

following day when two more nests were located. In two of these nests the birds had not yet laid.

On February 7, 1968 Dr D. L. Serventy drove G. Chester and me to the Rock. Four more adults were banded and two chicks which were hatched since the previous visit.

I had to return to New South Wales soon after, but to complete observations on the current season the Rock was revisited by G. Chester, D. and S. Forbes and I. Reynolds on April 7—53 days after the previous visit. There were eight nests with chicks (all banded), five nests with eggs and four empty nests. Among these were two nests not noted previously—each had an adult with an egg. Four of the other nests were being used by birds other than those recorded on them previously. Four more adult birds were also banded.

Remains of fish at the nest were collected and submitted to Mr R. J. McKay, of the W.A. Museum, for identification. He reported that they were of two species—*Scomberesox forsteri* (the specimen would have measured approximately 310 mm. in total length when alive) and *Hemirhamphus* sp. (possibly *H. melanochir*, a female in roe, of a possible total length exceeding 300 mm.).

—M. K. TARBOTTON, Avondale College, Cooranbong, N.S.W.

Some Records of Palaearctic Waders in Western Australia*—

The published observations on migrant Palaearctic waders in Western Australia are still rather scanty. During the fourth phase of the Harold Hall Australian Expedition to Western Australia, in the first half of 1966, some random observations were made during visits to appropriate localities. Since these observations may add to existing information and give a more balanced picture of wader distribution, they have been brought together here. Apart from providing additional records of rarer species they also indicate that a number of these birds are present at a period when breeding birds would already have left for the Eurasian regions, as, for example, in the numbers seen at Nickol Bay in early June, the majority of these birds being in non-breeding plumage.

In the following notes we have omitted any reference to endemic wader species which were also recorded at the time. The greater part of these observations were made by P. R. C. who, in addition to considerable experience of wader observation in the western Palaearctic, had also had the opportunity to study the Australian waders during an earlier expedition.

ALBANY. 25th March—1 Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*), 1 Greenshank (*T. nebularia*), 4 Wood Sandpipers (*T. glareola*).

NEWDEGATE. 15-20th April—5 Greenshanks on pool in mallee.

NICKOL BAY, ROEBOURNE. 3rd June—High tide assembly on rocky beach—20 Grey-tailed Tattlers (*Tringa brevipes*), 500+ Bar-tailed Godwits (*Limosa limosa*), 6 Black-tailed Godwits (*L. lapponica*), Eastern Curlews (*Numenius madagascariensis*) (present, number not recorded), Whimbrels (*N. phaeopus*) (numerous, one flock of 25 noted resting together), 7 Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*), Greenshanks (several, numbers not recorded). Two Marsh Sandpipers on a shallow lagoon on shoreward side of mangroves. In addition a mixed flock of c. 500 small waders present on the mud as the tide receded included 10-15 Large Sand Dotterels (*Charadrius leschenaultii*), and small groups of Stints (probably Red-

*Results of the Harold Hall Australian Expedition, No. 13.

necked, *Erolia ruficollis*), and Curlew Sandpipers (*E. ferruginea*).

ONSLOW. 10th June.—1 Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*), 6 Large Sand Dotterels, 6 Eastern Curlews, 10 Whimbrels.

BUSH BAY, NEAR CARNARVON. 12th June.—16 Bar-tailed Godwits, 1 Red-necked Stint, c. 20 Eastern Curlews, 5 Whimbrels, 10 Large Sand Dotterels.

13th June.—10 Red-necked Stints, 15 Grey-tailed Tattlers (resting on top of the mangroves at high tide), 12 Large Sand Dotterels.

14th June.—4 Bar-tailed Godwits, 1 Greenshank, 3 Grey-tailed Tattlers.

—P. R. COLSTON and C. J. O. HARRISON.
British Museum (Natural History), London.

White Ibis near Perth.—During a visit to Lake Mariginup, a few miles south of Lake Pinjar on May 2, 1968, Mr Tom Spence and I were surprised to see four White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*) feeding in the shallows.

While under observation the birds were disturbed by a stockman riding past and flew to join a small party feeding on the far margin of the lake. A further search with binoculars revealed another solitary bird, indicating that at least 11 Ibis were present on the swamp.

White Ibis have been recorded in the South-West on several occasions, but as far as I am aware this party of 11 is one of the largest groups seen in the Metropolitan area. J. Long reported 12 birds at Wattle Grove in January and February 1962 (Serventy and Whittell, *Birds of Western Australia*, 1967).

—C. F. H. JENKINS, South Perth.

An Early Record of the Crested Bellbird from the Swan River District.—In his Swan River district bird list, W. B. Alexander (*Emu*, 20, 1921: 167) mentioned that there is a specimen of the Crested Bellbird (*Oreoica gutturalis*) which is labelled Perth, in the British Museum of Natural History, from the Gould Collection, but excluded the species from the list on the grounds that the specimen "was no doubt obtained inland or further north." In view of the recent observations of the Crested Bellbird at Beer-mullah (1954), Yanchep (1957), Lake Pinjar (1962), the Gnangara pine plantation (1960) and Upper Swan (see D. L. Serventy and H. M. Whittell, 1967, *The Birds of Western Australia*, 4th edn.) in the northern part of the Swan coastal plain, it is probable that the collecting locality on the specimen's label is correct.

—JULIAN FORD, Lynwood.

Flight Speed of Common Bronzewing.—Speed of flight, at least in short bursts, can be gauged in several species by pacing individuals in a motor vehicle along roads. In the case of the Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*) D. L. Serventy (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 1, 1947: 66) has recorded these pigeons overtaking his car when it was travelling at 40 miles per hour. E. H. Sedgwick (*ibid.*, 2, 1950: 144) estimated the speed of a Bronzewing at 30 miles per hour in a moderate beam wind when he was travelling in a train. That the species can fly appreciably in excess of 40 miles per hour was demonstrated when I was driving with Fauna Warden A. T. Pearce in a land-rover near Moodiarup on August 11, 1967. A Common Bronzewing overtook and passed us without any apparent effort when our speedometer was registering a steady 42 miles per hour.

—H. B. SHUGG, Fisheries and Fauna Department, Perth.



Colston, Peter and Harrison, C J O. 1968. "From Field and Study: Some Records of Palaearctic Waders in Western Australia." *The Western Australian Naturalist* 11(2), 45–46.

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