec could be caused by dispersing birds from nearby breeding grounds.

No of records    4    4    3    1    1    5    2    5    6    7    3    1

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*. Recorded throughout the year in the following distribution.

All areas            5    4    3    3    2    3    3    4    3    3    3    2  
 Suburbs only        0    0    1    2    1    0    1    4    1    0    1    0

Observations over suburbs (E.G. Metcalf, Slobbe) seem to indicate some movement, mainly Feb max 5/27 Jan Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf), 4/24 Jul LBG, E (McNaughton).

Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*. Regular Aug-Mar Wanniasa (B. + D. Baker), Jul-Apr Chapman (Slobbe); most months CCAE campus (Anway) and LBG, E (Guy, Ross). From other areas only isolated records. Please record all observations of this species.

Quail spec. 1/30 Sep LBG, E (Ross).

Stubble Quail *Coturnix novaeseelandiae*. Recorded only from LBG, E, 5 observations 4/23 Aug, 1/9 Oct, 1/25 Oct, 2/1 Nov, 1/6 Nov (McNaughton).

Buff-banded Rail *Rallus philippensis*. Only Sull Cr., ANU: 1/10 and 11 Sep (Mason), 1/22 Oct (Lenz).

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*. Recorded from 2 areas: 1/8 Aug earliest record at an old dam Wanniasa (Guy); 1/10 Aug LBG, E (McNaughton); 3/22 and 23 Sep

Australian Crake *Porzana fluminea*. Two records: 1/8 Aug Gungahlin (van lets), 2 months earlier than usual for our area; 1/10 Feb Tidbin, waterfowl enclosure (Ormay).

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*. In our area mainly LBG. Monthly distribution for LBG (WBS) and 2 subpopulations of the lake, LBG, E (Ross) and Sull Cr (Lenz), and L Gin (Bear, Digan). June figures well below the ones for last year, by about 100 for LBG:

LBG	/	191	/	149	/	107	/	199	/	181	/	165
LBG, E	83	59	77	23	32	19	26	16	24	36	62	24
Sull Cr	88	77	75	47	17	18	/	49	/	53	60	46
L Gin	/	2	/	10	/	8	/	6	/	12	/	6

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*. In our area mainly LBG and at times numbers comparable to those of Dusky Moorhen. Monthly distribution for LBG (WBS) and 2 subpopulations of the lake, LBG, E (Ross) and Sull Cr (Lenz) and L Gin (Bear, Digan).

LBG	/	158	/	74	/	50	/	80	/	59	/	179
LBG, E	69	80	70	47	28	42	35	18	24	20	18	50
Sull Cr	20	13	15	4	8	7	/	25	/	11	25	17
L Gin	/	3	/	0	/	0	/	0	/	2	/	0

Low numbers LBG, E Feb/Mar most likely due to dry conditions; in previous year max number occurred at this time.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*. The most common waterbird in our area throughout the year, but so far no breeding record. Fairly constant numbers LBG, max Jun (WBS). Figures for subpopulation LBG, E (Ross) reflects only partly overall pattern on the lake. L Gin max Aug and Apr/Jun, lowest numbers Dec (Bear, Digan). L Geor max Oct, Dec-May numbers fairly constant around 6000 (Drake, Lenz), Jun massive increase to 19,000 (Clayton, Drake), Jul 1980 numbers even below figure for May with 3000 L Geor, N (Lenz). L Bath some figures for parts of the lake available only, 7600/20 Apr Morass only (WBS).



LBG	/	1635	/	1728	/	1390	/	1348	/	1672	/	2471
LBG,E		450	400	550	160	590	1050	1180	865	480	355	660 850
L Gin	/	889	/	736	/	245	/	610	/	1026	/	915
LGeor,N		5600	/	7120	8340	6560	2680	/	3090	/	5630	6000 17800
LGeor,S	/	/	/	3670	/	3907	/	2965	/	1256	/	1228
LGeor	?	?	?	12010	?	6055	6587	/	6886	/	19028	
N+S												
LBath SW	/	/	/	/	/	700	1980	/	1118	/	575	

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*. Present at all our lakes, monthly distribution (mainly WBS; for LBG, E: Ross). Remarkable max L Geor, N, Feb apparently in connection with dry conditions and low water level of lake (Lenz).

LBG	/	21	/	20	/	60	/	56	/	71	/	45
LBG, E		40	29	19	38	32	46	25	40	40	?	70
L Gin	/	3	8	0	/	7	/	7	/	10	/	6
L Geor, N	14	/	17	27	15	32	/	161	/	84	46	?
L Geor, S	/	/	/	16	/	24	/	16	/	20	/	40
L Bath, Mor						3	/	/	/	30	/	7
L Bath, SW						15	/	27	/	47	/	58

Interesting observations: 14 chased 1 Brown Falcon for 1.5 km LBG, E (McNaughton), see also CBN, 5, 1, 23.

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolour*. One rare record: 1/29 Oct LBG, E (McNaughton).

Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*. One rare (apparently third) record: 1/21-25 Oct in eclipse plumage LBG, E (Doyle, Clayton, Fullagar, McNaughton), see also CBN, 5, 1, 38; possibly the same bird still 4 and 11 Nov (Ross).

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus*. Recorded only from LBG, E Nov-Apr; for the first time seen Nov/Dec in our area - a possible connection with drought. First observations: 1/9 and 14 Nov (McNaughton); max 3/29 Feb, 3/16 Mar, 4/26 Mar (Ross).

No of records	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	1	4	4	0	0
---------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*. Two records: 2/24 May L Geor, N (Lenz), 13/22 Jun L Bath (Doyle, Nix).

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*. Recorded only from natural lakes; remarkable concentration L Geor, N in second half of year, the birds being mainly on exposed mudflats, but also feeding on dry pasture. Drying up of lake provided substantial

areas of suitable habitat (Lenz), smaller numbers L Geor, S (Drake); L Bath only parts surveyed (WBS).

L Geor, N	?	/	0	0	20	10	/	123	/	77	250	?
L Geor, S	/	/	/	5	/	17	/	2	/	3	/	39
L Bath, SW	/	/	/	/	/	13	/	4	/	16	/	15
L Bath, Mor	/	/	/	/	/	6	/	/	/	30	/	2

Black-fronted Plover *Charadrius melanops*. Recorded for all months LBG, E (McNaughton, Ross, WBS) in higher numbers than last year with max Apr; L Bath also max Apr (WBS). L Geor only 2 records: 2/29 Jul North (Lenz); 5/5 Aug South (Baird). Also recorded from small 'wetlands' like dams in Kambah (Jul) and Wanniasa (Sep) (Guy) and regular Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf).

LBG, E	8	4	2	8	6	9	30	20	25	40	15	17
L Bath, SW	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	14	/	80	/	13
L Bath, Mor	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	30	/	2
Tharwa-N	2	3	2	1	0	/	3	/	8	/	/	0

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*. One record LBG, E: 2/4 Geor, N (Lenz), regular Nov (Ross). Irregular L Bath (WBS) and L L Geor, S (Drake).

L Geor, N	0	/	42	0	0	0	/	21	/	0	0	?
L Geor, S	/	/	/	1	/	9	/	34	/	21	/	1
L Bath, SW	/	/	/	/	/	11	/	0	/	0	/	4
L Bath, Mor	/	/	/	/	/	0	/	/	/	0	/	14

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. Four records: 1/2 and 9 Dec LBG, E (Ross); 1/15 Dec L Bath (Nix); 3/20 Apr L Geor, S (Drake), latest record for our area; previously only Nov-Jan.

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*. LBG, E from 20 Aug (McNaughton) - 28 Feb (Ross).

No of birds	0	10	4	1	8	5	3	4	0	0	0	0
No of records	0	5	2	1	5	5	2	4	0	0	0	0

Only one record from another area: 7/21 Oct L Geor, S (Drake, Roberts).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*. Rare (second) record for our area: 1/26 Nov - 10 Dec LBG, near Exhibition Ft, (Pfaner) and Acton Peninsula (Mason) probably the same bird.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*. Many records M Aug-M Apr. Exposed mudflats of lakes during drought must have provided more suitable habitat than in other years: LBG, E 2/19 Aug (Ross)

(an early record), max 36/16 Oct (McNaughton); 20/3 Nov (Ross); 125/21 Oct L Geor, N and S (Drake, Lenz, Roberts). Late records from L Bath: 4/24 Feb (Clayton, Nix, Rowell, Schodde); 15/23 Mar (Drake); 8/20 Apr (Clayton, Rowell) and 2/23 Mar Rose Lagoon near Collector (Drake).

LBG, E )	0	5	2	3	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
No of records )												
Total no. birds	0	16	26	63	36	29	0	0	0	0	0	0
Max no. birds	0	7	16	36	20	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
L Geor, N	0	/	?	85	45	10	/	0	/	0	0	/
L Geor, S	0	/	/	40	/	0	/	0	/	0	/	0
L Bath, SW	/	/	/	/	/	12	/	4	/	8	/	0

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*. One record LBG, E: 1/9 Sep (Ross), normally only from Oct onwards in our area; Nov-May L Geor (only North), max 40/24 Feb and 24 May, mostly with Red-capped Plovers (Lenz). No observations Dec-Apr from L Bath (WBS), but from there, the first winter record for our area: 10/22 Jun (Doyle, Nix).

L Geor, N	0	/	0	?	12	0	/	40	/	6	40	?
-----------	---	---	---	---	----	---	---	----	---	---	----	---

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*. One rare record: 1/25 Oct LBG, E (McNaughton).

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*. LBG max Dec-Apr, L Geor Dec-Feb (WBS). Required are counts from roost sites (eg. near National Library for LBG).

LBG	/	615	/	251	/	1027	/	901	/	1401	/	308
L Geor, N	100	/	200	150	50	400	/	965	/	255	225	?
L Geor, S	/	/	/	155	/	182	/	143	/	46	/	91

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*. Two records: 3/29 Oct LBG, E (Andrew); 14/25 Nov L Geor, N (Lenz).

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*. Second (?) record for our area: 1/29 Oct LBG, E (McNaughton).

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*. Third record for our area: 1/4 Sep watched over O'Connor while crossing suburb on route towards LBG (E.G. Metcalf).

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*. Regular, 20, O'Connor, Peel Street (E.G. Metcalf); max 65 in a flock/3 Jan AND\* (Lenz). Regular counts for other areas required.

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*. Only few records: mainly from Bot G 1/2 May; 3/11 May (Windle); 2/12 Jun Mt. Majura pine forest (Hobbs). Where else does this species occur?

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*. 3 records (Aug, Oct, Dec) of single birds from various parts of the Brindabellas, they don't present the true status of this species; more information required.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus*. One record outside ranges: 6/19 Jul Farrer, Long Gully Road (Guy). Tharwa-N during atlassing once: 3/27 Jan (R. Metcalf). Brindabellas: 8-10/E Jun 1979 (Thorburn); 14/E Dec Tidbin, tearing open spikes of grass trees (Ormay); 5/10 Jan Tidbin (Anway).

Gang-Gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*. Recorded in suburbs all months with lowest numbers Dec/Jan and max Apr/May, 30+ in those 2 months O'Connor (Nix).

No of records	6	8	9	9	4	1	3	5	5	11	7	4
all areas												
No of birds	44	41	25	51	12	2	5	31	37	78	69	24

Apparently far more often seen than reported. All records required.

Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla*. Combined numbers (monthly max) for 4 'garden areas' - Aranda (Anway), Melba (Purchase), O'Connor (E.G. Metcalf), Wanniasa (B. and D. Baker) - indicate lowest numbers Oct and max Mar/Apr. Is this a typical pattern? More regular counts (monthly max) from other areas required.

No of birds	59	67	74	21	52	62	65	53	129	262	79	100
-------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----	-----	----	-----

Max 200/23 May LBG, E (Ross).

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*. Recorded every month in Canberra, but as noted by several observers during autumn/winter in much smaller numbers than in previous year.

No of birds	17	36	28	20	12	8	10	26	13	38	153	9
-------------	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	----	----	----	-----	---

Max 100/12 May Melba (Purchase), More regular counts required (monthly max) - 70+/12 Dec Tidbin, feeding on seeds of *Acacia dealbata* (Ormay).

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*. 1P/11 May feeding for 1 hour in various eucalypts, flew over Chapman (Slobbe). Wild birds?

Australian King Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*. More common south of LBG than north of the lake. Last observation in Canberra: 12/3 Nov (Thorburn); 3/7 Nov Yarralumla; 3/30 Nov Mugga Way (Wilson);

again: 4/20 Feb Yarralumla (Buy). Numbers during roost flight  
 Scrivener Dam: 447/13 Apr; 1260/17 May, highest number so far  
 recorded (Lenz).

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*. 1M/17 Mar Chapman,  
 obviously escapee, but flew well (Slobbe).

Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii*. Only one record: 6/17 and 21  
 Dec Murrumbateman (Graham).

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*. Two records: 2/15 May 1979 Deakin  
 (Cox); 2/21 Oct Red Hill (Cowan), see also CBN, 5, 1, 38.

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*/Eastern Rosella *Platycercus  
 eximius*. Observers tend to ignore these species (and several other  
 common species as well). Required are counts (monthly max, number  
 per survey) for gardens and from survey routes in suburbs and  
 other habitats. Monthly distribution of numbers for 3 areas: Mt.  
 Ainslie transect SW slopes (averages), ANU transect (Lenz) and 3  
 gardens (pooled monthly max: Anway; B. and D. Baker, E.G.  
 Metcalf).

No of birds Crimson Rosella

Mt Ainslie	/13.5	11.7	15.5	7.5	12	9	20	12	16.5	14	/	
ANU	10	4	10	2	1	7	/	9	/	7.5	6	/
3 gardens	34	5	3	4	10	9	8	5	22*	8	11	*

\*including a flock of 16 immatures (Baker)

Eastern Rosella

Mt Ainslie	/	6	5.7	7	6.5	3.5	7	7	3.5	5	2	/
ANU	16	11	6	7	10	6	/	5	/	7.5	9	/
3 gardens	2	8	6	5	5	14	14	23	16	16	14	25

Interpretation of figures at this stage is possible to a limited  
 extent only; they seem to indicate at least a preference of  
 Crimson Rosella for woodland and of Eastern Rosella for more open  
 habitats. Max 50 Eastern Rosella/6 Jan Hackett near horse paddock  
 (Lenz).

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*. General comment the same  
 as for previous two species even though this Parrot has a more  
 patchy distribution in the Canberra area than the Rosellas. More  
 records and results from regular surveys for this species are  
 needed. Monthly figures from ANU, transect (Lenz) and from a  
 garden area in Wanniasa (B. and D. Baker).

ANU	75	60	2	3	7	13	/	17	/	19.5	25	/
Wanniasa	/	10	11	5	3	18	20	9	11	39	47	41

Blue Bonnet *Northiella haematogaster*. Another record of this

species with a more inland distribution: 2/14 Apr Higgins (Graham).

Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*. Distribution of the number of records indicates 2 peaks in calling activity: Sep and L Oct/E Nov.

No of records 0 0-0-2 4-4-5 2-1-4 5-1-3 2-0-1 1-0-0 00000

Note: These records refer to 10 day periods within the month. First observations: 1/25 Aug Fisher (Andrew); 1/25 Aug Wanniasa (B. and D. Baker); last observation: 1/15 Jan LBG, E (Ross).

Brush Cuckoo *Cuculus variolosus*. Four records: 1/17 Nov Hackett/Mt. Majura Res.; 1/1 Dec Mt. Ainslie; 1/3 Dec Brindabella, Moonlight Hollow Rd (Lenz); 1/13 Jan Tidbin (Ormay); one further observation well outside previously known time range: 1/13 Apr Chapman (Slobbe).

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cuculus pyrrhophanus*. Distribution of the number of records indicates 2 peaks in calling activity: L Sep/E Oct and E Dec.

No of records 0 0-0-1 1-3-5 4-3-2 3-1-1 4-0-0 0-1-1 00000

One early record of an independent juv, 10 Nov Mt. Ainslie (Lenz). Last observation: 1/22 Jan Aranda (Ormay).

Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalix*. From 11 Sep (Anway) onwards; a number of records in the following distributions.

0 0 4 6 2 1 2 0 0 0 0 0

Shining Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*. Remarkably early observation: 1/3 Jun 1979 (Slobbe), see also previous report; other records from 16 Sep (Ross) onwards in the following distribution:

0 0 4 4 2 2 1 0 0 0 0 0

One late observation: 1/5 Apr Cotter Res (Lenz).

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*. Another record of this for our area; a rare species here: 1/29 Oct calling several times distinctively 22 h Holt (Graham).

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*. Recorded Aug-Jun. Distribution and number of records.

0 1 2 1 1 3 3 2 2 2 1 2

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*. Two records: 1/15 Jul Farrer, harassed by Magpies (Redmond); 1/27 Apr near junction of Hume and Federal Highway, roadkill (Ormay).

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*. Recorded from Bot G only: max 9/19 Dec; 4 ad, 5 juv (Thaler).

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*. Recorded Nov-E Apr, mainly Jan-Mar in most cases associated with weather fronts in the following distribution.

0 0 0 0 2 100 439 593+ 793+ 7 0 0  
max: 200+/8 Mar Mawson (Cox); 200 in one flock/1 Jan Ainslie (Lenz).

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*. One rare record: 3/21 Jan Narrabundah (Wilson).

Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sonata*. From 2 Oct (Guy) onwards (see Section 3).

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*. Seven records: 20/10 Oct Narrabundah (Wilson); heard several times/20 Oct Pearce, passing SW in great height (Guy); 5/10 Nov Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf); 10/16 Nov Yarralumla Bay (Wilson); 2/17 Dec Murrumbateman (Graham); 1/27 Jan Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf); remarkable concentration: 200+/28 Jan Kambah Pool (Ormay), largest number recorded so far.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*. Seen in our area from 13 Oct (Drake); 9 Mar (Slobbe). Records show an interesting distribution.  
No of records 0 0 0 12 11 3-1-8 23 8 6 0 0 0  
+lj (Wilson)

Birds conspicuous after arrival until about M Nov, then only few records, but sudden increase in observations last days Dec and especially Jan from many areas (in numbers up to 6). This event coincides with the appearance of fledged young birds, but most of the birds seen in this period are adults (eg. Mt. Ainslie/Mt. Majura area). Possibly there was an influx of birds from other areas at end of breeding season, or local breeding birds, but these are only conspicuous once the young have left the nest. In some areas recorded throughout the breeding season (but only general statements given). Please record every observation of this species; members who observe in potential breeding habitats are asked to check whether initial numbers, seen by L Oct/E Nov stay in the area throughout the entire breeding season and become just more secretive or whether the final number of resident birds is in 'low' period below the one initially seen in spring and whether and when exactly an increase in records from L Dec onwards actually occurs.

Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae*. One interesting record outside the ranges: 1/22 Jun calling Black Mt. Peninsula(B.Baker).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*. Only few records available: regular LBG, E with highest numbers M Aug-E Sep, max 30+/25 Aug (McNaughton). Please keep records of this species, especially of singing birds during the breeding season.

White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosternum*. One record: 5/13 Apr Point Hut Crossing with Welcome Swallows (Nix, Pfanner and others), see also CBN, 5, 3, 26.

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*. Species more often recorded than previous year, possibly more common? Max Aug and May; smaller peak Jan could indicate appearance of fledged young from first brood in local area.

No of birds 103 256 180 63 37 27 179 87 106 139 247 182

Surprisingly high numbers during winter months with max 100+/1 Jun LBG, E (Ross). Interesting observation: 60+/29 Jul Kambah, birds sunning themselves on earthen bank of old dam just after sunrise, later slowly dispersing in ones and twos (Guy).

Tree Martin *Cereopsis nigricans*. From 15 Aug (Ross) - Feb in the following monthly distribution.

No of birds 0 32 39 17 11 5 56+ 50+ 0 0 0 0 0

Well marked max during spring and autumn migration.

Fairy Martin *Cereopsis ariel*. From 7 Aug (Ormay) - 9 Mar (Ross) in the following monthly distribution.

No of birds 0 223 72 7 0 1 ? 0 1 0 0 0

Remarkable numbers in spring, but almost no record during autumn migration!

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. Many records give only presence/absence, but no numbers. Some indications of larger numbers Aug/Nov and again May/Jun. Max 13+/Jun L Gin (Digan); 30+/26 Apr L Bath (Lenz, Nix). Please keep better records of this species.

Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*. Recorded throughout the year even though species becomes rare or disappears from many areas by L Apr/E May. Distribution of the number of records shows build up in numbers from Jul to Sep, then constant until Nov (Jan); lower numbers Feb could indicate departure of



local breeding birds after the nesting season, Mar/Apr max of autumn migration. Please send in all observations.

No of records 19 26 41 44 44 36 35 21 42 38 9 15

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*. One rare record: 1 (dark phase)/4 Dec Tidbin (Ormay), outside normal observation period for our area.

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*. From 9 Oct (McNaughton) -18 Jan (Ross), also unusually late observation: L Geor, N: 4/20 Apr, 1/24 May (Lenz).

No of birds 0 0 0 8 3 7 5 0 0 4 1 0  
 No of records 0 0 0 7 2 4 3 0 0 1 1 0

Blackbird *Turdus merula*. Further increase in number of records Melba, Orchard Place (see also previous report) with 5 records 2 Jun 1979-31 Aug (Purchase). Interesting observation: 1M/12 Aug Brindabellas, Mt. Franklin Rd during snow blizzard (Redmond). More 'garden' records for this species are required.

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*. Fourteen records, of those 9 in spring, from 28 Aug (Cox, E.G. Metcalf) - 12 Oct, and 5 in autumn L Mar (Nix) - 29 Apr (E.G. Metcalf), last observation later than previously recorded; max 6M, IF Mt. Ainslie, SW slopes (Lenz).

No of birds 0 0-0-2 12-0-1 0-1-0 0000 0-0-2 1-1-1 0 0  
 No of records 0 0-0-2 5-0-1 0-1-0 0000 0-0-2 1-1-1 0 0

Pink Robin *Petroica rodinogaster*. Only 1 record: IF/15 Mar O'Connor (Nix).

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*. For Canberra area recorded Jul-Sep and L Mar-Jun, max Aug and May/Jun with max 5M, 2M immature, IF/8 Jun Chapman (Slobbe).

No of birds 8 12 3 0 0 0 0 0 1 9 12 15

3M,3F/4 May Pt. Hut Crossing, moving through valley, migration? (Lenz).

Scarlet Robin *Petroica multicolour*. In the Canberra area Jul-Oct and Feb-Jun (excluding birds seen in potential breeding sites during breeding season):

No of birds 14 5 9 1 0 0 0 3 6 25 14 11

3M,5F/27 Apr Mt. Ainslie, Pistol Club (Lenz); 8/16 Jun Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf). In autumn males frequently found singing (Lenz). Is this a general phenomenon?

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*. One record: 1M/27 Apr Mt. Ainslie, Pistol Club, often chased by a pair of Scarlet Robins (Lenz).

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*. Five records: 1M/1 Sep Chapman (Slobbe); 1M/9 Nov Tidbin (Ormay); 2/10 Nov Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf); 1M/1 Jun Tallagandra Hill near Sutton (Drake); 1M/30 Jun 'Oakdale', near Sutton (Abbey, Watson).

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*. Only few records available; fairly regular in small numbers Mt. Ainslie, transect SW slope (average) (Lenz).

/ 0.5 0.3 0.5 2 1 0 1 1.5 1.5 0 /

8/2 Sep Isaacs Ridge near Farrer in pine forest (Guy).

Jacky Winter *Microeca leucophaea*. Regular Jul-Oct with max 5 in woodland Narrabundah Lane (Guy); 1/27 Jan, 2/29 Mar Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf); 1/13 May; 2/16 and 18 May Holt; 1/15 May Ginninderra Falls (Graham).

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*. Records from non-breeding areas: birds with female plumage Jul-Nov and Feb-Jun with max Sep and Apr; ad M Jul-Oct with max Sep and Apr/May. Interestingly in autumn in smaller numbers than in spring.

F Plumage	14	17	33	12	11	0	0	1	7	17	10	7
AdM	?*	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0

\* recorded but no numbers specified

Please record also all observations of this species and specify whether M or 'female' plumaged birds.

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*. Recorded for all months except Jun; 8 records of single birds Jul and 2 (1 + 2 birds) Aug, max Oct/Nov, less noted during breeding season, especially towards end (Feb), then common Mar/Apr, but only 2 records May.

Ad M	2	0	6	8	1	2	2	0	4	9	2	0
F Plumage	2	0	4	6	1	0	2	0	7	5	0	0
Unspecified	5	3	8	21	32	12	17	6	16	4	0	0
Total	9	3	18	35	34	14	21	6	27	18	2	0

Please report all observations of this species and specify whether M or 'female' plumaged birds.

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*. Recorded from suburban gardens a few times Jul-Sep and Apr-Jun.

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*. Recorded from 10 Oct (Cox) onwards with 5 records Oct, 7 Nov, then only a few observations of breeding birds, mainly Dec/Jan; autumn migration Mar with 3 records (7 birds), but a pair O'Connor in native garden from E Jan-15 Mar, arriving daily morning and evening separately to bath in the deepest pool of the garden. The birds would alight on a bridge rail and dive into the deep water, flutter and fly back to the perch (Nix).

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*. More records from non-breeding areas than in previous year: 1M/24 Oct Narrabundah (Wilson); 1M/26 Oct Pearce (Guy); 1M/10 Nov and 1 Dec Mt. Ainslie, SW slopes (Lenz); 1M/17 Feb Aranda (Anway); IF banded/1 Mar Brindabellas, New Chums Rd. (Stokes).

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*. Not reported for the last 2 years; this year 14 records: 1/16 and 18 Jul Narrabundah (Guy); 1/21 and 22 Jul, 1 Aug, 9 and 10 Aug Chapman (Slobbe); 1/20 Aug Mawson (Cox); 1/2 Sep Chapman (Slobbe); 1/10 Nov Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf); 1/17 Dec Murrumbateman (Graham); 1/27 Jan, 2/29 Mar Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf); 1/13 Apr Pt. Hut Crossing (Drake); 2/18 Apr, 2/4 May Chapman; 2/1 Jun Cuppacumbalong (Slobbe).

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*. Two records from non-breeding habitat: 1/23 Nov Hughes (Johnson); several/16 Mar Bot G (Drake).

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*. Recorded throughout the year with max Sep/Oct and Mar/Apr. Only 2 records Jun O'Connor (E.G. Metcalf) and L Gin (Digan); overall pattern also reflected in monthly averages Mt. Ainslie, transect SW slopes (Lenz).

All areas	5	20	64	47	36	25	19	38	54	54	10	2
Mt. Ainslie	/	2.5	14	13	8	8	6	11	11	17	3	/

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*. Recorded all months, with max Oct and Apr. Species during this fairly mild winter apparently more common than in other years. Apparently winter records over represented in sample.

Min no birds	19	27	25	38	29	26	31	15	39	58	19	27
--------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

20+/26Apr L Bath (Lenz, Nix).

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*. One record: IP/11 Dec Brindabellas, Smokers Gap (Ormay).

Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinlosoma punatatum*. Three records: IF/12 Aug Brindabellas, near Picadilly Circus; 1M/18 Sep Mt. Ainslie (Redmond); 1/12 Jan Tidbin, Red Hill Trail (Ormay).

Clamorous Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*. Species present in our area for longer periods than indicated in the Field List: 1/19 and 21 Jul (Ross), then regular from 29 Aug (4 birds) onwards LBG, E (McNaughton); built up in numbers LBG, E (McNaughton).

4 12 40 0 0 0 0 0 9 2 1 0

Sull Cr, ANU first seen 19 Aug (Drake) - LBG, E only area with autumn records.

Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus*. Most observations LBG, E and there recorded regularly Jul-Jan (McNaughton, Ross), then 1/3 Feb, 18 and 24 May, 11 and 22 Jun (Ross); max 4/1 Nov (McNaughton). Other areas: old dam at Wanniasa: 4/29 Jul, 5/22 and 23 Sep, 3/2 Oct (Guy), 1/21 Oct LBG near Sull Cr (Baird), L Geor, N: 1/16 Sep (Lenz).

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*. LBG, E regular Jul-Jan, but widespread only from Oct onwards (McNaughton, Ross), Feb-Jun always 1 record per month (Ross). Built up in numbers for LBG, E (McNaughton): 1 L Gin 24 May (Digan). The table shows the monthly max from July-Nov.

2 2 3 20 20+

Other areas: old dam at Wanniasa: 1/23 Sep, 2/17 Oct (Guy); 2/25 Nov L Geor, N (Lenz); 2/Apr L Gin (Digan). Please forward all observations.

Rufous Songlark *Cinchorhamphus mathewsi*. One very early record: 1/8 Sep Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf); other observations 2/11 Nov Bruce-O'Connor scrub (Drake); 2/27 Jan Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf); 1/18 Mar Narrabundah (Guy).

Brown Songlark *Cinchorhamphus crurlis*. Three records: 2/10 Nov and 27 Jan Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf); 1/1 Jan 10 km W of Boorowa (Ormay).

Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*. Movement indicated from observations in gardens, where normally not present: Melba, Orchard Pl.: 1 Oct (first record), 1 Nov, 1 Jan (Purchase); O'Connor, Peel St.: 2-4 birds Feb-Jun (E.G. Metcalf); Wanniasa, Toohey Pl.: 3M, 2F/18 Feb (Baker); Chapman, Chauvel Circ.: 4 in course of year (Slobbe). Mt. Ainslie transect SW slopes: species became rare Mar/Apr and disappeared during May (Lenz). Remarkable fluctuations in numbers in survey areas L Gin (Digan).

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
No of birds	68	37	43	66	94

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*. One record from a suburban garden: E May Red Hill, Vancouver St. (Cowan). Mt. Ainslie, transect SW slopes, species became rare in April, disappeared during May (Lenz).

Speckled Warbler *Sericornis sagittatus*. Recorded from Black Mt. (Nix), Bruce-O'Connor scrub (Drake), Mt. Ainslie/Mt. Majura Res. (Lenz), Isaacs Ridge near Farrer (Guy); L Geor N and S (Drake, Lenz). Also in native garden O'Connor: 5/Feb, 4 and 2 Jun (Nix). Also: 1/16 Oct LBG, E (McNaughton).

Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris*. Abundance changes (averages) Mt. Ainslie, transect SW slopes (Lenz).

No of birds / 8 7.7 5 3 4 7 10 5.5 9.5 15 /

Please report all records of this species.

Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*. First observation: 1/4 Aug Chapman (Slobbe). Mt. Ainslie, transect SW slopes regularly 22 Sep-5 Apr, max 4 (Lenz). Outside breeding areas in autumn: 1/16 Mar Bot G (Drake); 1/26 Mar Hughes (Johnson); 1/7 Apr with Silvereyes ANU (Lenz).

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*. Recorded between 16 Sep and 16 Mar (Drake). Monthly distribution of number of birds and records, excluding observations in breeding areas during breeding season.

No of birds 0 0 5 4 1 1 1 4 6 0 0 0  
 No of records 0 0 5 4 1 1 1 2 2 0 0 0

In Feb migrating immatures noticed (Nix, Lenz).

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*. Abundance changes (averages) at Mt. Ainslie, transect SW slopes (Lenz).

No of birds / 9.5 4.3 6 4.5 5.5 5 8 2 3 3 /  
 From other records indication of main movement Sep and Feb/Apr.  
 Please report all observations.

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*. Abundance changes (averages) at Mt. Ainslie, transect SW slopes (Lenz).

No of birds / 20 14.7 13.5 19.5 17 22 27 16 14 17 /

A number of records from suburban areas: flock of up to 12/Jul Fraser (Penhallurick); at ANU in other years rare, but 4 and 10/Apr and single birds later (Lenz). In Chapman area more common than in previous year (Slobbe).

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*. Recorded numbers of birds (several records unfortunately not specified enough) indicate max Dec and Jan, the surveys from L Gin (Digan) another one towards end of year.

L Gin	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	54	37	54	82	65
Other areas	33	28	27	30	32	46	57	29	32	42	42	38

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*. Seven records: small flock/Jul Weetangera (Land); 1/25 Aug L Geor, S; 1/30 Sep Mt. Ainslie (Lenz); 2/19 Oct, 3/21 Oct Narrabundah (Wilson); 1/21 Oct L Geor, N; 1/16 Feb Mt. Ainslie (Lenz).

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*. Records available only from O'Connor (E.G. Metcalf, Nix), Ainslie and ANU (Lenz). Monthly distribution of number of birds indicates movement mainly Apr-Jun; is this representative?

No of birds	1	3	3	8	0	3	2	9	13	21	20	17
-------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----

Please report all observations of this species.

Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*. Only 2 records, May: 14/4 May Tharwa Rd./Pt. Hut Road (Lenz); 5/15 May Tidbin (Ormay). Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*. Abundancy changes (averages at Mt. Ainslie, transect SW slopes (Lenz)).

No of birds	/	1	2.7	1.5	7.5	3.5	0	5	0	0	13	/
-------------	---	---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	---	---	---	----	---

Records from suburbs Jul, Aug, Oct, Nov but mainly Mar/Apr, max 12/16 Mar Campbell (Windle); 20 in one flock/7 Apr ANU (Lenz).

White-throated Treecreeper *Climacteris leucophaea*. Regular throughout year Mt. Ainslie, transect SW slopes with 3-7 birds; ANU single birds Aug, Feb, Apr (Lenz); Chapman, not recorded this year, previously single birds mainly Feb/Mar (Slobbe).

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*. Only 2 records: 1/13 Oct Mt. Ainslie (Pfanner); 2/27 Apr Mt. Ainslie, Pistol Club (Lenz). Where else does the species occur?

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*. Abundancy changes ANU, transect (Lenz) and monthly max O'Connor, Peel St. (E.G. Metcalf).

ANU	4	/	6	7	8	10	/	7	/	16	8	/
O'Connor	0	0	1	2	0	5	6	4	20	10	15	2

Other records indicate max of autumn migration is during Mar/Apr: 40 in one flock/19 Mar Turner (Clark); 40 likewise/13 Apr Tidbin

(Ormay); 19 likewise/23 Apr ANU (Lenz). 10+/M Mar-L May Ainslie, Wakefield Gardens and neighbouring streets feeding exclusively in deciduous street trees (planes, oaks, poplars) and non-native gardens, disappeared when most of the leaves had fallen (Lenz).

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*. Two winter records: 3/8 Jul Melba native garden (Purchase); 1/22 Jul Chapman (Slobbe); first spring record: 1/28 Aug O'Connor (Drake); birds disappeared in autumn from some suburbs abruptly during Apr (several observers), for Chapman 2 weeks earlier than in previous years (Slobbe), max Sep and Mar/Apr; last observations: 1/3 and 8 Jun, 2/26 Jun O'Connor E.G. Metcalf). General trend best reflected in monthly max for O'Connor, Peel St. (E.G. Metcalf).

O'Connor            0    1    15   5    4    1    12   6    30   30   10   1

Observations of actually migrating birds: 21 in one flock/22 Sep Ainslie; 13 (3+7 and single three times)/27 Oct Mt. Ainslie (Lenz).

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*. Regularly reported for the following areas: 4 colonies Mugga Lane between quarry and tip (Andrew, Guy, Wilson); 8-10 birds Holt (Graham); Mt. Ainslie/Mt. Majura on side of suburbs (Campbell-Watson) at least 5 small colonies well apart from each other (Lenz); Cook (Digan); Wanniasa with max 10/Apr and 11/June (Baker); Chapman: former breeding resident until summer 1976/77, absent summer 77/78, present following winter, but since then only seen occasionally passing through, especially this year: 1/24 Feb; 4/6 Apr; 2/19 Apr; 3/4 May; 1/18 May; 2/1 Jun (Slobbe). Further: 1/8 Dec Bruce Stadium (Drake); 4+/Dec-Jan 'Riverlea', Tidbin Rd.; 3/14 Apr Tidbin (Ormay). More information on the distribution of the species and the size of breeding colonies is needed.

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*. Max recorded during spring migration: 100+/M Sep; 3x 50+/Oct Wanniasa (Baker). In autumn in significantly smaller numbers than previous year (see also White-naped Honeyeater). Larger numbers over O'Connor along Black Mt. ridge, one of the main migration routes within Canberra, but over suburbs, where in other years regular and in good numbers this year only a few small flocks: Melba (Purchase), Ainslie (Lenz), Narrabundah (Wilson), Chapman (Slobbe). Max for Wanniasa in autumn: 500+/E Apr (Baker).

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis*. Recorded Jul-2 Oct (Guy) and 22 Mar-Jun in suburbs and near surroundings, max May.

No of birds        7    8    5    1    0    0    0    0    1    23   32   14

1/2 May Hughes, hit window, stunned bird attached by a cat (Johnson). Please record all observations.

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*. Four records: 1/4 Aug Bot G (Drake); 1/2 Oct Kambah Pool (Guy); 2/10 Nov Tharwa (R. Metcalf); 2/7 Jun Chapman (Slobbe).

Fuscous Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fuscus*. Far more common than in previous years and recorded from many suburbs with max Aug and May. Winter/spring and autumn/winter in similar numbers present.

No of birds        44   71   44   0   0   0   0   0   0   49   70   45

Max flock size: 20/26 Aug; 20/5 May O'Connor (E.G. Metcalf); 12/7 Jun Pearce (Guy); 15+/8 Jun Chapman (Slobbe).

White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus*. Recorded in small numbers for many areas, migrating birds Jul-Sep and Apr-Jun like other honeyeater species, max 12/19 Aug Black Mt. Peninsula (Lenz, Scrivenor); 20 in one flock/26 Mar O'Connor (E.G. Metcalf).

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*. Only a few records: feeding flock of up to 12/Jul Fraser (Penhallurick); 1/M Aug O'Connor (Nix); 3/15 Mar Mawson (Cox); 7/M Apr O'Connor (Nix).

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*. Recorded Jul-10 Nov with max Sep/Oct and Apr-Jun with max Apr/May in suburbs and near surroundings. Figures during autumn migration from suburbs significantly below those for previous year (see also Yellow-faced Honeyeater); in native garden Melba only 1 autumn record (Purchase)^ Monthly figures for the number of birds somewhat below the number actually seen since several records were not specific enough.

No of birds        4   1   61   76   0   0   0   0   118   138   35

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*. Six records: 1M, IF/16 May 1979 Chapman(Slobbe); 1M/3 Sep; 2/7 Sep Bot G (Lenz); 1/2 Oct Kambah Pool (Guy); 1/M Oct O'Connor (Nix); 2/20 Jun Aranda (Ormay).

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*. Apparently more common than the few available records suggest; regular Bot G and ANU. Numbers for ANU, transect (Lenz).

No of birds        /   8   6   0   3   1   /   0   /   6   6   /

Apparent migration: 5/27 Jul taking off SE with 1 White-plumed Honeyeater ANU (Lenz). Please record all observations.



Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*. Recorded throughout the year in suburbs except Nov. According to records (as far as these are specific enough) in similar numbers during winter months (Jul-Sep) then decreasing. Autumn max Apr/May. Similar pattern for ANU transect: there max 14/21 May, evenly distributed over area wherever there are clusters of Grevilleas (Lenz).

All areas	16	16	17	4	0	3	1	5	9	26	34	18
ANU	8	8	2	1	0	1	/	4	/	6	14	/

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*. One suburban record: 1M/21 Oct, near Canberra Yacht Club (Anway, Johnson); other areas: 5/15 Oct 'Oakdale' near Sutton (Lenz); 1/10 Jan LBG, E (Ross); 12/20 Apr L Bath (Clayton, Rowell).

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*. Abundancy changes (averages) Mt. Ainslie, transect SW slopes (Lenz).

No of birds	0	0	0.3	10.5	15	12	10	1	0.5	0	0	/
-------------	---	---	-----	------	----	----	----	---	-----	---	---	---

Chapman: first observation: IF/7 Oct, then 6/21 Oct, from then on common until New Year; last observation, 20 Jan; 1M/12 Apr (Slobba); Narrabundah 10 records of single birds 19 Dec-21 Apr (Wilson). Please record all observations especially post breeding numbers.

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*. Abundancy changes possibly best reflected from Mt. Ainslie, transect SW slopes (averages) and less so from ANU, transect (Lenz).

Mt. Ainslie	/	8	12	3	4.5	9	57	32	117.5	130	52	/
ANU	6	3	1	2	4	8	/	34	/	51	9	/

In autumn migrating in flocks of up to 60 birds during early morning Mt. Ainslie, max 215/30 Mar and 13 Apr. Pronounced migration only in autumn, even though regularly recorded from many suburbs during spring (see also Striated Pardalote).

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*. Abundancy changes Mt. Ainslie, transect SW slopes (averages) and ANU transect (Lenz).

Mt. Ainslie	/	11.5	15.3	36.5	9.5	10	9	30	32.5	28	9	/
ANU	2	2	1	5	3	2	/	7	/	8	2	

This species has a marked migration in spring as well as in autumn. At Mt. Ainslie it is the more common Pardalote from Aug-Nov. From Dec both species were in equal numbers and from Jan onwards it was outnumbered by the Spotted Pardalote.

Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*. Abundancy changes Mt. Ainslie, transect SW slopes (averages) and ANU transect (Lenz) and garden O'Connor (monthly max) (E.G. Metcalf).

Mt. Ainslie	/	110	49	29	9.5	9.5	27	22	17.5	18.5	12	/	
ANU		4	3	11	19	17	7	/	7	/	25	87	/
O'Connor		10	6	8	6	10	10	50	50	50	50	30	30

Max Mt. Ainslie Aug/Sep; O'Connor clearly more common second half of the year, likewise at ANU larger numbers Apr/May - 18 Apr Pearce 0455 h 1% hours before SR flocks heard passing (Guy). Please report your monthly maxima for this species from areas where you observe on a regular basis.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*. Larger numbers mainly LBG, E (McNaughton)

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Max no of birds	300+	100+	150+	80+	90+

For other times of year only 'present' records for this area available. Also 'hundreds'/2 and 3 Jul Jerrabomberra Cr., S Hindmarsh Drive, in paddocks feeding on thistle seeds; 'dozens'/Sep same area (Guy). Counts from L Gin (Digan).

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	77	31	30	9	24

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*. Only recorded from LBG, E (Drake, McNaughton, Ross)

Monthly max	8	23	10	2001	1000	10
-------------	---	----	----	------	------	----

Red-browed Firetail *Emblema temporalis*. Only few records available, Abundancy changes for Mt. Ainslie, transect, SW slopes (Lenz):

No of birds	/	1	3	31.5	5	2	4	26.5	2	/
-------------	---	---	---	------	---	---	---	------	---	---

Please record all observations.

Diamond Firetail *Emblema guttata*. Eleven records, mainly Tharwa area: 3/4 Jul, 2/18 Jul, Jerrabomberra Cr., S Hindmarsh Dr. (Guy), 3/5 Aug Tharwa (Drake); 1/8 Sep Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf); 3/27 Sep Pearce/Mt. Taylor (Guy); 1/10 Nov Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf); 2/13 Jan Macs Reef Rd. (Drake); 4/27 Jan Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf); 8/10 Apr Tidbin (Ormay); 5/4 May Tharwa Rd/Pt. Hut Rd. (Lenz); 1/1 Jun Cuppacumbalong (Slobbe).

Double-barred Finch *Poephila bichenovii*. Only few records available which seem to give a limited indication of the status of the species. Most regular during surveys L Gin Feb-Jun (Digan).

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
No of birds	14	17	20	13	30

Please report all observations.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. From available records it is difficult to obtain representative picture of status changes within year. Figures available for a garden area in Wanniasa (monthly max) (Baker) and ANU transect (Lenz).

Wanniasa	/	3	6	13	50	54	100	65	38	70	60	75
ANU	68	61	53	21	33	43	/	68	/	44	23	/

Largest flocks: 1000+/20 and 23 Apr LBG, E (McNaughton); 2000+/Apr, 3000/Jun O'Connor Sports Ground (E.G. Metcalf). Please record at least monthly maxima for this species from regularly visited areas.

Common Mynah *Acridotheres tristis*. First records for 2 more suburbs: 1/19 Nov Pearce (Guy); 7/9 Jan Farrer (Redmond). Max: 12/14 Jun Curtin, in a garden (Fry).

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*. Recorded 18 Sep-17 May (Lenz) with max Oct and Mar, also in Dec/Jan a few birds seen in non-breeding areas. Monthly distribution of the number of birds seen (excluding records from breeding areas during breeding season).

Max: 6/24 Mar O'Connor Oval (E.G. Metcalf); 1/17 May Scrivener Dam, 1640 h flying N with group of King Parrots (roost flight) (Lenz).

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*. First record for our area: 1/24 Apr Aranda (CBN, Vol 5, No 4, p 21) (Kennemore).

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*. After breeding groups with fledged young seem to move around over larger areas. They appear also in suburbs during the breeding season: 7 (including 1 juv)/29 Nov ANU; 11 (including 3 juv)/1 Dec Ainslie, Corroboree Park (Lenz). Remarkable concentration: 80/4 Mar in groups of 30, 21, 15, 18 and 6 in close proximity of each other in pine forest Isaacs Ridge, Farrer (Guy). See also Section 3.

Australian Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*. Only a few records of this common species available. We require (apart from breeding bird survey details) at least numbers from winter concentrations and from roosts. 50/Mar and 60/Jun O'Connor Sports Ground (E.G. Metcalf). L Apr-L May roosts in plane trees, Ainslie, Cowper St. with max 110/6 May; birds left in the morning in two directions mainly, apparently birds from Dickson and NE Ainslie used the roost; roost site abandoned when most of the leaves had fallen (Lenz).

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*. Several records this year: 6+/6 Dec Murrumbateman (Slobbe); 4/12 Dec Narrabundah Lane with Dusky Woodswallows (Guy); 2P/17 Dec 'Oakdale' near Button (Lenz); 4+/13 Jan Mac's Reef Rd., one carrying food (Drake); these sightings, especially the last one, possibly breeding birds. Two very late records: 3/1 Apr Narrabundah (Wilson), 12/9 Apr Red Hill 2 Tenths later than previously recorded.

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*. During spring observations mainly from potential breeding areas; autumn migration L Feb (Windel) - 14 May (Wilson).

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
No of birds	5	19	27	9
No of records	1	5	6	3

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*. Increase in records: several sightings Tidbin and Tharwa area, but also 5 observations for Canberra: Tidbin 2/17 Apr, 1/12 and 20 May Rock Valley; 1/14 Jun catching Superb Fairy-wren (Ormay); Tharwa-N, 1/7 Oct and 10 Nov; 2/27 Jan (R. Metcalf); Canberra: 1/24 Jan and 1 Apr Mugga Lane, tip (Guy); 1/16 Mar Bot G (Drake and others); 1/22 Mar Mawson (Cox); 1 immat/1 Jun Chapman (Slobbe).

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*. Counts from roost flights Scrivener Dam: 1100/13 Apr; 2330/17 May (Lenz).

Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor*. Recorded for some areas throughout the year: O'Connor and Black Mt. (Nix), Mt. Ainslie (Lenz), most observations in Canberra and near surroundings Apr.

No of records	2	4	3	4	3	3	3	2	6	9	3	3
---------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Max, apart from pairs with fledged young, 3/Jun O'Connor (E.G. Metcalf), 2/13 Apr Scrivener Dam 1748 hours among the last birds flying in during the roost flight of Pied Currawongs (Lenz).

### 3. Species List, Breeding Records

Hoary-headed Grebe. In group of 4 one immature bird still with striped plumage of juvenile on head/21 May Sull Cr. (Lenz).

Darter. Colony again LBG, E; 5 nests distributed over 3 trees (2+2+1), 3x3 young almost fully fledged/12 Apr (Nix). Birds were again associated with Little Black Cormorants.

Great Cormorant. Birds in breeding plumage with Darters and Little Black Cormorants LBG, E but no sign of nesting (Nix); 2 nests with birds breeding/20 Apr L Geor, N, nests on exposed fence posts in lake (low water level); only 1 nest occupied/20 May same locality (Lenz).

Little Black Cormorant. A breeding colony at LBG, E for the second successive year: 8 nests occupied/16 Dec (Ross); 30+ nests occupied in one tree and 1 further nest in another tree/12 Apr (Nix).

Black Swan. Two records for LBG, E: P + 1 cygnet/3 Jan; P + 3 cygnets/20 Mar, with 3 juv until 11 Jun, only 2 juv 30 Jun (Ross). Pacific Black Duck. 19 Sep 2 ad + 4 juv Glenlock Interchange (Ross) a very early record. Records for LBG: 5F + juv Central Basin (Blaylock, Fitzgerald); 8F + juv LBG, E (Ross); 3F + juv Sull Cr; nest with 5 eggs 3.5 m up in Eucalypt at base of broken off branch CSIRO, Black Mt. (Lenz).

Maned Duck. Several records: 1x2 juv (Blakers, Doyle), at least 2x5 juv (Baker, Mathews, Scrivenor)/16 Dec LBG; 1x6 juv/16 Dec L Gin (Digan).

Brown Goshawk. 1 ad feeding begging juv/16 Dec L Geor N (Lenz). Collared Sparrowhawk. IP with nest Acton (Gowshall).

Little Eagle. Regular at Sturt Island, Murrumbidgee, breeding? (Graham)

Australian Kestrel. 1P nesting CCAE, administration building/Sep (Jordan).

Dusky Moorhen. Only 8P/groups with juv, Sull Cr; 1 chick attacked by Purple Swamphen Sull Cr (Lenz); 4 ad + 5 juv/16 Dec L Gin (Digan).

Purple Swamphen. 4 P/groups with juv Sull Cr (Lenz).

Masked Lapwing. Several records: P + 3 chicks/11 Oct Jerrabomberra Av/Hindmarsh Dr. (Guy); nest with 1 egg/10 Nov near Mugga Lane, 1 nest with 3 eggs/5 Jan only 2 m from previous nest (Cox); P + 4 juv Hillview Farm, Cook (Digan); P + 4 juv ANU; 2P with juv/ 21 Oct L Geor N (Lenz).

Red-capped Plover. One rare record: 1 small juv/15 Dec L Bath, (Nix and others).

Black-fronted Plover. P + 2 chicks/21 Oct LBG, E (Clayton, Doyle).

Common Bronzewing P with 2 juv in old nest of White-winged Chough/  
20 Dec Bot G (Thaler).

Gang-gang Cockatoo. IP Oct-Jan Ainslie between Corroboree Park and  
edge of reserve, where breeding? (Lenz); 2 Ring-tailed Possums  
entered nest hollow of a pair/Jan Bot G and the eggs disappeared  
(Jervis, Thaler).

Crimson Rosella IP with fledged juv 27 Dec ANU, 22 Dec Ainslie  
(Lenz).

Eastern Rosella. IP with fledged juv 22 Dec Ainslie (Lenz).

Pallid Cuckoo. 1 fledged juv, fed by Rufous Whistlers/31 Dec Mt.  
Ainslie, Pistol Club (Lenz).

Tawny Frogmouth. 2 successful broods Bot G: 1x3 juv (at top of  
garden), 1x2 juv (Rainforest Gully); 19 Dec. All birds (4 ad, 5  
juv) roosting together in 2 groups only 15 m apart (Thaler).

Laughing Kookaburra. 1P with juv NW Chapman (Slobbe); 4T at least  
3 x with juv Mt. Ainslie, lower slopes Hopper-Transformer Station  
(Lenz).

Sacred Kingfisher. 12 T Mt. Ainslie lower slopes, Hopper-Trans-  
former Station; a further 3 T beyond Hopper (Hackett) up to the  
height of Grayson St (Lenz).

Rainbow Bee-eater. 2/8 Nov Tidbin, attempting to burrow in decom-  
posed granite bank near Rock Valley, gave up later (Ormay).

Dollarbird. Several records: 1 ad + 1 juv Aranda (Anway); P + 2  
juv/Jan Bot G (Thaler); P + 1 juv/21 Jan Mawson (Cox); apparent  
breeding areas Mugga Lane and Mt. Taylor (Guy); Mt. Majura/Mt.  
Ainslie reserve: recorded between 27 Oct and 6 Jan at 12 sites  
along lower slopes to suburbs, but as indicated in Section 2 for  
this species in most cases it is not clear whether all birds were  
breeding residents or whether they had moved into the area towards  
the end of the breeding season (E Dec/Jan): definite records for  
the area: P + 1 juv Transformer Station Ainslie, P + 1 juv  
Hackett/both 6 Jan (Lenz); 1 juv/E Jan Ainslie, Raymond Street  
(Mobbs).

Skylark. 1 B Evatt, S end to Melba (Purchase). Only one record,  
which is not representative. Please report all observations.

Welcome Swallow. 1 P breeding again under carport as in previous years Chapman; 3-4 P, possibly also nesting in garages Percy Cres, Chapman; 1 apparently newly built nest (on top of an old one) under railway bridge Newcastle St, Fyshwick (Slobbe); at least 2 P regular Sull Cr, E Dec fledged juv, total of 15 Swallows over nearby sportsground/E Dec (Lenz).

Tree Martin. 6 nests/10 Nov Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf); Narrabundah Lane other possible breeding area (Guy).

Fairy Martin. 10 nests/10 Nov Tharwa-N (R. Metcalf).

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike. One late record: 1 ad feeding 1 begging juv outside nest/25 Mar Melba (Purchase).

White-winger Triller. 4 ad + 2 juv/17 and 21 Dec Murrumbateman, strong winds all day long on 17 Dec forced young on the ground, ad kept watch nearby (Graham).

Blackbird. One late record: juv leaving nest last days Jan Reid (Guy).

Flame Robin. 1 P with juv recently out of nest/16 Feb Mt. Clear, Gudgenby NP (Drake); one Canberra record: LBG, E: 1 nest with eggs/L Aug, 3 juv in nest/7 Sep (McNaughton), see also CBN 5, 1, 36.

Leaden Flycatcher. Few records: N + 1 juv/5 Jan Bot G, nest only 2 m apart from one of Noisy Friarbird (Cox); 2 T (IB, 1 E) Mt. Ainslie, transect SW slopes; 1 T (E) Ainslie Hopper; 1 T (B) SE Hackett/reserve; ANU 19 Oct, old T not occupied (Lenz).

Grey Fantail. 1 late record: IP feeding 1 fledged juv/11 Feb Mt. Ainslie, SW slopes (Lenz).

Clamorous Reed-Warbler. An early record - 1 nest Aug Bot G middle pond (McWhirter). At least 146 T/16 Dec LBG, apparently minimum number, survey undertaken towards end of breeding season (WBS); one late record: 1 ad feeding dependant juv/24 Feb LBG (Baker).

Golden-headed Cisticola. 13 singing males/16 Dec LBG, E (Ross, Schodde, Wilson).

Western Gerygone. 1 P with juv in nest, destroyed before young fledged and 1 T B Mt. Ainslie, transect SW slopes (Lenz).

White-throated Gerygone. 1 successful brood in suburban garden opposite nature strip, nest 1.2 m high in Cotoneaster Hackett

(Lenz).



Buff-rumped Thornbill. Mt. Ainslie, transect SW slopes, pairs with fledged young: M Oct, E Nov, E Dec, E Jan (Lenz).

Yellow-rumped Thornbill. Several records: 5 T (A C, 1 D) NW Chapman: 1 nest 1 m high in blackthorn, 1-3 m high in mistletoe on red box (Slobbe); 1 carrying nest material/7 Aug LBG, E (Ross); completed nest in *Eucalyptus cinerea*/20 Aug O'Connor (Nix); 1 P building nest in *Casuarina stricta*/2 Sep Isaacs Ridge Farrer (Guy); 1 P and fledged juv/22 Sep Mt. Ainslie, SW slopes (Lenz); 1 P + 1 fledged juv/8 Nov Tidbin (Ormay).

Striated Thornbill. Only one record: 1 T C Corroborree Park, Ainslie (Lenz).

Varied Sitella. 1 P building nest in *Eucalyptus viminalis*/9 Nov Tidbin, Koala enclosure (Ormay); 1 group with nest/10 Nov Mt. Ainslie, SW slopes, nest later destroyed; P + 3 begging juv/22 Dec same area, likewise 1 P + 3 begging juv/16 Feb, very late record (Lenz).

Red Wattlebird. Successful broods in pine trees: 1 Fyshwick (Slobbe), 1 CSIRO, Black Mt. (Lenz).

Noisy Miner. Only one breeding record, but see also Section 2: 1 P feeding 1 juv/11 Jan Hillview Farm, Cook (Digan).

White-plumed Honeyeater. 1 P with fledged juv 26 Sep AMU (Lenz); an early record.

New Holland Honeyeater. 1 P + 2 fledged juv already 30 Aug Bot G (Lenz).

Eastern Spinebill. 2 T (1 B, 1 D) in native gardens Hackett (Lenz),

Mistletoebird. NE Chapman: many birds in area, but unlike last year no nest found (Slobbe); Ainslie/Hackett: regularly gathering food in street trees (eucalypts and deciduous trees) during breeding season, 1 P with recently fledged juv/30 Dec Hackett (Lenz). Silvereye. P with fledged juv 20 Oct Hackett (Lenz); Hughes: 1 P with nest in Wisteria, juv hatched apparently 8 Dec (Johnson). Common Starling. About 25 nests NW Chapman; Fyshwick, Yallourn St, no evidence of second broods (like previous year), but several P with second brood NW Chapman (Slobbe).

Olive-backed Oriole. Only few records: 1 ad + 1 fledged juv/22 Jan Aranda (Ormay); 1 T (E) Ainslie Hopper; ANU 18/19 Sep, old T not occupied (Lenz).

White-winged Chough. Adults and fledged juv in groups: 6 ad + 1 juv/Nov ANU; 3 ad + 1 juv/Dec Mt. Ainslie; 7 ad + 2 juv (originally 5 juv in nest)/Dec Mt. Ainslie; 8 ad + 3 juv/Dec Corroborree Park, Ainslie; 5 ad + 2 juv/Dec Mt. Ainslie; 8 ad + 1 juv/9 Mar Mt. Ainslie; 9 ad + 2 juv/5 Apr Mt. Ainslie (Lenz). More records of this kind please.

Australian Magpie-lark. 1 P built nest in support structure of conveyor belt to Readymix Hopper Fyshwick, nest later abandoned (Slobbe), see also previous report.

White-browed Woodswallow. Possibly breeding in several places (see also Section 2) but only 2 'positive' records: 4 ad + 2 juv/ 17 and 21 Dec Murrumbateman. Strong winds all day long 17 Dec forced juv onto ground, while adults kept watch close by (Graham); 4, one carrying food/13 Jan Mac's Reef Rd. (Drake).

Dusky Woodswallow. Few records: 2/12 Oct at nest LBG, near Yacht Club (Anway, Johnson); P + 2 juv recently out of nest/30 Dec Mt. Ainslie, SW slopes (Lenz); possible breeding areas: Mugga Lane, Narrabundah Lane (Guy).

Grey Butcherbird. Rare record: Hanging Rock (Ormay).  
P feeding 2 juv/15 Jan Tidbin,

Australian Magpie. 1 Female electrocuted while building a nest on a power pole; the bird was carrying a length of wire/14 Jul Melba (Purchase).

Pied Currawong. Several records: 1 T E Narrabundah Lane, nest in *E. melliodora*; 1 T E Bot G, nest above roadway (Guy); 1 T Narrabundah, feeding fledged juv 25 Nov-21 Dec in area (Wilson); 1 T D Mawson (Cox); 1 T D Hillview Farm, Cook (Digan); 1 T E Chauvel Circle, Chapman (Slobbe); 3 T (2 D, IE) Hackett; 3 T IE, 1 I . .Ainslie; 3 T 1 E, 2 D ANU (Lenz).

Grey Currawong Three records: P + 2 juv/4 Dec Tidbin, Koala enclosure (Ormay); 1 fledged juv/31 Dec Mt. Ainslie, Pistol Club; P + 2 juv/5 Jan Ainslie, Transformer Station, 1 ad + 1 juv still there, juv begging and still being, fed (Lenz).

Australian Raven P + 3 juv/3 Oct (Judge).

4. Corrections to Previous Report (CBN 5, 1)

Freckled Duck. 25/2 Jun (not 2 Jan) L Geor, S (Drake), (p. 7).

White-Bellied Sea Eagle. The record of 2 ad + 2 immat (instead of 2 juv)/29 Oct L Geor (Drake) cannot be used to indicate a successful brood nearby, also the birds were not all together at once (p. 18).

APPENDIX

*Penny and Jerry Olsen*

In three areas near the northern ACT/NSW border that together comprised about 90 square kilometres we found:

PAIRS (no in brackets = no of definitely breeding pairs)	NO OF YOUNG PER SUCCESSFUL PAIR
2 Black-shouldered Kite 8	2
Brown Goshawk (7)	1-3 (mostly 3)
2 Little Eagle (1)	1
2 Wedge-tailed Eagle (1)	1
*7 Australian Kestrel (2)	2-3 (mostly 3)
12 Brown Falcon (11)	2-3 (mostly 2)
1 Peregrine Falcon	
2 Australian Hobby (1)	2

\* In 1979 few breeding Kestrels were found apparently because of a severe fire in 1978 which destroyed hollow trees and vegetation - very few insects were available for them to feed on.

In another study area, where Peregrine Falcons only were looked for, in an area of about 150 square kilometres 14 pairs were found. Successful pairs produced 1-3 young (mostly 2).

We would appreciate hearing about any raptor sightings near Canberra, particularly nesting birds!

\*\*\*\*\*

EARLY NUMBERS OF CBN

Early parts of Canberra Bird Notes are eagerly sought - the Editor has many requests for such copies. The following are available: Vol 1, No 1, No 6, No 8, No 10, No 12, No 13; Vol 2, No 1.

In the circumstances the Executive have decided to offer these for sale to the highest bidder - bids to be sent to the Editor before 31 January 1981.

OBSERVATIONS OF BLACK-SHOULDERED KITES AT C.C.A.E.

Kay Anway

During the last two weeks of March and first week of April 1979 I had 'front seat' observations of three Black-shouldered Kites from the window of my office in Building 7 at the west end of the C.C.A.E. campus. My window looks out toward the west over the car park, which is backed by an open grassy area with Lake Ginninderra beyond. There is one large Eucalyptus tree near the car park, another large, lone gum many metres to the left and a tall light pole in the centre of the car park. These Kites seemed to have taken up residence in this area, as I saw them every day sailing between the two trees and the light pole, and over the grassy area. Usually only one was seen, but sometimes two and once I saw three together. They call frequently, often while perched on the light pole.

On 19 March 1979 at 0900, two Laughing Kookaburras flew into the gum by the parking lot and perched side by side on a dead limb. One Kite dived at them three times, coming very close to their heads, and I could hear the snap of the Kookaburra's beaks (I was in the car park very close by). After the third dive, one Kookaburra flew off, pursued by the Kite, and shortly the other Kookaburra left in the same direction.

On 5 April 1979 at 1545, a small flock of 8-10 Red-rumped Parrots gave aerial chase to one of the Kites, circling and twisting and chattering until out of my sight. On 6 April 1979, two Kites were frequently seen and heard. About 1600 as one of the lecturers walked toward his car, he was dive-bombed three times by one Kite, which came very close to his head the first time. (Later conversation revealed that the man had imitated the cries of the Kite as it perched on the light pole, then it attacked. The man shook his fist above his head and the Kite dived 4-5 feet from his head.) Then the Kite perched on the light pole to survey things, and as the man was still standing the bird took one more dive, not too low and then flew off and the man got into his car and drove off.

I'm wondering what will happen this week, and how long the Kites will stay in the area!

*Ms K Anway, 10 Gingana Place, ARANDA, ACT, 2614*

\*\*\*\*\*

## REPORT ON ROTAMAH ISLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY

*David E Pfanner*

Any member of COG seriously interested in sharpening their bird observation skills or learning about research into bird behaviour, population dynamics, migration, etc. should consider a trip to the RAOU Bird Observatory on Rotamah Island. This recently established observatory is located in the Lakes National Park in East Gippsland approximately 500 kilometres from Canberra. Situated in an old but renovated farmhouse on the shores of Lake Victoria, the Observatory has easy access to a wide variety of bird habitats including sea coast along the Ninety Mile Beach, sand dunes, coastal woodland, heathland, swamp and the Gippsland lakes. The area is thus able to boast a large number of resident or migratory species of marine, water and bush birds.

Visitors to the Rotamah Observatory learn about birds through taking short courses and/or by participating in the long range research programme under the direction and supervision of the resident Warden, Allan Burbidge. Useful contributions to knowledge about birds are made through detailed population studies along beaches and lake shores and through inland woods, banding studies of migratory waders and bush birds, and studies of bird territory, social behaviour and feeding habits. All these topics and others were included in the Observatory's first week-long course on Introduction to Field Ornithology which I was privileged to attend in August, 1980.

Participation in one of the Observatory's courses means helping in the research programme, one of the main aims of the Observatory and certainly one of the best ways to develop skills and learn field research methods through practical experience and demonstration. Although no prior experience is necessary, there is no doubt that some familiarity with birds means the participant will get more out of the programme. But even experienced birders were surprised at the difficulty of accurately noting the size, colour and shape of anatomical features of even common birds, needless to say a great help in identifying relatively common birds, not to speak of the rarities. Another surprise was the lack of knowledge about the social life of birds, and in this connection our group taking the course helped map the territory of five families of Australian Magpies near the Observatory, some of which had already been banded as part of the research on this species. Jacky Winters, Field Wrens, Silvereyes, Eastern Spinebill and various Thornbills were also mist-netted and banded during the course.

Evening talks, slides and discussions by the Warden or one of his two assistants supplemented the daily field exercises. Following a day in the field there was always much to share in terms of birds observed, results of surveys and census to record, and records on feeding observations to submit.

One of the most interesting aspects of the entire week at Rotamah was the opportunity to share experiences with birders from other areas. Not surprisingly it turns out that eternal vigilance is required everywhere to protect vanishing bird habitats from destruction by coastal miners, loggers, city councils, and unthinking or insensitive government agencies. The Observatory attracts a wide range of conservation activists and our group included a graduate student in ecology, an expert on mammals with the Victorian Fish and Wildlife Service, a retired nurseryman engaged in a field research project on birds near Melbourne, and two very experienced banders of terns and waders - one a university student and the other a housewife.

Members of COG would probably not travel so far to simply see birds, but once on Rotamah Island there are plenty to see. Without working at it very hard I listed sixty-five species during the week I was there. Of particular interest of course were those species not usually found in the Canberra area such as gannets, shearwaters, terns, the Pacific Gull, Rainbow Lorikeet and others. The Ground Parrot was seen during the week as well, but of course there is seasonal variation and the list of waders was very short. Two spectacularly large birds frequently and easily seen on the island are the Emu and the White-bellied Sea-eagle. The island also abounds with kangaroo.

The visitor reaches Rotamah Island via boat from Trapper Point on Spermwhale Head in the Lakes National Park, or from the town of Paynesville which is eight kilometres north of Rotamah. Cars may be left at either point from which the Warden makes pickups by motorboat. The farmhouse accommodations are rustic but comfortable. The Observatory provides beds, mattresses, blankets and crockery but visitors must bring sheets, towels and binoculars. Daily fees for room and board are an astonishingly low \$10.00 per night but can be expected to increase soon to cover rising costs. Bookings must be made at least seven days in advance and fees paid in advance. Visitors are expected to assist with household chores such as washing up, cooking and cleaning.

For information about courses and accommodation, contact: The Warden, Rotamah Island, Post Office Box 75, PAYNESVILLE, VIC, 3880; or telephone (051) 566-398.

*Dr DE Pfanner, 33 Elliott Place, CAMPBELL, ACT, 2601*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### BOOK MARKET

For Sale: THE EMU, Vols 74-79. The RAOU price is \$20.00 per volume or \$5.00 per part. These volumes have been donated and the proceeds go to COG funds. Offers (per volume or for the six volumes) to the Secretary at the address on the back cover or contact him by phone.

OUT AND ABOUT

*G Tibicen*

The 1981 Royal Australian Ornithologists Union Congress will be held at Katherine in the Northern Territory on 24 and 25 August. This will be followed by a ten day camp in the area between the Tanami Track and the Stuart Highway. The main campsite will be to the north of this area and the surrounding country is accessible to 2WD vehicles; 4WD will be needed to get into some of the remoter areas. With this early notice now is your chance to plan next years birdwatching holiday - for further details write to the RAOU at 21 Gladstone St, MOONEE PONDS, VIC, 3039.

\*\*\*\*\*

Following the news in the last issue about the New Zealand discovery of KAKAPOS on Stuart Island, there comes further information about the discovery of a colony of 70 KOKAKOs in Puketi Forest north of Auckland. The mind boggles at what comes next - news about the discovery of KOKATOs?

\*\*\*\*\*

If you want to go to the camp at Katherine but are not a member of the RAOU, membership can be obtained for the princely sum of \$9.00 plus a joining fee of \$2.00. This subscription is a non-Emu one - if you want the Emu the price is \$22.00 plus \$2.00. A small price to pay for a well conducted camp in a remote area that one would normally not venture into on your own.

\*\*\*\*\*

One of the interesting sights that can be seen in the National Botanic Gardens around now is the close nesting association of the Noisy Friar Bird and the Leaden Flycatcher. Every year these two species nest in close proximity to one another in the Gardens, usually within 20 to 30 feet. Although I have never read anywhere of other examples of this, it is a well established fact in the Gardens which happens several times each year and from year to year. Has anybody any details of this happening elsewhere? Or details of any other nesting associations? If so please write a short note to the Editor and share your knowledge.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Australian Field Guide by Pizzey has just been published by Collins, unfortunately too late for an in-depth review in this magazine. However, in the next issue the book will be reviewed. May I suggest if you have not already purchased a copy you wait to read the review before buying one? That way you will know its strengths and weaknesses.

\*\*\*\*\*

A SUBURBAN TAWNY FROGMOUTH

Dennis Ayliffe

On the night of 28 April 1980, at about 2150 hours I observed a large dark bird perched on a rotary clothesline in the backyard of my home. On approach it flew with a laboured, noisy flight to perch on the top of a frame for a child's swing, about 10 m away. After closer examination, with the aid of a torch, the bird was identified as a Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*).

It allowed me to approach to within a metre or so of it and I was able to observe it closely for about 5 minutes. After I had retreated it flew off into some trees about 20 m distant.

This is the second occasion I have been able to examine a Tawny Frogmouth at close quarters in my backyard. On the last occasion, on the night of 25 July 1978, the bird was kept under close observation for approximately 30 minutes.

*Mr D Ayliffe, 85 Bingley Crescent, ERASER, ACT., 2615.*

\*\*\*\*\*

A SUBURBAN BARN OWL

Steve Wilson

At about 2230 hours on Monday 8 September 1980 my wife and I were driving home through Manuka and were passing the large blocks of flats when I thought I saw an owl sitting on the back of a parked station sedan. I was so surprised that I thought it worthwhile to turn back and again drive past the area.

On approaching a second time I was able to stop 15 m behind the sedan and there was a Barn Owl sitting quietly on its top centimetres from the back. The next question was to ascertain if it was in good health; it took no notice of the headlights and didn't move.

I left the car quietly and slowly approached the bird. With it watching me I was able to reach to within 60 cm of the bird; I still wasn't sure of its health and decided to try to pick it up. As I moved, what appeared to be an enormous pair of white wings extended and in a flash the owl was 10 m up and off between the flat buildings.

It was strange to be able to approach the bird so closely.

*Mr S J Wilson, 2 Scott Street, NARRABUNDAH, ACT, 2604.*

\*\*\*\*\*



Canberra Bird Notes is published quarterly by the Canberra Ornithologists Group. The subscription rates are: single, \$8.00; family, \$10.00, both with one copy; Institutions, \$10.00.

*Secretary:* Mr E Andrew, PO Box 301, Civic Square, ACT, 2608

*Editor:* Mr S J Wilson, PO Box 301, Civic Square, ACT, 2608

*Assistant Editor:* Mr B FitzGerald

*Editorial Panel:* Messrs J Penhallurick, G Clark, D Purchase

---

---

CANBERRA ORNITHOLOGISTS GROUP COMMITTEE

*President:* Henry Nix, (W) 464911, (H) 478548

*Vice President:* John Penhallurick, (W) 522346, (H) 585428

*Secretary:* Eric Andrew, (W) 725449, (H) 881146

*Assistant Secretary:* Delia Johnson, (H) 816126

*Treasurer:* Richard Gregory-Smith, (W) 486644 X 395, (H) 888917

*Editor CBN:* Steve Wilson, (H) 957128

*Assistant Editor:* Bryan FitzGerald, (W) 725197, (H) 485140

*Outings:* Alistair Drake, (H) 496619

*Publications:* Mark Clayton, (W) 411211, (H) 413620

*Public Relations:* Cedric Bear, (W) 525316, (H) 583169

*Conservation:* David Pfanner, (W) 495111 X 3346, (H) 477572

*Records:* Michael Lenz, (W) 465408, (H) 491109

\*\*\*\*\*

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Editorial	2
Bird Report 1 July 1979 to 30 June 1980	3
Appendix	42
Observations of Black-Shouldered Kites at C.C.A.E.	43
Report on Rotamah Island Bird Observatory	44
Book Market	45
Out and About	46
A Suburban Tawny Frogmouth	47
A Suburban Barn Owl	47