



Broome Bird Observatory

Annual Report 2020

Cover photo: Gouldian Finch (Adrian Boyle)



Summary

This report summarises observations of all bird species recorded in the Broome region in 2020.

2020 was a year like no other of course, although the people of Western Australia were luckier than most. After the national lockdown in April, a lack of Covid cases in the state meant that we were soon able carefully to return to something like normal life, albeit closed off from the other Australian states and the rest of the world. We certainly missed the interaction with people travelling from all corners that is often such a feature of life at the BBO. Nevertheless, Broome's tourism boomed with visitors from southern WA once the Kimberley border opened in June, and we were happily busy with tours and guests for the rest of the year. The BBO was fortunately able to host a full Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG) banding expedition during February, though sadly without planned participation of researchers from China after border closures. We were also able to run two of our courses: Wave the Waders Goodbye on 20th-24th March, and Birds of the Broome Region on 14th-18th September.

For the birds it was a year like any other, inasmuch as we can say that in the unpredictable semi-arid environment of Broome. The rain fell heavy early, with 353 mm in the BBO rain gauge in January exceeding the entire annual total for 2019. There was relatively little rain in February, March and April, which allowed us to visit Kidneybean Claypan and Lake Eda in March and April, months when these sites are often inaccessible due to flooding. A late deluge of 101 mm in the early hours of 26th May kept the Roebuck Plains lakes topped up for most of the year. Kidneybean was dry in September, but soon refilled by enormous spring tides that made access difficult. Lake Campion dried in mid-October. Both Taylor's Lagoon and Lake Eda retained some water until the wet-season rains arrived early, in late November. By the end of December, 815.8 mm of rain had been recorded at the BBO for the year.

The period between March and May was excellent for visible migration of shorebirds and terns, with over 20,000 counted heading north over the BBO Beach – the first time that milestone has been exceeded since 2009. In contrast to 2019 though there was very little observed passage of landbirds, and few records of nomadic species, contributing to a lower total species count for the year of 235 (compared to 242 in 2019). This included several storm-associated records of overseas vagrants and rare migrants such as House Swift, Schrenck's Bittern, Red-rumped Swallow, Eyebrowed Thrush and Grey Wagtail. Perhaps the most exciting addition to the Broome list this year, from our proudly shorebird-biased perspective, was a Nordmann's Greenshank found at Bush Point during summer wader counts. More information on all records is provided in the species accounts below.

Methods

The body of this report is an annotated checklist, with a brief summary of records provided for each species. Taxonomy follows the Working List of Australian Birds (BirdLife Australia 2019; birdlife.org.au/conservation/science/taxonomy). The underlying records come from the following sources.

Broome Bird Observatory Bird Log

The records in the systematic species list are taken from the BBO's bird log. This is a daily record of all sightings made by BBO wardens, assistant wardens, camp hosts and guests, including occasional

reports from other local birders and visitors, and occasionally supplemented by well-documented records submitted to the online platform eBird.org. We review guest records for accuracy: more unusual claims from less experienced observers require higher standards of evidence. The recording area covers everywhere within a 70 km radius of the Broome Bird Observatory. The regular log covers the period from 24th January until 6th December, after which the wardens left for the wet season. A few noteworthy records have been added from outside these dates.

A large number of records come from birding tours led by BBO wardens and assistant wardens to sites around Roebuck Bay and Roebuck Plains. This has two implications for the data underlying this report: (1) as it is not possible to make thorough surveys of a location when leading a tour and interpreting for guests, most records simply document the presence or absence of a species at a visited location, (2) records are biased towards sites visited frequently on these tours. The numbers of records provided for species below therefore give an indication, rather than a definitive measure, of their relative abundance during the year.

Counts

As noted above, counts are not routinely collected as part of the BBO Bird Log because for most records (collected while tour guiding) accurate counting is beyond our ability. However, we often go birding in our free time, and sometimes at these times are able to record counts; records submitted by local birders also often include counts, and we make counts during regular surveys of the pindan, mangroves and plains for BirdLife Australia's recording platform Birddata (birddata.birdlife.org.au). When possible these counts are included in the log, and noteworthy counts are included in the accounts below.

For shorebirds, comprehensive counts of Roebuck Bay were made twice during 2020 as part of the AWSG's Monitoring Yellow Sea Migrants in Australia (MYSMA) project, supported by funding from the WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Counts made on 21st and 22nd July by Chris Hassell, Adrian Boyle, Mattea Taylor and Nyil Khwaja estimated the numbers of overwintering shorebirds in the bay. For migratory species these are almost all immature birds waiting to make their first breeding migrations in subsequent years. The summer surveys were made on 1st and 2nd December by Chris Hassell, Adrian Boyle, George Swann, Nigel Jackett, Nyil Khwaja, Connie Grohmann, Kerry Hadley and Jane Taylor. These counted total numbers of each species after the return of all breeding migrants and juvenile birds. The results of the MYSMA counts are summarised in the shorebird accounts in this report.

Migration Watch

During March, April and May, Roebuck Bay's migratory shorebirds and terns depart from the bay in flocks, usually in the late afternoon, visible from the beach in front of the observatory. BBO wardens, assistant wardens, interested guests and volunteers count these flocks as they leave during watches between 4-6 PM each afternoon from early March until mid-May: beginning after the first Far Eastern Curlews are heard departing over the observatory, and ending in May after three consecutive sessions with no departures. In 2020 the watch period spanned 2nd March until 16th May, with 20,780 individuals of 20 different species counted in total. A graphical summary is shown for each species that was observed migrating on three or more separate watches, under **visible migration** in the accounts below. For species observed migrating on one or two watches, details are provided in the text.

Contributors

Many people contributed to our records in 2020, including BBO staff and volunteers, visiting researchers and birders, and dedicated locals who made great contributions to our coverage of the area. We would like to thank the following people for their contributions, acknowledged by initials after noteworthy sightings.

AB – Adrian Boyle, AR – Adrian Riegen, AWSG – Australasian Wader Studies Group, BDC – Barry and Daphne Cross, BG – Bruce Greatwich, CG – Connie Grohmann, CGM – Clare and Grant Morton, CJH – Chris Hassell, CY – Chris Young, DRC – Darren and Raqual Collins, Frank – Frank O’Connor, Franky – Franky O’Connor, GM – Grace Maglio, GS – George Swann, JD – Jeff Davies, JG – Jaxon Greatwich, JKG – John Graff, Jo – Jo Glas, JT – Jane Taylor, JW – John Williams, KH – Kerry Hadley, KS – Kollie Smith, LB – Linda Bird, LF – Louise Finch, LOB – Larry O’Brien, LW – Lachy Wild, MT – Mattea Taylor, NB – Nathan Beerkens, NJ – Nigel Jackett, NK – Nyil Khwaja, PK – Patrick Kelly, PNL – Paul and Nicole Lawrence, PT – Peter Taylor, RF – Rose Ferrell, SA – Sue Abbotts, XD – Xenia Dennett.

Systematic bird list

STUBBLE QUAIL *Coturnix pectoralis* 2 records

One seen on Roebuck Plains Station, on the track to Ungani Lakes, on 6th May (GS). One in the BBO Paddock, on the track across the plains from the BBO gate, seen on 11th August (NK and LOB).

BROWN QUAIL *Synoicus ypsilophorus* 18 records

Recorded occasionally throughout the year in grassland habitats. Most records were from the BBO Paddock. Usually seen in small coveys of up to 10 individuals.



A Stubble Quail on the track through Roebuck Plains BBO Paddock, 11th August (Larry O’Brien).



An immature Magpie Goose was seen regularly at the Broome sewage works between August and November (Adrian Boyle).

MAGPIE GOOSE *Anseranas semipalmata*

28 records

Four records from Roebuck Plains wetlands early in the year, with a high count of 16 along the Great Northern Highway on 13th February (LW, JT, MT and NK). A flock of 7 birds were seen from the BBO Beach during Migration Watch on 3rd March, landing in the mangroves west of Crab Creek presumably to roost (NK). There were no records from mid-March until an immature was found at the town sewage works on 3rd August (NK); all further records are of this individual, which continued to be seen there regularly until 12th November.

PLUMED WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna eytoni*

153 records

Commonly recorded. In the first half of the year, records came from a range of freshwater sites, including the lakes and other flooded areas of Roebuck Plains. They were also often heard over the observatory around dusk as birds moved to feed on the plains. In the second half of the year, records were mainly limited to the town sewage works, where a large flock of up to 3,000 birds was present most days. Three were seen in Roebuck Bay from One Tree during MYSMA counts on 1st December (NK and JT).

WANDERING WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna arcuata*

41 records

Regularly recorded at various freshwater sites during the first half of the year. Uncommon from July, though one or two birds were present at Lake Eda until 17th September, two were seen flying over a garden in Twelve Mile on 13th November (CJH) and one was at the town sewage works on 24th November (KS). High count of 210 along the Great Northern Highway on 13th February (LW, JT, MT and NK).

- PINK-EARED DUCK *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*** **35 records**
Much less common than in 2019, reflecting a generally poor year for waterfowl. Recorded fairly regularly throughout the year, from a range of freshwater sites, but generally in small numbers (high count of eight).
- BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus*** **32 records**
One was on the flooded plains along the Great Northern Highway on 13th February (LW, JT, MT and NK). Otherwise, all records relate to a single bird that was regular at the town sewage works until 30th June, presumably the same individual that was first recorded in September 2019.
- GREEN PYGMY-GOOSE *Nettapus pulchellus*** **13 records**
Present in small numbers (up to five) at Lake Campion, from 13th February until 21st April, and from 23rd June until 25th August.
- AUSTRALIAN WOOD DUCK *Chenonetta jubata*** **15 records**
Up to 12 present at Taylor's Lagoon between 25th April and 15th October.
- HARDHEAD *Aythya australis*** **117 records**
Recorded from all major freshwater bodies when they had sufficiently deep water; restricted to the town sewage works from late August. Also seen in Roebuck Bay on 14 occasions between 5th March and 20th July. High count of 116 along the Great Northern Highway on 13th February (LW, JT, MT and NK).
- PACIFIC BLACK DUCK *Anas superciliosa*** **159 records**
Commonly recorded at freshwater sites throughout the region, with two records from Roebuck Bay on 4th June and 18th October. High count of 107 along the Great Northern Highway on 13th February (LW, JT, MT and NK). Ducklings were seen along the Great Northern Highway during March and at the town sewage works during August.
- GREY TEAL *Anas gracilis*** **120 records**
Commonly recorded at freshwater sites throughout the region, and seen in Roebuck Bay on seven occasions. High count of 210 at Lake Campion on 23rd June (NK, NJ and MT). A pair with three ducklings were at Upper Loomingum Bore on 22nd October.
- AUSTRALASIAN GREBE *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*** **141 records**
Common at freshwater sites throughout the year, with a high count of 85 at Lake Eda on 19th May (CJH and KH).
- HOARY-HEADED GREBE *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*** **5 records**
Scarce, with all records of single birds: from the Great Northern Highway on 12th March; Lake Eda on 26th March and 21st April; Taylor's Lagoon on 9th May, and the town sewage works on 9th July.
- GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*** **2 records**
One found at Lake Eda on 21st April (NK, JT and MT) and seen there again on 24th April (GS).
- FLOCK BRONZEWING *Phaps histrionica*** **1 record**
Three seen on Roebuck Plains en route to Kidneybean Claypan on 25th March (CJH) was the only record for the year.

CRESTED PIGEON *Ocyphaps lophotes* 458 records

Common in pindan and eucalypt woodland, particularly around water sources, and often seen along roads. Recorded regularly around the BBO grounds.

DIAMOND DOVE *Geopelia cuneata* 79 records

Common on the eastern part of Roebuck Plains Station, particularly around Taylor's Lagoon. Uncommon in the pindan woodland around the observatory, though recorded regularly between mid-April and late July; only three records at the BBO from August onwards.

PEACEFUL DOVE *Geopelia placida* 463 records

Very common in pindan, eucalypt and paperbark woodland, particularly around water sources. Recorded daily around the BBO grounds.

BAR-SHOULDERED DOVE *Geopelia humeralis* 484 records

Very common in pindan and paperbark woodland, mangals, and gardens. Recorded daily around the BBO grounds.

TAWNY FROGMOUTH *Podargus strigoides* 68 records

Fairly common in wooded habitats: the most regularly encountered nocturnal species and reported from a variety of locations. A pair found roosting along the southern fenceline of the BBO Paddock on 6th May (MT) were a hit on Bush and Plains tours throughout the season. This pair and another nearby were both on nests during October, one pair using a typical stick nest, and the other apparently re-using a Magpie-lark nest, though the latter had abandoned their attempt by 20th October. A pair in Cygnet Park in Broome were also seen with a juvenile on 8th March (CGM).

SPOTTED NIGHTJAR *Eurostopodus argus* 1 record

One seen at Flow Dam, near Coulomb Point, on the night of 8th May (NJ and GS) was the year's only record.

AUSTRALIAN OWLET-NIGHTJAR *Aegotheles cristatus* 10 records

Heard calling at several wooded locations between 9th May and 5th August, including seven records around the BBO grounds.

DARK SWIFTLETS *Aerodramus spp.* 4 records

Swiftlets that have not been identifiable to species level are often brought to Broome by tropical weather systems. This year records came from Entrance Point on 8th January (KH, CJH and BG), 9th January (BG), 6th February (BG and NJ) and 9th December (NJ, AB and GS). On 6th February two distinct types were noted, one showing characteristics of Himalayan Swiftlet *A. brevirostris* and the other, smaller type more typical of the Edible-nest Swiftlet complex *A. fuciphagus/germani*.

FORK-TAILED SWIFT *Apus pacificus* 17 records

Occasional sightings early in the year. The final record before northward migration was on 12th April, when five were seen in a large feeding flock of Tree Martins at the southern edge of the BBO Paddock (NK). Forty-eight birds seen at Entrance Point on 7th October were the first noted returnees (NK). Two were at Taylor's Lagoon on 6th November (NK) and one in Broome on 6th December (BG). There were also small numbers (up to three) present at Entrance Point during the passing of two tropical low pressure systems between 7th and 11th December.



Dark swiftlet (left) and House Swift (right) brought to Entrance Point by tropical weather systems (Nigel Jackett).

HOUSE SWIFT *Apus nipalensis*

4 records

All records from Entrance Point, and all associated with the passing of tropical weather systems: one on 29th February (NJ); one on 26th May (JW); three on 9th December (NJ and AB), and another two on 11th December (NJ).

PHEASANT COUCAL *Centropus phasianinus*

62 records

Commonly recorded throughout the region during wet conditions early in the year. From mid-March onwards, mainly found in wetter locations, including irrigated gardens in Broome, the vine thickets adjacent to Cable Beach, Nimalaica and Crescent Lake.

EASTERN KOEL *Eudynamys orientalis*

1 record

One heard in a garden in Twelve Mile on the night of 22nd January (CJH) was the year's only record.

CHANNEL-BILLED CUCKOO *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

56 records

Commonly recorded in pindan and gardens early in the year, and regularly heard at the BBO, until 25th March. Following this there was one sighting of a juvenile at the Roebuck Roadhouse on 9th May (AB and LB), presumably late to depart on northward migration. The first returned bird was heard at Twelve Mile on 29th September (KH), after which the species was recorded regularly for the rest of the year.

HORSFIELD'S BRONZE-CUCKOO *Chalcites basalis*

81 records

Regularly recorded in a range of woodland habitats throughout the year, often close to where these meet open grasslands.

BLACK-EARED CUCKOO *Chalcites osculans*

4 records

Scarce. Two records from the southern edge of the BBO Paddock (5th February and 13th August), one from the BBO (15th February) and one from Entrance Point (28th August).

SHINING BRONZE-CUCKOO *Chalcites lucidus*

1 record

One caught by the AWSG mist-netting team at a garden in Coconut Wells on 20th February.

LITTLE BRONZE-CUCKOO *Chalcites minutillus* 117 records

Commonly recorded throughout the year in mangals, paperbark groves and coastal pindan. Regular around the BBO grounds.

BRUSH CUCKOO *Cacomantis variolosus* 115 records

Heard calling daily around the observatory until late March, after which there were no records until 26th June. Reported regularly again thereafter, mainly in pindan, vine thickets and paperbark groves. A freshly fledged juvenile was found feeding itself caterpillars around the Shadehouse on 16th February (MT).

PALLID CUCKOO *Heteroscenes pallidus* 10 records

A fairly lean year for this species, with scattered records from various woodland sites. An apparent migrant was seen caught out at Entrance Point on 27th April (NJ).

ORIENTAL CUCKOO *Cuculus saturarus* 2 records

One seen along Crab Creek Road near Tattler Rocks on 10th February (NK), and a returned migrant at the town sewage works on 15th November (AB).

BUFF-BANDED RAIL *Hypotaenidia philippensis* 2 records

Likely to have been present for most of the year in the wetland system around Nimalaica and Crescent Lake. A probable sighting of one running into reeds at Nimalaica on 19th May, but the only confirmed records were one calling at Nimalaica on 9th August and one seen at Crescent Lake on 8th November (all NK).

SPOTLESS CRAKE *Zapornia tabuensis* 3 records

All records from Crescent Lake, where a pair with two chicks were found on 13th August (NJ and GS). One was seen again on 11th September (NJ), and one adult with a chick seen on 13th October (NK).

WHITE-BROWED CRAKE *Amaurornis cinerea* 5 records

All records from Nimalaica: three on 30th June (AB and LB), one on 6th August (AB), two on 13th August (NJ and GS), one on 11th September (NJ), and a juvenile along with at least two more calling birds on 15th November (CY). The species seems likely to have bred at the site as in 2019.

PURPLE SWAMPHEN *Porphyrio porphyrio* 5 records

Uncommon and localised in the region. Seen at Lake Eda on 27th January (NJ), with other records from Nimalaica (19th May and 15th July) and Crescent Lake (11th September and 8th November).

EURASIAN COOT *Fulica atra* 110 records

Recorded regularly in small numbers (high count of 26) from most major freshwater bodies when they had sufficiently deep water in the first half of the year. From August, only reported from the town sewage works.

BROLGA *Antigone rubicunda* 208 records

Occasional records in small numbers in January, February and March. Regularly recorded from late March across the grasslands of Roebuck Plains and around most of the region's water bodies. Steadily increased in number at a few key water sources as others dried up, to spectacular effect, with a high count of 1,276 around Lake Eda on 22nd October (NK).

AUSTRALIAN BUSTARD *Ardeotis australis* 41 records

Uncommon across the region's grasslands this year, and encountered in lower numbers than in 2019, with most records of one or two individuals seen in the BBO and Jabiru paddocks of Roebuck Plains during Bush and Plains tours. During early morning trips to Taylor's Lagoon on 6th and 10th November, at least 10 individuals were seen at a time coming in to drink (NK and PK).

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanites oceanicus* 1 record

An estimated total of 22 individuals seen offshore during a fishing charter on 13th July, travelling from Cable Beach north as far as Willie Creek (NJ, AB, LB and NK).

BLACK-NECKED STORK *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* 111 records

Regularly seen in Roebuck Bay and at near-coastal wetlands throughout the year, with a high count of six around Kidneybean Claypan on 30th July (NK). Seen further inland at lakes Campion and Eda during April and August.

ROYAL SPOONBILL *Platalea regia* 124 records

Regularly seen at freshwater wetlands and along Crab Creek. Highest numbers were at the town sewage works, where a loafing flock of up to 45 individuals was present throughout the year.

STRAW-NECKED IBIS *Threskiornis spinicollis* 202 records

Common around the lakes and bores of Roebuck Plains, as well as irrigated lawns and parks in the town of Broome. High count of 78 at the BRAC ovals on 28th April (NJ).

AUSTRALIAN WHITE IBIS *Threskiornis moluccus* 572 records

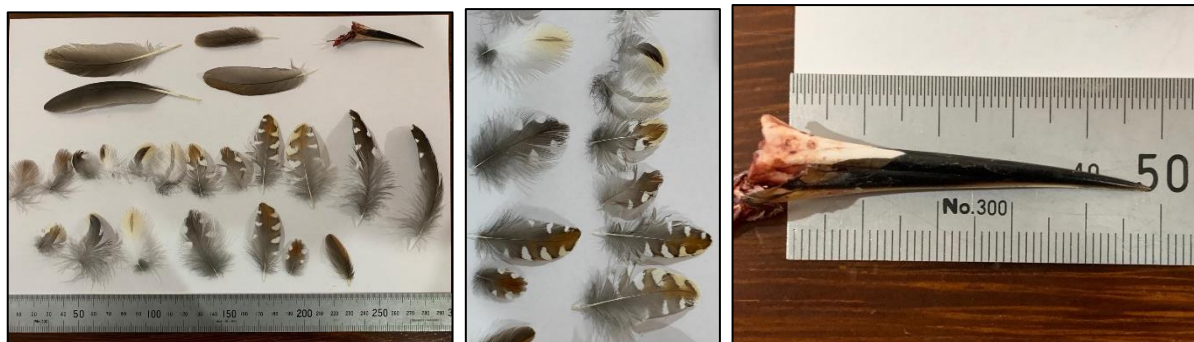
Very common around the town of Broome and in Roebuck Bay, particularly during the dry season. Birds continued to visit the Shadehouse bird baths, and a small flock would often roost around the BBO grounds. Regularly seen roosting and loafing around Tagarana Bore, and also regular at Nimalaica and Crescent Lake. Scarce in the eastern part of Roebuck Plains Station.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* 24 records

Irrupted into the region following the January rains, with at least 400 seen along the Great Northern Highway on 27th February. Regular at the Roebuck Plains lakes until the end of June, after which the only record was of 50 birds photographed in the shallow pool at Tagarana Bore on 4th December (Jo).



Fifty Glossy Ibis gathered in the freshwater pool at Tagarana Bore on 4th December (Jo Glas).



The fresh remains of a vagrant Schrenck's Bittern found at the Broome Turf Club on 12th December (Adrian Boyle).

SCHRENCK'S BITTERN *Ixobrychus eurhythmus* 1 record

Fresh remains of feathers and upper mandible of this species were found at the Broome Turf Club on 12th December (AB), and identified in the following days (JD), constituting the first record in mainland Australia.

NANKEEN NIGHT-HERON *Nycticorax caledonicus* 3 records

Two records from gardens: one in Twelve Mile on 2nd February (CJH) and one on Lulfitz Drive (Cable Beach) on 31st July (PNL). One heard calling from the BBO campground on the night of 2nd August (NJ).

STRIATED HERON *Butorides striata* 150 records

Common in the Crab Creek mangroves, and also regularly recorded along the beaches of northern Roebuck Bay. An unusual record from the flooded plains along the Great Northern Highway on 27th January may have been a vagrant from southeast Asia (CJH).

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* 5 records

One in full breeding plumage among other white egrets seen at Kidneybean Claypan during our Wave the Waders Goodbye course on 23rd March. All other records were from the yards at the Common, where up to 17 were seen in July, September and October. These reflect when birders most often visit the site, and the species may have been present there for most of the year.

WHITE-NECKED HERON *Ardea pacifica* 21 records

Uncommon, but seen at a range of freshwater sites for most of the year, with most records from Lake Champion. One at 'Seventy KM Pool' near Taylor's Lagoon during the Birds of the Broome Region course on 17th September was the final record of the year.

GREAT EGRET *Ardea alba* 232 records

Common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. All other records came from near-coastal wetlands: the flooded plains in the BBO Paddock and Kidneybean Claypan early in the year, and the town sewage works and Crescent Lake later in the year. At least 88 were counted along the edge of the Crab Creek mangroves from the BBO Beach during Migration Watch on 2nd April (NK).

PLUMED EGRET *Ardea plumifera* 9 records

Seen occasionally at several flooded freshwater areas early in the year. A single at Lake Champion on 7th (NK) and 9th May (CJH and KH) was the final record until one was found at the town sewage works on 1st December (AB); this individual was joined by another five days later (BG).

WHITE-FACED HERON *Egretta novaehollandiae* 255 records

Common in Roebuck Bay and at other wetland sites throughout the region. Fifty birds seen from Boiler Point on 21st June was an unusually high count (CJH).

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* 220 records

Common in Roebuck Bay, with a high count of at least 300 along Crab Creek seen from the BBO Beach during Migration Watch on 9th April (NK). Other records were from near-coastal wetlands, including 195 on a flooded area of the BBO Paddock on 2nd April (NK and MT).

EASTERN REEF EGRET *Egretta sacra* 150 records

Commonly recorded along the northern beaches of Roebuck Bay and at other coastal sites. Dark-morph birds predominated in the bay, though the white morph was often seen at Entrance Point and predominated at Coconut Wells (CGM).

AUSTRALIAN PELICAN *Pelecanus conspicillatus* 306 records

Common in Roebuck Bay and also recorded from other wetlands in the region, especially after wet season flooding. A flock of up to 200 birds was present at the town sewage works for most of the year.

LESSER FRIGATEBIRD *Fregata ariel* 46 records

Seen occasionally at coastal sites throughout the year, with a high count of 19 at Gantheaume Point after the passing of a severe weather system on 25th May (AB). Four on 2nd October were unusually far inland, seen from Roebuck Plains passing over the vicinity of Tagarana Bore (NK).

GREAT FRIGATEBIRD *Fregata minor* 1 record

An immature female seen from Gantheaume Point on 25th May, after the passing of a severe weather system, was only the fifth record for Broome (AB, NJ and LB).



Immature female Great Frigatebird seen from Gantheaume Point on 25th May (Nigel Jackett).

BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster* **76 records**
 Scarcely reported early in the year, but regular in Roebuck Bay and at other coastal sites from 9th May. The final record from the bay's northern shores was on 19th September, but the species continued to be seen regularly at Entrance Point for the rest of the year. An estimated 73 individuals were counted between Cable Beach and Willie Creek from an offshore fishing charter on 13th July (NJ, AB, LB, and NK).

LITTLE PIED CORMORANT *Microcarbo melanoleucos* **12 records**
 Generally uncommon, but seen at several freshwater sites between 25th April and 10th November. No more than two seen on any occasion. One coastal record, from Entrance Point on 28th August.

LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* **11 records**
 Rather uncommon, with occasional records from Roebuck Bay between 22nd April and 25th October. Also seen at Lake Eda on three occasions (27th January, 26th March and 10th July), and at Taylor's Lagoon on 14th March.

GREAT PIED CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax varius* **134 records**
 Seen frequently in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. Also recorded occasionally at the Roebuck Plains lakes and Kidneybean Claypan.

AUSTRALASIAN DARTER *Anhinga novaehollandiae* **16 records**
 Seen at lakes Champion and Eda on 27th January (NJ). Otherwise, recorded throughout the year in Roebuck Bay, albeit uncommonly. Somewhat regular at Entrance Point.

BUSH STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus grallarius* **4 records**
 One heard at a house on Lulfitz Drive (Cable Beach) on 19th February (LW and MT). One at Flow Dam near Coulomb Point in the early hours of 9th May (NJ). The remaining two records were heard at night from the BBO grounds, on 8th July and 4th October (JT and NK).

BEACH STONE-CURLEW *Esacus magnirostris* **8 records**
 Scarcely reported. A pair were seen around Entrance Point and the north end of Simpson's Beach on 16th February (NK), 9th March (DRC) and 9th May (CG and Franky). There were also a regular pair at Coconut Well, usually seen on the south side of Willie Creek (CGM). Other records were singles in Roebuck Bay: at Two Dog Hermit on 25th February (GM) and 1st December (NJ and AB), in the Crab Creek mangroves on 15th August (Franky), at Richard's Point on 12th November (CJH) and at the BBO Viewing Platform on 14th November (Frank).

AUSTRALIAN PIED OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus longirostris* **239 records**
 Common in Roebuck Bay and at other coastal sites throughout the year. Twenty-three pairs attempted to breed between Cable Beach and Willie Creek around the end of June, with only one raising young to fledging (CGM).

| <i>MY SMA</i> counts in Roebuck Bay | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 10 | 96 |
| Bush Point | 168 | 320 |
| Total | 178 | 416 |

SOOTY OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus fuliginosus* 47 records

Generally uncommon, but small numbers were seen in Roebuck Bay throughout the year, as well as at Entrance Point and other west coast sites. Five were present on the northern shores during the summer MYSMA counts, with none at Bush Point, and none at either site during the winter counts. Up to 40 were present at Coconut Well throughout the year (CGM).

RED-NECKED AVOCET *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae* 59 records

First recorded in the region on 6th June, when 6 were seen at Boiler Point in northern Roebuck Bay (MT). Commonly recorded in the bay thereafter, but with no records from any other sites. During the winter MYSMA counts, 13 were present on the northern shores, with none at Bush Point, and none at either site during the summer counts. High count of 51 at Boiler on 14th November (NK and Frank).

PIED STILT *Himantopus leucocephalus* 412 records

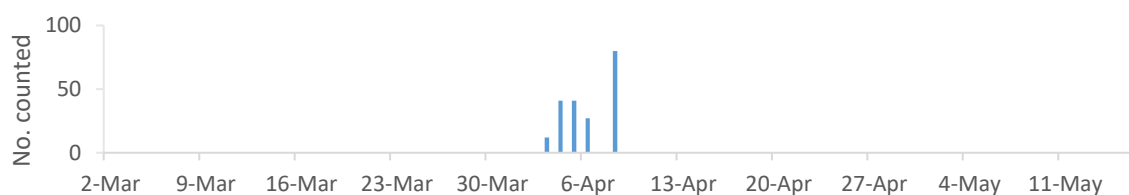
Very commonly recorded in Roebuck Bay and at most of the region’s freshwater sites throughout the year. Numerous on Roebuck Plains following the wet season floods, with 827 along the Great Northern Highway on 13th February the highest count of the year (LW, JT, MT and NK). During the winter MYSMA counts, 477 were present on the northern shores, with none at Bush Point, and none at either site during the summer counts; more were present at other times in the bay, including 810 at Wader Beach on 25th May (NK). Apparent pre-migratory behaviour was recorded on five occasions: at Kidneybean Claypan on 25th March (CJH), and from the BBO Beach during Migration Watch on 29th April, 8th May and twice on 10th May. Finally, late in the evening of 10th May, a flock of 24 individuals was observed rising high and disappearing in a bunch to the northeast. Although not a transequatorial migrant like most of the region’s plovers and sandpipers, these records add to several departures observed in 2019, and some records of birds with flags from north-west Australia resighted in Indonesia. Together, this evidence suggests some individuals from this population make international movements, though these are perhaps more dependent on prevailing conditions than are the movements of strict migrants.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* 151 records

Common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year, and also seen at Crescent Lake on 29th January (NJ) and 13th October (NK). The first juvenile of the year was seen in the bay on 24th September (CJH).

| MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 14 | 255 |
| Bush Point | 303 | 580 |
| Total | 317 | 835 |

Visible migration



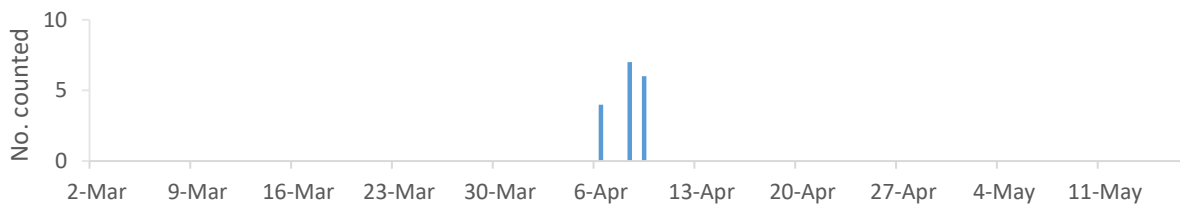
PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva*

97 records

Commonly recorded in small numbers in Roebuck Bay up until 1st May. No records of overwintering birds. Records resumed with presumably the first returned migrants on 9th August, and the species was seen regularly thereafter until the end of the year. Also recorded occasionally from the town sewage works, once from the Common (23rd October), and at Lake Eda on 19th and 25th October.

| <i>MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay</i> | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 0 | 66 |
| Bush Point | 0 | 33 |
| Total | 0 | 99 |

Visible migration



LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

2 records

One at Crescent Lake on 9th and 10th October (GS) were the year’s only records.

RED-CAPPED PLOVER *Charadrius ruficapillus*

209 records

Commonly recorded in Roebuck Bay throughout the year, though numbers fluctuated depending on conditions inland. Also regularly recorded from most of the regions shallow freshwater sites; especially numerous around Nimalaica and Crescent Lake, where there is much suitable breeding habitat. Runners were seen around Kidneybean Claypan, Nimalaica and Lake Eda during August and September.

| <i>MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay</i> | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 158 | 0 |
| Bush Point | 952 | 336 |
| Total | 1,110 | 336 |



A Little Ringed Plover visited Crescent Lake in October (George Swann).

LESSER SAND PLOVER *Charadrius mongolus*

112 records

Commonly recorded throughout the year in Roebuck Bay, in higher numbers than usual, though still much less numerous than Greater Sand Plover. Three records of birds leaving on migration: from the BBO Beach on 5th and 17th April (two individuals on each occasion), and five straight from a roost on Richard's Point on 15th April (CJH).

| MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 49 | 84 |
| Bush Point | 46 | 25 |
| Total | 95 | 109 |

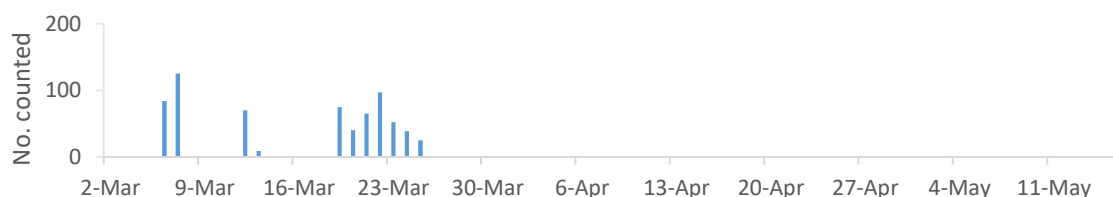
GREATER SAND PLOVER *Charadrius leschenaultii*

164 records

Abundant in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. Also recorded at Taylor's Lagoon (singles on 11th and 25th August), Crescent Lake (seven on 13th October) and Lake Eda (single on 19th October).

| MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 360 | 1,941 |
| Bush Point | 740 | 16,503 |
| Total | 1,100 | 18,444 |

Visible migration



ORIENTAL PLOVER *Charadrius veredus*

36 records

Seen occasionally at the BRAC ovals, Kidneybean Claypan and in Roebuck Bay early in the year, with the last record before northward migration on 23rd March. First returned bird found on Cable Beach on 28th August (CGM), after which the species was regularly recorded at a variety of wetlands and grasslands across the region. During the summer MYSMA count, 769 were at Bush Point on 2nd December. The first juvenile of the year was seen in the bay on 24th September (CJH).

BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL *Elseornis melanops*

128 records

Commonly recorded at all freshwater wetlands throughout the year. There were runners and active nests at the town sewage works during February and March.

MASKED LAPWING *Vanellus miles*

285 records

Very common at freshwater wetlands and wet grassy areas throughout the year, including lawns and parks in the town of Broome. Nesting was recorded at the town sewage works during March, and a chick was at Lake Champion in September.

RED-KNEED DOTTEREL *Erythrogonys cinctus*

48 records

Commonly recorded at the Roebuck Plains lakes, Nimalaica and Crescent Lake throughout the year. A pair with three chicks were seen at Nimalaica on 12th August.

COMB-CRESTED JACANA *Irediparra gallinacea*

2 records

One found at Lake Campion on 12th March (LW, JT, MT and NK) was there again two days later (NK), but not seen subsequently.

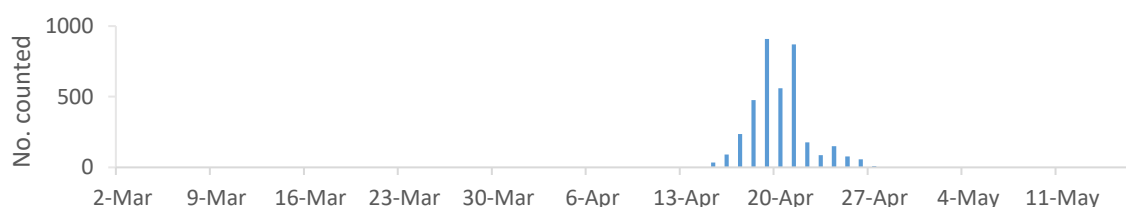
WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

298 records

Very common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. Unlike for other shorebird species, numbers counted leaving on migration (3,740 in total) far exceeded those in MYSMA counts of Roebuck Bay's beaches. MYSMA counts may underestimate numbers of Whimbrel, which often roost in inaccessible mangrove areas. Also recorded at Crescent Lake (29th January, 11th September and 13th October), Nimalaica (15th July) and Lake Eda (1st November). The first juvenile was seen in the bay on 2nd October (CJH).

| MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 498 | 630 |
| Bush Point | 328 | 275 |
| Total | 826 | 905 |

Visible migration



LITTLE CURLEW *Numenius minutus*

27 records

Recorded across large areas of Roebuck Plains early in the year. The last record before northward migration was two at Lake Eda on 19th May (CJH and KH). The first returnee was at Lake Eda on 9th September (NK, MT and LOB), after which the species was seen regularly at wetland and grassland sites.

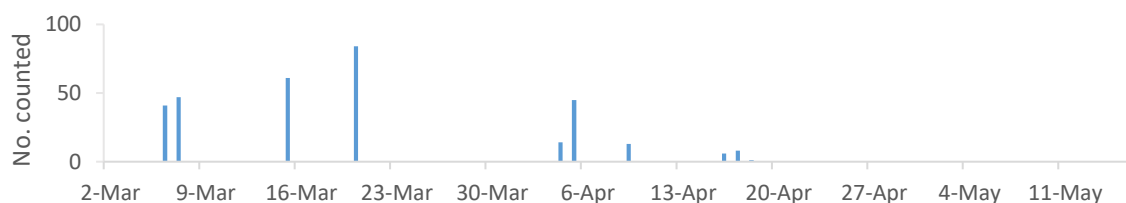
FAR EASTERN CURLEW *Numenius madagascariensis*

209 records

Very common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year.

| MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 61 | 549 |
| Bush Point | 568 | 115 |
| Total | 629 | 654 |

Visible migration



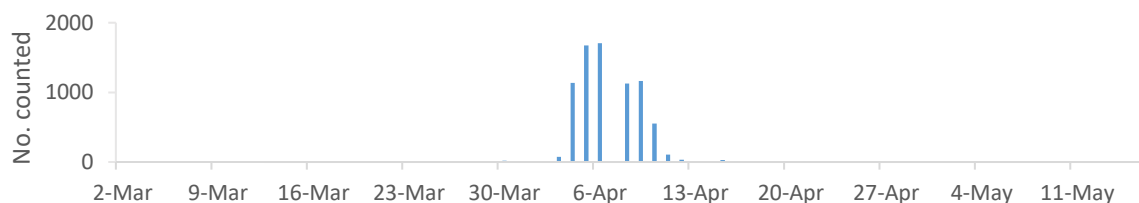
BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

194 records

Very common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year.

| <i>MYSMA</i> counts in Roebuck Bay | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 232 | 4,140 |
| Bush Point | 683 | 12,501 |
| Total | 915 | 16,641 |

Visible migration



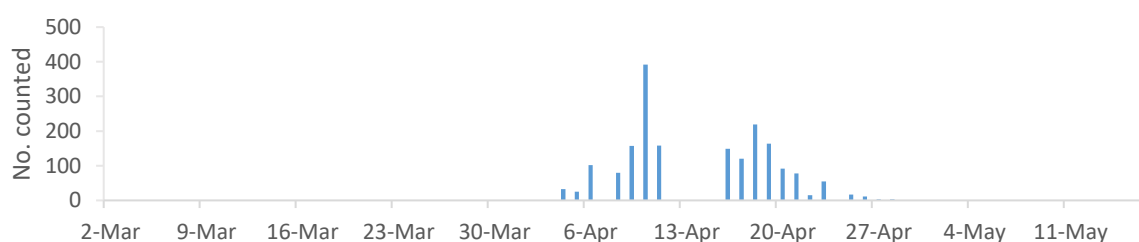
BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

183 records

Common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. Also at freshwater sites, with up to 109 at Lake Eda before northward migration; also seen at the lakes after return migration, but always in ones and twos. First juvenile seen in the bay on 2nd October (CJH).

| <i>MYSMA</i> counts in Roebuck Bay | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 153 | 2,065 |
| Bush Point | 80 | 167 |
| Total | 233 | 2,232 |

Visible migration



RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

168 records

Commonly recorded in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. Occasionally reported from other coastal sites, the town sewage works and Crescent Lake; one at Lake Eda on 13th October was unusually far inland. The first juvenile was seen at Quarry Beach on 16th September (CJH).

| <i>MYSMA</i> counts in Roebuck Bay | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 40 | 465 |
| Bush Point | 35 | 623 |
| Total | 75 | 1,088 |

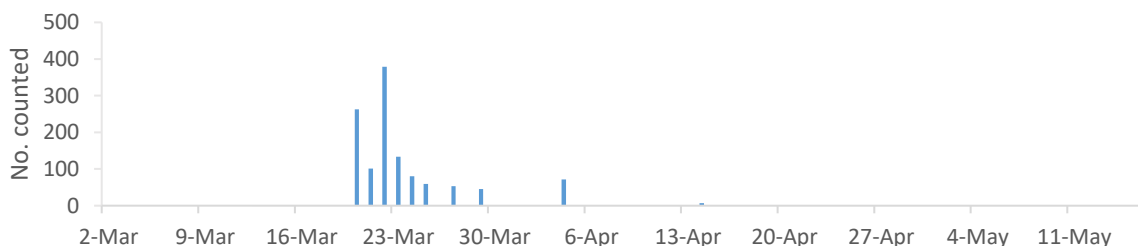
GREAT KNOT *Calidris tenuirostris*

185 records

Abundant in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. Also seen at the town sewage works on 6th August and 12th November. The first juvenile was seen at Quarry Beach on 27th September (CJH).

| <i>MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay</i> | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 1,886 | 17,027 |
| Bush Point | 3,289 | 13,252 |
| Total | 5,175 | 30,279 |

Visible migration



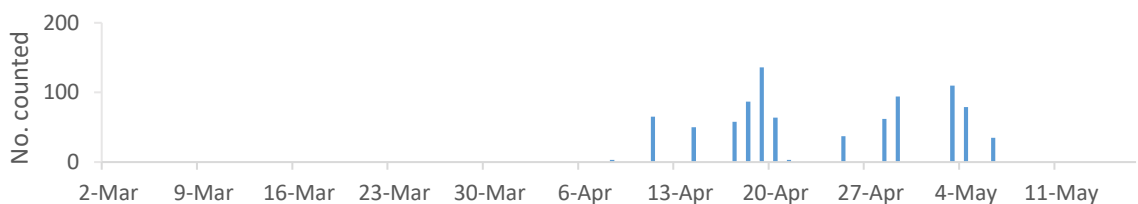
RED KNOT *Calidris canutus*

150 records

Abundant in Roebuck Bay throughout the year, though well outnumbered by Great Knot. One was at the town sewage works on 12th November (AB), an unusual location for the species. The first juvenile was seen at Quarry Beach on 16th September (CJH).

| <i>MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay</i> | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 240 | 1,675 |
| Bush Point | 889 | 1,304 |
| Total | 1,129 | 2,979 |

Visible migration



RUFF *Calidris pugnax*

1 record

One in pre-breeding moult seen with Sharp-tailed Sandpipers at Lake Eda on 21st April (MT, NK and JT).



A Ruff (far right) found among Sharp-tailed Sandpipers at Lake Eda on 21st April (Nyl Khwaja).

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Calidris falcinellus*

69 records

Regular in Roebuck Bay during the summer months. A lack of records between 28th April and 21st July raises the possibility that none overwintered, which would make those recorded in July early returnees. However, it is probably more likely that the few overwintering birds were missed until the MYSMA counts. This year saw the highest ever counts of Broad-billed Sandpiper in the region, with large numbers often feeding just in front of observers on the BBO Beach during Migration Watch, when the watches coincided with the ebbing tide. Over 400 were counted there on five occasions, with a maximum of 558 on 7th April (NK). On 15th April, 60 were seen leaving on migration from the BBO Beach.

| MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 9 | 34 |
| Bush Point | 3 | 137 |
| Total | 12 | 171 |

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *Calidris acuminata*

112 records

Recorded from various freshwater sites early in the year, and once in Roebuck Bay. No records between 9th May and 21st July, with the latter possibly early returnees; the species was subsequently seen most days in the bay and regularly at all major freshwater sites. High count of 295 at Lake Eda on 21st April (NK, JT and MT).

| MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 1 | 12 |
| Bush Point | 0 | 76 |
| Total | 1 | 88 |

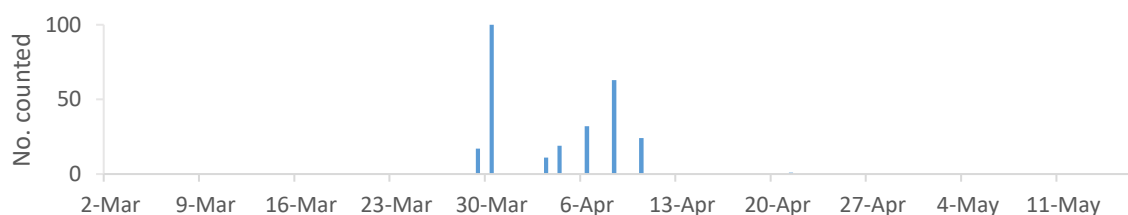
CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

135 records

Common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year, and also recorded at most freshwater sites. The first juvenile was seen in the bay on 4th September (CJH).

| MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 202 | 766 |
| Bush Point | 59 | 465 |
| Total | 261 | 1,231 |

Visible migration



LONG-TOED STINT *Calidris subminuta*

13 records

No records before northward migration, when birds were likely dispersed across large areas of floodwater. First returnee seen at Crescent Lake on 6th August (NK). Seen there, at the town sewage

works, and at lakes Campion and Eda for the rest of the year, with a high count of six at Crescent Lake on 15th September during our Birds of the Broome Region course.

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis* 172 records

Abundant in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. Also regular at Crescent Lake, Lake Eda and the town sewage works during the summer months, including 51 at Eda on 21st April (JT, MT and NK). Two flocks seen leaving on migration from the BBO Beach: one of 65 individuals on 7th April, and one of 25 individuals on 15th April.

| <i>MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay</i> | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 3,826 | 1,629 |
| Bush Point | 457 | 13,758 |
| Total | 4,283 | 15,387 |

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* 23 records

Seen occasionally on Roebuck Bay's northern beaches throughout the year, though the species's stronghold in the region is Bush Point, which was only visited twice for counts. Also common north of the Cable Beach rocks all year round, including 100 at Coconut Well on 29th August, and 30 presumably overwintering birds at the same location on 6th July (CGM). The first juvenile was seen in the bay on 16th October (CJH).

| <i>MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay</i> | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 2 | 0 |
| Bush Point | 84 | 1,108 |
| Total | 86 | 1,108 |

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos* 4 records

A juvenile found at Lake Eda on 6th October (CJH and KH) was seen there again on 13th (NK) and 19th October (CJH and KH). One seen briefly at Crescent Lake on 8th November also looked like a juvenile, and seems likely to have been the same individual (NK).



Pectoral Sandpiper (right) with two Sharp-tailed Sandpipers at Lake Eda in October (Nyil Khwaja).

ASIAN DOWITCHER *Limnodromus semipalmatus* 48 records

A much better year than 2019 for this iconic BBO wader, which was seen regularly on Roebuck Bay’s northern beaches between 6th March and 31st August. After this there were only two records from the northern shores, both juveniles, with the first of the season seen on Wader Beach during our Birds of the Broome Region course on 16th September, and another seen on 24th September (CJH). This is in keeping with regular movement patterns for the species, in which almost all individuals appear to move to Bush Point for the final quarter of the year. One seen leaving on migration over the BBO Beach on 18th April, in a flock with 60 Black-tailed Godwits.

| MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 18 | 0 |
| Bush Point | 8 | 80 |
| Total | 26 | 80 |

PINTAIL SNIPE *Gallinago stenura* 1 record

One record from Taylor’s Lagoon on 2nd February. At least six snipe were flushed at the site. Flight calls were recorded from two of these, with one positively identified as Pintail Snipe and the other as Swinhoe’s Snipe (NJ).

SWINHOE’S SNIPE *Gallinago megala* 2 records

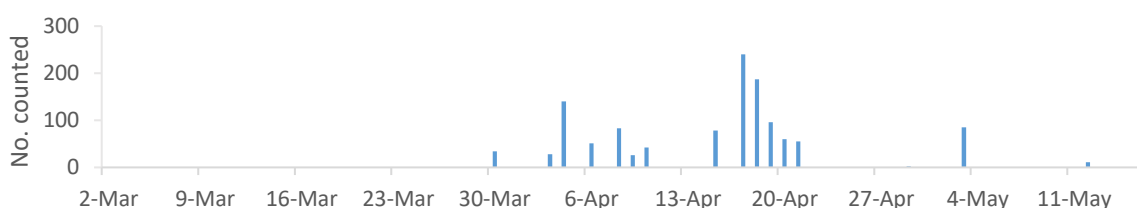
One identified by call at Taylor’s Lagoon on 2nd February (see entry for Pintail Snipe above). One identified by structural and plumage features at the town sewage works on 21st March (CJH).

TEREK SANDPIPER *Xenus cinereus* 176 records

Common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year.

| MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 184 | 1,251 |
| Bush Point | 121 | 344 |
| Total | 305 | 1,595 |

Visible migration



COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* 216 records

Very commonly recorded along the creeks and beaches of Roebuck Bay, and at most freshwater sites, throughout the summer months. The last record before northward migration was a single along Little Crab Creek on 9th May (NK), and the first returned bird was at the town sewage works on 26th July (NJ). During the MYSMA summer counts on 1st December, 21 were seen along Roebuck Bay’s northern shores.

GREY-TAILED TATTLER *Tringa brevipes*

194 records

Common in Roebuck Bay throughout the year, and also recorded from other coastal sites. Two were at Crescent Lake on 13th October (NK and PK). The first five juveniles were seen in the bay on 30th September (CJH).

| <i>MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay</i> | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 252 | 2,186 |
| Bush Point | 29 | 1,062 |
| Total | 281 | 3,248 |

Visible migration



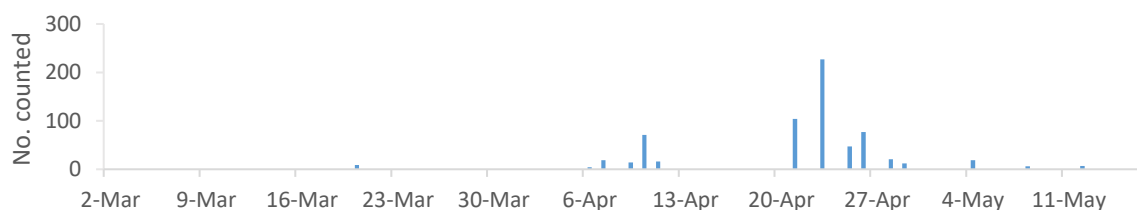
COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

341 records

Common in Roebuck Bay and at freshwater sites throughout the year. Birds readily moved from the bay to saltmarsh claypans on Roebuck Plains when they were in flood from rainfall and spring tides; usually by far the most numerous wader in these areas.

| <i>MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay</i> | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 170 | 315 |
| Bush Point | 15 | 15 |
| Total | 185 | 330 |

Visible migration



COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

48 records

Regularly recorded on the mudflats around Crab Creek outside the high-tide period, and occasionally also seen roosting on the northern beaches of Roebuck Bay. At least five individuals apparently overwintered in the bay, but no more than five were seen at any one time during the summer.

| <i>MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay</i> | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 4 | 1 |
| Bush Point | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 5 | 1 |

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

58 records

Commonly recorded at freshwater sites during the summer months, particularly at Lake Campion where up to 20 were seen during September. The last record before northward migration was of 5 at a flooded area south of Taylor's Lagoon on 25th April (NK). The first 4 returned birds were seen at Lake Campion on 3rd August (GS). The first juvenile was seen at the Broome North sewage works on 7th September (CJH).

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis*

65 records

Commonly recorded at freshwater sites during the summer months, and occasionally in Roebuck Bay. Birds remained at Lake Eda until 7th May, but from then were not recorded until 10th July; as these were also at Lake Eda, and the site had been visited regularly in the interim, they may have been very early returnees (perhaps failed breeders). From then on recorded regularly at freshwater sites and occasionally in Roebuck Bay (including one during the winter MYSMA count on 21st July) for the rest of the year.

NORDMANN'S GREENSHANK *Tringa guttifer*

1 record

A brilliant find during MYSMA counts at Bush Point on 1st December, where one was photographed roosting among knots and godwits (AB and NJ). The first record for Broome, and first for Australia outside Eighty Mile Beach (where a different individual had been seen by the same team three days previously).

AUSTRALIAN PRATINCOLE *Stiltia isabella*

67 records

First seen on the flooded plains along the Great Northern Highway on 14th February (CGM). Two more records in February, another two in March, and then regular at that location, the Common, and the Roebuck Plains lakes from early May until the end of the year, with two records from Nimalaica. A lone individual seen over the Crab Creek mangroves on 13th May was unusual (NK). High count of 400 around Lake Eda on 17th November (NK).



The Broome find of the year: a Nordmann's Greenshank (front left) with godwits and an Oriental Plover during the summer counts at Bush Point on 1st December (Nigel Jackett).

ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE *Glareola maldivarum*

32 records

Regularly recorded at grassland and wetland sites until the end of March. Stragglers were seen at Lake Eda on 21st April (JT, MT and NK), 9th May and 19th May (both CJH and KH). There were no further records until the first returnee was seen at Lake Eda on 25th October (NK). A few were seen there and on the crop fields adjoining the Broome North sewage works for the following five weeks. During the MYSMA counts on 1st December, an estimated 15,000 were seen in huge flocks from One Tree, flying over and behind the mangroves as the tide came in (CJH, KH, JT and NK).

| MYSMA counts in Roebuck Bay | Winter (21-22 July) | Summer (1-2 December) |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Shores | 0 | 15,015 |
| Bush Point | 0 | 1,630 |
| Total | 0 | 16,645 |

BROWN NODDY *Anous stolidus*

3 record

One seen roosting at Entrance Point on 20th February (AR), three at Gantheaume Point on 10th December (AB and LB), and another at Entrance Point on 12th December (BG and JG).

SILVER GULL *Larus novaehollandiae*

379 records

Very commonly seen at coastal sites and around the town of Broome, with a high count of 625 at the town sewage works on 4th October (NJ).

BRIDLED TERN *Onychoprion anaethetus*

3 records

Fourteen were seen from a boat offshore Barred Creek on 31st July (NJ). Five were seen flying towards the port from Gantheaume Point on 1st November (AB). Also seen at Entrance Point on 26th November (AB). There were further probable sightings of this species from One Tree on 15th September, and Entrance Point on 8th November (both NK), but birds were too distant to rule out Sooty Tern *O. fuscatus* on each occasion.

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons*

102 records

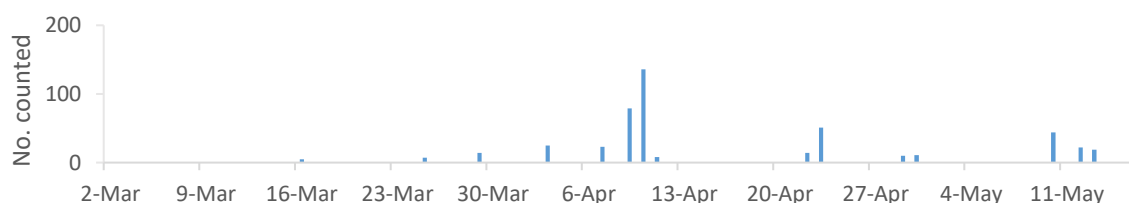
Regularly recorded in Roebuck Bay until 9th May, and again from 2nd September. The only record during winter was of 107 at Bush Point during the MYSMA counts on 22nd July. Recorded breeding on a sandspit north of Coconut Well on 27th December (CGM).

COMMON GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica*

209 records

Commonly recorded in Roebuck Bay throughout the year. Occasionally seen foraging for grasshoppers over Roebuck Plains early in the year. Occasional records from the Roebuck Plains lakes, Kidneybean Claypan, Tagarana Bore, Crescent Lake and the town sewage works.

Visible migration



AUSTRALIAN GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon macrotarsa* 200 records

Commonly recorded in Roebuck Bay throughout the year and regularly seen foraging for grasshoppers on Roebuck Plains early in the year. Large numbers sometimes gathered around freshwater sites when these were in flood, including 354 at Lake Eda on 21st April (JT, MT and NK). High count of 491 on Roebuck Bay's northern beaches during the winter MYSMA count on 21st July.

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia* 186 records

Commonly recorded in Roebuck Bay throughout the year and occasionally seen on Roebuck Plains, particularly around Kidneybean Claypan. Also recorded from Crescent Lake and the town sewage works.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida* 306 records

Common in Roebuck Bay and at all freshwater bodies throughout the year. Abundant after the wet-season rains, with at least 5,000 present on the flooded plains behind the observatory on 5th February (NJ). One flock of 26 birds seen departing on migration in a line formation past the BBO Beach on 29th April.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* 55 records

Abundant on Roebuck Plains early in the year, and also seen occasionally in Roebuck Bay. The last record before northward migration was one in a large feeding flock of Whiskered Terns in the bay on 4th May (NK). The first returning birds were five seen at the town sewage works on 29th September (NJ); there were no further records until 24th October, but from then on the species was regular there and occasionally seen in Roebuck Bay.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* 5 records

Seen occasionally at coastal sites in the last quarter of the year: in a large tern roost at Simpson's Beach on 16th October (CJH); at Entrance Point on 8th (NK), 15th (Frank) and 26th November (AB), and at Bush Point during the summer MYSMA counts on 1st December.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* 21 records

Seen regularly at coastal sites during the summer months, up until 8th March. Occasional records of overwintering birds on the northern shores of Roebuck Bay (18th June and 31st July), from a fishing charter off the west coast (13th July) and at Bush Point (22nd July). Regular again from 7th October as migrants returned to the region. One at the town sewage works on 12th November was an unusual freshwater record (NK).

LESSER CRESTED TERN *Thalasseus bengalensis* 153 records

Very common in Roebuck Bay and at other coastal sites from 6th February for the remainder of the year. High count of 708 at Bush Point during the winter MYSMA count on 22nd July.

GREATER CRESTED TERN *Thalasseus bergii* 104 records

Commonly recorded in Roebuck Bay and at other coastal sites throughout the year. Generally less numerous than Lesser Crested Tern in the bay, but more often recorded at west coast sites and offshore.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* 3 records

One on Roebuck Plains seen from the Great Northern Highway on 17th May (NJ); a pair at Ram-Paddock Well on 18th July (CGM), and one on the plains behind the observatory on 3rd August (GS).



A Southern Boobook seen at Ram-Paddock Well in May (Clare Morton).

BARKING OWL *Ninox connivens* 9 records

Not often reported to the log: apparently absent from the pindan around the observatory, but regular in Broome and in the bushland along the west coast. First reported on 9th May, and last reported on 12th August. A pair were found at Ram-Paddock Well on 15th May (CGM).

SOUTHERN BOOBOOK *Ninox boobook* 12 records

Recorded in a range of wooded areas including pindan, paperbark and savanna woodland, for most of the year, although the last record was on 24th August. A pair were at Ram-Paddock Well on 19th and 25th May (CGM). Seen four times along Crab Creek Road, but not at the BBO itself.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* 303 records

Very commonly recorded in coastal areas and around the town of Broome. There were active nests at Entrance Point, Gantheaume Point, the Broome industrial area and the usual Old Broome nest visible from the BBO market stall; young were recorded in these nests in July and August. A (possibly inexperienced) pair attempted to build a nest on Tattler Rocks in late June. A pair seen fairly regularly in woodland in the north-west of the BBO Paddock between April and July also may have been nesting nearby, as the location was several kilometres from suitable foraging grounds.

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE *Elanus axillaris* 59 records

Recorded regularly throughout the year from open grassland and saltmarsh. One at Kidneybean Claypan on 21st October appeared to be carrying nest material.

BLACK-BREASTED BUZZARD *Hamirostra melanosternon* 56 records

Regularly recorded from grassland and woodland east of the Roebuck Roadhouse throughout the year, particularly around the lakes of Roebuck Plains, with a high count of six at Lake Champion on 6th September (NK). Occasionally seen closer to Broome, including one over Crab Creek Road very close to the observatory on 28th August (NK).



A Square-tailed Kite seen over James Price Point on 26th June (Adrian Boyle).

SQUARE-TAILED KITE *Lophoictinia isura* 6 records

Scarce, with all records quite likely to refer to the same individual. Seen at Nimalaica on 25th March (NK and LW), the BRAC ovals on 28th April (NJ), Minyirr Park on 15th May (NK), James Price Point on 26th June (AB and LB), Simpson's Beach on 20th July (JT) and the town sewage works on 11th August (AB).

WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE *Aquila audax* 109 records

Commonly recorded throughout the year from a variety of locations. Most records were from Roebuck Plains, and Lake Champion appeared to host a resident pair for most of the year. High count of six at Lake Eda on 2nd November (JKG, JT and MT).

LITTLE EAGLE *Hieraaetus morphnoides* 9 records

Uncommon, but reported from a variety of locations between 9th May and 10th August. No records outside this period. Two sightings noted as being dark morph birds, and three noted as light morph.

SWAMP HARRIER *Circus approximans* 69 records

Recorded from most wetlands in the region, for most of the year, though the last record was on 11th September. Most were young birds, but a full adult male was photographed in Roebuck Bay on 20th July (BDC).

SPOTTED HARRIER *Circus assimilis* 41 records

Seen over the grasslands, woodlands, saltmarsh and wetlands of Roebuck Plains throughout the year.

BROWN GOSHAWK *Accipiter fasciatus* 180 records

Fairly common throughout the region, with most records coming from the town of Broome and, especially, around the observatory. A regular visitor to the Shadehouse bird baths, occasionally catching prey there (seen to catch Double-barred Finch and Brown Honeyeater, and feeding on a freshly-caught Peaceful Dove). Remarkably on 7th May one flew rapidly through the BBO office, straight in the front door and straight out the back (JT).

COLLARED SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter cirrocephalus* 22 records

Much less common than the previous species, particularly around the observatory, and a source of regular ID confusion. Nevertheless, recorded regularly, often around Nimalaica or Roebuck Plains waterholes, but also several times at the BBO, particularly through April when often visited the Shadehouse baths.

WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE *Haliaeetus leucogaster* 367 records

Very commonly recorded throughout the year, both at coastal locations and around inland wetlands.

WHISTLING KITE *Haliastur sphenurus* 630 records

Ubiquitous throughout the year. Nesting was also recorded through the entire year, including nests at the town sewage works, several in and around the BBO Paddock, and one at the observatory.

BRAHMINY KITE *Haliastur indus* 396 records

Very commonly recorded at coastal and near-coastal sites. One at Taylor's Lagoon on 26th June was unusually far inland (NK).

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* 492 records

Very commonly recorded throughout the region all year, and particularly abundant in the dry season. A nest in woodland in the north-west corner of the BBO Paddock fledged two young in early April.

RAINBOW BEE-EATER *Merops ornatus* 516 records

Abundant throughout the region all year, particularly on the edges of grassland and around wetlands. A flock of 50 all perched on power lines in Broome were noted as possible migrants on 27th April (NJ).

ORIENTAL DOLLARBIRD *Eurystomus orientalis* 90 records

Common and conspicuous in wooded habitats during the summer months, and often seen drinking at wetlands on hot days. The last record before northward migration was two in Broome on 21st April (CGM). The first returning bird was in Twelve Mile on 29th September (KH).

SACRED KINGFISHER *Todiramphus sanctus* 192 records

Fairly common throughout the year in woodland and mangroves, and often seen foraging on Roebuck Bay's tidal flats.

RED-BACKED KINGFISHER *Todiramphus pyrrhopygius* 9 records

Usually a fairly common dry season visitor, but scarce throughout the year in 2020. A pair were seen in the savanna woodland around the gate to Taylor's Lagoon in January, February and March, and possibly bred there. The only other records were singles: in the woodland around Lake Champion on 11th July; between Lake Champion and Lake Eda on 11th August, and in the woodland in the north-west of the BBO Paddock on 13th, 24th and 30th August.

BLUE-WINGED KOOKABURRA *Dacelo leachii* 269 records

Commonly recorded at woodland sites throughout the year, including around the BBO where it was often heard calling during the nightly bird log.

NANKEEN KESTREL *Falco cenchroides* 122 records

Commonly recorded in or near open habitats, especially along fencelines or woodland edges. A pair were present at Tagarana Bore through most of the year.

AUSTRALIAN HOBBY *Falco longipennis* 46 records

Not particularly common but recorded from a variety of locations throughout the year. One was seen to catch a dove at Taylor's Lagoon on 10th November (NK). A pair were found nesting opposite Broome Senior High School in December (CGM).

BROWN FALCON *Falco berigora* 172 records

Common in grassland habitats and often recorded along roads and station tracks. A nest along the edge of woodland in the southern BBO Paddock had two chicks throughout October; both were still in the nest on 8th November, and probably fledged soon afterwards.

BLACK FALCON *Falco subniger* 4 records

One was seen around Richard's Point in northern Roebuck Bay on 21st March, causing alarm to roosting shorebirds (CJH). One photographed around the 'Tamarisk Bore' where the Great Northern Highway crosses Roebuck Plains, on 7th July (XD and SA). One seen heading west over Crab Creek Road near the access to the Broome North sewage works on 13th September (NK). The final record was one in the dunes behind Lake Eda on 1st November (GS, PT and RF).



An Australian Hobby nest found opposite Broome Senior High School in December (Clare Morton).



Australian Peregrine Falcon seen at Taylor's Lagoon on 6th November (Patrick Kelly).

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus* 9 records

Seen seven times between 23rd February and 1st May, along the coastal section of Crab Creek Road, the northern shores of Roebuck Bay and over the Crab Creek mangroves. Subspecies only recorded on one of these occasions.

Australian Peregrine Falcon *F. p. macropus*. Identified on 24th April at Boiler Point (NK), and likely to have been the same individual responsible for all the above records. Also at Tagarana Bore on 17th November (NK).

Siberian Peregrine Falcon *F. p. calidus*. One photographed at Taylor's Lagoon on 6th November (PK and NK).

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus* 28 records

Recorded on most visits to Taylor's Lagoon, with a maximum of 20 counted there. Also recorded along the Great Northern Highway (12th March), at Lake Champion (14th and 26th March) and at Willaroo Scrape (10th November). There were very few records of nomadic movements along the coast, which are common in some years, but this may have been the case for small flocks seen in the BBO Paddock on 2nd June and 4th July, and from the BBO Viewing Platform on 14th August.

RED-TAILED BLACK-COCKATOO *Calyptorhynchus banksii* 172 records

Commonly recorded. Often seen in small flocks around the observatory early in the year, before larger numbers moved into town during the dry season. Congregated at a few key sites with eucalypts around water sources, including 'Seventy KM Pool', where there were 94 on 1st November (NK): the highest count of the year.

GALAH *Eolophus roseicapilla* 70 records

Locally common. Most records came from east of the Roebuck Roadhouse, particularly around Taylor's Lagoon, Lake Champion and the roadhouse itself. Also regular at Tagarana Bore and around the irrigated crop field adjoining the Broome North sewage works.

MAJOR MITCHELL'S COCKATOO *Cacatua leadbeateri* 1 record

A flock of 13 seen flying away from Ungani Lakes at dawn on 7th May, presumably after having come in to drink (GS), was the first record of this species from Roebuck Plains.

LITTLE CORELLA *Cacatua sanguinea* 166 records

Commonly recorded around the town of Broome, Twelve Mile, the Roebuck Roadhouse, Taylor's Lagoon and Lake Champion. High count of 1,500 in Twelve Mile on 24th May (CJH).

- VARIED LORIKEET *Psitteuteles versicolor*** **19 records**
 Most records from around the observatory, often of small flocks (up to 30) flying east or south-east. Also seen in Broome during September and October, and at Willaroo Scrape on 10th November.
- RED-COLLARED LORIKEET *Trichoglossus rubitorquatus*** **261 records**
 Very common, particularly around the town of Broome where there are several large roosts, but also regular at most woodland sites including the BBO.
- RED-WINGED PARROT *Aprosmictus erythropterus*** **413 records**
 Very common and conspicuous throughout the region all year.
- GREAT BOWERBIRD *Chlamydera nuchalis*** **466 records**
 Common throughout the region. Recorded daily around the BBO and often seen in Broome, along roads and at the Roebuck Roadhouse. The bower behind BBO Campsite 5 continued to be active; other active bowers were found on the southern side of the Pindan Trail at the beginning of the year (LF), on Frederick Street in Broome on 10th August (MT), and throughout the year in Cygnet Park (CGM).
- BLACK-TAILED TREECREEPER *Climacteris melanurus*** **19 records**
 Locally common in mixed eucalypt-paperbark woodland on Roebuck Plains Station. Most records came from near the gate to Taylor's Lagoon.
- VARIEGATED FAIRY-WREN *Malurus lamberti*** **116 records**
 Fairly common in pindan and paperbark woodland. Regularly recorded around the BBO grounds.
- RED-BACKED FAIRY-WREN *Malurus melanocephalus*** **164 records**
 Common throughout the region in all terrestrial habitats.
- BANDED HONEYEATER *Cissomela pectoralis*** **1 record**
 An adult in breeding plumage seen coming to drink at Lake Eda on 9th September was the year's only record (NK).
- BROWN HONEYEATER *Lichmera indistincta*** **467 records**
 Abundant in pindan, paperbark woodland and mangals throughout the year, particularly around water sources. Recorded daily around the BBO grounds, though numbers fluctuated throughout the year, with an estimated 40 along the Spinifex Trail on 27th June the highest noted count (NK).
- WHITE-THROATED HONEYEATER *Melithreptus albugularis*** **17 records**
 A regular garden bird at Twelve Mile, but rather uncommon elsewhere in the region. Recorded from a range of sites, usually associated with eucalypts or flowering paperbarks.
- GOLDEN-BACKED HONEYEATER *Melithreptus laetior*** **12 records**
 Uncommon, but recorded from several locations. Probably most common along the west coast of the Dampier Peninsula, including the vine thickets in Minyirr Park behind Cable Beach. One was at the observatory on 5th March (NK).
- LITTLE FRIARBIRD *Philemon citreogularis*** **531 records**
 Very common and conspicuous in pindan, gardens and eucalypt woodland throughout the year. Recorded daily around the BBO grounds, though numbers fluctuated throughout the year, with an estimated 35 along the Spinifex Trail on 27th June the highest noted count (NK). Two fledglings were

seen at the BBO on 13th March. During August, groups that appeared to be following the bay south were seen over the Crab Creek mangroves.

RED-HEADED HONEYEATER *Myzomela erythrocephala* 57 records

Common in the mangroves around Streeter's Jetty in Broome, with occasional records from elsewhere in the town. Also regular at Barred Creek.

RUFIOUS-THROATED HONEYEATER *Conopophila rufogularis* 292 records

Common in pindan, including around the observatory and gardens in Broome. Abundant around the edges of Roebuck Plains when the grass was long after the wet season. Very common in the eucalypt woodland around the station throughout the year. One was seen collecting nesting material at Taylor's Lagoon on 13th February.

YELLOW CHAT *Epthianura crocea* 69 records

Locally common in the saltmarsh behind Crab Creek and around Kidneybean Claypan, throughout the year. Occasionally seen in the BBO Paddock after flooding events. Three were seen flying into a dead mangrove on the Crab Creek mudflats on 12th October (NK); they remained there for a few minutes before moving on.

WHITE-GAPED HONEYEATER *Stomiopera unicolor* 345 records

Recorded regularly around the BBO grounds, where up to three were present all year. Common in the town of Broome, in Twelve Mile and on the lower Dampier Peninsula.

SINGING HONEYEATER *Gavicalis virescens* 447 records

Abundant in pindan woodland and recorded daily around the BBO grounds.

YELLOW-TINTED HONEYEATER *Ptilotula flavescens* 81 records

Recorded regularly in savanna woodland on Roebuck Plains, particularly around Taylor's Lagoon, Lake Champion and Upper Loomingum Bore. An unusual record from the Crab Creek mangroves on 5th September (NK). From 8th September until 23rd November, up to three were seen regularly around the BBO grounds; also reported occasionally from a Broome garden around this time (CGM).

GREY-HEADED HONEYEATER *Ptilotula keartlandi* 7 records

One seen along the Dampier Downs Road on 9th May (AB and LB). One at the Broome Turf Club on 15th December (NJ, AB and GS). The remaining records were all from Entrance Point (9th April, 24th September, 7th October, 15th November and 12th December).

YELLOW-THROATED MINER *Manorina flavigula* 5 records

Seen at Entrance Point on 10th February, 12th December and 25th December. One was on the Dampier Downs Road on 9th May (AB and LB), and one at Willaroo Well on 30th August (CGM).



A Yellow-throated Miner was an unusual visitor to Entrance Point (Nigel Jackett).

- RED-BROWED PARDALOTE *Pardalotus rubricatus*** **3 records**
 Recorded along the Dampier Downs Road on 9th May (AB and LB). One heard calling in mixed eucalypt and paperbark woodland between Lake Champion and Lake Eda on 7th August (NK). Another heard at the gate to Taylor's Lagoon on 9th September (NK).
- STRIATED PARDALOTE *Pardalotus striatus*** **101 records**
 Recorded regularly in the town of Broome and other locations with eucalypts, including the savanna woodlands in the eastern part of Roebuck Plains Station, until 19th September. There were no records after this. Recorded around the BBO grounds on six occasions. An active nest was found at the town sewage works on 1st September (LOB).
- WHITE-THROATED GERYGONE *Gerygone olivacea*** **197 records**
 Common in woodland sites throughout the region, and regularly recorded around the BBO grounds and the town of Broome.
- DUSKY GERYGONE *Gerygone tenebrosa*** **71 records**
 Common in the Crab Creek mangroves, and also recorded regularly around Streeter's Jetty.
- MANGROVE GERYGONE *Gerygone levigaster*** **51 records**
 Occasional records from the Crab Creek mangroves, where birds were heard singing in February, March, September and October. Otherwise restricted to paperbark thickets, including around Nimalaica, Crescent Lake, Tagarana Bore and other parts of Roebuck Plains.
- WEBBILL *Smicornis brevirostris*** **20 records**
 Fairly common locally at eucalypt woodland sites.
- GREY-CROWNED BABBLER *Pomatostomus temporalis*** **422 records**
 Very common in pindan and eucalypt woodland, with a family group regularly seen foraging and nest-building around the BBO grounds.
- VARIED SITTELLA *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*** **25 records**
 Recorded fairly regularly in eucalypt and paperbark woodland.
- OLIVE-BACKED ORIOLE *Oriolus sagittatus*** **213 records**
 Commonly recorded around the observatory, and also regular in Broome and at other woodland sites.
- CRESTED BELLBIRD *Oreoica gutturalis*** **1 record**
 Limited to the arid south-east of the region, with one along the Dampier Downs Road on 9th May being the year's only record (AB and LB).
- RUFOUS WHISTLER *Pachycephala rufiventris*** **364 records**
 Very common throughout the region in pindan, eucalypt and paperbark woodland.
- WHITE-BREASTED WHISTLER *Pachycephala lanioides*** **96 records**
 Common in the Crab Creek mangroves, and also recorded regularly around Streeter's Jetty. Young juveniles were seen being fed by adults along Little Crab Creek in June and July.
- MANGROVE GOLDEN WHISTLER *Pachycephala melanura*** **58 records**
 Regularly recorded in the Crab Creek mangroves and those around Streeter's Jetty in Broome. A female was photographed by a guest along the BBO firebreak on 4th September.

GREY SHRIKE-THRUSH *Colluricincla harmonica* 322 records

Common in pindan and eucalypt woodland throughout the year, including around the BBO grounds.

BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE *Coracina novaehollandiae* 441 records

Very common in wooded habitats and grassland edges throughout the year.

WHITE-WINGED TRILLER *Lalage tricolor* 87 records

Regularly recorded from savanna woodland and grassland edges throughout the year, but more common in the dry season. Most records were from the BBO Paddock and lakes of Roebuck Plains Station.

AUSTRALIAN MAGPIE *Gymnorhina tibicen* 125 records

Reported regularly, but generally restricted to several known locations around the town of Broome, the Common, Tagarana Bore, the Roebuck Roadhouse and eastern parts of Roebuck Plains Station.

PIED BUTCHERBIRD *Cracticus nigrogularis* 466 records

Very common in pindan and eucalypt woodland throughout the region, and recorded daily around the BBO grounds.

MASKED WOODSWALLOW *Artamus personatus* 75 records

Dry season visitor, first recorded on 12th April over the observatory, and last recorded on 7th October over the all-weather section of Crab Creek Road. Seen in aerial feeding flocks over locations throughout the region; the largest flocks numbered in the hundreds this year. A pair with a juvenile was seen in the north-west of the BBO Paddock on 14th May (CJH and KH).

BLACK-FACED WOODSWALLOW *Artamus cinereus* 158 records

Common on the edges of grasslands and along fencelines on Roebuck Plains. Seen around the BBO grounds on 13 occasions.

LITTLE WOODSWALLOW *Artamus minor* 7 records

The first record of the year was of a group at James Price Point on 26th June (AB and LB). Seen three times on the track between lakes Champion and Eda in August and September (NK). Seen in open paperbark woodland north of Eda on 22nd October, and at Taylor's Lagoon on 6th November (NK).



A group of Little Woodswallows at James Price Point (Adrian Boyle).

WHITE-BREASTED WOODSWALLOW *Artamus leucorhynchus* 318 records

Commonly recorded in Roebuck Bay, particularly around the Crab Creek mangroves, and at sites near fresh water throughout the region. Fledglings were seen being fed in the Crab Creek mangroves on 29th February, and adults were seen carrying nesting material at the same site on 16th September and 1st October.

NORTHERN FANTAIL *Rhipidura rufiventris* 16 records

Localised, but recorded regularly at Streeter's Jetty, Nimalaica and James Price Point.

WILLIE WAGTAIL *Rhipidura leucophrys* 416 records

Very common and conspicuous in all terrestrial habitats throughout the region. A young juvenile was seen in the BBO Paddock on 27th February.

MANGROVE FANTAIL *Rhipidura phasiana* 102 records

Common in the Crab Creek mangroves, and regularly recorded around Streeter's Jetty. Occasionally seen along Crab Creek Road and at the observatory.

GREY FANTAIL *Rhipidura albiscapa* 14 records

All records from around the BBO grounds, between 25th May (when two were present; all other records of singles) and 25th August. On three occasions the subspecies was identified as *R. a. albicauda*: this is usually a less common visitor than *R. a. allisteri*, but no individuals were identified positively as *R. a. allisteri* this year.

LEADEN FLYCATCHER *Myiagra rubecula* 2 records

A female seen along Port Drive on 29th June (MT) and a male seen in Twelve Mile on 17th August (CJH) were the year's only records.

BROAD-BILLED FLYCATCHER *Myiagra ruficollis* 92 records

Common in the Crab Creek mangroves and regularly recorded at other mangrove sites such as Streeter's Jetty. Ten records around the BBO grounds, in April, September and October. A male in paperbarks around Lake Eda on 23rd June was unusually far inland (MT, NJ and NK).



A Grey Fantail of the migratory inland subspecies *albicauda* visiting the wardens' bird bath during the dry season (Mattea Taylor).

- PAPERBARK FLYCATCHER *Myiagra nana*** **378 records**
 Common in all woodland habitats, particularly around water sources, and including around the BBO grounds. A nest in a mirda tree outside the BBO office hatched two chicks around 8th February; both fledged from the nest, first seen outside it on 18th February.
- MAGPIE-LARK *Grallina cyanoleuca*** **546 records**
 Very common throughout the region and often abundant around freshwater wetlands, including 69 around Lake Eda on 21st April (JT, MT and NK). Active nests were recorded at the BBO in February, at the town sewage works in March and at the Oaks Cable Beach resort in October.
- TORRESIAN CROW *Corvus orru*** **592 records**
 Abundant throughout the region all year.
- RED-CAPPED ROBIN *Petroica goodenovii*** **1 record**
 A single female seen in *Sesbania* in the south of the BBO Paddock on 9th July (NK). Near an area of pindan that had been recently burnt.
- KIMBERLEY FLYCATCHER *Microeca tormenti*** **4 records**
 Scarcely reported this year. In the Crab Creek mangroves on 9th April and 31st May; at Barred Creek on 9th May, and around Streeter's Jetty on 1st November.
- JACKY WINTER *Microeca fascinans*** **26 records**
 Fairly common in savanna woodland in the eastern part of Roebuck Plains, including around Taylor's Lagoon and Lake Champion. Also recorded along the Dampier Downs and Manari roads on 9th May, around the observatory on 15th July and 16th August, and along the all-weather section of Crab Creek Road on 7th October.
- HOODED ROBIN *Melanodryas cucullata*** **1 record**
 Seen along a bush track north of Twelve Mile on 24th July (BG).
- HORSFIELD'S BUSHLARK *Mirafra javanica*** **145 records**
 Regularly recorded in open grassland throughout the year, sometimes also in saltmarsh. Recorded in abundance on Roebuck Plains after the wet season rains, when making conspicuous song flights.
- GOLDEN-HEADED CISTICOLA *Cisticola exilis*** **72 records**
 Regularly recorded throughout the year in grassland, saltmarsh and wetland edges.
- AUSTRALIAN REED-WARBLER *Acrocephalus australis*** **5 records**
 Common at Nimalaica, with one record from nearby Crescent Lake on 13th August (NJ and GS), and none from any other sites. Recorded between 19th May and 19th August.
- BROWN SONGLARK *Cincloramphus cruralis*** **91 records**
 Regularly recorded in grassland throughout the year.
- RUFOUS SONGLARK *Cincloramphus mathewsi*** **4 records**
 Recorded at Taylor's Lagoon on 29th April and 6th June; along the Dampier Downs Road on 8th May, and at Ram-Paddock Well on 15th May (all CGM).



An early Welcome Swallow seen at Entrance Point on 25th May (Nigel Jackett).

- LITTLE GRASSBIRD *Poodytes gramineus*** **9 records**
Reported at Nimalaica and nearby Crescent Lake throughout the year. No records from other sites.
- FAIRY MARTIN *Petrochelidon ariel*** **44 records**
Commonly recorded around fresh water, with occasional individuals also seen in large Tree Martin flocks on Roebuck Plains. High count of 1,900 at Lake Eda on 19th May (CJH and KH).
- TREE MARTIN *Petrochelidon nigricans*** **234 records**
Commonly recorded in most habitats throughout the year.
- RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Cecropis daurica*** **1 record**
A single at Entrance Point around the passing of Tropical Cyclone Damien on 6th February (GS).
- WELCOME SWALLOW *Hirundo neoxena*** **12 records**
Dry season visitor. First seen at Entrance Point on 25th May (AB). Seen at the town sewage works during June and July, when up to three were present. Regular in Roebuck Bay during late July and August, with the final record of one at Little Crab Creek on 30th August (NK).
- BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*** **37 records**
Regularly recorded in the summer months, with most records coming from the BBO Paddock. The last of these before northward migration was 15 in the BBO Paddock on 2nd April, and the first returning bird was seen among Tree Martins in the same location on 27th September (both NK).
- AUSTRALIAN YELLOW WHITE-EYE *Zosterops luteus*** **391 records**
Common in mangals, coastal pindan and paperbark woodland, including around the observatory. Recorded as far inland as Lake Eda. One was feeding a fledgling at Little Crab Creek on 23rd February.
- EYEBROWED THRUSH *Turdus obscurus*** **1 record**
One at the Broome Turf Club on 12th December, identified from a recorded call and quick flight and perched views (NJ, AB and BG). Subject to BARC acceptance this will be a new species for Broome.
- MISTLETOEBIRD *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*** **374 records**
Common in woodland and mangals throughout the region.
- PICTORELLA MANNIKIN *Heteromunia pectoralis*** **2 records**
One seen coming to drink in a mixed finch flock at 'Seventy KM Pool' (near Taylor's Lagoon) on 10th November (NK). Two seen at the Broome Turf Club on 13th December (NJ).

LONG-TAILED FINCH *Poephila acuticauda* 241 records

Usually the most common finch in the eastern part of the recording area including around Taylor's Lagoon and Lake Campion. Also regular in smaller numbers (up to 10) visiting the BBO baths.

ZEBRA FINCH *Taenopygia guttata* 288 records

Fairly common throughout the region and a very regular visitor to the BBO baths.

DOUBLE-BARRED FINCH *Taenopygia bichenovii* 368 records

Common throughout. Recorded daily around the BBO grounds, especially drinking at bird baths.

GOULDIAN FINCH *Chloebia gouldiae* 2 records

An amazing find on 30th December: a late addition to the year list, and only the second records for Broome. Approximately 15 were flushed from road verge along the seaward track between Barred Creek and Quondong Point (BG and JG), and relocated later in the day (NJ). These were followed up the next day, when 54 were found around the same location (AB and CJH).

AUSTRALASIAN PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae* 150 records

Common in open habitats throughout the year.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* 1 record

One seen over the Broome Turf Club on 13th December (AB and CY).

EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla tschutschensis* 17 records

Recorded regularly during the summer months in grassland and at wetland edges. Not as numerous as in some previous years, with a high count of 15 along the southern fenceline of the BBO Paddock on 13th April (NK). The last record before northward migration was one at the town sewage works on 8th May (NJ). The first returning bird was at the same location on 8th October (GS, NJ and NK).

East Siberian Yellow Wagtail *M. t. tschutschensis*. Only twice identified and reported (on 3rd March and 8th November), but generally the most common taxon of this species present in Broome, and likely to represent the great majority of individuals recorded.

Green-headed Wagtail *M. t. taivana*. One photographed at Lake Eda on 13th October (PK and NK).



Green-headed Wagtail at Lake Eda on 13th October (Patrick Kelly).