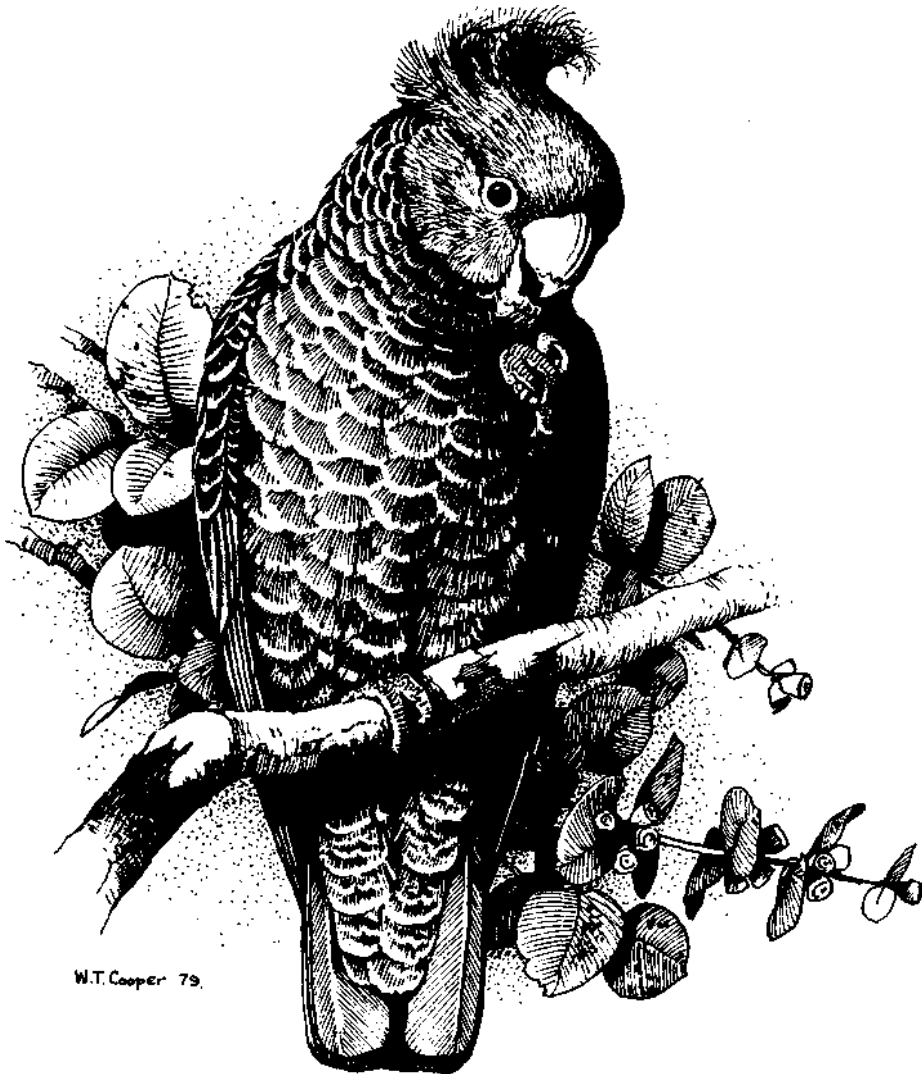


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W.T. Cooper 79.

FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF THE RED-BREASTED ROBINS

Jack Holland

(This article is based on the Bird of the Month talk given by the author at the July 1983 Canberra Ornithologists Group meeting).

Australia has five species of red-breasted robins, the Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*, the Pink Robin *P. rodinogaster*, the Flame Robin *P. phoenicea*, the Scarlet Robin *P. multicolor* and the Red-capped Robin *P. goodenovii*.

All of these may be observed in the ACT region. Identification of these species can present problems in the field, especially when the bird being observed is a female or immature.

Diagnostic Field Marks

All five species are small, ranging from approximately 10 to 15 cm; therefore size is not a reliable identification feature for an isolated bird in the field.

Positive identification can, however, normally be made through consideration of a number of diagnostic features. For convenience, males and females/immatures are treated separately in the Tables below, since they have significantly different plumages. Coupled with the particular bird's habits and habitat distribution, this should in most cases allow positive identification of the species being observed. In order to highlight the most important diagnostic features these have been capitalized, less important or not wholly diagnostic ones are underlined.

Feature	TABLE I - MALES Species				
	Rose <i>P. rosea</i>	Pink <i>P. rodinogaster</i>	Flame <i>P. phoenicea</i>	Scarlet <i>P. multicolor</i>	Red-capped <i>P. goodenovii</i>
Back	Slate Grey	Sooty Black	Smoky/ sooty grey	Jet black	Jet black
Wing-stripe	None	None	White	White	White
Forehead spot	White Small	White Small	White Small	White Large	RED LARGE
Breast	Rose- pink to lower breast	Rose- pink to vent	<u>Orange- red (flame) to vent</u>	<u>Scarlet</u>	Scarlet
Throat	Black	Black	ORANGE-RED	Black	Black
Outer tail feathers	<u>White</u>	Black	White	White	White

Note 1: While this serves as the main separating feature of the male Rose and Pink Robins, it can be difficult to observe except when in flight.

TABLE II - FEMALES/IMMATURES¹

Feature	Species				
	Rose <i>P. rosea</i> <i>ogaster</i>	Pink <i>P. rodin-</i>	Flame <i>P. phoenic-</i> <i>ea</i>	Scarlet <i>P. multi-</i> <i>color</i>	Red-capped <i>P. goodenovii</i>
Back	All are shades of brown				
	Grey med. brown	Med.brown	Light brown	Grey mid. brown	Pale grey b r o w n
Wing-stripe	All have "broken arrow" wing stripes ²				
Forehead spot	White small	White small	Buff	Off-white	Red-brown l a r g e s t
Breast	Light ₅ brown	Light brown	Light ₄ brown	Strong scarlet wash	Light ₃ brown
Outer tail feathers	White	Brown	White	White	White

Notes: 1. Except for female Scarlet Robin these are all very similar superficially - presence of male bird as well can be very helpful.

2. While some field-guides describe different shades of wing-stripes as diagnostic, this can be unreliable as considerable variation can occur due to age and sex (immature males).

3. Immature male can have red cap and a washed red breast (as for Scarlet female).

4. Old females (immature males?) can have irregular red wash.

5. Can have pale-rose wash.

Habits and Habitat/Distribution

The following are not exclusive and it should be remembered that all five species are wanderers and can be observed in seemingly unsuitable habitat, particularly in the non-breeding season.

Rose Robin

Occurs coastal to ranges - southern Queensland to Victoria. Migrant - densely forested gullies in summer, more open areas in winter and occasionally late autumn and early spring. Singly or pairs. *Arboreal* - very like *Grey Fantail* in habits with wings down/tail up - darts about and tumbles. Can be in Canberra gardens autumn/winter/spring but not commonly.

Pink Robin

Stronghold is Victoria and Tasmania. Dense gullies in summer - disperses and migrates to more open forests and shrublands in autumn/winter.

Singly or pairs - quiet and unobtrusive - low bushes.

ACT region is very northern end of accepted range - occurs mainly Brindabellas autumn/winter, spring records only. Occasionally in Canberra gardens in winter.

Flame Robin

Distribution similar to scarlet but less inland. Altitudinal migrant open forests and woodlands in high mountains in summer, open country and fields in winter. Only one which forms flocks particularly in winter - often on ground, fences, thistle stalks, stumps etc. Less likely Canberra gardens but common in surrounding open areas in winter.

Scarlet Robin

Occurs coastal and inland from Queensland border to South Australia and Tasmania. Altitudinal migrant - forests and woodlands in summer, more open country in autumn/winter. Habits are similar to Red-capped Robin. Most likely bird to be seen in Canberra gardens.

Red-capped Robin

Drier country -woodland/open forest - singly or in pairs. On stumps, fences, low branches etc. - tame and curious. Uncommon in Canberra area.

J.S. Hollard, 8 Chauvel Circle, CHAPMAN, ACT, 2611

ODD OBS

RED WATTLE-BIRDS IN FOUNTAIN

Doug Ross

On 12 November 1983 at about 1800 hrs, as I was passing the small ornamental fountain pool in front of the National Library, I saw two Red Wattle-birds *Anthochaera carunculata* come in over the pool, dip to touch the surface of the water and then continue on in the same relatively flat flight path. The birds did not, as far as I could see, dip their wings in the water, so bathing can probably be ruled out, nor were there changes to the angle of the head to suggest any taking of insects on the wing. Such as it is, the evidence points to drinking in flight. The water level in the pond was over 15 cms below the level of the pond rim. On the other hand, the lawns opposite the Library were, at the time, full of soaks and shallow water, so that the birds could not have been desperate for something to drink.

ESC. Metcalf

In the last four years I have seen as many as fifteen Gang-Gang Cockatoos *Callocephalon fimbriatum* feeding around O'Connor where they often remain around the big Yellow Box *Eucalyptus melliodora* at the end of Peel Street. I recorded their presence only; and noted their habits from Frith's book (pp.223-4) and so expected them to complete fledging and depart from their family area by the end of summer, duly flocking in May to August. The following events may indicate some variation.

On 6 July 1983 a group of three came to my garden at 1600 hours and sat on three separate trees. The male sat and whittled away at a bough on the Liquidambar *Liquidambar styraciflua*. The female sat for a while on the Tulip tree *Liriodendron tulipifera* and appeared to be feeding upon a residue of seedpods. The third was a juvenile with a slight show of red on its crest. It left its tree and sat aside on our telephone line and did nothing.

Soon, the female went to the bird-bath, drank, then joined the young. They engaged in noisy gurgling regurgitations for three or four seconds. The pair then flew to the Liquidambar and seemed to be feeding upon decaying seedpods for a few minutes. Then the female flew to a "Pencil-pine" *Cupressus sempervirens* and cast around for nuts. Apparently finding none suitable, she called to the others, and they all flew off toward Black Mountain.

Three weeks later I observed them again at the same place and time of day. They went through the same performance: the male sat and watched and whittled on the Liquidambar and said nothing; the youngster sat aside and did nothing; the female likewise. Then the female checked the Liquidambar and the Tulip tree, now patently empty of seeds, and then went to feed on the Cypress.

After ten minutes during which she took much notice of two half-dry nuts, she flew to the bath, drank, and then went to sit close to the juvenile. The juvenile began a grumbling begging call, then sidled up to the female, opened his beak over hers, and, still calling, began to receive food from her for five seconds. The female appeared to terminate this exercise, and they sat apart for two minutes before beginning the whole process again and again; until on the fourth occasion the young was rebuked.

Soon the two went to the Cypress and fed there for ten minutes, the youngster chewing at a pine-nut in a perfunctory way, Then they all flew away toward Black Mountain. The legacy of the male in the Liquidambar was a small heap of twigs as a result of his whittling. The whole episode had lasted twenty minutes.

As I see it, the three must have been the result of out-of-season breeding. The female and the young were engaged in a

teaching and learning process regarding the uses of three species of introduced trees, all of which were known to the various local Parrots, whose feeding-time was normally over here by the end of March.

Alternatively, does the Gang-Gang really feed its young up to the midwinter days?

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E.C. Metcalf, *Thorn Cottage, 11 Peel Street, O'CONNOR, ACT, 2601*

ODD OBS

SIGHTING OF COMMON SANDPIPER

Doug Ross

The Black-fronted Dotterel *Charadrius melanops* does not feed uniquely in damp or muddy areas but can at times be seen feeding on gravel areas near water. The gravel patches around the work basin at the east end of Lake Burley Griffin are such areas and for that reason I regularly run an eye over them.

On 13 December 1983 at about 0830 there was a small wader on the edge of the work basin. I was able to drive quite close to it: 5 metres or so. The bird, definitely not a Black-fronted Dotterel, was not in my repertoire. After taking careful notes of its characteristics, I drove straight to the Lake Ecological Laboratory on the other side of the basin and consulted its Frith. The bird was undoubtedly a Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleuces* which has been reported in the ACT on a few earlier occasions.

When I saw the bird, it was simply standing. The sighting ended after about 5 minutes when the bird flew off.

MUSK DUCK BREEDING RECORD

Doug Ross

On 29 January 1984 I saw a female Musk Duck *Biziura lobata* with a chick in tow, swimming downstream on the Molonglo, about 100 metres up from the point of joining the Lake.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BIRDS OF THE CANBERRA REGION

Hew Prendergast

INTRODUCTION

No bibliography of birds of the Canberra region has been published before. Excepting what can be found through perusal of back issues of Canberra Bird Notes (and to a lesser extent of the newsletters of the Brindabella Banding Group), any data-base of information is difficult to obtain.

As the length of this bibliography testifies, a considerable amount of (very scattered) information does exist - the result of studies not only by amateur ornithologists but also by professionals working at, or from, the CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Rangelands Research at Gungahlin. The direction of effort by both these groups is clearly revealed but, and more importantly, areas of ignorance are also indicated. It is in the hope that such ignorance be eventually dispelled that this bibliography has been compiled.

METHODS

All references to birds in the Canberra (or COG) region found in the literature have been included (with the exception of those in the local publications mentioned above). The range of topics is wide for no further criteria for selection have been made - on the premise that too much of what may appear irrelevant is better than the omission of anything that may be useful. The study site is added after any reference wherever this is not obvious.

Whilst the region encompassed by COG activities has yet to be rigidly defined, the boundaries are here roughly taken to be: north to near Goulburn, Gunning, Yass and Burrinjuck Dam, west towards Tumut, south towards Cooma and eastwards to Braidwood. These locations are within a 100 km radius of Canberra and cover all sites regularly visited by COG members. (My thanks to Henry Nix for this definition.) The Kosciusko region has also been included because of its especial interest and relative proximity.

I should welcome receiving any references that have been overlooked.

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I should like to thank Stuart Davey, Henry Nix and Sonia Tidemann for their help.

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ODD OBS

ACT BREEDING RECORD: HARDHEAD DUCK

Doug Ross

During the breeding season, broods of Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa* are so common on the Dairy Road sewage farm ponds that one tends to assume that all the broods one sees there are of that species.

On 29 January 1984 I had picked up two Black Duck broods and, seeing a third brood, in rather dull viewing conditions and against an algae-dark background, was ready to put it down as just another of the same sort. It then broke in that the parent bird was rather darker than a Black Duck and had a different general appearance and manner and that the young also were darker than young Black Duck. Detailed viewing clearly showed that the birds were Hardheads *Aythya australis*. There were 10 young, with a waterline length of about 10 cms.

Apr 1984

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CBN 9 2

BOOK REVIEW: "JOHN GOULD AND THE BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA"
by C.F.H. Jenkins, West Australian Gould League,
1983. 132 pp. Recommended price \$9.95

There can be few Australians unfamiliar with the Gould League, especially if they spent their childhood in Australia. Established in 1909 in Victoria, the League, with its aims of voluntary protection of native birds, principally through the education of children, quickly spread to other states. Today active branches of the League exist in New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia.

John Gould, after whom the League was named, was an ornithologist of international repute. Not only did his studies encompass Australia and New Guinea, but also Europe, Asia and South America. His talents extended beyond author, artist and publisher of books on birds; taxidermy, at which he was most proficient; and mammalogy to business acumen.

Gould played a major role in introducing Australian birds to the world. Although he spent only three years in Australia from 1838 to 1840 he and his associates collected and observed very actively, resulting in "Birds of Australia" being published as a major work between 1840 and 1848 in 36 parts forming seven volumes with 600 plates.

The Western Australian Gould League has launched an interesting book by C.F.H. Jenkins entitled "John Gould and the Birds of Australia". The first part of the book gives a short biography of Gould, describes his time in Australia and his relatives and associates. The second part recounts the history of the Gould League. There are five appendixes, two in colour, depicting delightful examples of bird illustrations by Olive Seymour and State Gould League certificates respectively. The remaining three appendixes (which comprise half of the book) relate specifically to the Western Australian Gould League and include extracts from the "Gould League Notes" for children and the educationally-orientated "Gould Leaguer", but there is much of general interest,

Mr Clee Jenkins has been a naturalist since boyhood and has spent a distinguished professional career in this field. He has been long associated with development of the Gould League and was president of the Western Australian Branch from 1959 to 1982. In this book Mr Jenkins has done an admirable job in the research for and compilation of this very readable record of the League and John Gould.

Richard Gregory-Smith

BIRDS OF NEW CALEDONIA

Richard Gregory-Smith

Situated in the Southwest Pacific, less than three flying hours from Sydney, New Caledonia is intersected by the Tropic of Capricorn. This French territory comprises the main island of New Caledonia (Grande Terre); the Loyalty Islands, Lifou, Ouvéa and Maré; and a number of smaller islands including the Ile des Pins.

The Grande Terre is shaped like a cigar and lies north-west/south-east. It is 400 km long and averages 50 km wide, in area 16,750 sq km. The island is geologically young, a spine of sharply sloped mountains, rising to over 1,500 metres, runs along the major axis. Rainfall in the mountains is high and wide rivers run to the sea, especially on the eastern side. The western side of the island is the drier, with savannah grassland interspersed with Niaouli trees, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, and scarred by nickel mining. On the eastern side the higher rainfall gives rise to areas of sub-tropical rainforest along the river valleys. The average temperature is 23 C.

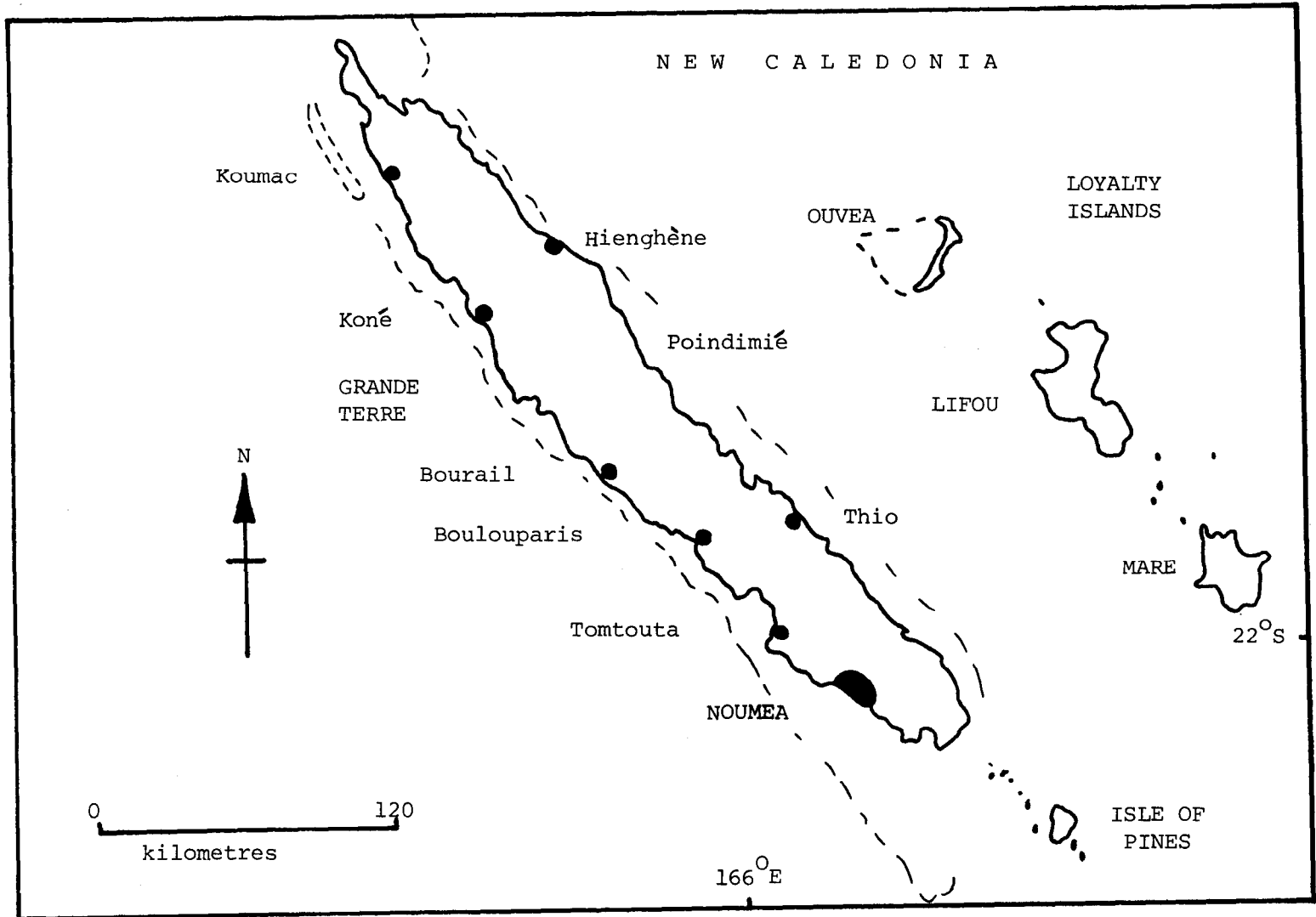
We visited New Caledonia in the first half of September 1983 and our bird-watching was confined to the Grande Terre. There are reputedly 76 species of land-birds on the island of which 14 species are endemic. The most famous of these, and New Caledonia's national bird, is the Kagu, *Rhynochetos jubatus* a flightless forest-dwelling bird, which is nearing extinction. Most of the small population is in captivity. A number of subspecies of various wide-ranging species is found which are peculiar to New Caledonia. Introduced species include the House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* and Spotted Turtle-dove *Streptopelia chinensis* which are found mainly in Noumea; the Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*, which is ubiquitous; and the Red-browed Firetail *Emblema temporalis* and Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax* which are to be found mainly in the savannah grasslands. Since Mayr's observations were published in 1945, the Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*, Cattle Egret *Ardeola ibis*, and Great Egret *Egretta alba*, have been recorded; the latter has extended its global distribution significantly. We saw a total of 42 species, of which 7 were endemic to the Grande Terre.

The highlights of our fortnight's bird-watching in New Caledonia included sightings of the uncommon endemic Blue Goshawk *Accipiter haplochrous* the male of which appears pied: slate-blue above and white below except for head, wing-tips and tail which are slate-blue. The juveniles resemble those of the Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*, and are brown with spotted breast and barred belly on cream. We were fortunate to see a

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Barn Owl *Tyto alba* at dusk flitting silently through the coconut palms as the fruit bats started their evening clamour. In early mornings the Scarlet Honeyeaters *Myzomela sanguinolenta* merged into the hues of the Coral Tree *Erythrina sp*, flowers as they drank the nectar. A bird of the grasslands which appears black in the distance, but on closer inspection is a bright emerald green with scarlet head, throat and rump is the endemic Red-throated Parrot-finch *Erythrura psittacea*. This species is unfortunately highly prized by collectors. The following is a summary of our observations.

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos* One seen on R. Oenghi, Boulouparis.

Whitefaced Heron *Ardea novaehollandiae*
Rivers on west side of island.

Eastern Reef Heron *Egretta sacra*
Coast: Eight grey phase and one white phase observed.

Rufous Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*
One roosting in riverside tree near Poindimie.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*
Regularly observed around island.

Blue Goshawk *Accipiter haplochrous*
Endemic. Three, including one juvenile seen on east coast.

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*
Observed on both east and west coasts.

Swamp Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*
Observed on both east and west.

Buffbanded Rail *Rallus philippensis*
Swampy areas near Bourail and Hienghene.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*
One seen on pond in Noumea (1979).

Purple Swampphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*
Found at swampy rivermouths to north and west of island.

Kago *Rhynochetos jubatus*
Endemic. Rare. Seen only in captivity.

White-throated Pigeon *Columba vitiensis*
Occasionally seen in wooded areas in centre and west of island.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*
Wooded areas of east coast.

- Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*
 Introduced. Common in Noumea and occasionally seen
 elsewhere, especially near human habitation,
- Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*
 Three pairs seen, two on east and one on west coasts.
- Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cuculus pyrrhophanus*
 One observed, Noumea.
- Barn Owl *Tyto alba*
 One sighted at Hienghene and two roadkills found at
 Bourail and Kone.
- Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*
 Common throughout island.
- White-rumped Swiftlet *Collocalia spodiopygia*
 Colony in cave areas at Hienghene.
- Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*
 Common throughout lowland areas.
- Long-tailed Triller *Lalage leucopygia*
 Occasionally seen in lowlands.
- Melanesian Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina caledonica*
 Two seen: One in mountains and the other at Bourail.
- Yellow-flanked Gerygone *Gerygone flavolateralis*
 Seen in grasslands and scrub to north and west of island.
- Spotted Fantail *Rhipidura spilodera*
 Two observed in rain-forest areas on east coast.
- Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*
 Commonly seen in wooded areas around island.
- Broad-billed Flycatcher *Myiagra caledonica*
 Common on east coast in wooded and rain-forest areas.
- Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*
 Common in lowland wooded and scrub areas.
- White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*
 Common in savannah areas of west coast. Also seen at
 centre and north of island.
- Striated Starling *Aplonis striatus*
 Forest areas at Bourail and along east coast.
- Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*
 Introduced. Common throughout island.

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- New Caledonian Crow *Corvus moneduloides*
Endemic. Wooded and forest areas around island.
- Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta*
Four seen in rainforest sections of east coast.
- Silver-eared Honeyeater *Lichmera incana*
Common throughout island.
- Barred Honeyeater *Guadalcanaria undulata*
Endemic. Seen around Poindimie and Boulouparis.
- New Caledonian Friarbird *Philemon diemenensis*
Endemic. Commonly seen in wooded and forest areas of east coast.
- Green-backed White-eye *Zosterops xanthochroa*
Endemic. Commonly seen in wooded and scrub areas around island.
- Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*
Occasionally seen in rainforest on east coast.
- Red-throated Parrot-Finch *Erythrura psittacea*
Endemic. Grasslands and scrub in northern half of island.
- Red-browed Firetail *Emblema temporalis*
Introduced. Common. Flocks of up to 40 in grassland areas.
- Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*
Introduced. Common. Flocks of up to 40 in grassland areas, often in association with latter species.
- House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Introduced. Common in Noumea and spreading to other urban areas.
- Seabirds seen included the Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*, Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*, Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* and the Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*.

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WHAT ABOUT A POND?

Richard Gregory Smith

Last winter we installed a pond in the garden, The object was to enhance the landscape and provide an interest centre in what **was** rather a bare lawn.

There are three methods of making ponds, and all entail digging a big hole. Once the hole is dug the project becomes more interesting. You can either install a glass-fibre moulded pool-form; concrete the excavation with suitable stonework; or as we did, insert a thick purpose-made plastic sheet into the hole.

The plastic sheets come in several sizes and we found it advantageous to have invested in a large one. The sheet is laid once the hole is smoothed, with ledges at various depths to accommodate different types of plants, the base is rough given a layer of sand. The sheet is then held down at the sides with suitable rocks and earth and the excess trimmed. When you come to fill the pond you will find it takes a surprising amount of water. It is best to position your plants first and then fill slowly with water. Add a few goldfish, and a couple of water snails to help keep things clean, and hopefully you will achieve an ecological balance.

You then sit back and watch things happen! Numbers of birds have come to drink at the pond since we completed it, but it was not until the spring migration that we saw some exciting displays. On one occasion a party of White-naped Honeyeaters *Melithreptus lunatus* and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters *Lichenostomus chrysops* settled in the willow-tree *Salix babylonica* above the pond. They proceeded to dive into the pond, following each other closely, return to the tree to shake the water off their plumage and repeat the cycle several times. A similar performance occurred the following day but this time the actors were a Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata* and White-naped Honeyeaters. As I write, our latest, and first-time visitor, the Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta* has been seen in the garden. Whether he has been able to locate the goldfish *Crassius auratus* in the murky depths of the pond or not time will tell, but we hope his sight has not been so acute.

It will be interesting as summer and the hot, dry weather comes, to see what further visitors come to the pond. Our short experience over the past four months leads us to believe that many more interesting birds will be attracted to it and we recommend a pond as a source of interest and a focus for bird life in the garden.

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BREEDING RECORD OF EURASIAN COOT IN CANBERRA

Henry Nix

Although common and frequently abundant on local and regional lakes, the true status of the Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* remains to be determined. The COG Waterbird Surveys have shown marked fluctuations in numbers, within and between local and regional lakes and within and between years, but birds are present in all months in all years on local lakes (except of course on L. George when it was dry or almost dry). Breeding records in the Canberra region are scarce; indeed, virtually absent since breeding was recorded in the flooded bed of L. Burley Griffin, before it filled completely in 1964. Accordingly, the following record is of some interest.

On January 1 1984 Mike Moncur, a COG member and regular golfer, noted a pair of coots with three small young on the large water-hazard lake on Yowani Golfcourse in north Canberra. On January 3 1984 Mike took Henry Nix and John and Janet Stein for a viewing. The parent birds were feeding the three very small young on crisp young leaves of the pondweed *Potamogeton crispus*. Possibly the principal target was invertebrate food but the primary product was segments of pondweed. The reddish-brown head bristles that are diagnostic for the young of this species were prominent.

Yowani Golf Club is to be congratulated on their management of the water features; these are complete with islands, reed and rush-beds and nesting boxes! Successful broods of Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa* and Manded Duck *Chenonetta jubata* were noted and populations of both have increased steadily since the water features were developed.

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Editor's Note: Department of Territories and Local Government rangers reported observing three pairs of Eurasian Coot with broods on the dams at Yowani Golf Course in December 1983.

EURASIAN COOT BREEDING NEAR DAIRY FLAT ROAD

Doug Ross

While Eurasian Coots *Fulica atra* bred, I understand, in the Lake Burley Griffin area during and immediately after the filling of the Lake, and while they breed now on the Tidbinbilla ponds, the absence of more recent breeding reports in the Canberra area has been a subject of comment for some time. There appears to be no obvious reason why the species should not find the Jerrabomberra

Berra wetlands a suitable breeding habitat.

The largest of the sewage farm ponds - the trapezoidal pond nearest the gate --is bounded on its north side by fences and willows beyond which is a water-filled depression, notable as a camping site for Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*.

I had tended to give the hollow no more than a passing look through the willows; however, on information provided by the rangers of the Lake Ecological Laboratory, I walked round the hollow on 13 November 1983. There were several Eurasian Coot present, two of which were tending two chicks in the reeds at the Dairy Road end of the hollow. The chicks were 10-12 cms long at waterline. The rangers had first noticed the chicks three or four days earlier.

The hollow will obviously have to be more closely and regularly inspected in future. There is nothing, on the face of it, to distinguish the hollow from the water-filled fingers in the grazing areas on the other side of Dairy Flat Road.

During January 1984 I made the following observations of Eurasian Coot broods at this small hollow to NE of largest of Dairy Road sewage farm ponds:

- 8 Jan. - 3 separate broods of 2 - well grown, 2 well grown and 1 about 7 cms at water edge (head colour could not be seen)
- 22 Jan. - brood of 2 well grown chicks
- 29 Jan. - brood of 1 chick, about 7 cms with red coloration on head.

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