

BROOME BIRD OBSERVATORY

Annual Report 2013/14



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Summary

2013 and 2014 were very different years. The weather patterns, particularly of rainfall, greatly affected the accessibility of sites and the presence of many bird species.

2013

The 2012-2013 wet season was quite a poor one, with well below average rainfall in December and January. It was so poor, in fact, that we were able to access all of the Roebuck Plains lakes and Kidneybean Claypan (the tracks to which are normally flooded during and after the wet season) in early February, although frequent rainfall later in the month while Cyclone Rusty was sitting off the coast prevented repeat visits. By the end of April the BBO rain gauge had registered a relatively low 471.1 mm of rain since the start of the year, most of which was due to Cyclone Rusty. This would have made for a rather dry year, but 103.4 mm falling in mid-May topped up the waterholes and prolonged inaccessibility of many sites. Then, after we thought we'd had all the rain we were going to get, a very unseasonal wet period in early June dropped another 168 mm. This included 149.2 mm on the 6th, which was the highest day's rainfall of the year to that point. This dry season rain set back access to many sites, and consequently we didn't begin running tours to the lakes until mid-July. We didn't get out to Kidneybean Claypan until early October, and the site still held water until at least late November.

The most remarkable feature of the year was an exceptional passage of nomadic species, particularly Black and Pied Honeyeaters, Masked Woodswallows and Budgerigars, during the first half of the year. The numbers of honeyeaters eclipsed even the impressive passage recorded in 2012. Cyclone Rusty brought a range of seabirds close inshore in late February, many of which would otherwise not have been recorded this year. Due to the flooded tracks, various birds that are normally only present in the further parts of Roebuck Plains were not recorded until well into the dry season.

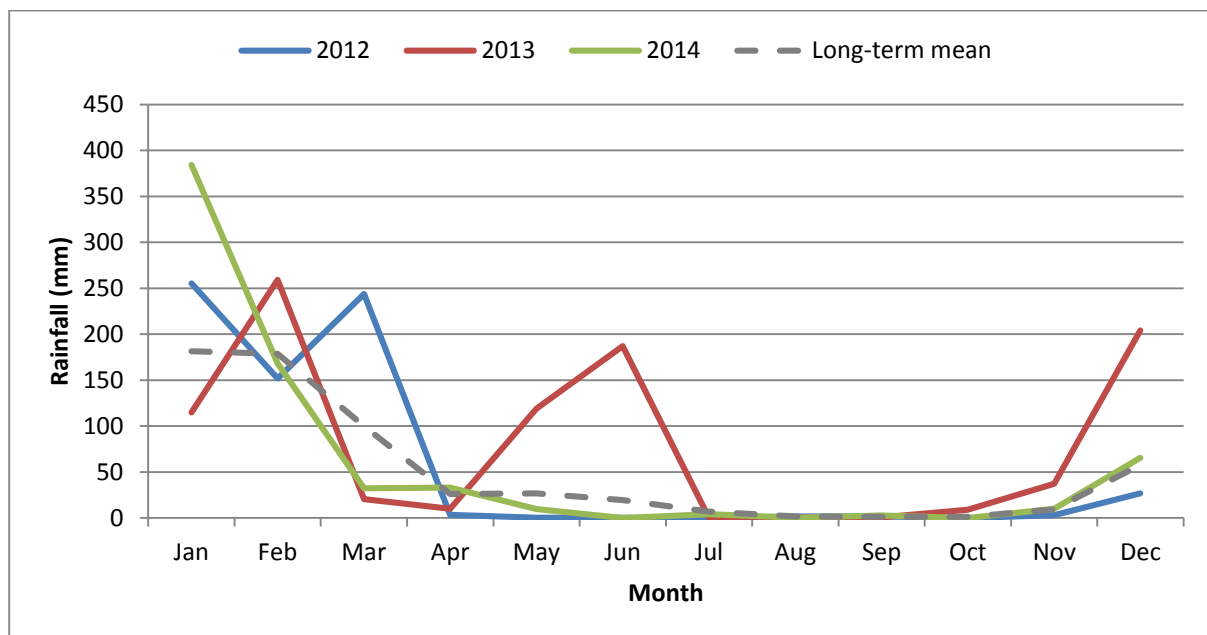
A total of 238 bird species were recorded during 2013. The best month, in terms of number of species recorded, was September with 187, closely followed by 185 in October.

2014

This year began with much heavier rainfall, including a well above average 397.1 mm caught by the BBO rain gauge in January, and this came on top of very high rainfall in December too. Very large areas of the plains were flooded by the month's end, and parts of the highway crossing the plain were submerged under shin-deep water. Enormous numbers of burrowing frogs were seen at that time, including thousands of small froglets crossing the highway. By the end of March, we had registered 686.3 mm of rain since the start of the year, and a further 73.4 mm fell in early April, although this was the last significant rainfall until the next wet season. This very different rain pattern to 2013 greatly improved access to sites in the dry season. We could drive to all the Roebuck Plains lakes in early June and even to Kidneybean Claypan by July (although we'd been accessing Kidneybean on foot since late May). Despite the big wet season, without any dry season deluge the wetlands dried up much sooner than in 2013. Kidneybean was dry by the start of September and the lakes were reduced to muddy ponds by late November.

With no seabird-bringing cyclones and negligible passage of landbirds, the number of species recorded was significantly lower than the previous year. The big wet season did, however, bring impressive numbers of Magpie Geese and other waterbirds that were lacking in 2013.

A total of 227 bird species were recorded during 2014. The best month was October, with 189 species recorded. This included a day total of 162 species on the 14th, comprising 157 recorded by Ric Else and Max Breckenridge on a 'big day' attempt and a further 5 species seen by guests and other BBO staff.



Monthly Rainfall for the years 2012 to 2013, compared with the long term average. Based on Broome Airport data.

Data Sources

The records in the following systematic species list are taken from the BBO's bird log, which is a daily record of all sightings by the BBO staff and guests, as well as occasional reports from other local birders and visitors. Although surveying birds is not a major part of the BBO staff's role, we run many birding tours throughout the year and all sightings from these are included in the bird log. BBO staff also spend much of their free time birding around the area, which has contributed enormously to the records from the last few years. Due to the difficulties of collecting more thorough data while leading tours and interpreting for visitors, most data is simply a record of a species' presence at a location, and accurate numbers are only occasionally recorded. Nevertheless, the following systematic list attempts to summarise the sightings for each species throughout the year.

Many guests visit the BBO throughout the year, including some experienced birders, plenty of beginners and many more with only the most casual of interests. While sightings reported for the daily bird log come from observers of wildly varying ability, great care has been taken to ensure that only records that we are entirely confident are correct and genuine are included.

The area from which bird log sightings are recorded covers everywhere within a 70 km radius of the BBO. Within this region there are numerous sites that receive very regular observer coverage, but also considerable areas that are rarely or never visited.

The annotated list follows the taxonomy of IOC World Bird List Version 7.1.

Contributors

Observers are noted for unusual records where possible. The BBO would like to thank the following observers (noted in parentheses beside corresponding records) who contributed to this report:

AB – Adrian Boyle, AC – Alan Crawford (BBO guest), AL – Amanda Lilleyman, AWSG – Australian Wader Studies Group, BW – Bob Wallace, CJH – Chris Hassell, CM – Clare Morton, CMi – Clive Minton, DM – Doug Adams (BBO guest), ES – Eric Smith (BBO guest), GM – Grant Morton, GMa – Grace Maglio, GS – George Swann, HKW – Hazel Watson, JB – Jacqui Bennett, JL – Jan Lewis, JW – Jean Wallace, KS – Kath Southwell, MaS – Margaret Smith (BBO guest), MB – Max Breckenridge, MH – Maarten Hulzebosch, MO – Margot Oorenbijk, MS – Mandy Soymonoff, MSm – Milton Smith (BBO guest), MSw – Mark Swann, PC – Peter Curry (BBO guest), PCr – Peter Crighton, RJE – Ric Else, RT – Ray Turnbull, TB – Tony Baker (BBO guest).

Systematic Bird List

MAGPIE GOOSE *Anseranus semipalmata*

2013: A flock of 4 flew over the BBO paddock on 4th March (AWSG). There were no further sightings until late September, when 2 were at Lake Eda and (possibly the same) 2 were seen at Taylors Lagoon.

2014: Small groups were seen on Roebuck Plains, mostly from the Port Hedland Highway, throughout February, March and April. A single bird flying over the far side of the bay during migration watch on 25th March was unusual (RJE). A distant flock of c2000 birds was seen in the Kidneybean Claypan area on 29th April and similar numbers could be seen around there throughout May. The first thorough count was made at Kidneybean on 3rd June, when 1,810 were present (RJE).

Small numbers were at Lake Eda until mid-July, by which time the numbers at Kidneybean had dropped dramatically. A count of 18 still at Kidneybean on 28th July was the last record of the year.

PLUMED WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna eytoni*

2013: The biggest numbers, as usual, were counted at the town sewage works where a large flock was present all year. Occasional counts included 2,000+ on 29th April, 5,000+ on 20th May, 9,500 on 11th June (PC, RJE) and 9,000 on 27th June. There were occasional sightings at Lake Campion and Lake Eda, of which the highest count was 40 at Lake Eda on 2nd November.

Many whistling-ducks, presumed to be at least mostly this species, were heard flying over the BBO shortly after dark on many nights throughout the year. These are presumably the birds from the sewage works, which have been observed leaving that site at dusk and arriving back there at dawn. Additionally, many were heard arriving at Kidneybean Claypan an hour or so after dark on 21st October (RJE, HKW), suggesting that this is where the sewage works birds go to feed at night.

2014: Adults with ducklings were seen at the sewage works and at a small dam near Nimalaica during February. Nesting was also observed near Kidneybean Claypan in April. An interesting record was a small flock roosting on a rock in Roebuck Bay at high tide on 11th May (HKW). Small numbers were at Taylors Lagoon, Lake Campion and Lake Eda on 24th April, but there were no further records from any of these sites.

Numbers at the sewage works were certainly lower than the previous year, with a count of just 1,500 on 25th July and similar numbers throughout the rest of the year.

WANDERING WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna arcuata*

2013: A small number were at Taylors Lagoon and Lake Eda on 6th February, but these and other sites on Roebuck Plains became inaccessible soon afterwards and there were no further records until a few were seen at Lake Campion on the next visit on 13th July. A few remained at Lake Campion from then until mid-October, when birds were also noted at Taylors Lagoon and Lake Eda.

One of the biggest surprises of 2013 was the number of ducks present at the new Broome sewage works on Crab Creek Road. There is normally no way to view this private site, but when a visit became possible on 28th July an astonishing 4,000 Wandering Whistling-Ducks were present (AB). Fascinatingly, no Plumed Whistling-Ducks were there, in complete contrast to the old sewage works in town.

2014: In mid-February, 2 were present at the town sewage works and birds were regularly seen on the flooded parts of the BBO paddock until late April, when some were found to be nesting. The

species was also recorded at Nimalaica, Taylors Lagoon, Lake Champion and Lake Eda in the early part of the year.

A count of 85 was made at Kidneybean Claypan on 3rd June, while small numbers were recorded at Lake Champion and Lake Eda during the same month. After July, the species became very scarce and a lone bird at Taylors Lagoon on 12th September was the only sighting.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus*

2013: The species was recorded at Lake Eda in early February, but subsequent rainfall restricted access to sites on the plains so there were few other records until July. Even then, only very small numbers were seen during the dry season. A single bird was swimming in the middle of Roebuck Bay on 15th February was surprising, but a group of 8 was doing exactly the same on 7th June and 3 more on 6th July.

FRECKLED DUCK *Stictonetta naevosa*

2013: This was an incredible year for this species, which is normally a very rare visitor to our region. The first record was of a few birds at Lake Champion in mid-July (GS), which increased to 22 by the 19th (AB, RJE). This new record count for the Broome area was soon completely eclipsed on the 28th, when an amazing 1,345 Freckled Ducks were counted at the new sewage works on Crab Creek Road. Due to the lack of general access to this site, further visits to count the ducks were not possible.

A few continued to be seen at Lake Champion in August and then at Lake Champion, Lake Eda and Taylors Lagoon in September. The highest number was 33 at Lake Champion on 20th September. Small numbers were at all these sites and at Kidneybean Claypan in October, including some higher counts such as 65 at Kidneybean on the 18th and 120 at Lake Champion on the 24th.

2014: Records this year probably involved small numbers of birds lingering since the 2013 influx. These included 2 at Kidneybean Claypan on 3rd June, 4 at the new sewage works on Crab Creek Road on 5th June and 10 at Lake Champion on 6th June.

RADJAH SHELDUCK *Tadorna radjah*

2013: Up to 3 were present at the town sewage works in February, March and early April. There were no more sightings until a lone bird at the same site on 21st October.

2014: The only record all year was of 2 birds at the town sewage works on 3rd March.

PINK-EARED DUCK *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

2013: This species was present at Taylors Lagoon and Lake Eda in early February, but there were no more visits to these sites until the dry season. There were occasional records at the town sewage works and an interesting sighting of 4 swimming in Roebuck Bay on 17th March (RJE), but sightings were quite scarce until late May. After this time, they became more frequent, with counts at the sewage works reaching 126 on 9th August.

Pink-eared Ducks were also frequent on the Roebuck Plains lakes in the second half of the year, including a count of 208 on Lake Champion on 8th September. Much bigger counts were recorded in October, including 766 on Lake Champion on the 9th and 600 on Kidneybean Claypan on the 10th.

2014: This year followed a similar pattern, with most sightings in the first half of the year involving small numbers at the sewage works. By July, the numbers here were over 100 and reached 180 on 7th August. With the exception of a single sighting at Lake Champion in July, the sewage works was the only site this species was recorded all year. About 200 were still present on 6th November.

AUSTRALIAN WOOD DUCK [MANED DUCK] *Chenonetta jubata*

2013: A record from Roebuck Plains on 10th April was the only sighting in the first half of the year. Small numbers were seen at Taylors Lagoon, Lake Campion and Lake Eda from August. The highest count was of 7 at Lake Campion and 6 at Taylors Lagoon on 9th October.

2014: A group of 4 was at Lake Campion on 24th April, increasing to 20 by 6th June. A few were recorded regularly here, and occasionally at Lake Eda and Taylors Lagoon, during the dry season. By October, Lake Eda had become the regular site for this species.

GREEN PYGMY GOOSE *Nettapus pulchellus*

2013: There were no records until we began tours out to the Roebuck Plains lakes in July, when small numbers were present at Taylors Lagoon, Lake Campion and Lake Eda. Lake Campion was the main site from July to September, with counts there increasing from 13 in mid-July to 50+ on 21st August and 69 on 8th September. On the latter date, an additional 22 were seen at Taylors Lagoon and 2 at Lake Eda. In October, Taylors Lagoon seemed to have become the best site, with up to 40 present there.

2014: Again, records began in the dry season, with June counts at Lake Campion increasing from 20 on the 6th to 58 on the 27th. There were no visits to Lake Campion in August and the species was not recorded at any other sites, but in September only single figures were present here and at Lake Eda. From October onwards, a small number still at Lake Eda were the only birds recorded.

PACIFIC BLACK DUCK *Anas superciliosa*

2013: Common at just about every freshwater site throughout the year, including all the Roebuck Plains lakes, other flooded areas of the plains, the town sewage works and Nimalaica. Occasionally seen in the bay.

2014: Similar to 2013. The biggest count recorded was 378 at Kidneybean Claypan on 28th July.

AUSTRALASIAN SHOVELER *Anas rhynchos*

2013: A group of 4 was at the town sewage works on 27th May (RJE).

2014: Not recorded.

GREY TEAL *Anas gracilis*

2013: Common at just about every freshwater site throughout the year. In mid-October, counts included 524 at Lake Campion, 855 at Taylors Lagoon and more than 1,000 at Kidneybean Claypan.

2014: Common at just about every freshwater site throughout the year. This species was also recorded occasionally in Roebuck Bay, including a count of 64 there on 9th June. The biggest count of the year was 1,080 at Kidneybean Claypan on 28th July.

CHESTNUT TEAL *Anas castanea*

2013: A male in partial breeding plumage was found at Lake Campion on 19th July (AB, RJE) and was still there at the end of the month. Presumably the same bird was there again on 20th September (RJE, HKW). Another drake, in full breeding plumage and clearly a different bird, was at Lake Eda on 16th September (CJH). These appear to be only the second and third records for the Broome region.

2014: Not recorded.

HARDHEAD *Aythya australis*

2013: Common at freshwater sites all year, but more numerous from the start of the dry season onwards. Occasionally seen in the bay. Usually present at the town sewage works, where 316 were counted on 10th July. In September, hundreds were recorded at each of the three regular Roebuck Plains lakes (Taylors Lagoon, Lake Campion and Lake Eda).

2014: Again, recorded at most freshwater sites and occasionally in Roebuck Bay. The species became more regular and numerous at the sewage works in the second half of the year. On 3rd June, 855 were counted at Kidneybean Claypan.

STUBBLE QUAIL *Coturnix pectoralis*

2013: Not recorded.

2014: One was seen in the BBO paddock on 19th May (RJE, HKW). Another was seen on the track to Kidneybean Claypan on 19th August (HKW). The final record of the year was another single bird east of the Port Hedland Highway, opposite Casuarina Bore, on 12th September (HKW, RJE et al).



Stubble Quail, Roebuck Plains, May 2014 (Hazel Watson)



Stubble Quail, Roebuck Plains, September 2014 (Rizel)

When the BBO finally got out to Kidneybean Claypan on 10th October, a count of 42 adults and 29 cygnets of various sizes was made. A single bird also frequented the town sewage works in October. Numbers at Lake Eda had increased to 30 by 2nd November.

2014: There were few records in the early part of the year, but birds were seen at Lake Campion, Lake Eda and Kidneybean Claypan once these sites became available from about May. About 100 were at Kidneybean on 3rd June and 175 at the same site on 28th July. By late August, Kidneybean was drying up and all further swan records were from Lake Eda.

BROWN QUAIL *Coturnix ypsilophora*

2013: Recorded occasionally throughout the early and late parts of the year, although there were no records in July or August. A group of about 15 was flushed at the eastern edge of the BBO paddock, close to the Malurus Trail, on 21st May. There were several sightings along Crab Creek Road in June.

2014: Birds were heard singing in the BBO paddock in February and March. There were occasional sightings throughout the year, including several records at Gantheaume Point.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanites oceanicus*

2013: A lone bird was seen in Roebuck Bay on 11th June (PC, RJE). Presumably the same bird was seen on four subsequent dates, the last of which was 10th July. All these sightings were made from the

northern shores of the bay. The species was also reported from a whale-watching boat off Cable Beach on 12th June.

2014: Several were seen from a whale watching boat west of Cable Beach on 2nd August (RJE, HKW).

STREAKED SHEARWATER *Calonectris leucomelas*

2013: While a cyclone was lingering offshore, a single bird was seen feeding among terns and other seabirds close to Entrance Point on 27th February (GS et al).

2014: Not recorded.

WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER *Ardenna pacificus*

2013: A single bird was reported from a whale watching trip off Cable Beach on 19th August (BBO bird log).

2014: Not recorded.

MATSUDAIRA'S STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates matsudairae*

2013: One was reported from a boat 44.7km north of Cable Beach on 7th September (MSw).

2014: Not recorded

AUSTRALASIAN GREBE *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

2013: Common at all freshwater sites throughout the year. On 9th October 589 were counted at Lake Campion and 225 at Taylors Lagoon.

2014: Common at all freshwater sites throughout the year.

HOARY-HEADED GREBE *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

2013: Recorded at Taylors Lagoon and Lake Campion in February, before these sites became inaccessible. There were no further records until Lake Campion became available again in mid-July, and small numbers (up to 9) were present there for the rest of the year.

2014: The species was recorded at Lake Campion in April and June, and a single bird was seen at Kidneybean Claypan on 16th June and 25th July. There were no records in August, but a few were at Lake Campion throughout September and October,

GREAT-CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

2013: Not recorded

2014: A single bird was seen at Lake Eda on 14th June (RJE).

BLACK-NECKED STORK *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

2013: A pair could be seen nesting in the mangroves east of Crab Creek during the BBO migration watch period in March and April. From April through the dry season there were regular sightings of small numbers on the plains, and at Kidneybean Claypan and Lake Eda later in the year. There were frequent sightings in the bay during September.

2014: Nest building was observed near Crab Creek in mid-March, and nesting was seen in the same place as 2013. A group of 7 were seen together in the BBO paddock of Roebuck Plains on 18th March and a family of 8 in the BBO paddock on 7th April included 2 adults and immatures of two different

generations. Up to 5 were at Kidneybean Claypan in June and July, with others seen in the bay, at Lake Eda and at various other sites on the plains through the dry season. On 10th August 3 were at Kidneybean and 3 were at Lake Eda, and again there was a run of frequent sightings from the bay in September.

AUSTRALIAN WHITE IBIS *Threskiornis molucca*

2013: Common just about everywhere all year.

2014: Common just about everywhere all year.

STRAW-NECKED IBIS *Threskiornis spinicollis*

2013: Common in most places away from the coast throughout the year, with the biggest numbers occurring at the Roebuck Plains lakes.

2014: Common in most places away from the coast throughout the year. The only count recorded was 173 at Kidneybean Claypan on 28th July, although larger flocks would have occurred at the lakes during the dry season.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

2013: Recorded on flooded parts of Roebuck Plains throughout the year and commonly at the lakes once they were accessible to vehicles. A flock of 160+ flew south over the BBO on 31st March.

2014: Records from February included 180 flying over the bay and 400 on flooded plains by the highway on the 18th. From March to May, flocks were commonly seen above the mangroves on the eastern side of Crab Creek and it was suspected that a colony was nesting over there. From June, most records were from the lakes and flooded areas of the plains, where the species was common throughout the dry season. At other sites, a lone bird was photographed on the northern shore of Roebuck Bay on 5th August and one was flying around over the town sewage works on 12th November.

ROYAL SPOONBILL *Platalea regia*

2013: Fairly common around Crab Creek, at the Roebuck Plains lakes and, particularly during the dry season, at the town sewage works where up to 18 were regularly present. The biggest count of the year was 65 on a pool of water in the BBO paddock on 27th April.

2014: A group of 150 were seen from the highway crossing Roebuck Plains on 18th February (CMi et al). The species was commonly seen around Crab Creek in March, but then became quite scarce in the bay until June. The regular flock at the town sewage ponds was also present from mid-June until late in the year and a few birds were seen at the Roebuck Plains lakes during the dry season.

YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL *Platalea flavipes*

2013: The first record of the year was a single bird at Lake Campion on 13th July. There were no more sightings until September and October, when small numbers were seen regularly out at the lakes. The highest counts were 3 at Lake Campion and 5 at Lake Eda on 20th September and 8 at Lake Campion on 2nd October. Up to 4 were also at Kidneybean Claypan from mid-October.

2014: An unusual sighting was a single bird flying over the observatory on 21st June (HKW). Further single birds were seen at Kidneybean Claypan on 20th July, at Lake Eda on 20th August and at Lake Campion on 12th September.

NANKEEN NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax caledonicus*

2013: A dead bird was found stuck on a barbed wire fence at the eastern edge of the BBO paddock on 20th April. A single bird was seen at the town sewage works on 20th May. On 20th August, 2 were seen roosting in the mangroves near One Tree and there were a couple of records from the bay in September. The final record of the year was at the town sewage works on 8th October.

2014: There were occasional records in February and March, including a dead bird on a barbed wire fence in a very similar location to the 2013 specimen. A juvenile was at Casuarina Bore next to the Port Hedland highway across Roebuck Plains on 16th April. Another was at Kidneybean Claypan on 7th August and 10 were seen flying over mangroves on the eastern side of Roebuck Bay on the 29th. The final record of the year was a single bird in the grounds of the old crocodile park at Cable Beach on 14th October.

STRIATED HERON *Butorides striata*

2013: Common in the bay throughout the year.

2014: Common in the bay throughout the year.

EASTERN CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus coromandus*

2013: A lone bird was at the town sewage works on 29th April (BW, JW) and was there again on 20th May. There were no further records until 6 were seen at Lake Eda on 15th September (RJE), a few remaining there into November.

2014: A group of 3 were at Kidneybean Claypan on 3rd June, and up to 7 were recorded there into mid-August (RJE). A couple of birds were at Lake Eda on 14th June and up to 6 were seen here regularly right through to late October. A single bird was at the town sewage works on 11th July. The last record of the year was at Taylors Lagoon on 9th November.

WHITE-NECKED HERON *Ardea pacifica*

2013: Regularly seen in wet parts of the plains throughout the year, and common at the Roebuck Plains lakes and Nimalaica once these sites became dry enough for access in July. On 2nd November 90 were counted around a dam on Roebuck Plains near the Port Hedland highway (CMI et al).

2014: Single birds were seen flying over Crab Creek on 25th March and over the BBO on 13th April. Besides these records, all sightings in the early part of the year were on Roebuck Plains. In June, 30 were at Kidneybean Claypan on the 3rd and an impressive 160 were at Lake Eda on the 27th, falling to 90 a month later. In the second half of the year, the species was recorded regularly at Taylors Lagoon, Lake Champion, Lake Eda and Nimalaica.

GREAT EGRET *Ardea alba*

2013: Common all year in the bay and flooded parts of the plains. Common at the Roebuck Plains lakes in the later part of the year.

2014: Common all year in the bay and most wetland sites. The only count recorded was 117 at Kidneybean Claypan on 3rd June.

INTERMEDIATE EGRET *Egretta intermedia*

2013: A couple were at Taylors Lagoon on 6th February. There were no further sightings until mid-June, when up to 20 were present on flooded grassland adjacent to the Port Hedland Highway. There were no more records until the end of August when 31 were counted at Lake Eda, increasing to 65 by mid-

September. Smaller numbers were also seen at Lake Campion and Taylors Lagoon around the same time.

2014: There were regular sightings on flooded parts of Roebuck Plains throughout the early part of the year, including 5 feeding with among Little Egrets on flooded salt marsh next to the Malurus Trail on 3rd March and 13 in the BBO paddock on 4th April. A small number were also noted at Lake Campion and Taylors Lagoon in April. A single bird at Kidneybean Claypan in late May was the only record that month and the last sighting until another single bird appeared at Lake Eda in mid-September. The latter remained there until November, when it was joined by another bird. Another lone bird was at the town sewage works on 15th November and the species was recorded at Nimalaica, Lake Campion and Lake Eda in December.

PIED HERON *Egretta picata*

2013: Not recorded

2014: An immature bird was at Lake Campion on 14th June (RJE).

WHITE-FACED HERON *Egretta novaehollandiae*

2013: Common in the bay and on the plains throughout the year. Common at the Roebuck Plains lakes each time they were visited.

2014: Common in the bay and at most freshwater sites throughout the year. There were 95 at Kidneybean Claypan on 28th July.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

2013: Common all year, with most sightings coming from the bay.

2014: Common all year, with most sightings coming from the bay. On 4th March, 120 were feeding just off the Malurus Trail in salt marsh flooded by the king tides.

EASTERN REEF EGRET *Egretta sacra*

2013: Common in the bay and around the Broome coast throughout the year. A single bird was at the town sewage works on 29th June. The only white morph bird recorded in the bay was on 8th February, although this colour form is quite common on the coast north of Broome.

2014: Common in the bay and around the Broome coast throughout the year. White morph birds were at Entrance Point on 22nd July and at Coconut Well, where they seem to be common, in September.

AUSTRALIAN PELICAN *Pelicanus conspicillatus*

2013: Recorded in small numbers in the bay, the sewage works, and flooded areas of Roebuck Plains throughout the year.

2014: Recorded regularly at the same sites as in 2013. Bigger numbers were present in June, with 200 counted at Kidneybean Claypan on the 3rd and a feeding flock of up to 500 in the bay mid-month. Kidneybean still had more than 100 pelicans in July, including one that was seen to catch and eat a Grey Teal on the 25th (PCr). Large numbers remained in the area for a few weeks and 350 were counted in the bay on 21st August.

LESSER FRIGATEBIRD *Fregata ariel*

2013: While Cyclone Rusty was offshore in late February and early March there were sightings most days, including 20 at Entrance Point and 20 in the bay on 27th February. There were occasional

sightings of small numbers from then until an influx in June, when birds were seen on many days in the bay and off the west coast. From July onwards there were just occasional sightings around the coast.

2014: Occasionally recorded each month until August, after which sightings became much more frequent, with regular records right through to the end of the year. The biggest count recorded was 15 in the bay on 27th September.

BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster*

2013: Recorded occasionally in the bay and off the port in the early part of the year, and hundreds were forced close to shore by a cyclone out to sea in late February. At that time, many were clustered on the rocks around Entrance Point. There were no records in May, but sightings became regular from June onwards, mostly in the bay and off the west coast of Broome.

2014: After a few sightings early in the year, the species was not recorded in March, April or May. Only from the second half of June did sightings become regular, and remained common off the Broome coast for the rest of the year.

LITTLE PIED CORMORANT *Microcarbo melanoleucos*

2013: There were few records in the early part of the year, but once we could access freshwater sites in the dry season, the species was seen commonly at Taylors Lagoon, Lake Champion, Lake Eda and Nimalaica.

2014: The species was seen commonly flying over the Crab Creek mangroves in March, with records continuing at that site into May. It was thought that they were nesting in there at the time. From June onwards, most records came from the Roebuck Plains lakes where the species was seen on just about every visit.

LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

2013: Regularly seen at many different sites, but fairly uncommon in the second half of the year.

2014: Seen occasionally in the bay throughout the year, including a flock of 50 in mid-June. A small number were at Lake Champion and Lake Eda in September and October.

AUSTRALIAN PIED CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax varius*

2013: Common in the bay all year and commonly seen at Entrance Point and Gantheaume Point. One was at Lake Champion on 27th September.

2014: Again, recorded throughout the year, mainly in the bay and at Entrance Point.

AUSTRALASIAN DARTER *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

2013: The only record early in the year was at Taylors Lagoon in early February. From mid-March there were occasional sightings in the bay and around the coast, becoming fairly common during the dry season. From August to November the species was seen almost daily in the bay and commonly at sites like Entrance Point and Gantheaume Point.

2014: After occasional records from February to April, there were no sightings at all in May. During the dry season the species was recorded regularly at Entrance Point, the bay and Lake Eda. Records in the later part of the year were mostly in the bay and at Entrance Point.

EASTERN OSPREY *Pandion cristatus*

2013: Commonly seen around the coast, including in the bay. Several pairs nested conspicuously around Broome, the port and Gantheaume Point.

2014: Commonly seen around the coast, with the same nests from 2013 being used again.

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE *Elanus axillaris*

2013: Recorded quite commonly at a wide variety of sites all year, including records on most dates during the dry season.

2014: After no records during the first four months of the year, there were a few sightings in May and the species was seen on most dates during the dry season, often hunting by the side of the highway near the airport or on Roebuck Plains during plains tours.

LETTER-WINGED KITE *Elanus scriptus*

2013: One of the finds of the year. A bird was seen and photographed flying over the edge of the salt marsh near One Tree on 29th July (MSm). This is the first record in the Broome area for more than a decade.

2014: Not recorded



Letter-winged Kite, One Tree, July 2013 (Milton Smith)

CRESTED [ORIENTAL] HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

2013: Not recorded

2014: The biggest rarity of the year, one was seen well in flight at Nimalaica on 2nd September (GS), but was unfortunately never seen again. This is a new species for the Broome list.

SQUARE-TAILED KITE *Lophoictinia isura*

2013: The first one of the year was at Taylors Lagoon on 13th July (RJE, HKW). The only other sighting was at Lake Eda on 16th September (CJH).

2014: Single birds were seen at Lake Eda on 20th July (RJE) and at Taylors Lagoon on 23rd July. One was photographed flying low over the observatory on 24th August (ES, MaS). The final record of the year was an adult at Nimalaica on 21st October (RJE, HKW).



Square-tailed Kite, Nimalaica, October 2014 (Hazel Watson)

BLACK-BREASTED BUZZARD *Hamirostra melanosternon*

2013: The first record of the year was on Roebuck Plains on 10th April. There were a couple of sightings in the Nimalaica area in April and May. Records became more regular once we began tours to the Roebuck Plains lakes from July, and the species was seen on most visits to that area. This included 3 at Taylors Lagoon on 18th September and at least 9 different individuals (2 at Taylors Lagoon, 5 together at Lake Eda and 2 juveniles to the south west of Lake Eda) on 2nd October.

2014: A group of 5 was seen on Roebuck Plains on 17th March, with fairly regular sightings on the plains thereafter. Once again, the species was recorded on almost every visit to the Roebuck Plains lakes. A remarkable 16 were seen while driving between Lake Eda and the Port Hedland highway on 7th July, including 11 all in view at the same time (RJE). Most of the birds on that day were juveniles.

The species remained a common site at the lakes for the rest of the year. Another impressive count was a loose group of 10 drinking at the edge of Lake Campion on 17th September (RJE et al). Later that month a pair was seen at a nest in the Lake Eda area.

LITTLE EAGLE *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

2013: The first sighting of the year was on Roebuck Plains on 10th April. There was another single sighting in the Nimalaica area in May, and birds were seen at Taylors Lagoon, Lake Eda and Willaroo Well on Roebuck Plains during June and July. There were no records after 31st July. All records this year were of pale morph birds.

2014: This was a much better year for the species. The first record was on 15th April, when both a dark morph and a pale morph bird were seen separately in the BBO paddock of Roebuck Plains, with a pale bird seen again the following day. There were no further occurrences until a flurry of sightings beginning in mid-June. The species was seen on 7 dates in the second half of the month, including 2 (a light morph and a dark morph) at Kidneybean Claypan on the 16th and records of both colour morphs near the BBO.

Little Eagles were recorded on 8 dates in July, with a mixture of pale and dark morphs involved. A juvenile was seen twice at Lake Eda, where at least 2 adults were also recorded and the species probably nested. Up to 3 were also recorded along the edge of the plain between the BBO and One Tree. There were 4 records in August and 2 in September, before a single bird over the BBO viewing platform on 10th October (MB) was the final sighting of the year.

WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE *Aquila audax*

2013: Seen throughout the year, usually on Roebuck Plains. Recorded on most visits to the lakes.

2014: Seen throughout the year. Again, most records were at Roebuck Plains and the lakes there. One was circling over Crab Creek on 15th July. A group of 4 were feeding on road kill on Crab Creek Road on 17th November.

BROWN GOSHAWK *Accipiter fasciatus*

2013: Common throughout the area and recorded on the vast majority of days when they visited the BBO birdbaths.

2014: Common throughout the area and recorded almost daily throughout the year. The species was seen at the BBO birdbaths almost every day, including up to 6 bathing together in mid-August! The BBO must be the easiest place in the world to see this species.

It is thought that we get both subspecies of Brown Goshawk in our area: the smaller northern form *A.f.didimus* as a resident breeding species and the larger southern form *A.f.fasciatus* as a dry season visitor. This adds to the confusion for visitors attempting to identify these and the (generally far less common) following species.

COLLARED SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*

2013: Seen occasionally throughout the year in wooded habitats and on the edges of the plains, although most reported sightings at the BBO were probably Brown Goshawks.

2014: There were occasional records during the first half of the year and a couple of sightings near Lake Eda in August. A bird seen at the BBO on 21st September was the first of a noticeable influx of the species, with 2 further sightings that month, followed by records on 9 days in October and 7 days in November. These included multiple different individuals at the observatory and other records from One Tree, Taylors Lagoon, Lake Campion and the town sewage works. A nest containing 2 large chicks was found in a tall gum tree near Twelve Mile on 23rd November (RJE, HKW).

SWAMP HARRIER *Circus approximans*

2013: Fairly common in wetter areas of the plains throughout the year and seen on most trips to the Roebuck Plains lakes. There were also occasional sightings over the Crab Creek mangroves.

2014: Sightings were quite common around the Crab Creek mangroves from March to May. The species was frequently seen on the plains, especially in the Kidneybean Claypan area until September. From then on much of the plains was drying up and records became much less frequent, with most sightings coming from Lake Eda

SPOTTED HARRIER *Circus assimilis*

2013: Generally quite common on Roebuck Plains, including out at the lakes once we began our tours there in July. Other sightings included Entrance Point several times, the town sewage works and one drifting east over the BBO as part of a large and diverse passage of birds on 22nd February. At least 6 were at Lake Eda on 2nd October.

2014: Again fairly common on the plains and seen occasionally elsewhere. Juveniles were seen in the BBO paddock of Roebuck Plains and at Lake Eda in April, and a fresh juvenile was seen begging food from an adult near Lake Eda on 12th September.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*

2013: Common just about everywhere throughout the year, particularly in the dry season. This year, numbers during the dry seemed to be exceptionally high. By far the biggest counts came from the town rubbish tip. Here we counted 700+ on 31st May and at least 1,300 (but perhaps as many as 2,000) on 27th June.

2014: Common just about everywhere throughout the year, becoming much more numerous in the dry season. Up to 250 were congregating around dead cattle in the BBO paddock of Roebuck Plains in mid-May. Numbers at the tip were never as high as in 2013, reaching 600 in mid-July.

WHISTLING KITE *Haliastur sphenurus*

2013: Recorded virtually every day of the year and at just about every site, although never in such numbers as the Black Kites.

2014: Again recorded almost every day and at all sites.

BRAHMINY KITE *Haliastur Indus*

2013: Common in the bay and recorded almost daily throughout the year. A pair nested next to Little Crab Creek. One was seen to catch a sand plover on 5th September.

2014: Common in the bay and again recorded almost daily throughout the year. Four pairs attempted to nest between the BBO and Little Crab Creek, including the nest by the creek that had also been used in 2013.

WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

2013: Common in the bay and most other places and recorded almost every day throughout the year.

2014: Common in the bay and most other places and recorded almost every day throughout the year. A group of 9 immature birds were cruising up and down the beach together on 17th March.

On 20th May, an adult was seen perched in a tree near the viewing platform holding two large sea snakes. It dropped one, which made its way back to the sea, but proceeded to eat the other.

A pair nested near Lake Eda. Skulls and other remains found in and around the nest included about 25 Purple Swamphens, a Glossy Ibis, at least one other larger species of ibis, a Torresian Crow and a Blue-winged Kookaburra.

AUSTRALIAN BUSTARD *Ardeotis australis*

2013: Small numbers were seen throughout the year, mostly on Roebuck Plains. The largest group recorded was 4 in the BBO paddock on 10th April.

On 16th June a bustard was seen flying out over Roebuck Bay, heading towards One Tree. When it got close to the shore it turned around and flew back out over the sea again.

2014: A pair were seen with a juvenile in the BBO paddock of Roebuck Plains on 7th of April. Small numbers were seen throughout the year, usually on Roebuck Plains, including several sightings of birds drinking at the lakes or Kidneybean Claypan.

One flew along the shore of Roebuck Bay on 17th April, passing right in front of the BBO staff and guests who were doing migration watch at the time. Another atypical sighting was of a bird walking along Crab Creek Road near Quarry Beach on 23rd August.

BUFF-BANDED RAIL *Gallirallus philippensis*

2013: There were only a couple of records this year, although the species is probably more common than the infrequency of sightings suggests. An adult with small chicks was seen by the highway across Roebuck Plains on 8th April (CJH). A single bird was seen at the town sewage ponds on 3rd October (GS).

2014: There were only a couple of records all year again, and they were oddly similar to those in 2013. An adult was seen with three small chicks in the BBO paddock of Roebuck Plains on 29th April (RJE). A single bird was reported from a garden in Broome on 30th December (CM).

BAILLON'S CRAKE *Porzana pusilla*

2013: There were two records this year, on 30th August and 17th September, both at Nimalaica.

2014: One was flushed from flooded grassland in the Kidneybean Claypan area on 21st April. There were no further sightings until December, when a single bird was seen at Lake Eda on the 16th and 19th.

AUSTRALIAN [SPOTTED] CRAKE *Porzana fluminea*

2013: The only sighting was of 3 juveniles at the town sewage works on 7th October (GS).

2014: Again, there was just one record. A single bird was seen at Lake Eda on 3rd July (RJE et al).

WHITE-BROWED CRAKE *Porzana cinerea*

2013: A sighting at Nimalaica on 2nd February (KS, RJE) was the only record of the year.

2014: Not recorded

AUSTRALASIAN [PURPLE] SWAMPHEN *Porphyrio porphyrio*

2013: Recorded at Nimalaica on every visit throughout the year. The only other sightings were at Lake Eda and near Barred Creek in late September.

2014: The species was recorded near Lake Eda in April and in the flooded paddocks near Kidneybean Claypan until early June, including at least 12 there on 25th May. There was another sighting at Lake Eda in July, but swampheens must actually have been fairly common there at the time judging by the number of corpses found under the nearby sea-eagle nest. There were records from Nimalaica on every visit there, right into December.

DUSKY MOORHEN *Gallinula tenebrosa*

2013: One was reported among the coots at Lake Champion on 21st July (CM, GM). This was the first ever record for Broome and an unanticipated addition to the area's list.

2014: Not recorded

BLACK-TAILED NATIVEHEN *Gallinula ventralis*

2013: A lone bird was at Lake Eda on 6th February. About 200 were on a flooded area of Roebuck Plains on 27th March, although the site wasn't visited again to monitor the numbers there. The only record later in the year was a group of 6 on Roebuck Plains on 26th May.

2014: Not recorded

EURASIAN COOT *Fulica atra*

2013: Common at the town sewage works and the Roebuck Plains lakes throughout the year. Also recorded at Kidneybean Claypan and Nimalaica later in the dry season.

2014: Common at the town sewage works throughout the year. The species was recorded at Lake Campion and Lake Eda in the early dry season, but disappeared from there by September as water levels dropped. It was, however, recorded again at both these lakes in mid-December.

A count of 560 at Kidneybean Claypan on 3rd June was impressive, but this number had dropped to 25 by 28th July and there were no records at that site from August onwards.

BROLGA *Grus rubicunda*

2013: Small numbers were seen, mostly on the plains, during the first half of the year, but the first large counts were in mid-July when we began doing tours to the lakes. A count of 250 at Lake Eda on 19th July had increased to at least 694 there by 23rd August. At least 450 were still there in late October. A total of about 1000 were seen at various sites on Roebuck Plains on 2nd November, including 550 at 'Painted Snipe Bore' and 300 at Lake Eda.

2014: Again, small numbers were seen at various sites on Roebuck Plains in the first half of the year. A large flock was based at Kidneybean Claypan in the dry season, with counts of 250+ in late July increasing to 350 by 10th August.

More than 1000 were seen during a lakes tour on 12th September, including 500 at Lake Eda and 300 at a cattle yard between Lake Eda and the Port Hedland highway. Other good counts included 738 at Lake Eda on 2nd October and 795 there on 9th November. Smaller numbers were usually present at the other lakes, including up to 80 at Lake Campion in September.

BUTTON-QUAIL SP. *Turnix sp*

2013: Button-quail sightings were very scarce this year. There were two sightings of unidentified birds in October. Both were of birds flushed by a car on the way to Kidneybean Claypan.

2014: The only button-quail seen all year was flushed from near the track to Kidneybean Claypan on 2nd June. This was thought to have been a Red-chested Button-quail, *Turnix pyrrhothorax*, although the views were not good enough to be absolutely certain.

BUSH STONE CURLEW *Burhinus grallarius*

2013: A couple of birds were seen after dark near Tagarana Bore on two dates in mid-April.

2014: A single bird was found at the bore next to the Port Hedland highway across Roebuck Plains on 16th May. The species was heard calling at Tagarana Bore on 30th September and another was calling near the observatory on 2nd October.

BEACH STONE CURLEW *Esacus magnirostris*

2013: A single bird was at Entrance Point on 27th February and another was near Gantheaume Point on 13th March. An obliging bird was found right in front of the viewing platform at the observatory on 30th October and was seen occasionally along the northern shore of the bay during the following weeks.

2014: A single bird was seen regularly in the bay between Wader Beach and Quarry beach from 14th February to 4th March. Another was on the beach at One Tree on 2nd June, and the same elusive

individual may have remained in the bay right through to late October, although it was only seen on 6 dates during this time. Elsewhere in the bay, 2 were at Bush Point on 29th July.

This species is more common on the coast north of Broome, and was recorded at Coconut Well, Barred Creek, Willie Creek and Coulomb Point during the year.



Beach Stone-curlew, Roebuck Bay, October 2014 (Ric Else)

PIED OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus longirostris*

2013: Common in the bay and around the coast throughout the year.

2014: Common in the bay and around the coast throughout the year.

SOOTY OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus fuliginosus*

2013: Fairly common in small numbers on the northern shore of the bay, mainly west of Tattler Rocks. Common in rocky areas on the west coast of Broome, including Gantheaume Point and Coconut Well.

2014: Fairly common in the usual parts of the bay and the west coast.

WHITE-HEADED [BLACK-WINGED] STILT *Himantopus leucocephalus*

2013: Common in the bay and at just about all wetland sites throughout the year.

2014: Common in the bay and at just about all wetland sites throughout the year. More than 1,000 were in flooded paddocks by the highway across Roebuck Plains on 18th February. Sightings at Kidneybean Claypan included 433 on 28th July.

BANDED STILT *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

2013: On 18th October, 2 birds were found among Black-winged Stilts and avocets at Kidneybean Claypan (RJE).

2014: Not recorded

RED-NECKED AVOCET *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

2013: There were a couple of sightings of 1 or 2 birds in the bay in mid-February. Another was in the bay in early May and there were three sightings in June. A large influx took place in July, beginning with the arrival of 113 in the bay on the 7th, increasing to 138 by the 9th. This had increased to at least 352 on 2nd August, but numbers in the bay then fell and they had all gone by the end of the month.

As it turned out, they hadn't gone far and 275 were counted at Kidneybean Claypan on 10th October. An additional 3 were at Lake Campion on 24th October.

2014: Occasional sightings in the first few months of the year comprised singles on the plains on 28th February, in the bay on 17th April and at Kidneybean Claypan on 27th May.

From early June a flock was present at Kidneybean, and small numbers occasionally turned up in the bay. From 18 birds at Kidneybean on the 3rd, the number rose to 136 in the second half of the month, 185 by 28th July and 200 by 12th August. The site dried up quickly after that point, and avocet numbers fell to 62 by 23rd August and zero by the month's end. Some of these probably moved into the bay, where up to 50 were present during September and October. There were just a couple of sightings in the bay in November.

The only other sighting was at Lake Eda on 3rd July.

BANDED LAPWING *Vanellus tricolor*

2013: Not recorded.

2014: A single bird was at a dam on Roebuck Plains, not far from the Port Hedland highway on 2nd September (RJE, HKW et al). It was there until at least 12th September.

MASKED LAPWING *Vanellus miles*

2013: Commonly seen at a wide variety of mainly inland sites throughout the year. Adults with chicks were seen at the town sewage works on 27th February.

2014: Commonly seen at a wide variety of mainly inland sites throughout the year. A count of 482 at Kidneybean Claypan on 28th July was unusually high (AB, RJE). The species is not normally found by the sea, but a group of 5 were on the beach below the viewing platform at the BBO on 4th September.

RED-KNEED DOTTEREL *Erythrogonys cinctus*

2013: Recorded occasionally on flooded parts of Roebuck Plains, including the lakes, in the early part of the year, with a single record at the town sewage works in late February. Small numbers remained at these sites throughout the winter and there were a couple more sewage works sightings in July.

There was a series of very surprising occurrences in the bay during the dry season. The first was a flock of 39 birds roosting with stilts and avocets at Boiler Point on the shore of Roebuck Bay on 12th July. A flock of 17 was seen flying along the same part of the shoreline at high tide on 6th August, and 40 were on the edge of Little Crab Creek on the 18th. Another 2 were at Little Crab Creek on 13th September.

The species was quite common at the lakes and remaining flooded parts of the plains from August onwards and there were regular sightings at the sewage works in October. Counts included 10 at Lake Campion on 9th October and 25 at Lake Eda on 2nd November.

2014: Small numbers were recorded regularly on flooded parts of the plains during the first half of the year, and the species was usually present at the Roebuck Plains lakes and Kidneybean Claypan in June, July and August. Once Kidneybean dried up in late August, the species was not recorded anywhere until a single bird was at Taylors Lagoon on 22nd October, and it remained a scarce bird for the remainder of the year, with just occasional singles at the sewage works or the lakes.

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva*

2013: Fairly common in the bay and at various other sites early in the year. A flock was regularly on the town sports ovals in February, where 113 were counted on the 27th. After mid-April, the regularity of sightings fell and just very small numbers remained through the winter, with most records coming

from the bay. From mid-September the species became more frequent again in the bay and at other sites including the Roebuck Plains lakes and the town sewage works.

2014: Fairly common in the bay and on sports fields early in the year. The regular flock on the Father McMahon Ovals reached 70 on 26th March. Again, just very small numbers were recorded from April through the winter. A flock of 9 adults with breeding plumage at Kidneybean Claypan on 20th August was the first sign of returning migrants. By early September the species was seen most days, in the bay and at various other sites, and remained common for the rest of the year.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

2013: Fairly common in the bay throughout the year.

2014: Fairly common throughout the year. Most sightings were in the bay, with occasional records from the west coast of Broome. A flock of 51 overwintering birds was roosting at Kidneybean Claypan during high tide on 24th June.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER *Charadrius semipalmata*

2013: The regular returning bird was at its predictable location at the town sewage works until at least 23rd March. It returned to the same site once again on 29th September and was seen there reliably for the rest of the year.

2014: The same bird remained reliable at the sewage works until at least 26th March, by which time it was in breeding plumage. It returned later in the year for yet another summer, and was first seen back at the sewage works on 1st October. For the rest of the year it could be reliably found either at the sewage works or off nearby Demco Beach, where it spent much time feeding in the weeks following its arrival. This is the sixth consecutive summer that the bird has spent in Broome.



Little Ringed Plover, Lake Eda, Sep 2014 (Ric Else)



Semipalmated Plover, Demco Beach, Oct 14 (Ric Else)

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

2013: A single bird was found at the town sewage works on 3rd October (GS). It remained there for the rest of the year and was joined by a second individual in November.

2014: Both summering birds remained at the town sewage works until at least 16th February. In the return passage period, a new bird was found at Lake Eda on 13th September (CJH) and was seen there regularly until 24th October. Another appeared at the town sewage works on 6th October (GS), staying until at least the 8th. A bird at Taylors Lagoon on 22nd October (GS) was still there on 9th November, and may have been another new individual. Likewise, up to 2 birds were present at Lake Eda in mid-December (CJH) and it is impossible to know if they were different birds or the same individuals relocating.

RED-CAPPED PLOVER *Charadrius ruficapillus*

2013: Commonly recorded in the bay throughout the year, and common on flooded parts of the plains, especially in the BBO paddock where 60 were seen together on a small pool on 11th May and several pairs bred. The species was also recorded at Cable Beach, Taylors Lagoon and Kidneybean Claypan, especially from late in the dry season.

2014: Common in the bay and on flooded Parts of the plains throughout the year. The species bred at Kidneybean Claypan and many were there during the dry season. At least 50 were there on 28th July, but numbers had certainly already dropped by that time. They were common in the bay for the rest of the year, with occasional birds at the lakes late in the dry season. New chicks were seen at Kidneybean in mid-October, long after the site had dried up.

LESSER SAND PLOVER *Charadrius mongolus*

2013: Quite common in the bay throughout the year and occasionally seen on the west coast of Broome.

2014: Quite common throughout the year, with most records coming from the bay. A few were at Kidneybean in the dry season, including at least 20 there on 24th June.

GREATER SAND PLOVER *Charadrius leschenaultia*

2013: Common in the bay and on the west coast throughout the year. Late in the dry season small numbers were seen at the Roebuck Plains lakes, and larger numbers were at Kidneybean Claypan in October.

2014: Common in the bay and on the west coast throughout the year. A few were seen at Kidneybean Claypan in the dry season.

ORIENTAL PLOVER *Charadrius veredus*

2013: A flock of 40 was seen on Roebuck Plains on 6th April, after the species would normally be expected to have departed (GS). The first returning bird was in the bay on 4th September (CJH). At least 30 were in the BBO paddock of Roebuck Plains on the 16th and the species was quite common on the plains and at the lakes thereafter.

2014: A flock of 50 in the bay on 16th February was the only sighting in the first half of the year. The first returning migrants were a flock of 30 at Kidneybean Claypan on 28th August (HKW et al) and hundreds were present on the plains by mid-September. The species was common there and at the lakes and in smaller numbers in the bay for the rest of the year.

BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL *Elseyornis melanops*

2013: Small chicks were seen at the town sewage works in late February. The species was generally common here and at most other freshwater sites throughout the year. On 9th October, 31 were counted at Lake Campion and 20 at Taylors Lagoon.

2014: Common at the town sewage works throughout the year, with chicks seen there on 23rd August. The species was seen at the Roebuck Plains lakes on just about every visit, with breeding recorded at Lake Eda in July. It was common at all these freshwater sites right to the end of the year.

AUSTRALIAN PAINTED SNIPE *Rostratula australis*

2013: A single bird was flushed from wetland at Nimalaica on 2nd February (RJE). A pair was found at Lake Campion on 4th August (CM, GM). The pair were behaving as if they were nesting there, but attempts to find them on subsequent days were unsuccessful.

2014: Not recorded

COMB-CRESTED JACANA *Metopidius gallinaceus*

2013: A single bird was seen at Taylors Lagoon on 6th February, and the only other sighting in the first half of the year was on Roebuck Plains on 8th April. When we began visiting the lakes again from mid-July, up to 4 were recorded regularly at Taylors Lagoon and a single bird was at Lake Eda on 23rd August. At least one remained at Taylors Lagoon up to mid-September, after which the only record was a single bird at Nimalaica on 16th October (HKW).

2014: A single bird was at Taylors Lagoon on 24th April, the only visit to the lakes until June. On 14th June an unusually high count of 26 at Lake Eda and 3 at Lake Champion was recorded (RJE). Several of the birds at Lake Eda were young juveniles. These numbers soon fell and just single birds were seen at Lake Eda and Lake Champion until 20th July, after which these too had moved on. The only further sighting all year was a lone bird at Lake Eda on 28th December (GS et al).

SWINHOES / PIN-TAILED SNIPE *Gallinago megala / stenura*

2013: Not recorded, although there were very few visits to the regular sites during the time of year they would normally be present.

2014: Up to 3 were at the town sewage works during February, all of which looked most likely to be Swinhoe's Snipe, *Gallinago megala*. The last record that summer was a single bird still at the sewage works on 3rd March.

The first returning bird was seen at the sewage works on 11th November. Again, this appeared closest to Swinhoe's Snipe. There were further sightings here, at Taylors Lagoon and up to 3 at Lake Eda until the end of the year.

ASIAN DOWITCHER *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

2013: Present in small numbers in the bay throughout the year, although there were no sightings at all in May. The highest count was 20 on 18th February. Up to 9 overwintering birds were seen in the roosts during June.

The first juvenile was seen on 25th September (CJH). Up to 6 birds of all ages were seen in October.

2014: The highest count of the year was an impressive 99+ roosting among other waders at Boiler Point on 7th February (AB, RJE). Roost counts reached around 50 regularly for the rest of that month and 41 in mid-March. About 10 were feeding near Little Crab Creek on 17th April. As in 2013, there were no records for most of May, but at least 7 were found at Kidneybean Claypan late in the month.

A couple of were still at Kidneybean in early June, but soon all sightings were back in the bay again, including a male in full breeding plumage with 5 other birds on the 10th. The shorebird count at Bush Point on 28th July recorded 8 dowitchers, and small numbers had been present along the northern shore of the bay all month.

A juvenile in the roosts on 23rd August was the first juvenile shorebird of any kind seen in the bay this year (AB et al). Up to 7 were seen during September and up to 20 in October. Sightings throughout November included up to 8 birds.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

2013: Common in the bay throughout the year. A notable count of 2,500 was made on 23rd February (CJH). The species was recorded in small numbers at the Roebuck Plains lakes from 23rd September to December, and at the town sewage works in late September and early October.

2014: Between 2,000 and 3,000 were counted in the bay in mid-February. There were few sightings in the bay in May, and most of the overwintering birds were found to be at Kidneybean Claypan towards the end of the month. Some birds were back in the bay from late June, although some remained regular at Kidneybean (including a count of 159 on 28th July) until 23rd August, after which the water level probably got too low for them. A single bird at Lake Eda on 2nd October was the only sighting at the Roebuck Plains lakes this year.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

2013: Very common in the bay throughout the year. The first juvenile was seen on 25th September.

2014: Very common in the bay throughout the year. There was a record at Kidneybean Claypan in late May.

LITTLE CURLEW *Numenius minutus*

2013: Sightings in the early part of the year included 200 on Roebuck Plains, seen from the Port Hedland highway on 10th April. A flock of 44 was seen flying WNW over Broome on 21st April (CM, GM). They were in V-shaped formation and could have been departing migrants.

The first returning bird was seen on 27th September and 500 were counted by the highway across Roebuck Plains on 1st October (CJH).

2014: Up to 500 were seen by the highway on Roebuck Plains in mid-April, and a few remained there on 4th May. A group of 4 at Kidneybean Claypan on 27th May were unusually late and presumably overwintered (RJE). Indeed, there were three very unseasonal sightings in July in this year, including 2 at Kidneybean and 2 at Lake Eda on the 20th. A lone bird was seen at Kidneybean several times in mid-August.

A single bird in the bay on 13th September was probably the first genuinely returning migrant recorded (RJE). Numbers rose quickly from this point, with 12 at Lake Eda on 17th September and 120 there on the 25th. At least 400 were gathered on the mudflat near Little Crab Creek on 1st October (RJE) and the species was commonly seen at various sites for the rest of the month, including up to 120 at Lake Eda, 34 on the town sports ovals and a few at the town sewage works. Birds remained at these sites through November and December.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

2013: Common in the bay throughout the year. Although usually seen in relatively small numbers, a total of more than 2,000 Whimbrels recorded departing on migration in April gives an idea of the actual numbers that must be present around Roebuck Bay, especially in the summer.

2014: Common in the bay throughout the year and seen or heard most days. More than 2,600 were recorded departing in April.

FAR EASTERN CURLEW *Numenius madagascariensis*

2013: Common in the bay throughout the year.

2014: Common in the bay throughout the year. Up to 180 were counted in the high tide roosts in October.

COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa tetanus*

2013: There were occasional sightings in the bay in the early part of the year. A group of 4 adults were seen on a pool in the BBO paddock of Roebuck Plains on 25th April and appeared ready to migrate

(CJH). There were no sightings during the dry season, and the first presumed returning migrant was roosting at Wader Spit on 6th September (HKW).

2014: Small numbers were regular at Little Crab Creek early in the year, including a high count of 5 on 16th February. Up to 4 were there in mid-April and a lone bird was seen in the shorebird roost at Richard's Point on the 26th.

Throughout the winter a group of 4 birds was seen quite reliably at Little Crab Creek on the incoming tides, while a group of 4 was usually present at Kidneybean Claypan at high tide. It seems likely that this was the same close flock seen on each occasion, moving between the two sites according to the tide.

The first indication of returning migrants was a single bird roosting with other waders on 1st September, followed by a spate of sightings of 1 or 2 birds at high tide roosts over the following couple of weeks. The number of birds at Little Crab Creek reached at least 6 on the 11th (RJE) and these remained reliable at the same spot at least until November.

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis*

2013: The only record in the early part of the year was at Lake Eda in early February, but there were no more visits to the lakes until the dry season. A presumed overwintering bird was on Roebuck Plains on 21st June, and a count of 25 on 27th July probably included some early returnees.

Birds only started to appear at the lakes from late September, but were regular there throughout October. About 60 were at Kidneybean Claypan on 21st October and a small number were seen in the bay near Little Crab Creek around the same time.

2014: Up to 20 were seen near Little Crab Creek in mid-February and there were regular sightings on flooded parts of the plains in March and April. There were no records in May, but when we got out to Kidneybean Claypan in June they were there regularly. This included a remarkable overwintering count of at least 75 on the 17th (RJE).

Birds remained at Kidneybean throughout July and August, with up to 23 counted there and a few birds also seen at Lake Eda in July. Small numbers were at many sites by September, including most freshwater sites and regularly in the bay near Little Crab Creek. The biggest count in October was 22 at Lake Champion plus 2 at Lake Eda on the 2nd. Higher numbers were at the lakes in November, with totals of 60 at Taylors Lagoon, 30 at Lake Champion and 2 at Lake Eda all counted on the 9th.

COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

2013: Common throughout the year in the bay and at most freshwater sites.

2014: Common in the bay and at most freshwater sites throughout the year. A count of 128 was made at Kidneybean Claypan on 28th July. A flock of 220 was seen roosting in the bay on 13th October.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

2013: The only record in the first half of the year was at Lake Eda on 6th February, but there were no other visits to the lakes until the dry season. A single bird was at Lake Champion on 31st July, and this number had risen to at least 30 birds by 21st August. The species was quite common at all the freshwater lakes in September and October. Counts included 19 at Lake Champion and 1 at Lake Eda on 8th September, and 32 at Lake Champion and 30 at Taylors Lagoon on 9th October.

2014: There were a couple of records in mid-March and a sighting on 6th April, all of which were on flooded areas of Roebuck Plains. The first 2 returning adults were at Lake Eda on 3rd July, with a third bird there on the 16th and a single bird at Kidneybean Claypan on the 28th. At least 5 were at Kidneybean on 10th August, with at least 1 usually present there until the 29th. Other sightings in August were at Lake Eda and the town sewage works. The species was common at the lakes from September onwards, including 20 at Lake Campion, 5 at Lake Eda and 1 at Taylors Lagoon on 12th September. A single bird flew over the Little Crab Creek mangroves calling on 18th November (RJE).

GREY-TAILED TATTLER *Heteroscelus brevipes*

2013: Common in the bay and around the coast throughout the year.

2014: Common in the bay and around the coast throughout the year. At least 2 migrated north with Terek Sandpipers and Red Knots on the exceptionally late date of 26th May (RJE, HKW).

TEREK SANDPIPER *Xenus cinereus*

2013: Common in the bay throughout the year.

2014: Common in the bay throughout the year. A flock of 12 migrated north with Red Knots and Grey-tailed tattlers on the exceptionally late date of 26th May (RJE, HKW).

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

2013: Common in the early part of the year, and most regularly seen in the bay and at the town sewage works. The last record before northward migration was on 1st May. A presumed early returnee was in the bay on 26th June, but the species certainly wasn't back in numbers until late July, after which there were frequent sightings for the rest of the year.

2014: Common in the early part of the year, and most regularly seen in the bay and at the town sewage works where at least 6 were often present. The last sighting before northward migration was on 27th April. There were no further records until a couple of birds were seen in the bay on 12th July (RT, MO). The species was common again in suitable locations by the last week of July and remained common for the rest of the year.

RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

2013: Common in the bay and around the coast throughout the year. The first juvenile was seen on 25th September (CJH).

2014: Common in the bay and around the coast throughout the year. A couple were seen feeding on the sports ovals in town in October (HKW).

GREAT KNOT *Calidris tenuirostris*

2013: Common in the bay throughout the year. The first juvenile of the year was seen on 12th September.

2014: Common in the bay throughout the year.

RED KNOT *Calidris canutus*

2013: Common in the bay throughout the year. The first juvenile of the year was seen on 25th September (CJH).

2014: Common in the bay throughout the year. At least 20 migrated north on the exceptionally late date of 26th May, along with a few Terek Sandpipers and Grey-tailed Tattlers (RJE, HKW). The first juvenile of the year was seen on 29th Sep (CJH).

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

2013: Recorded on the west coast of Broome in the first part of the year, but there were no winter records. The first sightings spring sightings were from mid-September. These were at Coconut Well and in the bay, where small numbers were regular in late September and October.

2014: There were few sightings in the first half of the year, but the species was present as usual at Coconut Well. Several overwintering birds were at Bush Point in late July. The first sighting of presumed returning birds was on 15th September, after which the species was seen regularly in small numbers in the bay and at west coast sites.

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis*

2013: Common in the bay throughout the year. The first juvenile of the year was seen on 25th September.

2014: Common in the bay throughout the year. At least 225 were at Kidneybean Claypan on 28th July and small numbers were regular at the lakes on return passage in September and October.

LONG-TOED STINT *Calidris subminuta*

2013: A single bird at Lake Eda on 6th February was the only record until southward passage, although there were no other visits to the lakes in the early part of the year. The first returning bird was at Taylors Lagoon on 15th September, increasing to 3 by the 18th. At least 11 were there on 9th October, when a further 2 were at Lake Campion. Later in October there were records at the town sewage works, Kidneybean Claypan and Lake Eda.

2014: There were no records in the early part of the year. The first sighting was a lone bird, presumably an early returning migrant, at Kidneybean Claypan on 28th July (AB). This bird was not seen again, but 2 were at Kidneybean on 19th August, increasing to at least 8 by the 28th, just before the site dried up.

Sightings were regular at the Roebuck Plains lakes from 12th September. At least 12 were at Lake Eda on the 17th, increasing to 20 by the 25th. Up to 3 were also present at the town sewage works from late September. On 2nd October a count of various sites found 35 at Lake Campion, 3 at Lake Eda and 5 at the sewage works. By November, Taylors Lagoon had become the best site, with at least 40 there on the 7th.

This freshwater species is never normally recorded in the bay, but a lone bird was seen landing on the mud next to Little Crab Creek on 1st October (RJE). It ran around confusedly for a minute and then flew off high again.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

2013: Not recorded

2014: An adult was at Kidneybean Claypan for three days from 8th August (RJE). Another adult, certainly a different individual, was at the same site for two days from 27th August (RJE). Another single bird was at Lake Eda on 27th September (AB).



Pectoral Sandpipers, different adults, Kidneybean Claypan, Aug 2014 (Ric Else)

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *Calidris acuminata*

2013: More than 150 were at Lake Eda on 6th February, but this was the only visit to that site in the early part of the year. Hundreds were on flooded areas of Roebuck Plains before northward migration in April, and the species was not recorded in May or June.

The first presumed returning bird was seen in the bay on 14th July, and by late August the species was present at the Roebuck Plains lakes. They were common at the lakes, and present in the bay in small numbers, thereafter. More than 100 were at Lake Eda on 2nd November.

2014: Sightings in the early part of the year were on flooded parts of the plains, including a flock of about 300 by a bore next to the Port Hedland highway on 11th March. Sightings continued on the plains and occasionally in the bay until early May. At least 10 overwintering birds in breeding plumage were at Kidneybean Claypan in mid to late June, with just a single bird recorded there on 28th July.

Numbers at Kidneybean increased during August, reaching 130 by the 14th and 370 by the 20th. Birds were also appearing in the bay and at the town sewage works at this time. On 6th September 300 were counted in the bay, with 260 together on the beach near One Tree on the 8th. The species was common at most freshwater sites from then until the end of the year.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

2013: Common in the bay throughout the year. The first juvenile of the year was seen on 4th September. There were additional birds at the lakes, Kidneybean Claypan and the sewage works in September and October.

2014: Common in the bay throughout the year. At least 210 were counted among many other waders at Kidneybean Claypan on 28th July. Again there were small numbers at the lakes and the town sewage works from September to November.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Calidris falcinellus*

2013: Fairly common in the bay during the summer. There were few sightings during the winter this year.

2014: Fairly common in the bay during the summer. Again there were few sightings in the bay during the winter, but at least 25 were with many other waders at Kidneybean Claypan during the second half of June (RJE). Up to 2 birds were at Kidneybean again in the second half of August and the species was common again in the bay from September, with the first juveniles seen on 30th September.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

2013: Not recorded

2014: A male in virtually full breeding plumage, except for its ruff, was found at Kidneybean Claypan on 27th May (RJE, HKW). The same bird was there again on 24th June, and then made a surprise appearance among roosting waders in the bay on 27th June (GM).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*

2013: A single bird was found at Lake Eda on 18th October (RJE et al) and was still there two days later.

2014: Not recorded



Red-necked Phalarope, Lake Eda, (Ann and Henry Wheatcroft)



Ruff, Kidneybean Claypan (Hazel Watson)

AUSTRALIAN PRATINCOLE *Stiltia Isabella*

2013: About 200 were by the highway across Roebuck Plains in mid-April. Small numbers were seen regularly in the BBO paddock from 11th May throughout the dry season. A pair was found incubating eggs there on 24th August, and several other pairs were probably nesting nearby. The species was quite common on the plains and at the lakes in September and October. Small chicks were found near Lake Eda on the 15th and 29th September and in the BBO paddock on 3rd October.

2014: A small number were around a bore next to the highway across Roebuck Plains in early April, and it was a surprise to find they had small chicks there on the 7th. There were more sightings on the plains and at Kidneybean Claypan in late May. The number at Kidneybean increased to 435 by 3rd June and by the next count on 28th July it was at an interestingly similar 436. Kidneybean dried up in late August, but the species remained quite common on the plains and at the lakes for the rest of the year.



Australian Pratincole: Adult incubating, Roebuck Plains, Aug 2013 (Ric Else). Small chick, Lake Eda, Sep 2013 (Ric Else)

ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE *Glareola maldivarum*

2013: On 3rd January very large numbers of birds, estimated at 10,000, were seen flying over the BBO during a 2-hour period around midday (KS). There were occasional further sightings over the following couple of months, including 115 flying over Crab Creek Road on 25th February. A few were seen on Roebuck Plains with larger numbers of Australian Pratincoles on 10th April.

The first returning birds were seen at the town sewage works on 30th October (CJH, HKW).

2014: Sightings on the plains in the early part of the year included a flock of 80 on 18th February. The last sighting before northward migration was on 16th April. An unusual overwintering bird was found at Kidneybean Claypan on 3rd June (GS et al), and was subsequently seen there on 24th June and 7th July.

The first returning bird was seen flying over One Tree on 23rd October (RJE et al). Small numbers were then seen quite regularly, mostly at the Roebuck Plains lakes, for the rest of the year. A single bird was seen on the town sports ovals on 4th November (RJE). About 500 were at Lake Eda on 10th December, but this number rose to a spectacular 3,000 by 29th December (GS et al).

BROWN [COMMON] NODDY *Anous stolidus*

2013: At least 35 were sheltering from an offshore cyclone at Entrance Point on 27th February (Cmi et al). A small number remained in the area for a few days and at least one seen frequently in Roebuck Bay until 2nd April.

2014: Not recorded



Bridled Tern, Entrance Point, Feb 2013 (Ric Else)



Brown Noddy, Entrance Point, Feb 2013 (Ric Else)

SILVER GULL *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*

2013: Common around the coast and in town all year.

2014: Common around the coast and in town all year.

FRANKIN'S GULL *Leucophaeus pipixcan*

2013: Not recorded

2014: An immature bird was found at the town sewage works on 19th March (AB et al). It remained in the area until it was last seen at Entrance Point on 9th May, but it was very elusive and was only recorded on two occasions in between these dates.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

2013: An adult reported by a worker at the Broome rubbish tip on 16th January is probably only the second confirmed record for Australia. It was seen again at the tip on several dates and was even found roosting on the beach in front of the viewing platform at the BBO on one morning. In March, it was present at the town sewage works on the 11th and 14th, which were the last dates that it was seen.

2014: Not recorded



Franklin's Gull, sewage works, Apr 2014 (Ric Else)



Lesser Black Backed Gull, BBO, Feb 2013 (Ric Else)

GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica*

2013: Common in the bay throughout the year and regularly seen on the plains and at the lakes.

2014: Common in the bay throughout the year. A young juvenile was seen there on 22nd May, and it was suspected that the species had nested somewhere near Kidneybean Claypan. Large numbers were present at Kidneybean throughout the dry season, and counts there included 790 on 3rd June and 349 on 28th July. Small numbers were regularly encountered at the Roebuck Plains lakes in the second half of the year.

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia*

2013: Common in the bay throughout the year. A flock of 30 was roosting at Boiler Point on 28th June. Small numbers were occasionally recorded at the Roebuck Plains lakes in the second half of the year.

2014: Common in the bay throughout the year. The species was present at Kidneybean Claypan throughout the dry season until it dried up in late August. Up to 40 were there in early June.

CRESTED TERN *Thalasseus bergii*

2013: Common in the bay and all around the coast throughout the year.

2014: Common in the bay and all around the coast throughout the year.

LESSER CRESTED TERN *Thalasseus bengalensis*

2013: Common in the bay and all around the coast throughout the year.

2014: Common in the bay and all around the coast throughout the year.

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons*

2013: Seen in the bay throughout the year, but records were only occasional from about mid-May to mid-September, suggesting the majority of birds were elsewhere during the dry season.

2014: Records followed a similar pattern to 2013. The species was common in the bay during the warmer months, but records were few from June through to mid-September.

BRIDLED TERN *Onychoprion anaethetus*

2013: At least 12 were present at Entrance Point on 27th February while a cyclone was offshore (CMI et al). A single bird was then seen in the bay on 2nd March.

2014: Not recorded

SOOTY TERN *Onychoprion fuscatus*

2013: While a cyclone was offshore pushing a variety of seabirds close to land, 3 were seen at Entrance Point on 27th February (CMI).

2014: Not recorded

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii*

2013: At least 5 were sheltering at Entrance Point on 27th February while a cyclone was offshore (RJE).

2014: More than 100 were counted at Bush Point on 23rd November. A large roost at Willie Creek contained an impressive 6,500 birds on 17th December (GS).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

2013: Small numbers were at Entrance Point in late February while a cyclone was sitting offshore. There were a couple of sightings of birds hunting over flooded grassland in the BBO paddock of Roebuck Plains in May. During the dry season, up to 4 were present in the bay from mid-June to late July, and a lone bird was in the BBO paddock again on 27th June. There were no August records, but there were occasional sightings in the bay in late September and October.

2014: The only records in the first half of the year were 2 flying over Roebuck Plains on 12th February and a single bird in the bay on 15th June. A small number were roosting at Bush Point on 29th July. Returning migrants seemed to appear from late September and quickly became quite common around Gantheaume Point, where 30 were roosting on 8th October, and at Entrance Point. There were occasional sightings of up to 8 in the bay in October and November.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida*

2013: Common throughout the year in the bay and at various freshwater sites. About 1,000 were estimated at Crab Creek on 25th February and large numbers were on flooded areas of Roebuck Plains around the same time.

2014: Common in the bay and at most other wetland sites throughout the year. Many bred on Roebuck Plains in the late wet season, with the first fledged chicks seen on 4th April.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*

2013: The last sighting of the wet season was of 2 birds on 20th April. Birds were seen again on 2nd October, and were quite common thereafter, mainly at the lakes and the town sewage works.

2014: Sightings in the early part of the year included a flock of 600+ flying west over Roebuck Plains on 21st February (RJE). Sightings remained common until about late April, and the only record in May was of a (possibly 2) birds on Roebuck Plains on the 15th. A presumed overwintering adult was at Kidneybean Claypan on 3rd July (RJE) and was seen again occasionally until 20th August.

The first returning birds were at the town sewage works on 24th September (RJE et al) and the species was quite common thereafter, mainly at the sewage works and the Roebuck Plains lakes.

POMARINE JAEGER [SKUA] *Stercorarius pomarinus*

2013: A single bird was among the large number of seabirds feeding off Entrance Point on 27th February while a cyclone was sitting further offshore (CJH). Another bird, which appeared to be a moulting adult, was found in Roebuck Bay on 4th April when it flew in front of the BBO's migration watch site (RJE). It was then regularly sighted in the bay all the way through until 6th June.

2014: Not recorded

PARASITIC JAEGER [ARCTIC SKUA] *Stercorarius parasiticus*

2013: At least 4 were among the storm-blown seabirds off Entrance Point on 27th February (GS, RJE et al). Another was seen flying over One Tree on the same date (CMi et al).

2014: Not recorded

FLOCK BRONZEWING *Phaps histrionica*

2013: A single bird seen at a dam near the Port Hedland highway across Roebuck Plains on several dates in the first half of November (AWSG et al) was the only record all year.

2014: Another poor year for this species, but slightly better than 2013. The first record of the year was of 2 birds near Kidneybean Claypan on 19th April (RJE, HKW). A single bird was seen in the same area on 29th June (RJE) and again on 1st July. Another single bird was in a similar location on 28th August (RJE).

CRESTED PIGEON *Ocyphaps lophotes*

2013: Common throughout the year at a variety of sites. There were at least 100 at Willaroo Well on 14th June.

2014: Common throughout the year at a variety of sites.

DIAMOND DOVE *Geopelia cuneata*

2013: Quite common all year, with most records from late in the dry season coming from the Roebuck Plains lakes. There were sightings at the observatory in all months, but mostly in the first half of the year.

2014: Although there was only a single record in February and March, the species was seen regularly in the second half of April. During the dry season it was quite common at the lakes and occasionally recorded at the observatory or the sewage ponds, but towards the end of the dry just about all records were from the lakes. The area around Lake Champion particularly always seemed to have good numbers.

PEACEFUL DOVE *Geopelia striata*

2013: Very common at the observatory and just about every other site with suitable habitat throughout the year.

2014: Very common at the observatory and just about every other site with suitable habitat throughout the year.

BAR-SHOULDERED DOVE *Geopelia humeralis*

2013: Very common at the observatory and at most other sites throughout the year.

2014: Very common at the observatory and at most other sites throughout the year.

PHEASANT COUCAL *Centropus phasianinus*

2013: Recorded quite commonly in town and various other sites until April, after which the species became very secretive and elusive. During the winter, there were only 4 sightings, all of which were in June. They suddenly became a regular sight again from early September, after which birds were seen or heard frequently at the observatory and at several other sites.

2014: A pair were nesting at One Tree in early March, and the species was recorded regularly until late that month. From then on, sightings were only very occasional until early September, when they began singing again and were recorded most days and at a wide variety of sites.

PACIFIC KOEL *Eudynamys orientalis*

2013: Not recorded

2014: An male was heard along Dora Street (Broome) on the 21st and 22nd of December, and later observed calling on nearby Raible Road on the 26th and 27th of December (GS).

CHANNEL-BILLED CUCKOO *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

2013: The first sighting of the year was at Nimalaica on 2nd February. Breeding took place at Twelve Mile, where 4 were seen together in early March. The first returning bird was at Twelve Mile on 7th October and single birds were seen at Nimalaica and flying over One Tree later that month.

2014: There was a run of sightings in February, with the species being seen flying over the BBO or nearby locations on 7 dates from the 7th to the 23rd, including 3 birds together on several occasions. Single birds seen on 16th and 18th March were the last before northward migration. The first returning bird was at Twelve Mile on 9th October, followed by further sightings there at the month's end. In November, the species was seen at Twelve Mile, One Tree, Willie Creek and at the BBO, including a group of 3 at the latter site on the 15th. There were sightings at the BBO and Twelve Mile in December.

HORSFIELD'S BRONZE CUCKOO *Chrysococcyx basalus*

2013: Recorded throughout the year, but most frequently in June when the birds were most vocal around the observatory. Other locations included the town sewage works, Willaroo Well, Lake Campion, Taylors Lagoon and the Crab Creek mangroves. A juvenile was seen being fed by Red-backed Fairy-wrens in late October.

2014: Recorded throughout the year, with an increase in sightings from July onwards when the birds were more vocal. Sightings came from a wide variety of sites including the town sewage works, Lake Eda, Lake Campion, Taylors Lagoon, Willaroo Well, Willie Creek and Gantheaume Point.

BLACK-EARED CUCKOO *Chrysococcyx osculans*

2013: The first record was at the sewage works on 21st March (CJH). There were no further records until one was seen at One Tree on 25th June (GS). An immature at Lake Campion on 31st July was the only other sighting (RJE).

2014: The first record was not until 20th June, when an immature bird was found in woodland on the northern edge of the Roebuck Plains BBO paddock (RJE, HKW), remaining there for at least three days. One was at Lake Eda on 10th August (RJE), and another at the BBO on the 31st (RJE). In September, one was at Fisherman's Bend on the 1st (GS), and another was near the BBO on the 26th and 27th (HKW et al). The final sighting was at the BBO on 3rd November (RJE).

LITTLE BRONZE CUCKOO *Chrysococcyx minutillus*

2013: Recorded commonly throughout the year, most often at the BBO or the Crab Creek Mangroves. Sightings at the observatory were almost daily from June onwards, with a bird singing near the Shadehouse most evenings. Other records were at Nimalaica, Taylors Lagoon, Lake Campion, Lake Eda and the town sewage works.

2014: Recorded commonly throughout the year at a variety of locations. Sightings were almost daily at the observatory from July onwards when at least one male was singing most evenings. A juvenile was being fed by Mangrove Gerygone's at Nimalaica on 11th March.

PALLID CUCKOO *Cacomantis pallidus*

2013: There were occasional sightings through the first five months of the year, but records became much more frequent from early June and through the dry season. This was partly because the species was singing at the observatory for most of this period. There were also frequent sightings along Crab Creek Road, where the cuckoos appeared to be hunting the many processionary caterpillars crossing the road. Other sightings were from a variety of sites including Taylors Lagoon, Lake Campion and Lake Eda.

Almost daily sightings at the BBO from late September and October referred to juvenile birds. One fledged from a Singing Honeyeater nest outside the office in late September and another in mid-October was thought to have been fostered by Grey Shrike-thrushes.

2014: Sightings were generally quite scarce all year, with no breeding activity observed at the BBO. There were no records at all in July and September, and those in other months were mostly on Roebuck Plains, including at the lakes and at Willaroo Well.

BRUSH CUCKOO *Cacomantis variolosus*

2013: There were very few sightings early in the year, but once birds began singing in late May they were recorded most days, especially around the observatory where they sang almost ceaselessly until at least late October. Other records, the vast majority of which were also singing birds, came from a variety of sites including the town sewage works, Nimalaica, Taylors Lagoon and Lake Campion.

2014: Juveniles were seen at the BBO in early February and at Nimalaica in mid-April. There were other occasional sightings throughout the first half of the year, but the frequency of records increased noticeably from about mid-July when at least one began singing at the observatory. From early September to the end of the year this species was recorded at the BBO almost every day, with further sightings (or, far more often, hearings) at the town sewage works, Willaroo Well, Lake Campion, Taylors Lagoon and Nimalaica.

ORIENTAL CUCKOO *Cuculus optatus*

2013: Single birds, perhaps the same one each time, were seen at the BBO on four dates from 4th February to 2nd March (RJE).

2014: The first sighting was in the woodland near Boiler Point on 7th February (RJE). On 3rd March, at least 2 (possibly as many as 4) were around One Tree (RJE) and at least one was seen there for the next three days. These were the last record until another at One Tree on 8th November (CJH).

EASTERN BARN OWL *Tyto delicatula*

2013: The first sighting was on Crab Creek Road on 23rd March (CJH). There were a few sightings during night drives through the BBO Paddock of Roebuck Plains in mid-April, including 2 there on the 17th (RJE). One was unexpectedly flushed from trees at the entrance to the observatory on 27th May and

was seen there again the following day (BBO, RJE). A single bird was seen on Crab Creek Road after dark on 12th and 14th July (BBO, RJE). Driving back from Kidneybean Claypan at night on 21st October, 3 birds were seen on Roebuck Plains, 2 of which were close to Kidneybean.

2014: A single bird was seen by the highway across Roebuck Plains on 7th April (BBO). Another was seen on Crab Creek Road on the night of 11th July (BBO).

EASTERN GRASS OWL *Tyto longimembris*

2013: The only record was a single bird by the highway across Roebuck Plains on 8th April (CJH).

2014: At dusk on 21st February, 3 were seen hunting in flooded grassland next to the highway across Roebuck Plains (RJE, MS et al). They were still there two days later and 2 were seen there again on the 28th. At least one was still there on 7th April. Another single bird was flushed in the BBO paddock of Roebuck Plains on 17th April (DA et al) and remained viewable there for the rest of the day.



Eastern Grass Owl, Roebuck Plains, Apr 2014 (Doug Adams)

BARKING OWL *Ninox connivens*

2013: There were a few records in town in August and September, and one was heard calling at Nimalaica late in the afternoon on 17th September. In late September, we were told about a pair roosting in trees by the Broome Courthouse and these turned out to be very reliably found there for the rest of the year.

2014: The pair remained very reliable at the courthouse throughout the year until October. Other records were at Nimalaica and Twelve Mile.

SOUTHERN BOOBOOK *Ninox boobook*

2013: Seen throughout the year, mainly along Crab Creek Road after dark. Birds were occasionally heard calling near the BBO and at Twelve Mile. At least 12 were seen along Crab Creek Road while driving back to the BBO after dark on 23rd March (RJE, KS).

2014: Small numbers were seen regularly along Crab Creek Road after dark. Birds were also heard calling at Twelve Mile and near Tagarana Bore.

TAWNY FROGMOUTH *Podargus strigoides*

2013: Most records throughout the year were at the BBO, and mostly involved one or two birds roosting in the trees next to the viewing platform. Other records came from Twelve Mile, where a pair was seen nesting, Lake Eda and other wooded areas on Roebuck Plains.

2014: At least one bird was roosting at the BBO viewing platform occasionally throughout the year and was there almost every day from late June to October. A group of 5 was discovered in woodland along the northern edge of the BBO paddock on 19th May. Nesting birds were found at Willaroo Well

in late September and near the observatory in late October. Other records included occasional sightings on Crab Creek Road and at Tagarana Bore after dark. A bird was found roosting in the trees near the courthouse in Broome on 30th October.

SPOTTED NIGHTJAR *Eurostopodus argus*

2013: The first bird of the year was found sitting on the track through the BBO paddock of Roebuck Plains after dark on 15th April (RJE et al). It was seen in exactly the same spot again on the 17th and 23rd. Another was flushed next to the BBO driveway on 28th May (JB), and there were three further sightings in the BBO area in June. The final record of the year was also near the BBO on 8th July.

2014: The first record was not until 3rd June, when one was found sitting on the track through the BBO paddock in a very similar spot to the previous year's bird (RJE). There were four more sightings that month, all in the same general area. The only other sightings were on 29th July, when single birds were seen in the BBO paddock and near the observatory in the same night.

AUSTRALIAN OWLET-NIGHTJAR *Aegotheles cristatus*

2013: Not recorded, although there were no attempts to locate them at the traditional sites.

2014: One was heard calling near Twelve Mile on 25th August (AB). Using call playback at Tagarana Bore after dark on 20th September revealed at least 6 birds responding (RJE, MB), and the species was found reliably there on several subsequent visits.

SWIFTLET sp. *Aerodramus* sp.

2013: A group of 3 was at the town sewage works on 4th April (GS et al), with at least a single bird still there the following day.

2014: Not recorded

PACIFIC [FORK-TAILED] SWIFT *Apus pacificus*

2013: Birds were seen over the BBO on three dates in January, and four dates in late February. These mostly involved just small numbers, but 70 passed over on 22nd February. Small numbers were recorded passing over on seven dates in the first half of April.

The first returning bird was seen over the plains on 18th October, and small numbers were regular for the rest of the month. By far the biggest movement of the year involved an estimated 5,000 birds (perhaps many more) passing south over Nimalaica on 11th November (AL et al).

2014: Small numbers passed overhead on one date in February and five dates in March including dozens drifting very high over the bay on 27th March. A group of 10 over the plains on 15th April was the last record before northward migration.

A couple of birds over the BBO on 7th October were the first returnees, and about 50 passed overhead on the 9th. There was just one more record in October, followed by sightings on six dates in November which included 40 feeding low down after heavy rain on the 9th. Small numbers were seen three times in December.

ORIENTAL DOLLARBIRD *Eurystomus orientalis*

2013: Commonly seen in many places until 11th April, which was the last sighting before northward migration. At least 13 were counted along the roadsides between the BBO and Gantheaume Point on 5th February. As in 2012, at least one bird overwintered at Nimalaica. The first returning bird was seen near Twelve Mile on 23rd September, and sightings were common again from early October.

2014: The last sighting before northward migration was on 8th April, although 3 birds were seen at Nimalaica on the 16th and it is not known whether they overwintered again this year. The first returning bird was reported on 28th September. There were no more sightings until 8th October, after which they quickly became common again.

BLUE-WINGED KOOKABURRA *Dacelo leachii*

2013: Seen and heard commonly at many sites throughout the year.

2014: Seen and heard commonly at many sites throughout the year. A pair was discovered nesting in a tall termite mound in the BBO paddock of Roebuck Plains in early November (CJH et al).

SACRED KINGFISHER *Todiramphus sanctus*

2013: Common at the observatory from February to April, when the species was consequently seen most days. After mid-April most sightings were from other sites, particularly around the bay and mangroves where they remained quite common all year. There was a sighting at Willaroo Well in October.

2014: Again, only common at the BBO early in the year, but common in the bay and mangroves throughout. Sightings around the Roebuck Plains lakes and Willaroo Well were mainly at the end of the dry season and they were probably nesting in the woodland at these more inland sites.

RED-BACKED KINGFISHER *Todiramphus pyrrhopygius*

2013: The first record was not until 19th June, after which the species was recorded quite regularly at various sites on Roebuck Plains, including near all three of the regular lakes and at Willaroo Well. After mid-September, the only sighting was at Willaroo Well on 17th October.

2014: A single bird was seen near Lake Eda on 24th April. There were no further records until early June, after which the species was seen on Roebuck Plains quite regularly until late August. There were no further sightings anywhere until a single bird was seen at Lake Eda on 29th December.

RAINBOW BEE-EATER *Merops ornatus*

2013: Very common just about everywhere and recorded most days throughout the year.

2014: Very common just about everywhere and recorded most days throughout the year. A flock of 180 was seen on wires near the port on 21st February (CMi et al).

NANKEEN KESTREL *Falco cenchroides*

2013: Recorded commonly at most sites throughout the year, especially around grassland on Roebuck Plains.

2014: Recorded commonly at most sites throughout the year, especially around grassland on Roebuck Plains. Copulation was observed more than once in early August.

AUSTRALIAN HOBBY *Falco longipennis*

2013: Seen fairly commonly throughout the year in a variety of sites including the bay, the plains and all the regular lakes. This included 5 near Kidneybean Claypan on 27th March and 5 again in a similar area on 26th August.

2014: Seen fairly commonly on the plains, in the bay and out at the lakes throughout the year until about September, when they seemed to become quite scarce. This may have been related to the drying up of a lot of sites around that time. The last sighting was on 22nd October.

BROWN FALCON *Falco berigora*

2013: Very common all year, especially on the plains.

2014: Very common all year, especially on the plains, and seen almost every day during the dry season. An active nest was found near Lake Campion on 24th October.

GREY FALCON *Falco hypoleucos*

2013: Not recorded

2014: One of the highlights of the year. A juvenile was found at Tagarana Bore on the morning of 26th August (RJE, HKW et al). It gave exceptional views all day and again the following morning, after which it could not be found again.

Another bird, an adult this time, was found at Willaroo Well on a field trip during the observatory's Birds of the Broome Region course on 23rd September (HKW, RJE et al). Another sighting of an adult at Taylors Lagoon in October could have been the same bird again (GS).



Grey Falcon, juvenile, Tagarana Bore, Aug 2014 (Ric Else) Grey Falcon, adult, Willaroo Well, Sep 2014 (Hazel Watson)

BLACK FALCON *Falco subniger*

2013: The first sighting was over the highway across Roebuck Plains on 11th June (PC, RJE). There were no further records until August, when the species was recorded on 6 different dates, twice at Taylors Lagoon in the first week of the month, at Lake Campion on the 21st, in the Kidneybean Claypan area on the 22nd and 26th and at Taylors Lagoon on the 31st. Black Falcons were recorded at all three of the regular lakes (Taylors Lagoon, Lake Campion and Lake Eda) in late September and early October, including one at each of these sites on 2nd October (RJE). Presumably these three were all different birds. A sighting at Lake Eda on 18th October was the last of the year.

2014: The first sighting of the year was near Tagarana Bore on 7th June (RJE). Another was seen at Lake Eda on 14th June, and there were four further sightings in the Kidneybean Claypan area that month. There were 4 records in July, 3 in August and 1 at the start of September, all of which were in the Kidneybean Claypan area. A single bird was at Lake Campion on 17th September and another was chasing Black Kites at the town tip on the 28th (RJE, HKW).

The last records of the year were in October: over Crab Creek on the 1st, at Lake Eda on the 2nd, at Lake Eda and over Roebuck Plains on the 9th and at Taylors Lagoon on the 14th.

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrines*

2013: A bird was occasionally seen in the bay from 30th January to 27th February. There were no further records until early April, when there were sightings on four dates between the 1st and the 16th. The next record was not until 21st June, when another bird was seen on the plains.

The species was seen on three dates in late September. In October, further singles were at Kidneybean Claypan on the 21st and at Taylors Lagoon on the 24th.

2014: Peregrines were seen in the bay twice in February and once in March. Further singles were recorded at One Tree on 14th May, on the plains on 8th June, near Twelve Mile on 10th July and in the bay on 12th July.

There were occasional records from the plains and the bay from late August to mid-November. These included one fighting with, and ultimately failing to subdue, a Straw-necked Ibis on the ground at Tagarana Bore on 2nd October (CJH) and another catching a shorebird in front of the BBO viewing platform on 14th October. The last record was at Taylors Lagoon on 24th November.

RED-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO *Calyptorhynchus banksii*

2013: Recorded occasionally from various sites in the first half of the year. There was a flurry of sightings from mid-June to mid-July, when birds were seen frequently around town. From then on sightings became occasional and widely scattered again. A flock of at least 45 birds was at Willaroo Well on 17th October.

2014: As in 2013, there was an increased frequency of sightings around Broome in the dry season, although this year it lasted from about mid-June to late August. Some notable flocks included 50+ over Streeter's Jetty on 24th June, 40 at the golf course on 3rd July, 64 over town on 1st August and 30 at the town sewage works on 18th August. Wandering flocks were recorded in various other locations during this period, including 50+ at Barred Creek on 20th June.

For the rest of the year sightings were occasional and widely scattered. Among the more unusual locations were 16 arriving from over the sea near Crab Creek on 17th April, 5 over Kidneybean Claypan on 23rd June and 6 flying over Kidneybean on 1st September.

GALAH *Eolophus roseicapillus*

2013: Fairly common at the Roebuck Plains lakes but uncommon closer to Broome. The only record in the first half of the year was at Taylors Lagoon on 6th February – the only date on which we visited the lakes. A flock of 200+ was at Willaroo Well on 14th June and 95 were there on 13th July. Small numbers were seen on most visits to the lakes from September onwards and there were a couple of sightings on Crab Creek Road in late August. The species was also recorded at Twelve Mile in October.

2014: A record from the pindan close to town on 19th March was the only sighting until June, when the species was recorded at Lake Champion and at the new sewage works on Crab Creek Road. Small numbers were recorded at the lakes and Willaroo Well throughout the second half of the year and there were very occasional sightings near town and along Crab Creek Road.

LITTLE CORELLA *Cacatua sanguinea*

2013: Common throughout the year, mainly at sites around town (especially the tip), the Roebuck Roadhouse and out at the lakes and Willaroo Well.

2014: Common throughout the year, with the biggest numbers coming from the same sites as 2013. Additionally, a flock of 270 was at Nimalaica on 21st October.

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus*

2013: A flock of 8 near Entrance Point on 31st March was the first sighting of the year, and 9 were seen there again on 2nd April. A flock of 10 flew east over the BBO on 26th May. Small groups were noted passing near the BBO on 10th, 18th, 21st and 30th June, of which 24 on the 30th was the biggest. Similar records in July were on the 1st, 7th and 26th, including a flock of 38 over the BBO on the 7th.

Besides these moving birds, small flocks of Cockatiels were seen at Nimalaica on 11th June and at Taylors Lagoon on 25th July. The last record of the year was of 11 at Taylors Lagoon and 2 at Lake Campion on 24th October.

2014: Not recorded.

RED-COLLARED LORIKEET *Trichoglossus rubritorquis*

2013: Common in town and at various other sites throughout the year.

2014: Common in town and at various other sites throughout the year. There seemed to be a movement of birds in late August, with lots appearing around the observatory for a couple of weeks and flocks seen arriving at Entrance Point from the north on the 30th.

VARIED LORIKEET *Psitteuteles versicolor*

2013: A flock of 7 flying east over the BBO as part of a large movement of woodswallows and other species on 22nd February was the first record of the year. A flock of 12 heading east along the shore of the bay on 12th March was the only other record in the first half of the year.

The species was found on most visits to Willaroo Well, beginning with 28 there on 13th July. There were 25 there on our last visit on 17th October. There were additional sightings at Lake Campion and over Crab Creek Road in September, and a few were flying over Entrance Point on 29th October.

2014: There were three sightings of flocks flying east in February: 20 over the BBO on the 12th, 25 over the BBO on the 13th and 2 over Crab Creek Road on the 16th. Another 4 went over One Tree on 17th April and 2 were seen near Tagarana Bore on 20th June.

A small influx was noted from 13th August, when the species was recorded on 8 dates that month and 5 dates in September. All were of small flocks flying east overhead, and included flocks of 15 on 13th August and 12 on the 17th. Another influx began on 15th October, with small numbers passing overhead on 9 further dates that month. The largest of these flocks was 27 on both the 21st and 22nd. There were four similar records in November, including 23 heading west over One Tree on the 16th. As well as these passage records, there were sightings at Lake Campion, Roebuck Roadhouse and Willaroo Well in late October.

BUDGERIGAR *Melopsittacus undulates*

2013: Although not as spectacular as 2012, this was another good year for budgies in our region. The first record was at Lake Eda on 6th February, but it would be four months before our next visit to the lakes. A small flurry of passage in February comprised up to 20 birds over the BBO each day from the 22nd to the 25th. There were then no further records until a more significant influx in April.

This began with 108 seen passing east over the BBO on the first day of the month. The following day 208 were counted passing south off Entrance Point in two hours in the morning, while about 300 were seen flying over the BBO during the same period. The species was recorded passing east overhead on 11 further dates in April, including 300 birds on the 11th and many small flocks on the other dates. The passage continued long into the dry season with small eastbound flocks seen over the BBO on 18 dates

in May, 15 dates in June and 18 dates in July. A small flock on 10th August was the last passage recorded.

As well as visible passage, budgies seemed to be resident out on Roebuck Plains during the dry season. Counts included 40 at Taylors Lagoon in mid-June and 75 at Willaroo Well in mid-July.

2014: The only record was of 2 birds flying over the road near One Tree on 27th August. A very different year to 2013!

RED-WINGED PARROT *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

2013: Common in most places throughout the year.

2014: Common in most places throughout the year.

GREAT BOWERBIRD *Ptilonorhynchus guttatus*

2013: Common in most places and recorded almost every day throughout the year. The active bower behind campsite 5 at the BBO was very popular with the guests.

2014: Common in most places and recorded almost every day throughout the year. The male in the BBO campground moved his bower to behind campsite 3. Other active bowers were found on the cliff top just east of the observatory and behind the life savers club at Cable Beach.

BLACK-TAILED TREECREEPER *Climacteris melanurus*

2013: Not recorded until July, when we began regular visits to the eastern parts of Roebuck Plains. From then on, the species was recorded on almost every visit to Willaroo Well, including a pair at a nest in October. The only other site was the woodland near Lake Campion.

2014: Again, not recorded until tours began to the Roebuck Plains lakes and nearby areas in June. Thereafter the species was found reliably at Willaroo Well and near Lake Campion.

VARIEGATED FAIRY-WREN *Malurus lamberti*

2013: Recorded commonly at many different sites throughout the year.

2014: Recorded commonly at many different sites throughout the year.

RED-BACKED FAIRY-WREN *Malurus melanocephalus*

2013: Recorded commonly at many different sites throughout the year.

2014: Recorded commonly at many different sites throughout the year.

BLACK HONEYEATER *Certhionyx niger*

2013: After a superb year for this species in 2012, 2013 was even more incredible. A single bird appeared briefly at the BBO bird baths on 13th February (RJE). There were additional sightings nearby and at Entrance Point on the 25th (AWSG), followed by 3 at the BBO on the 26th and another at Entrance Point on the 27th. These were the only records until a phenomenal period of passage in April and May, which is summarised below. The only further records were a single male bird in the trees near the BBO viewing platform on 30th July, and another reported at the BBO on three dates in early October, the last of which was on the 13th.

Date	Number	Comments
1 st April	21	East over BBO throughout the day
2 nd April	9	Entrance Point, remaining there to the 5 th
6 th April	1	East over BBO
7 th April	1	East over BBO
11 th April	377	353 east over BBO between 1620 and 1720 Another 20 east over BBO earlier in the day 4 at Entrance Point
12 th April	40	East over One Tree
24 th April	Several small flocks	East over Crab Creek Road
25 th April	50	East over BBO
1 st May	85	80 east over BBO during morning, 5 east over BBO late afternoon
2 nd May	2	East over BBO
5 th May	30	East over BBO
6 th May	5	East over BBO
7 th May	5	East over BBO
17 th May	2	East over BBO
20 th May	1	Entrance Point
24 th May	7	East over BBO
25 th May	9	East over BBO
26 th May	19	15 at Entrance Point, 4 east over BBO
27 th May	10	Nimalaica
9 th June	5	Entrance Point
11 th June	15	East over BBO
14 th June	1	East over BBO

2014: Not recorded

RED-HEADED HONEYEATER *Myzomela erythrocephala*

2013: Recorded on virtually every visit to the mangroves at Streeter's Jetty in Broome throughout the year. Also recorded in mangroves on the other side of Dampier Creek and around Barred Creek. In September, a blackbean tree outside the Broome post office was in flower and was very popular with this species.

2014: Present at the unfailingly reliable Streeter's Jetty mangroves throughout the year, and also recorded at Barred Creek and Willie Creek. Away from the mangroves, up to 2 birds were often seen at the observatory birdbaths from 18th June to 17th July. This species doesn't normally occur in the *Avicennia*-dominated Crab Creek mangroves, but a single bird was there on 20th August. The post office blackbean tree was again very popular with this species while it was flowering in September.

PIED HONEYEATER *Certhionyx variegatus*

2013: A fantastic year for passage of this species through our region. The first record was 300 birds, comprising many small flocks, passing east over the BBO with large numbers of Masked Woodswallows and other nomadic species on 22nd February (RJE). There were no further sightings until a strong period of passage in April and May, which is detailed below:

Date	Number	Comments
1 st April	6	Arrived from the west and landed near BBO in evening
11 th April	10	East over BBO
25 th April	26	East over BBO in afternoon
1 st May	35	East over BBO
5 th May	270	East over BBO from 0800 to 0900
6 th May	30	East over BBO
20 th May	7	Entrance Point
25 th May	12	East over BBO
26 th May	25	9 at Entrance Point 16 east over BBO
27 th May	3	Nimalaica

2014: Not recorded



Black Honeyeater, Entrance Point, Apr 2013 (Ric Else)



Pied Honeyeater, Entrance Point, May 2013 (Ric Else)

BANDED HONEYEATER *Certhionyx pectoralis*

2013: Not recorded

2014: A single bird was seen on the edge of the salt marsh near One Tree on 12th February (RJE). An adult visited the BBO birdbaths on 17th February (AWSG et al) and another was seen in the bush near Eagle's Roost on the 22nd (RJE).

A notable influx began with a single bird at the BBO bird baths on 26th August (RJE), followed by at least 5 there the following day, probably all immature birds. At least 3 were still there on 6th September, dropping to 2 on the 10th. The last sighting was on the 12th. An additional bird was at Tagarana Bore on 28th August (RJE).



Banded Honeyeaters, BBO, Sep 2014 (Ric Else)

BROWN HONEYEATER *Lichmera indistincta*

2013: Very common in most places throughout the year. Small flocks at Entrance Point in early April appeared to be migrants and were watched making numerous abortive attempts to fly south off the point.

2014: Very common in most places throughout the year. A leucistic bird visited the BBO bird baths in mid-June.

LITTLE FRIARBIRD *Philemon citreogularis*

2013: Present and generally very common at most sites throughout the year. There were occasional signs of passage, including at least 43 birds seen flying south down Entrance Point during a two-hour watch on 2nd April.

2014: Present and generally very common at most sites throughout the year. Again, apparent passage was noted, particularly in early March when a flock of 42 flew east from One Tree on the 2nd and further small flocks went the same way the following day.

BLACK-CHINNED HONEYEATER *Melithreptus gularis*

2013: Seen regularly at Willaroo Well and in the woodland around Lake Campion, although these sites were not visited until July. The species was also present in the bushland in the Cable Beach dunes.

2014: There were a couple of sightings in the Cable Beach dunes, which is probably a regular site for the species, in April. At least a couple were at Entrance Point on 22nd July. Most other sightings came from the regular locations of Lake Campion and Willaroo Well.

WHITE-THROATED HONEYEATER *Melithreptus albogularis*

2013: Seen throughout the year in areas with eucalypts, with most records coming from the town sewage works and Nimalaica. A pair were feeding chicks near the sewage works on 20th May. The species is quite common in the bushland through the dunes behind Cable Beach, where at least 3 were singing on 6th July. There were just a couple of sightings around the observatory, on 2nd July and 4th October.

2014: Recorded throughout the year at the town sewage works, Nimalaica and the bushland at Cable Beach. The species was also present in the woodland along the northern edge of the BBO paddock.

YELLOW CHAT *Epthianura crocea*

2013: A small number were seen at Kidneybean Claypan in February, but subsequent rain soon made the site inaccessible. A pair were found with newly hatched chicks in their nest at the eastern edge of the BBO paddock on 20th April. Another nest was found in the BBO paddock on 18th July, and this also contained small chicks. From August the tracks around Kidneybean were drying up, making this species more accessible and they were seen regularly from then on. Larger numbers were seen there in October, including at least 160 on the 21st.

2014: Small numbers were reliably found early in the year by wading a couple of kilometres through the salt bush in the south east corner of the BBO paddock and newly fledged chicks were seen there in early April. From mid-April some chats were accessible by car and were visited regularly, while wading out to Kidneybean produced counts of up to 60 in early June and 70 in July.

On 13th August, 6 were seen near the highway across Roebuck Plains, close to the bore next to the road. This became a very reliable site as Kidneybean dried up, with more than 100 there on 2nd October and an impressive 400+ there on the 9th (RJE). By mid-November these flocks had moved on and just

a single bird was there on the 9th. Kidneybean was dry from early September, but small flocks were still seen there just about every visit.

An unusual record was a single bird perched in the top of mangroves on the eastern side of Roebuck Bay on 29th August (AB).

RUFIOUS-THROATED HONEYEATER *Conopophila rufogularis*

2013: Common at the observatory and at most other suitable sites throughout the year. A striking individual, pure white apart from the bright yellow wing panels, was seen at Willaroo Well on 1st August (RJE).

2014: Common throughout the year in most places, although the number around the BBO fluctuated quite a lot. Many small flocks were noted passing east over the observatory in late August.

YELLOW-THROATED MINER *Manorina flavigula*

2013: As in 2012, Willaroo Well was the only site where this species was recorded.

2014: Again, only recorded at Willaroo Well where 3 were seen on 10th July.

WHITE-FRONTED HONEYEATER *Purnella albifrons*

2013: A single bird was seen and photographed at Entrance Point on 16th and 19th September (TB).

2014: Not recorded

WHITE-GAPED HONEYEATER *Lichenostomus unicolor*

2013: A single bird was seen frequently around the BBO from late February and was joined by a second bird on 21st May. The two birds remained a regular sight at the observatory until mid-July, after which there were only occasional sightings. At least one was seen most days from late October. Other sites at which the species was recorded during the year included Nimalaica, Broome, One Tree, the town sewage works, Lake Campion and the Cable Beach area.

2014: At least 2 birds were present around the BBO from February onwards and were recorded most days throughout the year. They were seen nest building near the chalet in mid-November, which may be the first breeding record at the observatory. The species was also recorded at Twelve Mile, Barred Creek, Nimalaica, One Tree and Cable Beach.

SINGING HONEYEATER *Lichenostomus virescens*

2013: Very common throughout the year and recorded most days. A pair nested outside the BBO office in September, but succeeded only in fledging a Pallid Cuckoo chick.

2014: Very common throughout the year and recorded most days. A pair fledged chicks from a nest outside the BBO office in early May.

YELLOW-TINTED HONEYEATER *Lichenostomus flavescens*

2013: Common at Willaroo Well, and also seen regularly at Lake Campion and Taylors Lagoon. The species is quite rare at the observatory, but a single bird was seen on three dates in late August.

2014: A single bird was seen at the BBO bird baths in mid-February (AWSG). The species was quite commonly seen at Willaroo Well, Lake Campion, Lake Eda and the bushland in the Cable Beach dunes throughout the year. It was also regular in the woodland along the northern edge of the BBO paddock. Lots of fresh juveniles were seen at Willaroo Well in mid-September.

GREY-HEADED HONEYEATER *Lichenostomus keartlandi*

2013: Only recorded at Entrance Point, where a very small population is probably resident and single birds were seen in May and October.

2014: The Entrance Point birds were either absent or just very elusive for most of the year, but a single bird was seen there on 4th November.

STRIATED PARDALOTE *Pardalotus striatus*

2013: Recorded commonly at most sites with eucalypts, including most of the woodland near the Roebuck Plains lakes and around the town sewage ponds. Although quite infrequent around the observatory, the species is common along Crab Creek Road and 15 were counted singing along there on 28th May.

2014: Recorded commonly at most sites with eucalypts, although much less frequently in the late dry season when not many were singing. There were many more sightings at the observatory this year, mainly in the first half of the year. Nests were found at the town sewage works, near Lake Campion and on the northern edge of the BBO paddock.

WEEBILL *Smicrornis brevirostris*

2013: Commonly recorded in eucalypt woodland at Willaroo Well and Lake Campion once we began doing tours to those sites in the dry season. There were no records from any other sites.

2014: A pair were seen nest building at Nimalaica on 16th April. The species was recorded on most visits to Willaroo Well and Lake Campion, and there was another sighting at Taylors Lagoon. The woodland along the northern edge of the BBO paddock was also found to be reliable for this species.

MANGROVE GERYGONE *Gerygone levigaster*

2013: Common throughout the year in areas of melaleuca woodland at Nimalaica, around the northern edge of the BBO paddock and near Lake Eda.

2014: A single bird was singing in pindan woodland near the BBO for at least nine days in early February (RJE). The species was commonly recorded throughout the year at the same melaleuca sites as in 2013. It was also found to be common in the Crab Creek mangroves, but only in the area north of the dunes, where up to 8 were recorded throughout the year. There were no sightings in the denser mangroves along the beach and near the mouth of the creeks.

DUSKY GERYGONE *Gerygone tenebrosa*

2013: Commonly recorded in the Crab Creek mangroves and the mangroves around town throughout the year. Also seen at Barred Creek.

2014: Commonly recorded in the Crab Creek mangroves and the mangroves around town throughout the year. Also seen at Barred Creek.

WHITE-THROATED GERYGONE *Gerygone olivacea*

2013: Recorded very commonly around the observatory throughout the year, with other records from various wooded locations.

2014: Recorded very commonly around the observatory throughout the year, with other records from various wooded locations.

GREY-CROWNED BABBLER *Pomatostomus temporalis*

2013: Common at the observatory and at most other wooded sites throughout the year.

2014: Common at the observatory and at most other wooded sites throughout the year.

WHITE-BREASTED WOODSWALLOW *Artamus leucorhynchus*

2013: Common throughout the year in a variety of locations, including the Crab Creek mangroves, Nimalaica, the Roebuck Plains lakes and the mangroves around Broome.

2014: Common throughout the year in the same sites as 2013.

MASKED WOODSWALLOW *Artamus personatus*

2013: The first half of the year was fantastic for this species in our region. Passage began in February with 150+ near Lake Campion on the 6th. The species was recorded flying over the observatory on 8 further dates during the month, including triple figures on a couple of days and 3,060 passing overhead on the 22nd (RJE et al). The only records in March were 400 on the 20th and 120 on the 21st.

There were records of birds passing over the BBO (usually heading east) on 21 dates in April, including counts of 750 on the 6th and 1,000 on the 25th. May was very similar, with records on 21 dates again that included hundreds passing overhead daily at the beginning of the month and 400+ roosting in trees along the Malurus Trail on several evenings from the 23rd. The concentration around the BBO seemed to clear out at the end of the month.

After May, numbers were noticeably lower, but the species was still recorded regularly until mid-July. A few birds lingering at the town sewage works in mid-August were the only sightings that month. The only subsequent record was of a small number at Taylors Lagoon on 24th October.

2014: A flock of 6 over the BBO on 6th March was the first record of the year, followed by single figures on two more days that month. Passage really kicked off in April, with records on 15 dates including at least 50 over the BBO on the 4th and several hundred at Lake Eda on the 24th. There was only a single sighting in May and records of small numbers on 5 dates in June.

The next sightings were in August, including 100+ flying high over Quarry Beach on the 27th. Flocks of up to 30 were seen on three days in September, including the last of the year on the 29th.

WHITE-BROWED WOODSWALLOW *Artamus superciliosus*

2013: A male was with Masked Woodswallows in the BBO paddock of Roebuck Plains on 25th May (RJE).

2014: Not recorded



Masked Woodswallow, May 2013 (Ric Else)



White-browed Woodswallow, May 2013 (Ric Else)

BLACK-FACED WOODSWALLOW *Artamus cinereus*

2013: Common throughout the year, especially on Roebuck Plains. Fledglings were seen in mid-February.

2014: Common throughout the year, especially on Roebuck Plains.

LITTLE WOODSWALLOW *Artamus minor*

2013: Once we began tours to the Roebuck Plains lakes in July, this species was recorded fairly regularly at Willaroo Well, Taylors Lagoon and in some of the woodland near Lake Campion.

2014: Only recorded from near Lake Campion, Taylors Lagoon and Willaroo Well, with the latter site being the most reliable.

PIED BUTCHERBIRD *Cracticus nigrogularis*

2013: Common all year throughout the area and recorded most days.

2014: Common all year throughout the area and recorded most days. One was sitting on the dried-up bed of Kidneybean Claypan on 7th October, about 3km from the nearest trees.

AUSTRALIAN MAGPIE *Gymnorhina tibicen*

2013: Seen quite commonly all year, but very localised and rarely seen away from a handful of established spots.

2014: Seen quite commonly all year, but very localised and rarely seen away from a handful of established spots. Typical sites are the Roebuck Roadhouse, on the edge of the BBO paddock and a couple of locations in Broome.

BLACK-FACED CUCKOOSHRIKE *Coracina novaehollandiae*

2013: Common in many places throughout the year.

2014: Common in many places throughout the year.

WHITE-WINGED TRILLER *Lalage sueurii*

2013: Common throughout the year, with the largest numbers seemingly present in the dry season. A male at Entrance Point on 3rd April appeared to be a migrant.

2014: Common throughout the year, especially in the dry season. Many sightings were from the edges of Roebuck Plains.

VARIED SITTELLA *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

2013: Seen quite regularly throughout the year in woodland on Roebuck Plains, with multiple sightings at each of Taylors Lagoon, Lake Campion, Lake Eda and Willaroo Well. The latter site particularly seemed quite reliable for this species. Sittellas are scarce closer to the BBO in the pindan, but a single bird was seen in the cliff top vegetation near Quarry Beach on 12th March.

2014: A single bird was seen along the edge of the BBO paddock of Roebuck Plains, quite close to the observatory, on 6th May. In June and July, there were several sightings of family groups in woodland along the northern edge of the BBO paddock, as well as sightings near Lake Eda and Lake Campion. One was also seen in the pindan on the northern shore of the bay on 31st July. Later in the year nearly all sightings were from the usual locations of Willaroo Well, Taylors Lagoon, Lake Campion and Lake Eda.

MANGROVE GOLDEN WHISTLER *Pachycephala melanura*

2013: Seen occasionally in the Crab Creek mangroves throughout the year, and also in the mangroves around Streeter's Jetty in Broome where it is usually more reliably found. Also seen at Barred Creek.

2014: Seen occasionally in the Crab Creek mangroves throughout the year, and also in the mangroves around Streeter's Jetty in Broome where it is usually more reliably found.

RUFIOUS WHISTLER *Pachycephala rufiventris*

2013: Common at the observatory and most other wooded sites throughout the year. Recorded almost every day.

2014: Common at the observatory and most other wooded sites throughout the year. Recorded almost every day.

WHITE-BREASTED WHISTLER *Pachycephala lanioides*

2013: Common in the Crab Creek mangroves throughout the year. Also recorded in the mangroves around Streeter's Jetty in Broome and at Barred Creek.

2014: Common in the Crab Creek mangroves throughout the year. About 15 were seen on a short walk around that area in October. Also recorded in the mangroves around Streeter's Jetty in Broome and at Barred Creek.

GREY SHRIKETHRUSH *Colluricincla harmonica*

2013: Commonly recorded at the observatory and various other wooded sites throughout the year.

2014: Commonly recorded at the observatory and various other wooded sites throughout the year. Occasional reports from the Crab Creek mangroves are usually misidentified female White-breasted Whistlers, but a genuine Grey Shrike-thrush was singing in the mangroves there on 26th September (RJE, MB)

OLIVE-BACKED ORIOLE *Oriolus sagittatus*

2013: Common throughout the year at a variety of wooded sites, including at the observatory where a pair were nesting near the shadehouse in February. Records were much less frequent from March to May, probably because the birds were not singing at that time.

2014: Recorded most days throughout the year, although sightings were again less frequent from March to May. A pair were nesting at the BBO in late October.

WILLIE WAGTAIL *Rhipidura leucophrys*

2013: Common everywhere throughout the year.

2014: Common everywhere throughout the year.

NORTHERN FANTAIL *Rhipidura rufiventris*

2013: A single bird was seen at Wibijakun (a wetland near Nimalaica) on 24th May (RJE). The species was also recorded in the mangroves around Streeter's Jetty on 8th July and 15th July (RJE), and there were further sightings at Nimalaica on 17th Sep (RJE et al) and at Barred Creek on 27th Oct (RJE).

2014: Single birds were seen at Nimalaica on 16th April (RJE et al) and 22nd September (RJE et al). The species was also seen singing in the Streeter's Jetty mangroves on 24th August and 14th October (RJE).

GREY FANTAIL *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

2013: The first 2 arrived at the BBO on 26th April, and at least a couple were seen commonly there or in nearby pindan right through to 24th August. All birds seen were probably of the subspecies *alisteri*.

2014: The first sighting was at the BBO on 1st May, and up to 2 were then recorded almost daily right through to 18th August. The only later sighting was on 3rd September. Other sightings during the year were at Twelve Mile, Entrance Point and the woodland on the northern edge of the BBO paddock. All appeared to be *alisteri*.

MANGROVE GREY FANTAIL *Rhipidura phasiana*

2013: Common in the mangroves at Crab Creek and the mangroves around town throughout the year. The species was recorded at the observatory occasionally in July. It was also seen at Barred Creek in October.

2014: Common in mangrove areas throughout the year. The species was seen quite commonly away from the mangroves from 10th May to late August. Apart from a few records at the observatory, they seemed to show a preference for areas of melaleuca woodland. Sightings in this habitat were on the northern edge of the BBO paddock and even as far inland as Lake Eda and Upper Loomington Bore, where they were recorded several times in late July and August.

MAGPIE-LARK *Grallina cyanoleuca*

2013: Very common in most places throughout the year.

2014: Very common in most places throughout the year. Hundreds were at the lakes in the dry season, particularly around Lake Eda.

LEADEN FLYCATCHER *Myiagra rubecula*

2013: Not recorded

2014: A female was first seen at the BBO birdbaths on 14th February, and appeared sporadically right through to late June (AWSG, RJE et al), including a period in May and early June when it was seen most days. A single bird at the BBO on 27th July was probably the same individual yet again. Another single female was seen at Nimalaica on 16th April (RJE et al) and again on 22nd April (JL).

BROAD-BILLED FLYCATCHER *Myiagra ruficollis*

2013: Common in the Crab Creek mangroves and the mangroves around Streeter's Jetty in Broome. A single bird was at the observatory on 1st July.

2014: Common in the Crab Creek mangroves, the mangroves around Streeter's Jetty in Broome and other Mangrove areas around Roebuck Bay. At least a single bird was seen frequently at the observatory from 14th June right through to mid-October. The species was also recorded at Willie Creek.

PAPERBARK FLYCATCHER *Myiagra nana*

2013: Common at the observatory, where they nested in the campground, and many other sites including around the Roebuck Plains lakes throughout the year.

2014: Common at the observatory, where they nested in the campground again, and many other sites including around the Roebuck Plains lakes throughout the year.

TORRESIAN CROW *Corvus orru*

2013: Very common in most places throughout the year.

2014: Very common in most places throughout the year.

HOODED ROBIN *Melanodryas cucullata*

2013: An immature male was seen at the BBO bird baths on 15th July (BBO, RJE). Presumably the same elusive immature male was seen around the BBO again on 14th August and again on 1st September. It reappeared yet again on 22nd September and was then seen on five more dates until its last sighting on 7th October.

2014: Not recorded

LEMON-BELLIED FLYROBIN [KIMBERLEY FLYCATCHER] *Microeca flavigaster tormenti*

2013: Not recorded, although there were very few visits to their regular sites north of Broome.

2014: A male was singing next to Little Crab Creek on 6th March (RJE) and single birds were seen at the same site on 6th April and on three dates in mid-May. Despite this being a very regularly visited site, there were no further sightings there until another single bird on 20th September (HKW).

A couple of birds were seen in the mangroves near Streeter's Jetty in Broome on 2nd October (PCr) and a single bird was at Nimalaica on 28th December (GS).

JACKY WINTER *Microeca fascians*

2013: There were six sightings in the pindan close to the observatory from mid-March to 8th June, all in almost exactly the same spot next to the Malurus Trail. There were a couple more sightings in the same place in August and September. The species is very common further out on Roebuck Plains, with particularly frequent sightings at Lake Champion, Taylors Lagoon and Willaroo Well. At least 20 were seen at the latter site on 14th June.

2014: The species was recorded at the observatory regularly from 22nd April to the end of the year, especially in May and from late August onwards when they were very vocal. It was common at the Roebuck Plains lakes and Willaroo Well throughout the year.

HORSFIELD'S BUSHLARK *Mirafrja javanica*

2013: Common on the plains throughout the year.

2014: Common on the plains throughout the year.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

2013: Common early in the year, with at least 100 feeding over the BBO paddock on 16th March. Also common at the town sewage works and various other sites during this period. The last sighting before northward migration was on 10th April. The first returning bird was at the town sewage works on 29th September, after which they were seen commonly there and at several other locations.

2014: The last sighting before northward migration was on 18th March. The first returning bird was on the very early date of 7th August (RJE), and was seen there again on the 18th before being joined by a second bird on the 25th. These 2 were seen regularly until late September when larger numbers began to appear and the species became fairly common in various locations.

WELCOME SWALLOW *Hirundo neoxena*

2013: A single bird at the town sewage works on the unusually early date of 9th March was the only record all year (RJE).

2014: Single birds were seen flying along the bay, presumably heading to roost in the Crab Creek mangroves, on the evenings of 4th and 9th July (RJE). A group of 6 were seen at the new sewage works on Crab Creek Road on 26th July (AB) and this was the biggest ever count of the species in our area. Single birds, presumed to be the same individual each time, were seen at Kidneybean Claypan on 14th and 15th August (RJE). The last sighting of the year was another single bird in the south east corner of the BBO paddock on 21st September (HKW, RJE).

FAIRY MARTIN *Petrochelidon ariel*

2013: Not as common as the previous species, but seen throughout the year in small numbers at various sites. Larger numbers were only usually seen at the Roebuck Plains lakes. Nesting was seen under a culvert where the highway crosses Roebuck Plains.

2014: Seen throughout the year, again with the larger numbers usually being seen at the Roebuck Plains lakes. Nesting was seen under a culvert near Taylors Lagoon in November.

TREE MARTIN *Petrochelidon nigricans*

2013: Common throughout the year. Hundreds were seen flying across the bay to roost in the Crab Creek mangroves most nights in early April. During heavy rain on 16th May at least 100 roosted in the shed at the BBO, with others taking refuge under the verandas and even inside the brick barbecue! Unseasonal heavy rain on 6th June caused the same behaviour to happen again.

2014: Common throughout the year. Thousands were at Kidneybean Claypan in late July and early August.

AUSTRALIAN REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus australis*

2013: Very localised in our region, with all records coming from Nimalaica and nearby wetlands.

2014: Seen on just about every visit to Nimalaica throughout the year. The only other records were from Lake Eda, where at least one was reliably seen on one of the islands throughout July.

RUFOUS SONGLARK *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

2013: Only recorded in the second half of the year, once we began doing tours out to the Roebuck Plains lakes and surrounding area. From then on there were fairly regular sightings at Willaroo Well, and others in woodland near Lake Champion and near Lake Eda.

2014: There were only a couple of records this year, from near Lake Champion and another area of woodland out on Roebuck Plains.

BROWN SONGLARK *Cincloramphus cruralis*

2013: Common on the plains throughout the year.

2014: Common on the plains throughout the year.

LITTLE GRASSBIRD *Megalurus gramineus*

2013: One was at Nimalaica on 2nd October (GS).

2014: One was singing at Nimalaica on 1st September (GS).

GOLDEN-HEADED CISTICOLA *Cisticola exilis*

2013: Fairly common in areas of tall grass, including at Nimalaica, Lake Eda, flooded parts of the plains, and occasionally around the town sewage works.

2014: Fairly common in areas of long grass, particularly around Kidneybean Claypan and other flooded areas of the plains, and at Lake Eda. There were also several sightings at the town sewage works and Gantheaume Point.

CANARY [YELLOW] WHITE-EYE *Zosterops luteus*

2013: Common in mangrove locations throughout the year. In the dry season, mainly from August to October, the species dispersed from the mangroves and was common in the pindan, including sightings at the observatory most days.

2014: Common in mangrove locations throughout the year. Sightings around the observatory were frequent from April to November, including almost daily records there from mid-May to October.

COMMON STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

2013: A single bird, presumably ship-assisted to Broome, was found from the highway across Roebuck Plains on 1st June (CM, GM). It was still there on the 19th, but was eventually exterminated as an unwelcome pest species.

2014: Not recorded

MISTLETOEBIRD *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

2013: Common in most bush and woodland throughout the year, and regularly seen in the mangroves. Several seen at Entrance Point in early April were behaving like migrants attempting to move down the coast. A nest containing three chicks was found at the observatory in late September.

2014: Common in most bush and woodland throughout the year, and regularly seen in the mangroves.

PAINTED FINCH *Emblema pictum*

2013: All records this year were in April, which seems to be the most regular time of year for this species in our region. The first sighting was a remarkable flock of 65 foraging among the rocks at Entrance Point on the 2nd (RJE). At least 42 were still there the next day, dropping to 20 on the 5th, and 8 remained among the local Zebra Finches there on the 19th. At the BBO, 2 made a brief visit to the birdbaths on the 26th (RJE).

2014: The only record was again in April. A couple of birds were with the Entrance Point Zebra Finches on the 20th (AC). The site was not visited earlier in the month, so we don't know whether a passage of birds similar to that in 2013 occurred or not.

CRIMSON FINCH *Neochmia phaeton*

2013: A single bird was seen at Wibijakun, a wetland near Nimalaica, on 24th May (JL, RJE). The bird's origins are unknown, but it could be the first wild Crimson Finch recorded in Broome. Several old records all involve birds strongly suspected to have escaped from captivity.

2014: Not recorded

LONG-TAILED FINCH *Poephila acuticauda*

2013: Very small numbers were seen at the BBO fairly regularly throughout the year. Once we began tours to the further parts of Roebuck Plains, this species common at most water sources including the lakes and various wells and bores, although no very big flocks were noted.

2014: Locations and numbers were more or less identical to 2013. Very small numbers were seen at the BBO fairly regularly throughout the year. Once we began tours to the further parts of Roebuck Plains, this species very common at most water sources including the lakes and various wells and bores, although no very big flocks were noted.

ZEBRA FINCH *Taeniopygia guttata*

2013: Recorded commonly throughout the year, although only very small numbers occurred regularly at the BBO. There seemed to be an influx in April, when up to 50 birds, many of which seemed to be just passing through, were at Entrance Point early in the month and the species was recorded at the BBO on many days. Smaller numbers were seen at Entrance Point and the town sewage works throughout the year, and bigger groups were often encountered around the Roebuck Plains lakes.

2014: Common at the Roebuck Plains lakes throughout, with smaller numbers commonly seen at the town sewage works and Entrance Point. Very small numbers visited the BBO birdbaths quite regularly all year, but no obvious influx or passage was noted.

DOUBLE-BARRED FINCH *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

2013: Seen at the BBO bird baths virtually every day throughout the year. Also common at Nimalaica and around the Roebuck Plains lakes.

2014: Seen at the BBO bird baths virtually every day throughout the year. Also common at Nimalaica and around the Roebuck Plains lakes.

PICTORELLA MANNIKIN *Heteromunia pectoralis*

2013: A single bird was with Zebra Finches at Entrance Point on 2nd April (RJE).

2014: Not recorded



Painted Finches, Entrance Point (Ric Else)



Pictorella Mannikin, Entrance Point (Ric Else)

EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla tschutschensis*

2013: Common at the town sewage ponds for the first three months of the year. Up to 3 were seen flying east over the BBO on three evenings in early April, and were presumably heading to roost somewhere near Crab Creek. There were no further records until a single bird flew over One Tree on 13th May, and another late bird was at the town sewage works on the 20th.

The first returned bird was seen at the town sewage works on 29th September (GS et al), and small numbers were reliable there from then on. There were other records at Kidneybean Claypan, Taylors Lagoon and the town sports ovals during October. There were no sightings of the subspecies *M.f.taivana* 'Green-headed Yellow Wagtail' this year.

2014: Small numbers were reliable at the town sewage works early in the year, and again there were a couple of records of birds flying east towards Crab Creek at dusk. By far the biggest count was at least 40 birds on flooded saltmarsh in the south east corner of the BBO paddock on 4th April (RJE, HKW). The last sighting before migration was a single bird flying over the BBO paddock on 9th May (RJE).

An early returning bird was at the town sewage works on 15th September (MB). There were no further sightings until a couple were at the same site on 2nd October, and these were reliable there from then on, with further October records coming from Lake Eda, Lake Campion, Taylors Lagoon, Nimalaica and the town sports ovals. Numbers at the sewage ponds and ovals increased slightly in early November, and then increased to impressive totals later in the month, with 46 counted on the Father McMahon Oval on the 25th. The species was quite common at all the usual sites in December, including at least 12 at Lake Eda on the 16th. There were no sightings of the subspecies *M.f.taivana* 'Green-headed Yellow Wagtail' this year.

AUSTRALIAN PIPIT *Anthus australis*

2013: Common throughout the year in short grassy areas.

2014: Common throughout the year in short grassy areas.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*

2013: Not recorded

2014: One was found at Lake Eda on 8th December (MH, AL, PCr et al). It was there again on 16th December, when a second individual was probably also present (GS).