

# BROOME BIRD OBSERVATORY

Annual Report 2015



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Compiled by Nigel Jackett and John Graff

Cover photo by Ric Else

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### **2015 Broome Bird Observatory Management Committee**

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Cassandra Wittwer

### **2015 Wardens**

Nigel and Jaime Jackett

### **2015 Assistant Wardens**

Ric Else

John Graff

Jane Taylor

## A Note from the Chair

As has become the pattern in recent times our year commenced with a flurry of activity both on the mud flats of Roebuck Bay and at BBO on its picturesque shores. New Wardens Nigel and Jaime Jackett (fresh from their January wedding and postponed honeymoon!) joined assistant Wardens Ric Else – who returned for his 3<sup>rd</sup> season and the ever smiling Jane Taylor and all settled in quickly.

Out on the Bay thousands of waders were working on their breeding plumage and waistlines in preparation for migration in a few months' time. Throw into the mix some 30 plus participants arriving for the annual Australian Wader Study Groups 3 week banding expedition and its 'all happening'. As if this is not enough, as the expedition departs, our highly popular 'Wave the Waders Goodbye' courses get underway along with the ongoing migration monitoring and recording every evening throughout the 8 weeks plus migration period.....Phew!

**It became clear very quickly that we had a great team at the 'Obs' and thus not a surprise that 2015 proved to be a great year on all fronts.**

As you read through this report I hope that you will also be as impressed as I with the number and variety of species recorded – and not only waders, this region is rightly famous too for its fantastic diversity of birds in the bush and plains including the rare and delightful Yellow Chat. It is not only birds that feature strongly. Mammals, snakes and frogs add to the diversity of fauna of which we are so rightly proud and prove farther testament to the sharp eyes and skills of our team.

Sadly, we ran out of visa options for Assistant Warden Ric, who was forced to leave mid-year, however our luck held with a great replacement in John Graff who joined us in July.

To our Wardens, Assistant Wardens, Campground Hosts, volunteers, visitors and guests thank you all for your contribution and support this year. Last but not least thank you to our small but fantastic BBO Management Committee who put in such a great effort throughout the year.

Happy birding and please continue to support this unique facility in any way you can.

Maurice O'Connor

BBO Management Committee Chairperson

## Summary

The 2014-2015 wet season was relatively average in terms of total rainfall, although the months of February and March were well below average. 388.4mm (Broome mean for this period = 530.3mm) of rain was recorded in Broome during the first six months of the year, after which 37.6mm was recorded up until the end of December (mean = 83.2mm). At the BBO, things were even drier, with just 0.7mm of rain recorded between the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April and 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

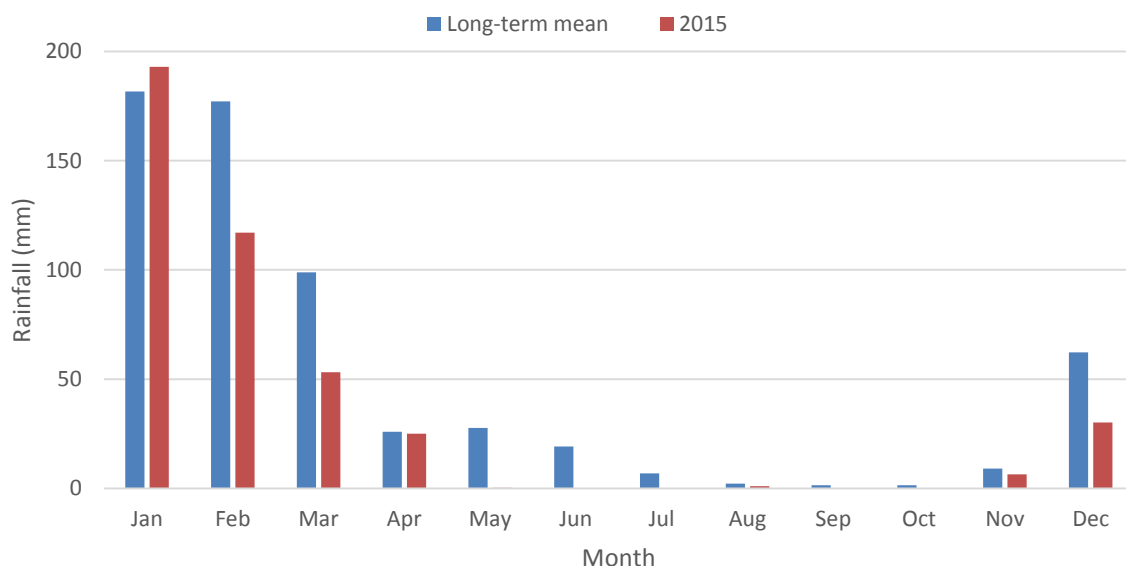


Figure 1. Monthly rainfall in 2015 with long-term mean comparison. Source: Broome Airport BoM Station 3003.

The freshwater lakes on Roebuck Plains Station held water for most of the year, with Lake Eda and Taylors Lagoon holding small pools of water up until late December. However, Kidneybean Claypan was dry by early August, with Lake Campion dry by the start of October.

Despite the dry conditions, particularly in the latter half of the year, bird diversity was relatively high, with 242 species recorded during the year. This compares to 226 species recorded in 2014, and 238 species recorded in 2013. The highest total for one day was 162 species on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, all of which were found by BBO Assistant Wardens John Graff and Jane Taylor. This total equalled the record of 162 recorded on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2014 (157 of which were seen by BBO staff Ric Else and Max Breckenridge).

Two birds previously unconfirmed in the Broome region were recorded. These included White-bellied Cuckooshrike and Temminck's Stint, the latter being the first record for Australia. The Temminck's Stint coincided with being the 50<sup>th</sup> species of shorebird recorded in 2015 – adding to the legend of Broome as a global shorebird mecca. Many other notable rarities were observed in 2015, including Semipalmated Plover, Little Ringed Plover, Eurasian Curlew, Ruff, Franklin's Gull, Red-rumped Swallow, Grey Wagtail, White Wagtail and Red-throated Pipit.

## Data Sources

### Birds

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.

### Reptiles, Frogs and Mammals

The following non-bird vertebrate fauna records are taken from the BBO's fauna database, which records incidental observations by BBO staff, locals and visitors to the BBO.

### 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, CJH – Chris Hassell, CM – Clare Morton, CW – Cassandra Wittwer, DR - Danny Rogers, EK – Environs Kimberley, GMa – Grace Maglio, GM – Grant Morton, GS – George Swann, MoC – Maurice O'Connor, NBY – Nyamba-Buru Yawuru Rangers, PdK – Peter de Koning, SF – Stewart Ford, RS – Roger Standen.



## Systematic Bird List

### **MAGPIE GOOSE** *Anseranus semipalmata*

**1 record**

A single record of <10 individuals at Lake Eda on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January. The lack of records during 2015 was likely reflective of poor rainfall during the 2014-2015 wet season.

### **PLUMED WHISTLING-DUCK** *Dendrocygna eytoni*

**160 records**

Recorded throughout the year, especially at the sewage ponds. One individual in the bay near Little Crab Creek on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February was unusual, and was probably unwell. A high count of 2,000 individuals was recorded at the sewage ponds on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of March. During the late wet season, regular flocks would head east of the observatory each evening to presumably forage on the flooded Roebuck Plains. Counts were difficult to ascertain, but flocks were generally in the hundreds (high count of 400 on 21<sup>st</sup> of April). The species was generally absent from the freshwater lakes on Roebuck Plains Station during the dry season, with no records between the 20<sup>th</sup> of May and 16<sup>th</sup> of October.

### **WANDERING WHISTLING-DUCK** *Dendrocygna arcuata*

**30 records**

Recorded throughout the year, generally at Lake Eda and Taylors Lagoon on Roebuck Plains Station, with the occasional record from the sewage ponds in Broome. During the late wet season, flocks would fly east over the observatory each evening, presumably to forage on the flooded Roebuck Plains. It is likely these flocks were roosting during the day at the new wastewater treatment plant on Crab Creek Rd. Ducklings were recorded at Taylors Lagoon on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May.

### **BLACK SWAN** *Cygnus atratus*

**72 records**

Recorded throughout the year at freshwater lakes and brackish lakes, including Duck Lake (Kidneybean Claypan), Lake Eda and Taylors Lagoon, with the highest counts following the wet season (66 on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April). From July onwards, no flocks consisting of more than 4 individuals were recorded.

### **FRECKLED DUCK** *Stictonetta naevosa*

**2 records**

A single individual recorded at Lake Eda between the ~12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of April (GS *et al.*).

### **PINK-EARED DUCK** *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

**114 records**

First recorded on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March at the sewage ponds, where number fluctuated throughout the year (high count of 65 on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September). This species was also recorded at Kidneybean Claypan, and the freshwater lakes on Roebuck Plains Station.

### **AUSTRALIAN WOOD DUCK [MANED DUCK]** *Chenonetta jubata*

**58 records**

Regularly recorded at Lake Eda, Lake Champion and Taylors Lagoon, with a high count of 28 at Taylors Lagoon on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May. Away from these locations, the only other records were of 2 individuals at the sewage ponds on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August and 2<sup>nd</sup> of October.

### **GREEN PYGMY GOOSE** *Nettapus pulchellus*

**33 records**

Not recorded within the region until the 20<sup>th</sup> of May at Lake Champion. Records of small numbers (1-9 individuals) were then regularly recorded for the remainder of the year at Lake Eda and Taylors Lagoon.

### **PACIFIC BLACK DUCK** *Anas superciliosa*

**197 records**

A common species recorded regularly at the sewage ponds, and freshwater lakes on Roebuck Plains Station. A high count of 90 was recorded on Roebuck Plains Station behind the observatory on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April. Ducklings were recorded at the sewage ponds on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April.

**AUSTRALASIAN SHOVELER** *Anas rhynchotis***1 record**

A single individual recorded at Lake Eda on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April.

**GREY TEAL** *Anas gracilis***193 records**

A common species recorded regularly at the sewage ponds and freshwater lakes on Roebuck Plains Station. A high count of 500 was recorded at Lake Eda on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April.

**HARDHEAD** *Aythya australis***185 records**

A common species recorded regularly at the sewage ponds and freshwater lakes on Roebuck Plains Station. Small flocks (up to 9) were seen in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. A high count of 1,000 was recorded at Lake Eda on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April.

**STUBBLE QUAIL** *Coturnix pectoralis***4 records**

Generally uncommon in the Broome region, this species was observed during the dry season from the 9<sup>th</sup> of May until the 7<sup>th</sup> of August on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory. Unidentified quails were recorded on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August and 25<sup>th</sup> of September on Roebuck Plains, and were likely of this species.

**BROWN QUAIL** *Coturnix ypsilophora***9 records**

A surprising lack of records in 2015, probably reflective of the poor rainfall during the 2014-2015 wet season. Several observations were made on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory in January, with only scattered records throughout the remainder of the year (sewage ponds, Gantheaume Point, Willaroo Well and Nimalaica).

**WILSON'S STORM-PETREL** *Oceanites oceanicus***18 records**

Recorded from May – November on seabird surveys with Absolute Ocean Charters. An interesting irruption occurred between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of May, where up to 48 individuals could be observed from the viewing platform in front of the BBO foraging in shallow water. There were no weather events preceding their occurrence that would explain their presence. Additional observations were made from the viewing platform on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June (2 individuals) and 22<sup>nd</sup> of September (2 individuals).

**STREAKED SHEARWATER** *Calonectris leucomelas***1 record**

Up to 10 recorded during an Absolute Ocean Charters seabird survey offshore of Broome on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May.

**HUTTON'S SHEARWATER** *Puffinus huttoni***3 records**

Recorded on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, 5<sup>th</sup> of June and 15<sup>th</sup> of October during seabird surveys with Absolute Ocean Charters offshore of Broome. A feeding flock of at least 200 individuals was observed on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May.

**AUSTRALASIAN GREBE** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae***120 records**

Regularly recorded throughout the year at the sewage ponds (1-3) and freshwater lakes on Roebuck Plains Station. Large counts were recorded following the wet season, with 150 observed at Lake Campion and 100 at Taylors Lagoon on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May.

**HOARY-HEADED GREBE** *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus***77 records**

From March, recorded throughout the remainder of the year mostly at freshwater lakes on Roebuck Plains Station. The highest counts were at the start of the dry season, with 18 at Lake Campion on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, and 20 at Duck Lake (Kidneybean Claypan) in early June.

**GREAT-CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus* **3 records**

Rarely recorded during 2015, with 1-3 individuals recorded at Duck Lake (Kidneybean Claypan) between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June, and 2 at Lake Eda on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October.

**BLACK-NECKED STORK** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* **154 records**

Recorded throughout the year in Roebuck Bay, and regularly at freshwater and brackish lakes on Roebuck Plains. Nesting may have been attempted in March/April within the Crab Creek mangroves, as adult birds were observed perched high in a patch of mangroves almost daily during this period. Juvenile birds were later seen around the mouth of Crab Creek during the dry season.

**AUSTRALIAN WHITE IBIS** *Threskiornis molucca* **314 records**

Common throughout the year in coastal, freshwater, grassland and urban habitats. Orange-stained individuals (from bathing in muddy water, particularly at the rubbish tip) often caused confusion for visiting birdwatchers as to what species of ibis they were observing. Stained individuals were given the colloquial name 'Pindan Ibis'.

**STRAW-NECKED IBIS** *Threskiornis spinicollis* **264 records**

Common throughout the year in grasslands (both dry and wet), sports fields in Broome, the sewage ponds and edges of freshwater lakes. A high count of 200 was recorded on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April.

**GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellus* **101 records**

A much more common species in the first half of the year while the grasslands on Roebuck Plains were flooded. A high count of 70 was recorded behind the observatory on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. Numbers decreased at the start of the dry season, although 50 were recorded at Lake Eda on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June. By the end of the dry season (September-November), this species could only be observed at Lake Eda, Lake Campion, Taylors Lagoon and occasionally the sports fields and sewage ponds in Broome.

**ROYAL SPOONBILL** *Platalea regia* **137 records**

Common throughout the year in Roebuck Bay (particularly near the mouth of Crab Creek) and the sewage ponds. Late in the dry season, 1 was observed at Taylors Lagoon on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October, followed by 2 at the same location on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November.

**YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL** *Platalea flavipes* **7 records**

The first record of the year wasn't until the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, when 2 were present at Lake Eda. Only individuals were then recorded for the remainder of the year, with 1 at Kidneybean Claypan on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June; 1 at Lake Eda on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July; 1 at Taylors Lagoon on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July; and 1 at Lake Campion on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, and 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of September.

**NANKEEN NIGHT HERON** *Nycticorax caledonicus* **10 records**

Infrequently recorded, although likely more common than records suggest. In Roebuck Bay, this species appears to roost within the mangroves, emerging at dusk to forage at nearby wetlands. Recorded flying over the Crab Creek mangroves during evening migration watches, with a high count of 19 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. Other records included 3 feeding at night at Duck Lake (Kidneybean Claypan) on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July; heard calling over the observatory on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of August; and 1 at Nimalaica on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November. The head and wings of an adult bird were found in front of the BBO viewing platform on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September – likely the remains of a White-bellied Sea-Eagle catch.

**STRIATED HERON** *Butorides striata* **183 records**

Common throughout the year in coastal habitats, particularly near mangroves.



**EASTERN CATTLE EGRET** *Bubulcus coromandus* **14 records**

Recorded during the dry season in small numbers. The earliest record was of one individual on Roebuck Plains Station behind the observatory on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April. Up to 6 individuals were recorded at Lake Eda between the 17<sup>th</sup> of June and 8<sup>th</sup> of September. This species was also recorded at the sewage ponds on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July (1) and 4<sup>th</sup> of October (1), with the latter observation being the last record for the year in the region.

**WHITE-NECKED HERON** *Ardea pacifica* **92 records**

Common throughout the year at freshwater lakes and flooded grasslands, particularly on Roebuck Plains Station. Unusually, this species was observed in Roebuck Bay on three occasions (7<sup>th</sup> of April, 15<sup>th</sup> of May and 3<sup>rd</sup> of July). Two of these observations were of individuals flying low over Crab Creek, while one involved a resting bird on the mudflats near Fall Point. Highest numbers were at Lake Eda, where 35 individuals were observed on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June.

**GREAT EGRET** *Ardea alba* **234 records**

Common throughout the year in coastal and freshwater habitats. A high count of 110 individuals was recorded on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March.

**INTERMEDIATE EGRET** *Egretta intermedia* **5 records**

There were very few records of this species in 2015, likely due to the below average rainfall during the 2014-2015 wet season. Records included 1 at Kidneybean Claypan on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February; 2 on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March; 1 at Lake Eda on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June; and 1 at Nimalaica on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October and 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

**WHITE-FACED HERON** *Egretta novaehollandiae* **240 records**

Common in Roebuck Bay and at wetlands and flooded grasslands on Roebuck Plains throughout the year.

**LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta* **246 records**

Common throughout the year in coastal and freshwater habitats. A high count of 50 individuals was recorded on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March.

**PACIFIC REEF HERON [EASTERN REEF EGRET]** *Egretta sacra* **197 records**

Common throughout the year in coastal habitats, particularly around rocky points and beaches. The majority of records were of dark morph individuals, although white morphs were seen occasionally in Roebuck Bay and at Coconut Well. Two were recorded at the sewage ponds; a white morph on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, and a dark morph on 14<sup>th</sup> of July.

**AUSTRALIAN PELICAN** *Pelicanus conspicillatus* **346 records**

Recorded throughout the year in Roebuck Bay, the sewage ponds, and on the brackish and freshwater lakes on Roebuck Plains Station. A large (>200 individuals) feeding flock was observed in Roebuck Bay near the mouth of Crab Creek, from the 29<sup>th</sup> of April until the 14<sup>th</sup> of July, with a high count of 796 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May.

**LESSER FRIGATEBIRD** *Fregata ariel* **37 records**

First recorded at Nimalaica on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March, when a large flock of 27 individuals was observed. Recorded regularly in small numbers for the remainder of the year, along the Roebuck Bay coast, as well as around Broome (particularly at Gantheaume and Entrance Points).

**BROWN BOOBY** *Sula leucogaster* **91 records**

Infrequently recorded during the start of year, with records increasing from June. Over 100 were observed offshore of Broome on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July during an Absolute Ocean Charters seabird survey, while up to 40 were regularly observed foraging in Roebuck Bay during the remainder of the dry season.

**LITTLE PIED CORMORANT** *Microcarbo melanoleucos* **30 records**

Recorded throughout the year, but generally infrequently. Most observations were of individuals in coastal habitats. However, records also came from the freshwater lakes on Roebuck Plains Station (Lake Eda, Lake Champion and Taylors Lagoon).

**LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* **77 records**

Regularly recorded in Roebuck Bay, particularly flying over the mangroves in the late afternoons during the migration watch period (March/April).

**AUSTRALIAN PIED CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax varius* **170 records**

Common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year, with most observations being of roosting birds along the edge of Crab Creek at low tide. Also recorded at coastal sites around Broome and Coconut Well, including an individual at the sewage ponds on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August.

**AUSTRALASIAN DARTER** *Anhinga novaehollandiae* **47 records**

First recorded on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April at Lake Champion. Records followed throughout the region for the remainder of the year. Counts generally consisted on a single individual, although 4 individuals were observed in the bay on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July.

**EASTERN OSPREY** *Pandion cristatus* **204 records**

Common in coastal habitats. Regularly observed perched on communications towers and light poles in Broome, particularly close to the Port and Gantheaume Point. Nesting was recorded in Broome during the early dry season.

**BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE** *Elanus axillaris* **133 records**

Recorded throughout the year, although numbers on Roebuck Plains were highest during the dry season, with flocks of 10 and 11 individuals recorded on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July and 10<sup>th</sup> of August respectively. There were regular reports of this species from the Broome township throughout the year.

**SQUARE-TAILED KITE** *Lophoictinia isura* **2 records**

Two records, possibly representing the same individual, were reported from the area around One Tree on the 15<sup>th</sup> (PdK) and 17<sup>th</sup> of July.

**BLACK-BREASTED BUZZARD** *Hamirostra melanosternon* **81 records**

Recorded throughout the year in small numbers, mostly in open grassland habitats or near water sources. Individuals were regularly seen on Roebuck Plains at the end of the wet season, but during the late dry season they were mostly concentrated at ephemeral lakes (e.g. up to six were at Lake Eda in September).

**LITTLE EAGLE** *Hieraaetus morphnoides* **14 records**

Recorded during the early dry season (April to July), mostly on Roebuck Plains Station behind the observatory. One adult was observed to catch and kill a Straw-necked Ibis on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, while another was observed fighting with a Swamp Harrier for White-faced Heron remains that presumably the Little Eagle had killed on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June.

**WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE** *Aquila audax* **121 records**  
Widespread, but generally in low numbers. Most records were from Roebuck Plains Station, with a high count of five individuals on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August.

**BROWN GOSHAWK** *Accipiter fasciatus* **364 records**  
Recorded throughout the region during the year. Observed almost daily at the BBO, particularly at the bird baths behind the Shadehouse, where a high count of eight individuals occurred on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June.

**COLLARED SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter cirrhocephalus* **23 records**  
Widespread, but only periodically observed throughout the year. Most observations came from Roebuck Plains Station close to ephemeral lakes. At least one individual was observed coming to the bird baths between the 14<sup>th</sup> of September and 27<sup>th</sup> of October.

**SWAMP HARRIER** *Circus approximans* **83 records**  
Recorded throughout the year, although most observations occurred during the late wet season when they were regularly seen on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory, and around the edge of Kidneybean Claypan.

**SPOTTED HARRIER** *Circus assimilis* **129 records**  
Common throughout the year, particularly in grasslands and ephemeral lake edges on Roebuck Plains Station. One individual was observed flying along the edge of the bay during migration watch on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April.

**BLACK KITE** *Milvus migrans* **337 records**  
Common throughout the region, with greatest concentrations at the sewage ponds, rubbish tip and on Roebuck Plains (high counts of 400, 250 and 300 respectively). Numbers were greatest during the dry season.

**WHISTLING KITE** *Haliastur sphenurus* **376 records**  
Widespread and common throughout the region. A pair attempted to nest on Roebuck Plains Station behind the observatory during the dry season, but did not appear to be successful. A high count of 30 individuals was recorded on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August.

**BRAHMINY KITE** *Haliastur Indus* **346 records**  
Recorded throughout the year, mostly in coastal habitats, but also regularly near ephemeral lakes on Roebuck Plains Station. High counts of 13 and 12 were recorded on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of April, respectively, on the edge of saltmarsh on Roebuck Plains. One individual was observed to kill a Grey Teal at Kidneybean Claypan on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July.

**WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE** *Haliaeetus leucogaster* **369 records**  
Recorded throughout the year, mostly in coastal habitats, but also regularly near ephemeral lakes on Roebuck Plains Station. One individual was observed to pluck a Darwin Stick-insect (*Eurycnema osiris*) from the highest foliage of a tree along the pindan cliffs near the BBO, but most of their diet appeared to consist of sea snakes.

**AUSTRALIAN BUSTARD** *Ardeotis australis* **71 records**  
Recorded throughout the year on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory, mostly in small groups, with a high count of 9 recorded on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May. Also observed near the edges of the lakes on Roebuck Plains Station.

**SPOTLESS CRAKE** *Porzana tabuensis* **1 record**

A single record from Collins Lagoon on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May (CM, GM).

**CRAKE sp.** *Porzana sp.* **2 records**

Two crakes were flushed from wet grassland in late March (20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>) behind the observatory. They were likely Baillon's Crake, but views were insufficient to clinch the identification.

**AUSTRALASIAN SWAMPHEN** *Porphyrio melanotus* **5 records**

Very few records in 2015, although likely found throughout the year at sites such as Nimalaica. Three were observed at Lake Eda on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April. Recorded at Nimalaica from the 5<sup>th</sup> of October to the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, with 14 individuals recorded on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October.

**BLACK-TAILED NATIVE HEN** *Gallinula ventralis* **3 records**

Scarce, with only three records from late in the wet season. One individual was seen in a small scrape on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of March. Presumably a different individual was observed in tall, wet grasses on the edge of Lake Eda on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May.

**EURASIAN COOT** *Fulica atra* **178 records**

Common, but local throughout the region. Regularly observed at the sewage ponds, as well as the lakes on Roebuck Plains. A high count of 970 was recorded at Lake Eda on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, with 900 also seen at the same location on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May.

**BROLGA** *Grus rubicunda* **221 records**

Common throughout the year, although greatest numbers occurred during the dry season. Observed throughout Roebuck Plains, particularly near the edges of freshwater and brackish lakes, and cattle water tanks. During the dry season, Lake Eda held the greatest numbers, with up to 500 individuals present for several months. A flock of around 100 individuals were present near a cattle water tank along the Great Northern Highway (where it crosses Roebuck Plains) through most of the dry season.

**LITTLE BUTTON-QUAIL** *Turnix velox* **3 records**

Scarce. One was flushed from the Malurus Trail behind the observatory on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, while a second was observed beside the Shadehouse within the observatory grounds on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May. Another was seen later in the year on the track between Lake Champion and Lake Eda on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July.

**BUTTON-QUAIL SP.** *Turnix sp* **3 records**

Three records in early June, all from the edge of Kidneybean Claypan on Roebuck Plains. Two records are suspected to be of Red-chested Button-quail (1 on the 1<sup>st</sup>; 1 on the 10<sup>th</sup>), while 6 observed on the 5<sup>th</sup> could not be identified any further than *Turnix sp.*

**BUSH STONE CURLEW** *Burhinus grallarius* **8 records**

An individual was seen twice at the observatory between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and February. Recorded four times along Crab Creek Road at night, and once (2 individuals) on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory on 9<sup>th</sup> of May.

**BEACH STONE CURLEW** *Esacus magnirostris* **6 records**

The first record of the year was an individual in the bay in front of the observatory on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, and continued until the 26<sup>th</sup> of October. Single birds were also seen at Barred Creek on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, and Gantheaume Point on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November.

**PIED OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus longirostris* **220 records**

Common in Roebuck Bay and coastal habitats throughout the year. A high count of 194 individuals was recorded at Bush Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. A nest with two eggs was found at Quarry Beach in Roebuck Bay on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July, with eggs still present on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. At least one chick hatched, and was seen on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August. However, it was not seen after this date, so may have been taken by a predator before fledging. Nesting attempts in Roebuck Bay are rare, due to the risk of eggs being lost to the tide.

**SOOTY OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus fuliginosus* **79 records**

Recorded regularly in Roebuck Bay throughout the year, but generally towards the Quarry Beach end of the Northern shores. Often recorded around the headlands of Broome, including Gantheaume Point and Entrance Point, as well as Coconut Well.

**WHITE-HEADED STILT** *Himantopus leucocephalus* **324 records**

Common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year, particularly close to the Crab Creek Mangroves. Regularly observed at the sewage works, as well as the ephemeral lakes on Roebuck Plains Station. A high count of 400 was recorded in Roebuck Bay on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June.

**BANDED STILT** *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus* **12 records**

All 12 records likely constitute the same individual, first seen at Duck Lake on Roebuck Plains on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July. It continued at Duck Lake until the 21<sup>st</sup> of July, before being re-located in Roebuck Bay on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, where it remained until the 16<sup>th</sup> of October.

**RED-NECKED AVOCET** *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae* **123 records**

Recorded in Roebuck Bay from the 7<sup>th</sup> of April until at least the 15<sup>th</sup> of November. Counts peaked around the mid-June, when up to 100 were observed. Small numbers (<12) were occasionally seen on the ephemeral lakes on Roebuck Plains Station, between the 10<sup>th</sup> of May and 30<sup>th</sup> of September.

**BANDED LAPWING** *Vanellus tricolor* **2 records**

Two Banded Lapwings were present at 'Rat Poison Tank' (Roebuck Plains Station) on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of July.

**MASKED LAPWING** *Vanellus miles* **236 records**

Common at the sewage works and on the sports ovals in Broome throughout the year. Recorded at all the ephemeral lakes on Roebuck Plains Station throughout the dry season, including a high count of 76 at Lake Eda on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July.

**RED-KNEED DOTTEREL** *Erythrogonys cinctus* **73 records**

Recorded in small numbers (usually <5) throughout most of the year at Taylors Lagoon, Lake Champion and Lake Eda. During the dry season, this species was observed in Roebuck Bay on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June (1) and 15<sup>th</sup> of September (2), both unusual records at this location. A high count of 20 was recorded at Lake Champion on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September.

**PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis fulva* **126 records**

Common in small numbers (usually <20) in Roebuck Bay until early May. Prior to migration, a high count of 96 were recorded at the BRAC ovals on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. During the early dry season, single birds were recorded in the bay on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of June, as well as one at Bush Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. From the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August onwards, Pacific Golden Plovers were recorded regularly, both in Roebuck Bay and the ovals and sewage works in Broome. Up to 4 were present at Lake Eda between the 28<sup>th</sup> of October and 11<sup>th</sup> of November.

**GREY PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola* **151 records**  
Recorded in Roebuck Bay throughout the year (usually <20), although very few birds were present in the early dry season. A high count of 107 were recorded at Bush Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July.

**SEMIPALMATED PLOVER** *Charadrius semipalmatus* **22 records**  
The regular returning bird was at its predictable location at the sewage works until at least the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. It returned to the sewage works on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September (BBO), where it could be seen for the remainder of the year, although was also seen foraging at low tide on nearby Simpsons Beach.

**LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius dubius* **15 records**  
An individual in post-breeding plumage was present at Taylors Lagoon from 18<sup>th</sup> of August until the 13<sup>th</sup> of October. Presumably, the same individual was then relocated at Lake Eda on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October and remained until the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, and was in non-breeding plumage by this stage. A breeding-plumaged individual was later seen at Lake Eda in December which may have represented a second individual.

**RED-CAPPED PLOVER** *Charadrius ruficapillus* **239 records**  
Recorded in Roebuck Bay throughout the year, as well as along the edges of freshwater and brackish lakes on Roebuck Plains Station. Over 1000 were recorded at Bush Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, while at least 500 were along the Northern shores in late June.

**LESSER SAND PLOVER** *Charadrius mongolus* **147 records**  
Present in Roebuck Bay in small numbers (e.g. < 30) throughout the year. Away from Roebuck Bay, this species was recorded at Kidneybean Claypan (once on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February), Gantheaume Point, Simpsons Beach (Broome), Bush Point, Coconut Well and Barred Creek.

**GREATER SAND PLOVER** *Charadrius leschenaultia* **193 records**  
Common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. At Bush Point, 2400 were recorded on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. Also recorded at Kidneybean Claypan, Entrance Point, Gantheaume Point, Cable Beach, Coconut Well and Barred Creek.

**ORIENTAL PLOVER** *Charadrius veredus* **53 records**  
Recorded in Roebuck Bay and Roebuck Plains Station in low numbers until the 20<sup>th</sup> of February. Unusually, a breeding-plumaged adult was seen on the mudflats in front of the observatory on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May. The first returning birds were noted in Roebuck Bay on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September (8 individuals), and were regularly recorded in both the bay and on Roebuck Plains Station (particularly the ephemeral lakes) for the remainder of the year. A high count of 470 were recorded along the Northern shores on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November.

**BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL** *Euseyornis melanops* **150 records**  
Recorded throughout the year at the sewage works, as well as at the ephemeral lakes on Roebuck Plains Station from late April until late November. Usually less than 10 were present at any particular site.

**AUSTRALIAN PAINTED SNIPE** *Rostratula australis* **4 records**  
The only records of this species came late in the year, when a pair were present on the edge of Lake Eda between the 11<sup>th</sup> of November and 11<sup>th</sup> of December.



**COMB-CRESTED JACANA** *Metopidius gallinacean* **3 records**  
Scarce. Single birds were seen at Taylors Lagoon (24<sup>th</sup> of May) and Lake Campion (17<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of July).

**SWINHOE'S SNIPE** *Gallinago megala* **6 records**  
All six records likely represent the same individual. The only *Gallinago* sp. confidently identified in 2015 was a Swinhoe's Snipe at Lake Eda, initially seen by GS on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, but continued until at least the 13<sup>th</sup> of October. The spread tail of this individual was photographed confirming its identification.

**SWINHOE'S / PIN-TAILED SNIPE** *Gallinago megala / stenura* **12 records**  
Up to three individuals were recorded at the sewage ponds between the 21<sup>st</sup> of January and 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. The first returned snipe to the sewage ponds was an individual seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October; with further sightings of unidentified snipe occurring at Lake Eda on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November (possibly the Swinhoe's Snipe last seen on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October?), one bird on the BRAC ovals in Broome on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, and three birds on the BRAC ovals on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December (with one almost certainly a Swinhoe's Snipe). No snipe observed during 2015 were suggestive of Pin-tailed Snipe based on structure and plumage alone.

**ASIAN DOWITCHER** *Limnodromus semipalmatus* **79 records**  
Recorded throughout the year in Roebuck Bay, including during the dry season, although mostly absent along the Northern shores from late September onwards. Late wet season high counts included 153 foraging in the bay on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, 142 roosting at Wader Beach on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, 92 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April in the bay, and 72 observed migrating from the BBO migration watch site on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April.

During the dry season, up to 15 were present roosting on the beaches at high tide, to the delight of birdwatchers interested in seeing this highly-prized species! The shorebird counts at Bush Point recorded 10 individuals on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. Number along the Northern shores dropped from late August, with only single birds generally seen from then onwards. However, the shorebird counts at Bush Point on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December recorded a very high count of 167 individuals.

**BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa* **200 records**  
Common throughout the year in Roebuck Bay, with 2,000 observed prior to migration on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April. Away from the Northern shores, this species was also observed at Bush Point (82 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, also on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November), Lake Eda from the 18<sup>th</sup> of August to the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, Lake Campion on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of September, and Taylors Lagoon on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September and 26<sup>th</sup> of November.

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica* **240 records**  
Very common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year, with counts regularly over 1000 individuals. This species was the most numerous species observed migrating during the 2015 migration watch, with 5,197 individuals observed departing (accounting for 27.7% of all noted departures).

**LITTLE CURLEW** *Numenius minutus* **77 records**  
Recorded during the first half of the year, until the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, after which this species was not observed until the 17<sup>th</sup> of September (six at Quarry Beach). High counts included 700 seen on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February, 400 at the same location on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April, and between 150 – 205 individuals at Lake Eda from the 13<sup>th</sup> of October until the 11<sup>th</sup> of November.

Away from the grassland and lakes on Roebuck Plains Station, this species was frequent on the town ovals in Broome, particularly the BRAC ovals, as well as the golf course and sewage ponds.

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus***267 records**

Common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. 1,925 were observed migrating between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of April, and accounted for 10.3% of all observed shorebird departures. Away from the Northern shores of Roebuck Bay, Whimbrel were recorded at Bush Point (including 437 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July), Simpson's Beach (Broome), Entrance Point, Gantheaume Point, Coconut Well and Barred Creek.

**EURASIAN CURLEW** *Numenius arquata***7 records**

A Eurasian Curlew (subspecies *orientalis*) was found during the AWSG shorebird and tern banding expedition on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February. It was relocated on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, when photographs were taken. Based on its moult, this individual appeared to be in its first year of life. It was therefore not unexpected that it remained in Roebuck Bay during the dry season, and was subsequently seen on several more occasions, but was never predictable. The curlew was seen at Bush Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July (AB), which may explain its absence from the Northern shores during most of the dry season. However, it seemed to return to the Northern shores in October, and was seen on three occasions between the 20<sup>th</sup> of October and 12<sup>th</sup> of November (DR). This species is a vagrant to Australia, with this record being the second for Broome, but likely the fourth record for Australia. This record was accepted by BARC (Case #861).



Figure 2. Eurasian Curlew in Roebuck Bay. 19th February 2015 (Ric Else)

**FAR EASTERN CURLEW** *Numenius madagascariensis***218 records**

Common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. This species was the first noted shorebird to depart Roebuck Bay, with the first departure occurring on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March (22 individuals). 300 were present on Mintons Straight (east of the observatory) during February, but dropped to 85 individuals during the dry season. During the shorebird counts at Bush Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, 247 were recorded (AB, NJ). Numbers increased to 275 along the Northern shores in mid-October, with 459 counted along Mintons Straight on 18<sup>th</sup> of November (CJH, NJ).

**COMMON REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus***58 records**

Recorded in small numbers throughout the year. Prior to the northward migration, up to 8 were present in Roebuck Bay. From the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, no more than 2 individuals were recorded, until the 27<sup>th</sup> of August (3 individuals). Numbers soon climbed to a high count of 7 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October.

Mostly seen feeding along the edge of Crab Creek and Little Crab Creek, although occasionally roosting at high tide along Northern shores, particularly among Common Greenshank at 'Greenshank Corner', near the observatory.

**MARSH SANDPIPER** *Tringa stagnatilis***96 records**

Recorded throughout the year, including the dry season, though usually in small numbers. Regularly present in Roebuck Bay, as well as the freshwater lakes of Roebuck Plains Station. The highest count of the year was 110 at Lake Campion on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September.

**COMMON GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia* **341 records**

Common throughout the year in Roebuck Bay. Also regularly recorded on the freshwater lakes of Roebuck Plains Station. At Bush Point, 286 were counted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, while 300 were at Duck Lake on Roebuck Plains on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August. The highest count along the Northern shores was 191 on Mintons Straight on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November.

**WOOD SANDPIPER** *Tringa glareola* **68 records**

Recorded on Roebuck Plains Station until the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, after which no further sightings occurred until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July (first noted arrival). Regularly recorded at the sewage ponds, and freshwater habitats throughout the region. During a shorebird count at Lake Eda on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November, 138 individuals were observed.

**GREY-TAILED TATTLER** *Heteroscelus brevipes* **215 records**

Common throughout the year in Roebuck Bay, with the highest count being 420 individuals on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November (SF). The only non-coastal record was an individual at Taylors Lagoon on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October.

**TEREK SANDPIPER** *Xenus cinereus* **197 records**

Common throughout the year in Roebuck Bay, with the highest count being 120 individuals at Little Crab Creek on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February.

**COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos* **209 records**

Common in Roebuck Bay until mid-April, with almost all individuals likely departed. A single record in the bay on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May was the only record until the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July (1 at Cable Beach). From mid-July onwards, this species became common and widespread along the coast, with several records also coming from the freshwater lakes on Roebuck Plains Station (Lake Eda on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, and 6<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> of October; up to 5 at Taylors Lagoon between the 29<sup>th</sup> of September and 6<sup>th</sup> of October).

**RUDDY TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres* **179 records**

Common along the Northern shores of Roebuck Bay throughout the year. Also recorded at Entrance Point, Gantheaume Point, the sewage ponds, Coconut Well, Barred Creek and Bush Point. Two were seen foraging on the BRAC ovals in Broome on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March.

**GREAT KNOT** *Calidris tenuirostris* **224 records**

Common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. The dry season high count was 2,830 individuals at Bush Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July.

**RED KNOT** *Calidris canutus* **208 records**

Common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. The dry season high count was 947 individuals at Bush Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July.

**SANDERLING** *Calidris alba* **15 records**

Local, but reasonably common at certain sites within the region. Most often seen on white, sandy beaches, such as Cable Beach and Coconut Well. 10 were seen at Bush Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, while single birds were observed roosting at high tide along the Northern shores on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March, 12<sup>th</sup> of October, 18<sup>th</sup> of October and 12<sup>th</sup> of November.

**RED-NECKED STINT** *Calidris ruficollis* **241 records**

Common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. Occasionally seen at the sewage works, as well as Lake Eda (27<sup>th</sup> of August to 11<sup>th</sup> of November) and Taylors Lagoon (26<sup>th</sup> of April; 1<sup>st</sup> of September to 26<sup>th</sup> of November).

**LONG-TOED STINT** *Calidris subminuta***41 records**

Very few records early in the year, with up to four seen around the edge of Kidneybean Claypan between the 25<sup>th</sup> of January and 20<sup>th</sup> of February. A very late (or very early?) record of a single bird at Lake Campion on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June (CM, GM) was unusual. The first apparent arrival was a single bird at Lake Eda on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August, with regular reports coming in from early September. A high count of 33 were recorded at Lake Eda on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. All records came from ephemeral lakes on Roebuck Plains Station, except for regular sightings at the sewage ponds in Broome.

**TEMMINCK'S STINT** *Calidris temminckii***3 records**

Three records of the same individual. The first confirmed, but long-awaited, record for Australia. A fantastic find by Broome locals CM and GM, at Lake Eda on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November. This bird was seen by a number of local birders, but only a handful of interstate birders. Present until at least the 24<sup>th</sup> of December, it would forage on drying mud patches around the edges of pools, often providing crippling views to observers. Accepted by BARC (Case #893).



Figure 3. Temminck's Stint at Lake Eda. Left - 29<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (Clare and Grant Morton) and Right - 24<sup>th</sup> December 2015 (Rohan Clarke – wildlifeimages.com.au)

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** *Calidris melanotos***1 record**

A single record of two birds seen on the edge of a dam on Roebuck Plains (east of the highway) during our Wave the Waders Goodbye course on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March.

**SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER** *Calidris acuminata***135 records**

Common throughout the year, both in Roebuck Bay and on the freshwater lakes of Roebuck Plains Station. At least 10 individuals were present during the dry season.

**CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris ferruginea***192 records**

Common throughout the year in Roebuck Bay. An adult in full-breeding plumage at Lake Eda on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May caught observers by surprise. Another bird in breeding plumage was seen at Lake Eda on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October.

**BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER** *Calidris falcinellus***85 records**

Fairly common throughout the year in Roebuck Bay. 130 were counted at 'Wader Beach' on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, with numbers dropping to 26 during the dry season. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of November, 100 were seen in the bay.

**RUFF** *Philomachus pugnax***5 records**

One individual was present at Lake Campion between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of September, where it would feed among Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. An individual observed at Taylors Lagoon on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, was likely the same bird seen at Lake Campion.

**AUSTRALIAN PRATINCOLE** *Stiltia isabella***186 records**

First record of the year was one on Roebuck Plains (east of the highway) on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. Numbers increased through the dry season, with 200 at the same location on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, 150 at Lake Eda on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, increasing to 400 by the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. Regularly recorded at the freshwater lakes on Roebuck Plains Station until at least the 26<sup>th</sup> of November (10 at Taylors Lagoon). An unusual record was 16 flying over Roebuck Bay on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May.

**ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE** *Glareola maldivarum***36 records**

Common from January to mid-late February, when astonishing flocks of up to 50,000 individuals were present on Roebuck Plains. Numbers dropped quickly from late February onwards, with only four seen on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, and two on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April.

The first arrivals were noted on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October with one at Lake Eda (BBO course participant) and three at Taylors Lagoon (CJH). Small numbers were then present at both of these lakes until late November.

**SILVER GULL** *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae***325 records**

Recorded throughout the year in Roebuck Bay and Broome. High counts of 200 were recorded at the sewage works on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October and 24<sup>th</sup> of November.

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** *Leucophaeus pipixcan***1 record**

An immature bird with Silver Gulls was photographed at the sewage works on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January.



Figure 4. Franklin's Gull at the sewage works. 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015 (Ric Else)

**GULL-BILLED TERN** *Gelochelidon nilotica***293 records**

Subspecies *macrotarsa* (Australian Gull-billed Tern): Recorded throughout the year in Roebuck Bay and Broome. Common on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory following the wet season, where they would feed on the abundant grasshoppers. Occasionally recorded at Lake Eda, Lake Campion and Taylors Lagoon.

Subspecies *affinis* (Asian Gull-billed Tern): Less common than *macrotarsa*, but still regularly seen in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. Observed migrating between the 24<sup>th</sup> of March and 30<sup>th</sup> of April.

**CASPIAN TERN** *Hydroprogne caspia***227 records**

Regularly recorded in small numbers in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. Also recorded coastally around Broome, and were often recorded roosting at high tide at the sewage ponds. A high count of 33 were recorded at Bush Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July.

**GREATER CRESTED TERN** *Thalasseus bergii* **143 records**  
Common in small numbers in Roebuck Bay and coastally around Broome throughout the year.

**LESSER CRESTED TERN** *Thalasseus bengalensis* **171 records**  
Common in Roebuck Bay and coastally around Broome throughout the year. Numbers peaked in the early dry season, with around 400 along the Northern Shores of Roebuck Bay in mid-May, and 914 at Bush Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July (AB, NJ).

**LITTLE TERN** *Sternula albifrons* **130 records**  
Common along the Northern shores of Roebuck Bay, although generally scarce from May until late August. Regularly seen along the coast of Broome, as well as offshore. 221 individuals were recorded at Bush Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July.

**BRIDLED TERN** *Onychoprion anaethetus* **5 records**  
Recorded offshore on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May (2), 5<sup>th</sup> of June (1), 15<sup>th</sup> of October (2) and 6<sup>th</sup> of November (1). 3 were seen feeding with a large tern flock from Gantheaume Point on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

**SOOTY TERN** *Onychoprion fuscatus* **1 record**  
A single record of a juvenile flying over the entrance of Barred Creek.

**ROSEATE TERN** *Sterna dougallii* **2 records**  
Under-recorded, with only two records, both from offshore of Broome on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July and 6<sup>th</sup> of November.

**COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo* **17 records**  
Up to 30 recorded at Gantheaume Point and Entrance Point until late March, but was not recorded again until the 5<sup>th</sup> of June (2 offshore). 16 were observed at Bush Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, and large numbers were seen from September onwards, mostly offshore, but also around the headlands in Broome.

**WHISKERED TERN** *Chlidonias hybrida* **302 records**  
Recorded throughout the year in Roebuck Bay. Recorded at the sewage works up until May, but not observed again until early August. High counts of 232 were counted at Bush Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, while 263 were at the sewage works on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July. Occasionally seen in small numbers at Lake Eda, Lake Champion and Taylors Lagoon. Juveniles were observed at Kidneybean Claypan in late April, but local breeding was not recorded.

**WHITE-WINGED [BLACK] TERN** *Chlidonias leucopterus* **72 records**  
Regularly recorded on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory and the sewage ponds until the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, with most individuals in full-breeding plumage by this stage. The first returned bird was noted at the sewage ponds on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. Recorded at Taylors Lagoon on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October, and Lake Eda on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November.

**FLOCK BRONZEWING** *Phaps histrionica* **23 records**  
Generally scarce, with the first record of the year being 2 flying over Roebuck Bay on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April. Small numbers (<5) were recorded at Taylors Lagoon and Kidneybean Claypan in June and July. Between the 15<sup>th</sup> of August and 15<sup>th</sup> of November, up to 22 were reliably seen near a water tank outflow beside the Great Northern Hwy where it crosses Roebuck Plains.



**CRESTED PIGEON** *Ocyphaps lophotes* **274 records**  
Common on Roebuck Plains Station and in Broome throughout the year. Occasionally recorded at the observatory.

**DIAMOND DOVE** *Geopelia cuneata* **180 records**  
Less common than Peaceful, but recorded throughout the year at the observatory. More frequently recorded coming to drink at the ephemeral lakes on Roebuck Plains Station, particularly during the dry season. More than 500 were recorded at Willaroo Well on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May.

**PEACEFUL DOVE** *Geopelia striata* **319 records**  
Recorded throughout the year at the observatory and elsewhere in the region.

**BAR-SHOULDERED DOVE** *Geopelia humeralis* **322 records**  
Recorded throughout the year at the observatory and elsewhere in the region, although generally fairly close to the coast.

**PHEASANT COUCAL** *Centropus phasianinus* **120 records**  
Common and widespread (particularly coastally), with records throughout the year, but less frequently recorded during the early dry season (i.e. June).

**PACIFIC KOEL** *Eudynamys orientalis* **1 record**  
A single record of a calling bird along Raible Road (Broome) on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January (GS).

**CHANNEL-BILLED CUCKOO** *Scythrops novaehollandiae* **29 records**  
Recorded at 12 Mile, the observatory and Coconut Well until the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. The first returning birds were recorded at 12 Mile on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, with widespread records from early October onwards.

**HORSFIELD'S BRONZE CUCKOO** *Chrysococcyx basalus* **113 records**  
Commonly recorded throughout the year. A juvenile was observed being fed by Red-backed Fairy-wrens along Crab Creek Road on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April.

**BLACK-EARED CUCKOO** *Chrysococcyx osculans* **7 records**  
Up to 6 recorded along the edge of the Roebuck Plains behind the observatory between the 24<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of January (GS *et al.*), while single birds were recorded at the observatory on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February and 31<sup>st</sup> of March.

**LITTLE BRONZE CUCKOO** *Chrysococcyx minutillus* **177 records**  
Recorded throughout the year, in Broome and along the Northern shores of Roebuck Bay (including the Crab Creek mangroves). Also recorded at Barred Creek, Nimalaica and on Roebuck Plains Station.

**PALLID CUCKOO** *Cacomantis pallidus* **22 records**  
Infrequently recorded, but from widespread locations. First recorded on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. Recorded at the observatory between the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May and 21<sup>st</sup> of June, when up to 2 were seen. Also recorded at the ephemeral lakes on Roebuck Plains Station, up until the 5<sup>th</sup> of November. Juveniles were observed at the Port on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May and 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

**BRUSH CUCKOO** *Cacomantis variolosus* **106 records**  
Regularly heard throughout the region (including the observatory) until early April. Only four records between the 4<sup>th</sup> of April and 20<sup>th</sup> of August, all close to the observatory. From early September,

regularly recorded at the observatory, Nimalaica, as well as the ephemeral lakes on Roebuck Plains Station.

**ORIENTAL CUCKOO** *Cuculus optatus*

**3 records**

Scarce. Three records, all of single birds (the same individual?), including one along Crab Creek Road between the observatory and One Tree on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January and 12<sup>th</sup> of March, and one at the observatory on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February.

**EASTERN BARN OWL** *Tyto delicatula*

**6 records**

Recorded occasionally throughout the dry season, mostly on Roebuck Plains Station near Kidneybean Claypan. A high count of 8 individuals were seen along a fenceline near Kidneybean Claypan on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October. Away from Roebuck Plains, an individual was seen along the all-weather section of Crab Creek Road on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May.

**BARKING OWL** *Ninox connivens*

**19 records**

An individual was found roosting at the observatory on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, where it remained until the 29<sup>th</sup> of April. At night it could be seen perching prominently (e.g. on roof-top aerals) around the parking area. Also recorded in Broome and the sewage works, 12 Mile, and Nimalaica.

**SOUTHERN BOOBOOK** *Ninox boobook*

**26 records**

Widespread, but generally infrequently recorded. Heard calling between late February and April, and again in October. Most often seen at night along Crab Creek Road.

**TAWNY FROGMOUTH** *Podargus strigoides*

**69 records**

One bird was regularly seen throughout the year roosting at the observatory's viewing platform. Also often seen on Crab Creek Road at night. A pair appeared to reside at the BRAC swimming pool, and nesting was observed in mid-November.

**SPOTTED NIGHTJAR** *Eurostopodus argus*

**4 records**

A single bird was observed at dusk flying along the beach in front of the observatory on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of March. 4 individuals were counted along the Great Northern Hwy where it crosses Roebuck Plains on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May. An individual was also seen on the Broome Hwy on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July.

**AUSTRALIAN OWLET-NIGHTJAR** *Aegotheles cristatus*

**7 records**

Recorded at scattered locations, including Taylors Lagoon (10<sup>th</sup> of May), Willaroo Well (24<sup>th</sup> of May), Tagarana Bore (25<sup>th</sup> of August, 16<sup>th</sup> of October and 15<sup>th</sup> of November), Barred Creek and Broome (29<sup>th</sup> of September).

**SWIFTLET sp.** *Aerodramus* sp.

**1 record**

Several dark swiftlets were observed at the observatory on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January in association with Tree Martins and Rainbow Bee-eaters (RS). They appeared to smaller than Pacific Swifts, showed 'blunt' tail forks, possibly slightly paler on the underside, and no pale rumps.

**PACIFIC SWIFT** *Apus pacificus*

**18 records**

Regularly seen in Broome, Roebuck Plains Station and the observatory until the 24<sup>th</sup> of April. A high count of 300 individuals was recorded on Roebuck Plains Station behind the observatory on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. The first returning birds were observed at the observatory (7 individuals) and Lake Eda (3 individuals) on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. There were no further records of this species following that date.

**ORIENTAL DOLLARBIRD** *Eurystomus orientalis* **53 records**

Recorded throughout Broome (including a high count of 8 at Cable Beach on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March), pindan habitats as well as the observatory up until the 26<sup>th</sup> of April. The first returned birds were seen at Nimalaica on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. From early October onwards, Dollarbirds were recorded at most woodland sites

**BLUE-WINGED KOOKABURRA** *Dacelo leachii* **256 records**

Regularly recorded at most woodland sites throughout the region.

**SACRED KINGFISHER** *Todiramphus sanctus* **192 records**

Common in coastal habitats and woodland near water (e.g. Lake Campion) throughout the region. A high count of six individuals were recorded in the Crab Creek mangroves on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July. Irregularly observed within the observatory grounds throughout the year.

**RED-BACKED KINGFISHER** *Todiramphus pyrrhopygius* **67 records**

First recorded on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory, but it wasn't until mid-May before regular sightings occurred. Records were mostly from behind the observatory (where at least 3 individuals were present), but also from Lake Eda, Willaroo Well, Lake Campion and Taylors Lagoon, with the last record of the year being at the latter location on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November.

**RAINBOW BEE-EATER** *Merops ornatus* **384 records**

Common in all habitats throughout the year.

**NANKEEN KESTREL** *Falco cenchroides* **193 records**

Common and widespread, although most often seen in grassland habitats on Roebuck Plains Station. Following the wet season (i.e. late April), up to 15 individuals could be seen foraging for grasshoppers behind the observatory.

**AUSTRALIAN HOBBY** *Falco longipennis* **94 records**

Recorded throughout the year, mostly on Roebuck Plains Station. Often seen following Spotted Harriers and Brolgas, and attempting to catch insects and small birds that these larger species would flush. One was observed in Roebuck Bay attempting to catch a Little Tern over the water.

**BROWN FALCON** *Falco berigora* **253 records**

Common and widespread throughout all habitats, although most often seen in grassland habitats on Roebuck Plains Station. Numerous on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory following the wet season when grasshoppers were abundant.

**BLACK FALCON** *Falco subniger* **3 records**

Scarce, with only three records. The first was of an adult in fresh plumage, seen over the edge of the pindan and plains behind the observatory, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February. A second individual was seen at Taylors Lagoon on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September (GS), with presumably the same individual observed hunting shorebirds (including a flock containing a Ruff) at Lake Campion on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September.

**PEREGRINE FALCON** *Falco peregrinus* **11 records**

Generally scarce, and records are probably indicative of no more than six individuals. First recorded on 28<sup>th</sup> of January along the northern shores of Roebuck Bay, with subsequent records at this location on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of February, 29<sup>th</sup> of March, and 28<sup>th</sup> of May (an immature). Recorded in Broome township and at the sewage ponds on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February (possibly the same individual). On Roebuck Plains Station, Peregrine Falcons were observed near Kidneybean Claypan on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February and behind the observatory on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June. Perhaps the most noteworthy record was one observed

at Lake Eda on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October and 5<sup>th</sup> of November, with photographs indicating an individual of the northern migratory race *japonensis* or *calidus*.

**RED-TAILED BLACK-COCKATOO** *Calyptorhynchus banksia* **110 records**  
Recorded throughout the region, including the observatory (flocks overflying). A flock regularly recorded roosting and drinking from a dam opposite Nimalaica. Up to 100 were recorded coming to drink at Taylors Lagoon in late October and early November.

**GALAH** *Eolophus roseicapillus* **45 records**  
Uncommonly recorded; mostly near the ephemeral lakes on Roebuck Plains Station east of Lake Campion. Two were recorded at the sewage works on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November.

**LITTLE CORELLA** *Cacatua sanguinea* **142 records**  
Common and recorded throughout the year in Broome and the sewage works, and throughout the dry season at the ephemeral lakes on Roebuck Plains Station.

**COCKATIEL** *Nymphicus hollandicus* **39 records**  
First recorded at the observatory (3 flying east) on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April. Regularly recorded at Taylors Lagoon between the 26<sup>th</sup> of April and the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, with over 500 reported on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August (CJH, KH). Also recorded at Willaroo Well (CM, GM) on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, and Lake Campion (18<sup>th</sup> of July – 21<sup>st</sup> of August).

**RED-COLLARED LORIKEET** *Trichoglossus rubritorquis* **251 records**  
Recorded throughout the year in Broome, and regularly observed flying over the observatory (including a high count of 62 on 4<sup>th</sup> of August). Occasionally recorded on Roebuck Plains Station.

**VARIED LORIKEET** *Psitteuteles versicolor* **102 records**  
Very few reports during the first half of the year, with most records representing small flocks (<20) flying over the observatory. From July onwards, flocks were regularly recorded over the observatory, including a high count of 250+ on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October. Four were seen feeding in trees within the observatory grounds on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August. Occasionally recorded during the dry season in Broome and throughout Roebuck Plains Station. One flock was recorded flying at c. 50km/h beside a vehicle along Crab Creek Road.

**BUDGERIGAR** *Melopsittacus undulates* **64 records**  
Generally uncommon. First recorded on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April flying over the observatory. Small numbers (<22) continued over the observatory until the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. Recorded on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory, Taylors Lagoon and Lake Campion during the dry season, but there were no further records following the 15<sup>th</sup> of September (5 on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory).

**RED-WINGED PARROT** *Aprosmictus erythropterus* **295 records**  
Common in most places throughout the year. A high count of 60 was recorded in Broome on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May.

**GREAT BOWERBIRD** *Ptilonorhynchus guttatus* **335 records**  
Common in coastal habitats throughout the region. Recorded away from the coast at Lake Campion and Roebuck Roadhouse. The dominant male at the observatory started displaying to females in early June.

**BLACK-TAILED TREECREEPER** *Climacteris melanurus* **18 records**

First recorded on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April near Lake Campion. Regularly recorded on visits to Lake Campion, Willaroo Well and Taylors Lagoon throughout the dry season. A high count of six individuals were recorded at Willaroo Well on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May.

**VARIEGATED FAIRY-WREN** *Malurus lamberti* **147 records**

Common in a variety of woodland and pindan habitats throughout the year. Regularly recorded within the observatory grounds.

**RED-BACKED FAIRY-WREN** *Malurus melanocephalus* **211 records**

Common in a variety of woodland, grassland and pindan habitats throughout the year. Regularly recorded within the observatory grounds.

**RED-HEADED MYZOMELA [HONEYEATER]** *Myzomela erythrocephala* **74 records**

Recorded regularly at Streeters Jetty in Broome and Barred Creek. A female was observed in the Crab Creek mangroves on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, while an immature was feeding in a flowering eucalypt at the observatory on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. Other locations include the Courthouse markets in Broome, the mangroves behind Matsos Brewery, and Willie Creek.

**PIED HONEYEATER** *Certhionyx variegatus* **1 record**

A single observation of five individuals (two males, and three females) at Lake Eda on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November (CM, GM).

**BANDED HONEYEATER** *Certhionyx pectoralis* **26 records**

Very scarce early in the year, with the only records being an adult at the observatory on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January, followed by an adult at Nimalaica on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April. From the 17<sup>th</sup> of August, there was a small influx into the region, with regular sightings (of up to six individuals) at the observatory up until the 5<sup>th</sup> of November. Six were also observed at Gantheaume Point on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October. Other locations during the latter half of the year included the Roebuck Roadhouse, One Tree, the Broome Highway, Broome and Roebuck Plains behind the observatory.

**BROWN HONEYEATER** *Lichmera indistincta* **316 records**

Very common throughout the region, including at the observatory.

**LITTLE FRIARBIRD** *Philemon citreogularis* **321 records**

Common throughout the year across all pindan and eucalypt habitats.

**BLACK-CHINNED HONEYEATER** *Melithreptus gularis* **13 records**

Uncommonly recorded throughout the year, with most records 'heard only' at Lake Campion. Also recorded at Entrance Point, the sewage works, Cable Beach, Lake Eda and Taylors Lagoon.

**WHITE-THROATED HONEYEATER** *Melithreptus albogularis* **6 records**

Uncommonly recorded throughout the year. A single record at the observatory on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June. Also recorded at Barred Creek, Nimalaica and along Crab Creek Road.

**YELLOW CHAT** *Epthianura crocea* **114 records**

Regularly seen on Roebuck Plains in the vicinity of Kidneybean Claypan throughout the year. Newly fledged chicks were recorded on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. Counts of up to 50 were typical during the dry season, with a high count of 120 individuals on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October. Records away from Kidneybean Claypan included four on the mudflats at Little Crab Creek on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, 3 in samphire north

of One Tree (30<sup>th</sup> of August), Taylors Lagoon (17<sup>th</sup> of June – 15<sup>th</sup> of November) and Lake Eda (4<sup>th</sup> of July – 15<sup>th</sup> of November).

**RUFIOUS-THROATED HONEYEATER** *Conopophila rufogularis* **196 records**

Recorded throughout the year at most locations, including the observatory, where up to 37 individuals were observed feeding in flowering *Lysiphyllum cunninghamii* (Kimberley Bauhinia).

**YELLOW-THROATED MINER** *Manorina flavigula* **3 records**

Only recorded near the edge of the Broome checklist area, at Willaroo Well on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January and 17<sup>th</sup> of May (CM, GM), and at Taylors Lagoon on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December (CM, GM).

**WHITE-GAPED HONEYEATER** *Lichenostomus unicolor* **179 records**

Recorded throughout the year in wetter habitats (including gardens in Broome). Recorded at the observatory regularly during the first half of the year, when deciduous vegetation was at its densest.

**SINGING HONEYEATER** *Lichenostomus virescens* **334 records**

Common throughout the year across all pindan and eucalypt habitats. A high count of 12 individuals was recorded at Entrance Point on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May.

**YELLOW-TINTED HONEYEATER** *Lichenostomus flavescens* **35 records**

Recorded throughout the year in eucalypt woodland habitats. A high count of 10 was recorded at Willaroo Well on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May. Between the 20<sup>th</sup> of August and 21<sup>st</sup> of September, at least one individual was seen at the observatory.

**GREY-HEADED HONEYEATER** *Lichenostomus keartlandi* **1 record**

A single record at Entrance Point on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February.

**RED-BROWED PARDALOTE** *Pardalotus rubricatus* **1 record**

A single record near Willaroo Well on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May (CM, GM).

**STRIATED PARDALOTE** *Pardalotus striatus* **115 records**

Common throughout eucalypt woodlands as well as in Broome up until the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, after which no further sightings were recorded. Nesting was recorded along Crab Creek Road and the sewage works between late May and June. An unusual record of an individual perched with Yellow Chats on a fence line near Kidneybean Claypan occurred on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February.

**WEEBILL** *Smicrornis brevirostris* **32 records**

Recorded between the 4<sup>th</sup> of April and 5<sup>th</sup> of November, mostly in eucalypt woodlands on Roebuck Plains Station, Tagarana Bore, Nimalaica dam, Barred Creek and 12 Mile.

**MANGROVE GERYGONE** *Gerygone levigaster* **54 records**

Common throughout the year in saltwater paperbark woodland (e.g. along the edge of Roebuck Plains; Lake Eda; Nimalaica) as well as in mangroves behind Crab Creek and Barred Creek.

**DUSKY GERYGONE** *Gerygone tenebrosa* **119 records**

Common in mangroves at Crab Creek, Streeters Jetty and Barred Creek throughout the year.

**WHITE-THROATED GERYGONE** *Gerygone olivacea* **243 records**

Recorded throughout the year at the observatory, as well as woodland habitats throughout the region.



**GREY-CROWNED BABBLER** *Pomatostomus temporalis* **309 records**  
Common at the observatory and at most other wooded sites throughout the year.

**WHITE-BREASTED WOODSWALLOW** *Artamus leucorhynchus* **280 records**  
Common in coastal areas, particularly near mangroves, but recorded regularly around freshwater lakes on Roebuck Plains Station.

**MASKED WOODSWALLOW** *Artamus personatus* **12 records**  
Mostly small flocks were recorded heading east over the observatory throughout April, with a high count of 59 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April. A flock of 50 over Nimalaica on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April was also notable during this period. A flock of 15 was recorded at Taylors Lagoon on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, and then scattered records of one or two birds occurred at the observatory on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of July, and 27<sup>th</sup> of September.

**BLACK-FACED WOODSWALLOW** *Artamus cinereus* **203 records**  
Common throughout the year, especially on Roebuck Plains.

**LITTLE WOODSWALLOW** *Artamus minor* **10 records**  
Quite localised in the region. Recorded in small numbers during the dry season at Willaroo Well, Taylors Lagoon and Lake Campion.

**PIED BUTCHERBIRD** *Cracticus nigrogularis* **335 records**  
Common throughout the region, including at the observatory.

**AUSTRALIAN MAGPIE** *Gymnorhina tibicen* **181 records**  
Uncommon, but recorded from widespread locations. The form in the region often is 'white-trousered', having clean white feathering on the legs.

**BLACK-FACED CUCKOOSHRIKE** *Coracina novaehollandiae* **361 records**  
Common throughout the region. Flocks of up to 20 were occasionally observed.

**WHITE-BELLIED CUCKOOSHRIKE** *Coracina papuensis* **1 record**  
An individual observed and heard along the western edge of Roebuck Plains behind the observatory on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January.

**WHITE-WINGED TRILLER** *Lalage tricolor* **142 records**  
Recorded throughout the year, mostly in woodland on Roebuck Plains Station, but also occasionally around the observatory. Fledglings were observed behind the observatory on 25<sup>th</sup> of January. Groups of up to 20 were not uncommon.

**VARIED SITTELLA** *Daphoenositta chrysoptera* **19 records**  
Mostly recorded in eucalypt woodland on Roebuck Plains Station, particularly around Lake Eda, Collins Lagoon, Lake Campion, Taylors Lagoon and Willaroo Well. Coastal records included five individuals seen at the observatory on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, as well as five along Crab Creek Road on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September.

**MANGROVE GOLDEN WHISTLER** *Pachycephala melanura* **72 records**  
Heard and seen regularly at the Crab Creek mangroves. Also very reliably observed at Streeters Jetty in Broome. Recorded elsewhere at Barred Creek and Fishermans Bend (Dampier Creek).

**RUFIOUS WHISTLER** *Pachycephala rufiventris* **293 records**  
Commonly recorded at the observatory and various other wooded sites throughout the year.

**WHITE-BREASTED WHISTLER** *Pachycephala lanioides* **120 records**  
Common in the Crab Creek mangroves throughout the year. Also recorded in the Broome mangroves (e.g. Streeters Jetty), but less commonly than Mangrove Golden Whistler. Other locations include Fishermans Bend (Dampier Creek) and Barred Creek.

**GREY SHRIKE-THRUSH** *Colluricincla harmonica* **243 records**  
Commonly recorded at the observatory and various other wooded sites throughout the year.

**OLIVE-BACKED ORIOLE** *Oriolus sagittatus* **209 records**  
Recorded throughout the year at the observatory. Also recorded at Coconut Well, 12 Mile, Roebuck Roadhouse, Broome, Cable Beach, Nimalaica and Taylors Lagoon. A pair nested at the observatory in late January.

**WILLIE WAGTAIL** *Rhipidura leucophrys* **320 records**  
Common and widespread throughout the year. A high count of 30 individuals was recorded on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May.

**NORTHERN FANTAIL** *Rhipidura rufiventris* **16 records**  
Generally uncommon. Up to two individuals were irregularly recorded at Streeters Jetty between the 10<sup>th</sup> of May and 4<sup>th</sup> of October. Also recorded several times at Barred Creek.

**GREY FANTAIL** *Rhipidura fuliginosa* **95 records**  
Small numbers recorded along the Crab Creek Road coastal strip during the dry season. Almost daily at the observatory between the 27<sup>th</sup> of April and 29<sup>th</sup> of August, with up to five individuals recorded on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August. Most could be identified as race *alisteri*, although one individual of the race *albicauda* was present at the observatory from the 18<sup>th</sup> of May – 7<sup>th</sup> of June (which associated with a Mangrove Grey Fantail also present).

**MANGROVE GREY FANTAIL** *Rhipidura phasiana* **200 records**  
Common in mangroves at Crab Creek, Broome (i.e. Streeters Jetty) and Barred Creek. Occasionally observed in adjacent pindan woodland, as well as within the observatory grounds.

**MAGPIE-LARK** *Grallina cyanoleuca* **308 records**  
Common throughout the region. Large numbers (up to 50) gathered at sites on Roebuck Plains Station at the start of the dry season.

**LEADEN FLYCATCHER** *Myiagra rubecula* **7 records**  
A female was present at the observatory from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of April.

**BROAD-BILLED FLYCATCHER** *Myiagra ruficollis* **148 records**  
Common in the Crab Creek mangroves, Streeter's Jetty in Broome and Barred Creek. Individuals were occasionally present within the observatory grounds between early May and late August.

**PAPERBARK FLYCATCHER** *Myiagra nana* **211 records**  
Occasional at the observatory until April, after which this species was regularly recorded until mid-October. Also commonly recorded throughout the region in Pindan, euclaypt and melaleuca woodlands. One was observed mobbing a roosting Barking Owl within the observatory grounds on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April.

**TORRESIAN CROW** *Corvus orru*  
Common throughout the region.

**368 records**

**HOODED ROBIN** *Melanodryas cucullata*

**1 record**

A single record of a pair at Taylors Lagoon on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September.

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

**5 records**

A single bird recorded in the Crab Creek mangroves on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April. Also recorded on three occasions at Barred Creek, and a single observation from the mangroves at Dampier Creek (30<sup>th</sup> of September).

**JACKY WINTER** *Microeca fascinans*

**188 records**

Present in pindan woodland around the observatory throughout the year. Common in woodland on Roebuck Plains Station, particularly around the freshwater lakes.

**RED-CAPPED ROBIN** *Petroica goodenovii*

**18 records**

A female and immature male were present at the observatory from the 17<sup>th</sup> of May – 22<sup>nd</sup> of August.



Figure 5. Red-capped Robins at the BBO. 25<sup>th</sup> May 2015 (Ric Else)

**HORSFIELD'S BUSHLARK** *Mirafrja javanica*

**171 records**

Common in grassland on Roebuck Plains Station throughout the year, as well as in grassland around Dampier Creek.

**WHITE-BACKED SWALLOW** *Cheramoeca leucosterna*

**1 record**

One was observed in a flock of martins on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June.

**BARN SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*

**59 records**

Common on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory, as well as behind the Crab Creek mangroves during the wet season, with up to 70 observed on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February. At least 50 were also observed at the sewage works on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. The last record of the wet season was one over the observatory on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. The first returned bird was seen at the sewage works on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August. Small numbers were then seen for the remainder of the year in coastal areas.

**WELCOME SWALLOW** *Hirundo neoxena*

**2 records**

Scarce. Single birds seen on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, and possibly the same individual seen the following day (29<sup>th</sup> of June) in the bay flying along the beach at Boiler Point.

**RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** *Cecropis daurica***7 records**

Recorded only during the mid-late wet season (between the 18<sup>th</sup> of January and 3<sup>rd</sup> of March) along the edge of Roebuck Plains behind the observatory and at One Tree. All sightings consisted of 1-2 birds (possibly 3 at times), and were usually among flocks of Tree Martins and Barn Swallows.



Figure 6. Red-rumped Swallow on Roebuck Plains. 24th January 2015 (Ric Else)

**FAIRY MARTIN** *Petrochelidon ariel***78 records**

Recorded throughout the year, mostly around freshwater. A high count of 60 were observed on Roebuck Plains behind the observatory on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April.

**TREE MARTIN** *Petrochelidon nigricans***243 records**

Recorded throughout the year, often with Barn Swallows during the wet season. In June and July, flocks of 1000-2000 were seen around Kidneybean Claypan.

**RUFIOUS SONGLARK** *Cincloramphus mathewsi***8 records**

Uncommonly recorded in 2015. Two individuals recorded at the observatory (25<sup>th</sup> of April, 16<sup>th</sup> of August), with the other records coming from Lake Eda, Lake Campion (incl. 6 on 24<sup>th</sup> of May) and Nimalaica.

**BROWN SONGLARK** *Cincloramphus cruralis***134 records**

Common in grassland on Roebuck Plains Station throughout the year.

**GOLDEN-HEADED CISTICOLA** *Cisticola exilis***102 records**

Common on Roebuck Plains in tall grass, where at least 60 were recorded behind the observatory on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June. Also recorded at the sewage works, Gantheaume Point, Dampier Creek, Barred Creek and Nimalaica.

**CANARY [YELLOW] WHITE-EYE** *Zosterops luteus***312 records**

Common in the Crab Creek mangroves throughout the year. Also regularly present in small numbers within the observatory grounds. Common in other mangrove habitats in Broome, Willie Creek and Barred Creek.

**MISTLETOEBIRD** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum***322 records**

Common throughout the region, including at the observatory. Small flocks (up to 7) were occasionally gathered at Entrance Point, presumably moving down the coast.

**PAINTED FINCH** *Emblema pictum***3 records**

Three records, all of single birds. Individuals observed flying east over the observatory on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February and 16<sup>th</sup> of April. One also observed at Entrance Point on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February.

**LONG-TAILED FINCH** *Poephila acuticauda***214 records**

Commonly see at the observatory bird baths throughout the year. Also recorded around the freshwater lakes on Roebuck Plains Station, Barred Creek, Nimalaica, 12 Mile and Broome.

**ZEBRA FINCH** *Taeniopygia guttata***179 records**

Recorded throughout the year, although less frequently during the wet season. Regular in small numbers at the observatory bird baths. Most numerous around the freshwater lakes on Roebuck Plains Station.

**DOUBLE-BARRED FINCH** *Taeniopygia bichenovii***300 records**

Commonly see at the observatory bird baths throughout the year. Also recorded around the freshwater lakes on Roebuck Plains Station, Barred Creek, Dampier Creek and in Broome.

**PICTORELLA MANNIKIN** *Heteromunia pectoralis***6 records**

Recorded in small numbers during local movements through the region. Recorded flying over the observatory on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of February (both records of two birds). At this time, eight were also gathered at Entrance Point on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. Away from the coast, two were seen at Taylors Lagoon on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of May, as well seven at Willaroo Well on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May (CM, GM).

**EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava***55 records**

Recorded in small numbers (<5) at the sewage works and on Roebuck Plains up until the 5<sup>th</sup> of April. The first returning bird was found behind the Broome Caravan Park on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September (GS). Sightings became regular at a number of sites after this date, including Lake Eda, Taylors Lagoon, the sewage works, the BRAC ovals and Nimalaica. Both race *tschutschensis* and *taivana* were recorded during the final few months of the year.

**GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea***2 records**

An individual was observed on consecutive days on the beach in front of the observatory on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of March.

**WHITE WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba***7 records**

An individual, likely of race *baicalensis*, was found at the sewage works between the 6<sup>th</sup> of January (GS), and was present up until the 31<sup>st</sup> of January (GS).



Figure 7. White Wagtail at the sewage works. 7th January 2015 (George Swann)

**AUSTRALIAN PIPIT** *Anthus australis***177 records**

Common throughout the year in short grassy areas, such as on Roebuck Plains and on sports fields in Broome.

**RED-THROATED PIPIT** *Anthus cervinus***2 records**

An individual was observed twice at the sewage works on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of January (GS).

## Systematic Reptile List

### **ESTUARINE CROCODILE** *Crocodylus porosus*

A small individual (c. 2.5m length) seen and photographed by guests from the BBO observation platform on 17<sup>th</sup> September, then relocated on the mudflats off One Tree at low tide late that afternoon. A small individual (possibly the same one seen near BBO) was seen being captured by rangers near the airport in Broome on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### **GREEN TURTLE** *Chelonia mydas*

Two records of this species from the bay near BBO in May.

### **SEA TURTLES** *Cheloniidae* spp.

Sea turtles were observed in the bay regularly, particularly in March and April. However, most could not be identified confidently to species.

### **NORTHERN DTELLA** *Gehyra australis*

A common, arboreal gecko, regularly seen on buildings around the BBO at night, including the Shadehouse.

### **WESTERN KIMBERLEY TERMITARIA GECKO** *Gehyra kimberleyi*

A common, arboreal gecko, often seen on the buildings around the BBO, as well as on paths at night. Observed crossing Crab Creek Road during nocturnal surveys.

### **ASIAN HOUSE GECKO** *Hemidactylus frenatus*

Introduced. Exclusively found on buildings in the BBO grounds, with most observations coming from the office building. Calls often heard in the day and night.

### **BYNOE'S GECKO** *Heteronotia binoei*

Recorded sporadically throughout the year around the observatory grounds, chiefly sheltering under equipment and debris.

### **ZIGZAG VELVET GECKO** *Amalosia rhombifer*

Regularly observed in the bird hide, especially during the day while sleeping behind the viewing flaps. A hatchling was observed one evening crossing the parking area in front of the office. Also recorded around Tagaranna Bore.

### **FAT-TAILED GECKO** *Diplodactylus laevis*

A single record of an individual foraging along the Spinifex Trail on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. This ground-dwelling species was recently split from *Diplodactylus conspicillatus*.

### **SAND-PLAIN GECKO** *Lucasium stenodactylum*

A single record of an individual observed on Crab Creek Road during a nocturnal drive on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February.

### **NORTHERN SPINY-TAILED GECKO** *Strophurus ciliaris*

A large, common, beautiful gecko regularly seen during nocturnal drives on Crab Creek Road, as well as foraging in the grounds of the BBO.

### **PHASMID GECKO sp.** *Strophurus jeanae/taeniatus*

A single record of an individual observed on Crab Creek Road during a nocturnal drive on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April. Suspected to be *S. jeanae*.



**BURTON'S LEGLESS LIZARD** *Lialis burtonis*

Irregularly recorded from February to May, then again from August onwards, often during nocturnal drives on Crab Creek Road. Also observed around the BBO grounds.

**WESTERN HOODED SCALY-FOOT** *Pygopus nigriceps*

Several records from the observatory and Crab Creek Road, from February to May, then again from October onwards.

**GILBERT'S DRAGON** *Amphibolurus gilberti*

Occasionally seen in the BBO grounds. Most regularly seen crossing Crab Creek Road during the day. Commonly seen around Broome town.

**FRILLED LIZARD** *Chlamydosaurus kingii*

Observed in the BBO grounds in February. Also observed along both sections of Crab Creek Road, at the Broome sewage works, on the road to the port, and along the Derby highway.

**CENTRAL NETTED DRAGON** *Ctenophorus nuchalis*

Not recorded at the BBO. A single record of a juvenile in the coastal dunes at Coconut Well on the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**PINDAN TWO-LINED DRAGON** *Ctenophorus pindan*

Observed in pindan in the vicinity of the BBO, particularly along the edge of the bay, where it appears to be relatively common. Also recorded at Lake Eda.

**DWARF BEARDED DRAGON** *Pogona minor*

One record from the BBO grounds on 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

**RED-SIDED RAINBOW-SKINK** *Carlia rufilatus*

Commonly seen near the office building and adjacent pindan, where it is common in the areas of leaf-litter.

**TAWNY SNAKE-EYED SKINK** *Cryptoblepharus ruber*

A common, arboreal skink, regularly seen on building and trees in the BBO grounds, as well as on trees in coastal pindan.

**PYGMY SNAKE-EYED SKINK** *Cryptoblepharus tythos*

A relatively common, arboreal skink, occasionally seen on buildings and other structures in the BBO grounds, but more commonly seen on the bases of trees.

**BAR-SHOULDERED CTENOTUS** *Ctenotus inornatus*

Relatively common and recorded in a wide range of habitats around BBO and Broome town. Also recorded at Taylors Lagoon.

**CTENOTUS sp.** *Ctenotus sp.*

A record of an individual in coastal dunes at One Tree (east end of Crab Creek Road) on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March. The individual was not caught, but showed a similar flank pattern to *Ctenotus serventyi*.

**NORTHERN BAR-LIPPED SKINK** *Eremiascincus isolepis*

Two records of an individual seen at dusk in the BBO grounds near the Warden's residence. Also recorded at dusk in the grounds of the Mangrove Hotel in Broome.

**DAMPIERLAND LIMBLESS SLIDER** *Lerista apoda*

Occasionally encountered in the pindan around the observatory and in coastal dunes along the bay.

**STOUT SANDSLIDER** *Lerista griffini*

Recorded in dense leaf-litter at the base of *Bauhinia cunninghamii* and *Corymbia ?greeniana* near the BBO office building and viewing platform.

**LINED FIRE-TAILED SKINK** *Morethia ruficauda*

Recorded regularly around the BBO grounds, particularly at the office building and Shadehouse.

**CENTRALIAN BLUETONGUE** *Tiliqua multifasciata*

One record from the Derby Highway near Taylors Lagoon on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**COMMON BLUETONGUE** *Tiliqua scincoides*

Recorded commonly from February to April, and again from late August through October, around the BBO grounds, particularly at the office building and Shadehouse. Also regularly seen crossing Crab Creek Road.

**SAND GOANNA** *Varanus gouldii*

Occasionally seen in pindan crossing Crab Creek Road.

**YELLOW-SPOTTED MONITOR** *Varanus panoptes*

Recorded from February to April on Roebuck Plains, with an additional record at the dam opposite Nimalaica (on Cape Leveque Road). Also recorded from Lake Champion 24<sup>th</sup> August.

**BLACK-HEADED MONITOR** *Varanus tristis*

An arboreal species, recorded in the BBO grounds, where it frequents the Shadehouse, often disturbing sleeping Green Tree Frogs.

**MONITOR SP.** *Varanus* sp.

A small, pale monitor was observed quickly running across Crab Creek Road on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April. Based on its size and colouration, it is suspected to have been *Varanus sparnus*, which was recently split from the Short-tailed Pygmy Monitor (*Varanus brevicauda*).

**STIMSON'S PYTHON** *Antaresia stimsoni*

Recorded from February to June in pindan, including the BBO grounds, and also crossing Crab Creek Road during nocturnal drives. Also a single record from Crab Creek Road in November.

**BLACK-HEADED PYTHON** *Aspidites melanocephalus*

Regularly recorded around the observatory grounds from May onwards. A single record of an individual crossing a track at night in pindan south of 12 Mile on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March (CJH).

**WHITE-BELLIED MANGROVE SNAKE** *Fordonia leucobalia*

Recorded twice on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, in flooded saltmarsh behind the Crab Creek mangroves (PC), as well as on the edge of the mangroves at Little Crab Creek during a night walk.

**YELLOW-BELLIED SEA-SNAKE** *Pelamis platurus*

A single individual found at Wader Beach on 15<sup>th</sup> June (AB).

**SEA-SNAKE sp.** *Hydrophidae* spp.

Regularly seen offshore, and occasionally from shore, but not identified to species.

**NORTHERN SHOVEL-NOSED SNAKE** *Brachyuophis roperi*

A small, nocturnal species, recorded from February to April, most often crossing Crab Creek Road at night. Also recorded near the Warden's residence and on the BBO's driveway.

**NARROW-HEADED WHIPSNAKE** *Demansia angusticeps*

A frequently encountered snake in the BBO grounds, often seen on the driveway, or crossing paths between pindan habitats.

**MOON SNAKE** *Furina ornata*

A small, nocturnal species recorded during night drives along Crab Creek Road and around the BBO grounds.

**KING BROWN SNAKE [MULGA SNAKE]** *Pseudechis australis*

Two records of single individuals the Broome Highway; near 12 Mile on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April (CJH) and between Broome town and the Crab Creek Road turn-off on 20<sup>th</sup> June. Also a single record from Crab Creek Road on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

**GWARDAR** *Pseudonaja mengdeni*

An uncommon species recorded from pindan habitats, including one record nocturnal record within the BBO grounds near the Chalet. Formally known as Western Brown Snake (*Pseudonaja nuchalis*).

**LITTLE SPOTTED SNAKE** *Suta punctata*

A nocturnal species, occasionally encountered during nocturnal drives along Crab Creek Road.

## Systematic Frog List

**ORNATE BURROWING FROG** *Platyplectrum ornatum*

Recorded at night in the BBO grounds following rain; on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of February.

**GIANT FROG** *Cyclorana australis*

Recorded during nocturnal drives on Crab Creek Road in February, especially where pools of water were present.

**GREEN TREE FROG** *Litoria caerulea*

A common and conspicuous species in the BBO grounds, particularly in the Shadehouse and amenities blocks, where they are often seen resting in the day, or foraging at night. Also observed on Crab Creek Road during nocturnal drives.

**DESERT TREE FROG** *Litoria rubella*

A common, arboreal species within the BBO grounds, often around buildings where water is present. Also seen crossing Crab Creek Road during wet weather.

## Systematic Mammal List

**SHORT-BEAKED ECHIDNA** *Tachyglossus aculeatus*

A single individual on the Broome Highway on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February (MoC), two sightings on Crab Creek Road on 22<sup>nd</sup> August (one individual) and 23<sup>rd</sup> August (2 individuals), and one individual seen around the BBO grounds on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

**GREATER BILBY** *Macrotis lagotis*

Recorded from pindan habitats along Crab Creek Road and Cape Leveque Road, along with sandy dunes in the vicinity of the Roebuck Plains lakes. Two individuals were observed approximately 1.5 km south of the Broome Highway on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March and 11<sup>th</sup> of April (CW), and later recorded via camera trapping (EK). Tracks were observed on Crab Creek Road beside Wader Beach (1.2km west of the BBO) on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April (GMa), and potential scats were found along the Pindan Trail on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. Active burrows recorded near Lake Eda (20<sup>th</sup> October; NBY) and near the Coconut Well turn-off on Cape Leveque Road (21<sup>st</sup> October; NBY), and inactive burrows recorded near Lake Campion (21<sup>st</sup> October; NBY), with single individuals subsequently seen in the same area on Cape Leveque Road on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November, and recorded on a camera-trap on 14<sup>th</sup> November.



Figure 8. Greater Bilby along Cape Leveque Rd. 14th November 2015 (BBO)

**COMMON BRUSHTAIL POSSUM** *Trichosurus vulpecula*

A single record of a mother carrying young on the Broome Highway near Blue Haze on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March.

**AGILE WALLABY** *Macropus agilis*

A very common species regularly recorded coming to drink from the BBO bird baths throughout the year. Also regularly seen in the late afternoon, foraging on the beaches for mangrove seeds.

**NORTHERN NAILTAIL WALLABY** *Onychogalea unguifera*

Regularly recorded on the edge of Roebuck Plains and the paperbark woodlands, where they would forage on the plains at dusk.

**HOUSE MOUSE** *Mus musculus*

Two records from the BBO grounds, 26<sup>th</sup> June and 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**BLACK FLYING-FOX** *Pteropus alecto*

Observed foraging along the Spinifex Trail and Crab Creek Road on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. Roost camp is thought to be in the mangroves in Broome, mixed group with Little Red Flying-foxes observed flying out over Broome town to feed in the early evenings in December.

**LITTLE RED FLYING-FOX** *Pteropus scapulatus*

Observed foraging along the Spinifex Trail and Crab Creek Road on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. Roost camp is thought to be in the mangroves in Broome, mixed group with Black Flying-foxes observed flying out over Broome town to feed in the early evenings in December. Two rescued from fencing around sewage ponds on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

**CAT** *Felis catus*

Introduced. Regularly recorded in the BBO grounds, with a mother and kitten observed underneath the office building. Tracks often observed on Crab Creek Road.

**DOG/DINGO** *Canis lupus*

Occasionally observed on the edges of Roebuck Plains, with tracks frequently encountered on Crab Creek Road. Some individuals are mostly dingo in their appearance, but none 'looked' pure.

**RED FOX** *Vulpes vulpes*

Recorded regularly from May onwards, mostly around BBO itself and along Crab Creek Rd, with at least two individuals identified. Also two records from Kidneybean Claypan in May and June.

**HUMPBACK WHALE** *Megaptera novaeangliae*

Common offshore from approximately July through to September, recorded at sea on 9<sup>th</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> August, and from shore at Barred Creek on 10<sup>th</sup> August.

**AUSTRALIAN SNUBFIN DOLPHIN** *Orcaella heinsohni*

Occasionally observed in small pods at high tide along the northern shores of Roebuck Bay, with several observations occurring during 'Migration Watch' in March and April.

**INDO-PACIFIC HUMPBACK DOLPHIN** *Sousa sahulensis*

Five individuals recorded at sea off Broome on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

**INDO-PACIFIC BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN** *Tursiops aduncus*

Two individuals recorded at sea off Broome on 9<sup>th</sup> July.

**DUGONG** *Dugong dugon*

A single record of three individuals observed at high tide from Eagles Roost (in Roebuck Bay) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April.