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THE SUNBIRD

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SPOTLESS CRAKE AT PALUMA, NORTH QUEENSLAND

LLOYD NIELSEN

On the morning of 9 January 1992, whilst at Paluma (19°00'S, 146°13'E), approximately 75 km north-west of Townsville, I was given a freshly dead Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis* by a local resident. This adult specimen, brought to her house by a cat, was lodged at the Museum of Tropical Queensland the following day.

The status of this species is rather uncertain. Storr (1984) described it as moderately common in the humid north-eastern highlands (Atherton Tableland north to Julatten) of Queensland, though there are very few Atlas records from tropical Australia (Blakers *et al.* 1984). Smith (1988) lists it as "breeding north to about Brisbane in the east", and maps its range to a point just north of Rockhampton, while Wieneke (1989) makes no mention of its occurrence in the Townsville area. As a denizen of freshwater swamps and mangroves it is "overlooked because it is the shyest of the crakes and always feeds within cover" (Blakers *et al.* 1984).

It is possibly a regular nocturnal migrant at the Torres Strait, where it is known "from Booby and Thursday Island (killed by cat)" (Draffan *et al.* 1983), and reporting rates in Blakers *et al.* (1984) suggest that some southern birds move northward in winter. A bird at Mt Elliot on 11 September 1989 was the first record for the Townsville area (Britton 1990). A September record conforms with the notion of possible spring passage, whereas the January date at Paluma does not. Regular observations at the Mt Elliot site over a 3-year period have revealed various other crake species but no further record of this species (P.L. Britton *in litt.*).

Paluma is a small township, a collection of about forty houses within extensive tropical upland rainforest on the crest of the Paluma Range at an altitude of 925 m. The Atherton Tableland begins about 150 km north north-west of Paluma. Apart from the January date, circumstances are

suggestive of migration and grounding (cf. Thursday Island), which is possible in a locality where township lights could combine with prevalent misty conditions to cause nocturnal disorientation and subsequent attraction to powerful lights (see Pearson & Backhurst 1976).

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BIRDS OF NANANGO, SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND

M.T. TEMPLETON

Nanango is situated about 200 km WNW of Brisbane and west of the Brisbane Range at an altitude of 350 m. First settled in the late 1840's, it was once an important timber harvesting area with timbers of the vine forests¹ being cut out and mature trees of the open eucalypt forests being milled. After World War 1 an area of chiefly vine forest, known as Taromeo Soldiers Settlement, was allocated for settlement by returned servicemen. It is now essentially a rural area for farming and grazing. With the building of Tarong Powerhouse, some 17 km SW of Nanango in the early 1980's, an open cut coal mine was developed at that locality to feed the Power Station. Along with this development, some 3000 rural residential blocks of 2 ha or greater have been sub-divided from rural acreage scattered within the Nanango Shire. This will continue to have a great impact on the fauna and flora, due to destruction of native habitat, introduction of feral animals, and uncontrolled shooting of fauna by some new residents. An area of Crown Land adjacent to Nanango Sewerage Reserve, formerly an ideal wetland habitat, was leased out to grazing interests, and in the recent drought all large dead trees were bulldozed and vegetation grazed to the ground. This destroyed all the normal nesting sites of wetland birds. The swamp in the Reserve itself has also been partly drained. Efforts are being made to encourage the Nanango Shire Council to preserve such important areas, but a lack of interest or understanding of the necessity of retaining natural fauna and flora is making the issue difficult.

DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Nanango has an expanding population of some 3000 people. To the east are rolling hills that have been cleared of vine forest and eucalypt forest, with areas of eucalypt regenerating. Where neglected, *Lantana camara* is choking gullies, infesting the edges of pockets of vine forest and Hoop Pine *Araucaria cunninghamii* plantations, and forming thickets in the open forest. East Nanango Forestry, once dense vine forest, was gradually blanket cleared from about 1927 to the 1950's for Hoop Pine plantations, with narrow strips of vine forest left standing to act as fire breaks. The creek flats of Barkers Creek and its lesser feeder creeks, and areas of open eucalypt woodland amongst cleared hills, provide important sites for bird observations. Areas of flat land are mostly cultivated to grain and fodder crops. Over recent years, much more water conservation has been carried out, with farm dams being increased in number and enlarged, and an

¹ The term 'vine forest' is used loosely to describe the vegetation type Araucarian Microphyll Vine Forest, according to the classification of Webb (1959, 1968).

artificial lake built for Tarong Power Station. Construction of the Bjelke-Petersen Dam, some 50 km north of Nanango, has pushed the backwaters of what is now called Lake Barambah up to the Burnett Highway, about 25 km north of Nanango, creating a useful wetland area. Sites of importance for bird observations are detailed in Appendix 1, which summarizes physical characteristics and dominant vegetation.

METHODS

There appears to be very little documentation of birds in the Nanango Shire apart from Templeton (1991) and Roberts (1979). Personal records were kept for the East Nanango area from 1945 and expanded to other localities of the shire in 1950. From 1953 to 1978, spasmodic visits were made to East Nanango, noting all species sighted. Since 1978, regular visits have been made to the localities listed in Appendix 1, with a systematic list being kept of all sightings, including earliest and latest sightings of migrant species. In 1986 a Bird Banding Project, proposed to continue over a 15-year time span, was commenced, using five diverse sites. Mist-netting has resulted in the addition of several species not previously observed, and data collected have helped to verify breeding species.

RESULTS

All 245 species recorded since 1945 are detailed in Appendix 2, which should be referred to for scientific names. Some species have been sighted only once so they can be regarded as vagrants. Many others are seasonal visitors. With the clearing of vine forests, species such as Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, Green Catbird and Noisy Pitta have apparently disappeared, and there has been a marked decline in such species as Regent Bowerbird, Satin Bowerbird, Wonga Pigeon, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Emerald Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove and Brown Cuckoo-Dove. In the open forest, the White-plumed Honeyeater has not been sighted in the past ten years, and there appears to be a marked decline in the populations of both Yellow Thornbill and Grey-crowned Babbler.

In the last decade, there has been a marked increase in the numbers of Lewin's Honeyeater, Eastern Yellow Robin, Golden Whistler and Pied Currawong. Also, species such as White-eared Monarch and White's Thrush, which may have been overlooked in the past, have been recorded. Galahs first appeared in the area about 1956, and Red-rumped Parrot about 1980, while Red-winged Parrot has only recently been sighted, although it has been present for the past 40 years in similar habitat at Windera, some 80 km farther north. Water birds, including rails, have been more prolific in recent years, presumably associated with the provision of large dams. The presence of King Quail, Red-chested Button-quail and Red-backed Button-quail has been verified by flushing and netting in crops being harvested at "Alfa Vale". The Barking Owl was found in a 2 ha patch of remnant vine

forest at East Nanango in August 1986, where it appeared to be breeding, but the whole area was bulldozed in December 1988 to remove *Lantana* growing around the edges.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 1 SELECTED LOCATIONS AND HABITATS

"Alfa Vale"

A private property with one family occupancy from 1912. Large areas of cultivated flats growing grain and fodder crops, with a permanent creek lined with Bottlebrush *Callistemon* sp., Oak *Casuarina* sp., and tall grass, rising to hills of predominantly Queensland Blue Gum *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, Grey Gum *E. punctata* and Narrow-leaved Ironbark *E. crebra*, with an understorey of *Acacia* regrowth.

Lake Barambah

Formed by the recently completed Bjelke Petersen Dam, which has created a backwater of wetlands bordering the Burnett Highway, about 25 km north of Nanango, with areas of dying trees and the beginning of rush growth in the adjacent gullies.

Broadwater

A large expanse of water on a permanent creek, about 20 km north of Nanango, bordered on one side by open eucalypt forest and on the other by open grazing land.

East Nanango

Open hilly grazing land with areas of open eucalypt forest, many small dams, and small patches of remnant vine forest and *Lantana* thickets. It includes the East Nanango Fauna and Flora Sanctuary. This 37 ha area comprises eucalypt forest of Queensland Blue Gum, Grey Box *E. moluccana*, Grey Gum, Fuzzy Box *E. conica*, Silver-leaved Ironbark *E. melanophloia* and Narrow-leaved Ironbark, with *Acacia* regrowth of O'Shanesy Wattle *A. oshanesii* and Hickory Wattle *A. aulacocarpa*. There are scattered Red Ash *Alphitonia excelsa*, Rusty Gum *Angophora costata*, Rough-barked Apple *Angophora subvelutina* and Yellow Boxwood *Jacksonia scoparia*. The sanctuary also contains *Lantana* thickets and a large perennial dam bordered by reed-choked gullies. In September 1991 this important area suffered a fierce bush fire, the first for about six years, with vegetation to a height of about 10 m totally destroyed, leaving the area practically devoid of birds.

East Nanango Forestry

A large area of Hoop Pine *Araucaria cunninghamii* plantations with strips of remnant vine forest bordered by *Lantana* thickets, situated about 8 km east of Nanango.

Nanango Sewerage Reserve

Comprises four large grass-fringed ponds draining into a camping reserve that is leased to grazing interests, with an area sparsely treed with large Queensland Blue Gum and Grey Gum. A large swamp in the reserve has recently been partly drained, and the many large dead trees, which were a feature, have been bulldozed.

Pioneer Park

A well tended area of parkland on a reed-lined creek in Nanango itself, with scattered clumps of planted native trees, mature eucalypts, and a permanent reed-bordered lagoon which has a small vegetated island in its centre.

Tarong Powerhouse Area

A man-made beach and parkland area of natural Silver-leaved Ironbark and planted native shrubs, situated beside Tarong Powerhouse, about 17 km SW of Nanango. This is surrounded by open eucalypt forest with an undergrowth of native shrubs.

APPENDIX 2

ANNOTATED SPECIES LIST FOR THE NANANGO AREA

* Indicates breeding record(s). Localities are abbreviated as follows:

"Alfa Vale" AV; Lake Barambah LB; Broadwater B; East Nanango EN; East Nanango Forestry ENF; Nanango N;

Nanango Sewerage Reserve NSR; Pioneer Park PP; Tarong Powerhouse Area TP.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*. At TP in December 1985; and a pair on 31 March and 30 September 1990; about 20 at LB on 10 October 1990.

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*. Vagrant: single birds at EN in March 1978 and July 1984; two at NSR in March 1986.

***Australasian Grebe** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*. Common on most dams and lagoons. Groups of about 30 on ponds at NSR from March to August each year.

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*. Uncommon: 1-8 birds at B and LB throughout the year.

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*. Regular sightings in all months of 1-3 birds at large dams and lagoons.

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*. A single bird in February 1989 at NSR.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*. Uncommon: singly or in pairs around larger areas of water. An estimated 200 at LB on 31 March 1991, where they now appear to be established.

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*. Moderately common at all large areas of water, single birds around smaller dams.

Pacific Heron *Ardea pacifica*. Consistently sighted in all months, singly or in pairs, at NSR, EN, B and LB.

***White-faced Heron** *Ardea novaehollandiae*. Common at all wetland sites. Groups of up to 30 congregate at NSR in winter.

Cattle Egret *Ardeola ibis*. Becoming moderately common in late summer and autumn. Groups of about 30 congregate at NSR in winter months.

Great Egret *Egretta alba*. Regular sightings of 1-3 birds in all months in wetland areas at EN, NSR, B and LB.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*. Rare: 1-3 sighted at NSR, PP and LB.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*. Moderately common in wetland areas. Fourteen in one group at B on 31 March 1985.

- Rufous Night Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus*. Rare: birds in breeding plumage at AV and NSR from August to December. Juveniles were present from October to December 1991 at N, EN and AV.
- Black Bittern** *Dupetor flavicollis*. Rare: irregular sightings at EN; flushed from Maize crops at AV.
- Black-necked Stork** *Xenorhynchus asiaticus*. A single bird at NSR in June 1984.
- Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*. Rare: three at NSR from June to July 1984; six at LB on 15 December 1991.
- Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*. Moderately common: regular groups of 1-10 birds, normally with the following species.
- Straw-necked Ibis** *Threskiornis spinicollis*. Common: small groups in all months, with build-up of flocks to over 200 in late summer and early winter.
- Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia*. Moderately common in small numbers in wetland areas.
- Yellow-billed Spoonbill** *Platalea flavipes*. Uncommon: singly or in small groups, at dams and wetland areas.
- Magpie Goose** *Anseranas semipalmata*. A single bird at NSR in January 1984; eight at B in March 1985.
- ***Wandering Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata*. Uncommon: occasional pairs at NSR and B. Pairs with ducklings in March 1985.
- ***Plumed Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna eytoni*. Very common in suitable habitat. Flocks of over 50 at AV in most winter months. A flock, estimated at over 200, at NSR on 26 July 1992.
- ***Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus*. Moderately common on large dams and areas of deeper water. Over 20 at LB from March to July 1992.
- Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*. Two at LB on 23 February and one on 29 February 1992, but not observed since.
- Freckled Duck** *Stictonetta naevosa*. Two at NSR on 3 November 1985.
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- *Pacific Black Duck** *Anas superciliosa*. Very common on dams and all significant wetland areas. Flocks of over 50 at NSR and LB from August to March. Found breeding from August to April in favourable seasons.
- *Grey Teal** *Anas gibberifrons*. Most common duck on dams and all significant wetland areas. Flocks of over 100 at NSR from August to March. Found breeding from June to February in favourable seasons.
- Australasian Shoveler** *Anas rhynchos*. Rare visitor, usually 2-4 birds. Largest group sighted was 24 at NSR in June 1984.
- Pink-eared Duck** *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*. A single bird was present at NSR in June-July 1984, and two from April to June 1985.
- Hardhead** *Aythya australis*. Uncommon, 2-8 on larger dams and lagoons. Largest group was 18 at NSR in August 1985.
- *Maned Duck** *Chenonetta jubata*. Very common throughout the whole area, flocks of up to about 80 on pastures at AV in autumn and winter. Breeding has been noted in most months in favourable seasons.
- Cotton Pygmy-Goose** *Nettapus coromandelianus*. The only sighting was of three birds on a dam at EN on 13 May 1980.
- *Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus notatus*. Sightings of 1-4 birds together at widespread localities in all months; over open grassland and cultivation.
- *Pacific Baza** *Aviceda subcristata*. Regular sightings of 1-3 birds at EN and AV; areas of open eucalypt woodland.
- Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*. Vagrant: single birds at N on 22 March 1983 and 25 May 1985.
- *Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus*. Nested regularly at B before their nest site was taken over by a pair of White-bellied Sea-Eagles about August 1990. One pair appears to be resident at TP.
- Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus*. Generally uncommon: spasmodic sightings at EN, N, AV and NSR.
- Collared Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*. Generally uncommon: regularly sighted at N, preying on House Sparrows and fledgling
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Crested Pigeons, and at the East Nanango Fauna and Flora Sanctuary.

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*. A single bird at ENF on 31 January 1990.

Red Goshawk *Erythrotriorchis radiatus*. Two sightings at ENF in March 1946 and December 1951.

***White-bellied Sea-Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*. A pair took up residence at B about May 1990 and bred there in 1991 and 1992. An immature flew north over N on 19 May 1989 and another immature was sighted at LB on 22 March 1992.

***Wedge-tailed Eagle** *Aquila audax*. Present in all months; six active nest sites known. Fourteen were reported in trees beside a dead calf near AV on 10 December 1985.

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*. Two over open grassland near B on 25 August 1978; single birds near AV on 28 August 1978, and in January and May 1980.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*. Single birds at N in July 1978 and July 1984, and at NSR in March, April, May and July 1985.

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*. In the 1940's they were regular predators of breeding Magpie-larks at EN. The only recent sightings are of a single bird at EN on 30 August and 10 September 1991.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*. A single bird at N on 30 August 1984 and one attracted by quail being flushed during harvest at AV on 19 February 1990.

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*. Regular sightings of both adult and immature birds at AV, EN and N. Observed taking Pale-headed Rosella and Willie Wagtail.

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*. Spasmodic sightings of 1-2 birds at EN and AV.

***Australian Kestrel** *Falco cenchroides*. Moderately common throughout cleared areas and open farmland.

***Australian Brush-turkey** *Alectura lathami*. Moderately common in remnant patches of vine forest, extending into adjacent dry sclerophyll forest.

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- ***Stubble Quail** *Coturnix novaehollandiae*. Widespread: open forest and grazing land; regularly flushed during harvest.
- ***Brown Quail** *Coturnix australis*. As above species but more common.
- ***King Quail** *Coturnix chinensis*. Regularly flushed from crops during harvest at AV. A male sighted at N in May 1986 was believed to be an aviary escapee. At AV, 32 were netted and banded during harvest in November 1988, as were two in November 1989 and five in February 1990. An estimated 60 were flushed from a 10 ha area of crop at harvest in February 1990.
- ***Red-backed Button-quail** *Turnix maculosa*. Regularly flushed from crops during harvest at AV. One flushed at EN on 2 July 1986 was identified by S.G. Lane. Subsequently one was netted at AV in November 1988, five in November 1989 and one in February 1990. Often killed by machinery when hay is being bailed.
- ***Painted Button-quail** *Turnix varia*. Rare sightings in Tarong area, EN and fringes of ENF. Regularly sighted and bred at EN in 1940's.
- ***Black-breasted Button-quail** *Turnix melanogaster*. Rare sightings of 1-2 in remnant vine forest at ENF. Found breeding in vine forest at South Nanango in January 1952.
- Little Button-quail** *Turnix velox*. Found in cultivated crops and open grassland at EN in the 1940's. Has not been sighted in recent years.
- ***Red-chested Button-quail** *Turnix pyrrhotorax*. Regularly flushed from crops during harvest at AV. One was netted and banded during harvest at AV in November 1988, two in November 1989 and one in February 1990.
- Buff-banded Rail** *Rallus philippensis*. Regularly sighted in suitable habitat and occasionally found road-killed. Four at PP on 19 October 1991.
- Lewin's Rail** *Rallus pectoralis*. Rare sightings, usually crossing roads and occasionally found road-killed.
- Baillon's Crane** *Porzana pusilla*. Regular sightings on creek flats at AV. Occasional sightings of birds crossing roads and at swamp edges at NSR.
- Australian Crane** *Porzana fluminea*. One killed by a domestic cat at AV on 15 December 1989.
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- ***Spotless Crake** *Porzana tabuensis*. Found breeding at AV in November-December 1985. A single bird on creek flats at AV in August 1991.
- Bush-hen** *Gallinula olivacea*. At EN: two in February 1988, two immatures on 6 April 1991, when one was caught and banded.
- Black-tailed Native-hen** *Gallinula ventralis*. At EN: two in December 1952 and two in October 1953.
- ***Dusky Moorhen** *Gallinula tenebrosa*. Has become very common over the past ten years, inhabiting lagoons and larger areas of water.
- ***Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*. Moderately common around larger lagoons. Numbers fluctuate with seasonal conditions. Groups of over 30 at NSR in autumn and winter.
- ***Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*. Odd pairs and small groups on larger dams and lagoons. There was a build-up of over 50 on the backwaters of LB in February 1992.
- Brolga** *Grus rubicundus*. A single bird at NSR on 19 March 1989.
- Comb-crested Jacana** *Irediparra gallinacea*. Two immature birds at NSR from June to October 1985; one at B on 1 January 1986; one at NSR on 31 August 1986.
- ***Bush Thick-knee** *Burhinus magnirostris*. Moderately common in the 1940's. Not heard for many years until a pair was found breeding at EN on 28 November 1987. Heard calling in EN and Tarong Road areas each summer since then.
- ***Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles*. Moderately common in all suitable habitats. Flocks of over 30 have been recorded at AV in March-April and at NSR from March to September.
- ***Banded Lapwing** *Vanellus tricolor*. Occasional spring and summer visitor. Bred at AV twice from September to December 1986, and in September 1992.
- Red-kneed Dotterel** *Erythrogonys cinctus*. One at NSR on 29 June 1986.
- ***Black-fronted Plover** *Charadrius melanops*. Occasional pairs around dams and lagoons in summer. Four to six at NSR in winter months.
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- Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*. Present in fluctuating numbers of 2-20 from February to October at NSR, B, TP and LB.
- Latham's Snipe** *Gallinago hardwickii*. Present in wet areas at NSR from August to October; largest number flushed was 12 on 24 August 1985. One was flushed twice from open grassland 7 km south of N on 8 February 1990.
- Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella*. A single bird at AV on 1 October 1986.
- Silver Gull** *Larus novaehollandiae*. Singles at NSR on 24 July 1985 and TP in December 1987; seven at TP in November 1988.
- Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*. A single bird at NSR on 20 October 1985 after three days of exceptional winds.
- ***Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina*. Regularly sighted and bred in vine forest of ENF in the 1940's. Last sighting was one at ENF on 23 December 1976.
- Wompoo Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus magnificus*. Occasional sightings of 3-8 birds at ENF. Moderately common in pairs and small flocks in the 1940's.
- White-headed Pigeon** *Columba leucomela*. A single bird at EN in April 1947; two at ENF in February 1951.
- ***Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*. A resident flock at N. Small groups around some farm buildings.
- ***Brown Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia amboinensis*. Found mainly in pairs at ENF, with occasional pairs in open forest of EN and the infrequent sighting of single birds passing through N. Very common in the 1940's at ENF, often in moving flocks of about 100 birds.
- ***Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia placida*. Moderately common around farmyards and in areas of cleared land. Numbers have greatly increased since the 1940's.
- ***Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata*. A pair bred at EN in the summer of 1945-46. Six in the same area in December 1949.
- ***Bar-shouldered Dove** *Geopelia humeralis*. Pairs and small groups of up to eight scattered throughout the shire. Numbers greatly reduced since the 1940's, when flocks of about 50 congregated at EN peanut cultivations at harvest.
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- ***Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*. Rare sightings at ENF. Numbers greatly reduced since the 1940's, when this species was regularly flushed along road fringes and vine forest edges.
- ***Common Bronzewing** *Phaps chalcoptera*. Moderately common in open forest and cultivated areas after harvest. Appears to be increasing in numbers.
- ***Crested Pigeon** *Ocyphaps lophotes*. Common throughout farmlands and areas of open forest.
- ***Wonga Pigeon** *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*. Regularly sighted in Hoop Pine plantations and remnant vine forest at ENF, with numbers increasing after a drastic decline in the late 1940's. This was possibly due to clearing of vine forest and intense shooting by locals and migrants, who were employed by the Forestry Department on their arrival in Australia.
- Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus magnificus*. Uncommon: appearing in small parties of 2-10 in June-July, with one sighting of 4 in December 1990.
- Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus funereus*. Regular sightings of 2-14 in most months of the year.
- ***Galah** *Cacatua roseicapilla*. First appeared in open forest and farmland about 1955. Now well established with flocks of over 200 in autumn and winter.
- ***Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** *Cacatua galerita*. Pairs distributed throughout forested areas in summer. A flock of over 40 feeding on Sorghum crops at B in June-July 1984, where the roosting area was covered with moulted primary feathers. Numbers have greatly decreased since the 1940's.
- ***Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus*. Very common: numbers fluctuating with food supply. Many shot while feeding on ripening fruit.
- ***Scaly-breasted Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*. Moderately common: numbers fluctuating with food supply.
- ***Little Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta pusilla*. Occasional sightings of 3-6. Numbers greatly reduced since the 1940's, when flocks of over 30 were regularly sighted feeding on flowering Mistletoe *Loranthus* sp. at EN.
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- Double-eyed Fig-Parrot** *Psittaculirostris diophthalma*. Small groups of a small parrot feeding on fruiting Moreton Bay Fig *Ficus macrophylla* in the vine forest of ENF in the 1940's were possibly this species. Last definite sighting was of three birds in December 1952.
- *Australian King-Parrot** *Alisterus scapularis*. Moderately common throughout the area. Numbers appear to be increasing in recent years, with many visiting residential gardens.
- Red-winged Parrot** *Aprosmictus erythropterus*. A single male at N on 11 October and 11 December 1985 was attracted by aviary birds. Also at N: a pair on 27 March 1987, and two pairs in October-December 1992.
- *Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*. Small groups of 4-20 in agricultural areas and open forest. In the 1940's flocks of over 200 converged on peanut growing areas of EN at harvest in March.
- Budgerigar** *Melopsittacus undulatus*. At EN: three on 3 May 1969 and a flock of about twenty on 20 June 1989.
- Eastern Rosella** *Platycercus eximius*. Single birds at N on 3 September 1986 and 18 April 1990, and two there on 29 May 1990; two at AV on 20 January 1990. Several apparent hybrids have also been sighted at AV and one was netted at N.
- *Pale-headed Rosella** *Platycercus adscitus*. Moderately common in all areas, numbers increasing.
- *Red-rumped Parrot** *Psephotus haematonotus*. Recent arrivals, with first sightings north of N in November 1984. Numbers increasing around stockyards. A flock of over 30 was sighted about 5 km south of N on 30 June 1990.
- Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus*. One at EN on 14 December 1954. At AV: two on 10 October 1983, and one on 6 June 1987.
- Pallid Cuckoo** *Cuculus pallidus*. Uncommon: regular summer visitor.
- Brush Cuckoo** *Cuculus variolosus*. An immature bird sighted at EN on 3 May 1986.
- Fan-tailed Cuckoo** *Cuculus pyrrhophanus*. Regular summer visitor. Occasional birds present from March to July.
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- Black-eared Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx osculans*. Sightings of single birds 7 km south-west of N on 26 December 1987 and 15 January 1988.
- ***Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx basalis*. Occasional summer sightings. Immature birds netted 7 km south of N in January 1987 and February 1988.
- ***Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx lucidus*. The race *plagosus* is a summer visitor, netted in October, December and January at EN. Birds of the nominate race netted in March, June and August at EN and ENF.
- Common Koel** *Eudynamis scolopacea*. Moderately common from October to February. Earliest recorded arrival 15 August and latest departure 5 March.
- Channel-billed Cuckoo** *Scythrops novaehollandiae*. Uncommon: occasional sightings from October to February.
- ***Pheasant Coucal** *Centropus phasianinus*. Uncommon: restricted to tall grassed open forest, grasslands and *Lantana* thickets.
- ***Southern Boobook** *Ninox novaeseelandiae*. Moderately common: calls regularly at night August to December. Many road-killed March-April.
- ***Barking Owl** *Ninox connivens*. A pair was found in a patch of remnant vine forest with large, hollow-limbed Narrow-leaved Ironbark at EN on 15 August 1986, and sighted again on 27 August 1987. The area was bulldozed in December 1988. One was spotlighted at AV on 27 December 1988.
- Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*. Occasionally road-killed and sighted in car headlights and spotlighted at AV. One in garden of residence at N on 25 October 1989.
- Masked Owl** *Tyto novaehollandiae*. One spotlighted at AV on 27 December 1988.
- ***Tawny Frogmouth** *Podargus strigoides*. Moderately common in all suitable habitats at EN, ENF and TP.
- Australian Owlet-nightjar** *Aegotheles cristatus*. Flushed from hollows at EN; night sightings at AV.
- ***White-throated Nightjar** *Caprimulgus mystacalis*. Irregular sightings in open forest of EN.
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White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*. Regular sightings in October, November and January-March, at times involving large numbers passing through.

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*. The last sighting was of over fifty on 25 January 1975. In October 1946 a mixed flight with White-throated Needletail passed through EN to the south in a continual stream for two days.

***Azure Kingfisher** *Ceyx azurea*. Uncommon: netting has confirmed its presence all year, along creeks and around tree-lined dams and lagoons.

***Laughing Kookaburra** *Dacelo novaeguineae*. Moderately common in open forest and farmland. Numbers have been reduced since the sub-division of land for rural residential blocks. Many are apparently shot by these new residents when they prey on young poultry.

Forest Kingfisher *Halcyon macleayii*. The only confirmed sighting was at N on 23 July 1985.

***Sacred Kingfisher** *Halcyon sancta*. Common in spring and summer. Earliest sighting was 6 August and latest sighting 20 March.

***Rainbow Bee-eater** *Merops ornatus*. Spasmodic summer visitor from September to February, with occasional small parties of up to 12 birds in July.

***Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*. Moderately common summer visitor. Earliest noted arrival was 14 August and latest departure was 31 March. A flock of over 20 was hawking over N on 16 February 1987.

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*. Regularly sighted in the vine forests of EN in the 1940's, before the replacement of natural vegetation with Hoop Pine plantations. Three were sighted at ENF in December 1952, with the only sighting since being of two on 23 December 1976.

***Rufous Scrub-bird** *Atrichornis rufescens*. A single bird identified as a male of this species was sighted in a vine gully below the Fire Tower at ENF on 5 December 1951. In January 1952, a vacated nest, of the type described for this species, lined with wood pulp, very smooth and cardboard-like, was found close to where the bird was sighted. From feather scale in the nest, it appeared that the nest had only recently been vacated.

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- ***Singing Bushlark** *Mirafra javanica*. First sighted at EN on 25 November 1985. Moderately common in cultivated crops at AV in December 1989. Observed at AV every summer since. Appears to be absent from April to August.
- ***White-backed Swallow** *Cheramoeca leucosternum*. At least two pairs bred in the bank of a gully at EN from 1943 to 1952. No sightings in recent years.
- ***Welcome Swallow** *Hirundo neoxena*. Moderately common in all months. A build-up in numbers to about 50 on powerlines in February-March.
- ***Tree Martin** *Cecropis nigricans*. Moderately common in all months. Flocks of over 80 build up on powerlines in February-March.
- ***Fairy Martin** *Cecropis ariel*. Very common in spring and summer. Flocks of over 100 build up on powerlines in February-March.
- ***Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. Moderately common in all months in suitable grassland and cultivated crops. A marked build-up of numbers takes place in August-September, with small flocks of up to 18 forming in February-March.
- ***Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae*. Moderately common in all months.
- White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina papuensis*. The only recent sightings were of two on 25 January 1975, one on 20 July 1987, five on 21 May 1991, and one on 10 May 1992, all at N.
- Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina lineata*. A single bird on 20 June 1987, and two on 19 May 1991 at N.
- ***Cicadabird** *Coracina tenuirostris*. Banding has indicated that it is an uncommon summer visitor to remnant vine forest at ENF. First recorded in January 1989.
- Ground Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina maxima*. Seven in July 1982, two in October 1984, six in May 1986, four in May 1987, three adults and two immature birds in February 1988, and three adults and two immature birds on 2 March 1989, at AV and N.
- ***White-winged Triller** *Lalage sueurii*. Uncommon: first recorded in November 1986. Breeding pairs frequent the same localities from November to February at EN.
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- ***Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*. The first sighting of this uncommon bird was made at EN by S.G. Lane on 14 September 1986. Banding has established its presence in remnant vine forest at ENF from October to June.
- White's Thrush** *Zoothera dauma*. The only record is one netted at ENF in December 1989.
- Rose Robin** *Petroica rosea*. Uncommon in open forest and remnant vine forest of EN from April to September. In May 1990 and August 1991 it was found in open grazing land near TP.
- Red-capped Robin** *Petroica goodenovii*. Rare visitor, normally in years of western drought. A male in March 1978 and on 5 May 1984, two in April, May, June and August 1985, and one in November 1989, all at EN.
- ***Hooded Robin** *Melanodryas cucullata*. A pair bred in the same tree each summer at EN from 1940 to 1948. A pair was present in the same area in the summers of 1978, 1981 and 1982.
- ***Eastern Yellow Robin** *Eopsaltria australis*. Common in remnant vine forest of ENF and gullies with suitable cover at EN.
- ***Jacky Winter** *Microeca leucophaea*. Uncommon in open forest and partly cleared farmlands.
- ***Crested Shrike-tit** *Falcunculus frontatus*. Rare sightings in eucalypt forest of EN and remnant vine forest at ENF.
- ***Golden Whistler** *Pachycephala pectoralis*. Moderately common in remnant vine forest, moving through open forest, farmland and residential gardens in autumn and winter. Numbers appear to have greatly increased since the 1940's.
- ***Rufous Whistler** *Pachycephala rufiventris*. Uncommon: present in open forest and regrowth in all months, with small parties of up to 8 birds in sheltered regrowth in winter.
- ***Little Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla megarhyncha*. Uncommon in the remnant vine forest of ENF. Numbers appear to have decreased greatly since the 1940's.
- ***Grey Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla harmonica*. Uncommon in remnant vine forest of ENF, and *Acacia* regrowth of EN, Tarong and AV. Numbers appear to have greatly decreased since the 1940's.
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- Crested Bellbird** *Oreoica gutturalis*. The only sighting was a male at the edge of ENF in November 1951 during a period of drought in the west.
- ***Black-faced Monarch** *Monarcha melanopsis*. Uncommon: banding has confirmed its presence at ENF from October to March.
- ***Spectacled Monarch** *Monarcha trivirgatus*. Uncommon: banding has confirmed its presence at ENF and adjacent open forest from September to March.
- White-eared Monarch** *Monarcha leucotis*. Banding has confirmed its presence, with three being netted and one sighted at ENF; the first was netted in December 1988.
- ***Leaden Flycatcher** *Myiagra rubecula*. Rare summer visitor in open forest and *Acacia* regrowth at EN from September to April.
- Satin Flycatcher** *Myiagra cyanoleuca*. Occasional sightings from September to April at N and EN.
- ***Restless Flycatcher** *Myiagra inquieta*. Occasional sightings in all months. Pairs present from July to February.
- ***Rufous Fantail** *Rhipidura rufifrons*. Uncommon: present at ENF and EN from September to March. Numbers greatly reduced since the 1940's.
- ***Grey Fantail** *Rhipidura fuliginosa*. Moderately common: present all months at ENF and EN, with a build-up in numbers and dispersal throughout the shire from April to August.
- ***Willie Wagtail** *Rhipidura leucophrys*. Very common throughout open forest and agricultural land, with groups of over 10 forming in March-April. Banding has shown a changing population of both wintering and breeding birds.
- ***Eastern Whipbird** *Psophodes olivaceus*. Moderately common at ENF and the *Lantana* infested gullies of EN.
- ***Grey-crowned Babbler** *Pomatostomus temporalis*. Moderately common in suitable habitat. It has totally disappeared from areas of EN inhabited in the 1940's, possibly due to the change from dairy farming to limited grazing, and the thick regrowth of vegetation. Typically, groups are of 2-6 birds whereas they were formerly of about 6-12 birds.
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- ***Clamorous Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus stentoreus*. Moderately common in suitable habitat from September to February. Fifteen to thirty pairs breed annually in PP with some banded birds overwintering.
 - ***Tawny Grassbird** *Megalurus timoriensis*. Uncommon in tall grasses and crops at AV. Numbers have greatly diminished at EN since the 1940's, possibly due to heavier grazing reducing the available cover.
 - ***Little Grassbird** *Megalurus gramineus*. Rarely sighted: a group of over 20 at NSR in August 1985; pairs at PP in February 1990 and September 1991.
 - ***Golden-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis*. Common in rank grasses and cultivated crops at AV, N and EN.
 - ***Rufous Songlark** *Cinclorhamphus mathewsi*. Rare summer visitor, with occasional pairs in open forest at AV and EN from October to February.
 - ***Suberb Fairy-wren** *Malurus cyaneus*. Common in all areas with suitable vegetation and in residential gardens at N.
 - ***Variiegated Fairy-wren** *Malurus lamberti*. Moderately common in all areas of suitable vegetation at ENF, EN and TP.
 - ***Red-backed Fairy-wren** *Malurus melanocephalus*. Moderately common in open forest, farmland and creek banks with rank grasses.
 - ***Large-billed Scrubwren** *Sericornis magnirostris*. Moderately common in remnant vine forest at ENF.
 - ***White-browed Scrubwren** *Sericornis frontalis*. Common in all areas with a cover of shrubs, grass and regrowth. Numbers appear to have greatly increased since the 1940's.
 - ***Speckled Warbler** *Sericornis sagittatus*. Uncommon: present most months in fluctuating numbers of 2-8 birds.
 - ***Weebill** *Smicronis brevirostris*. Moderately common: it was very common in *Acacia* regrowth in the 1940's, when groups of an estimated 30 birds moved through the canopy. Recent sightings are of small parties of about 6 birds.
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- *Brown Gerygone** *Gerygone mouki*. Uncommon: banding has confirmed its presence at ENF in most months. Netted in dry sclerophyll forest at EN in August.
- *White-throated Gerygone** *Gerygone olivacea*. Uncommon spring-summer visitor, found breeding as early as August.
- *Brown Thornbill** *Acanthiza pusilla*. Uncommon: spread sparsely over the whole shire.
- Buff-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza reguloides*. Uncommon: small parties in regrowth and eucalypt forest.
- *Yellow-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*. Common in all cleared areas with suitable vegetation.
- *Yellow Thornbill** *Acanthiza nana*. Common along tree-lined roadways and in *Acacia* regrowth. It was very common in *Acacia* regrowth at EN in the 1940's, in groups of up to 30 birds, but it is now less frequent and in parties of only 4-6 birds.
- Varied Sittella** *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*. Rare sightings of small parties of 2-8 in open forest at N, EN and AV. Numbers greatly reduced since the 1940's.
- *White-throated Treecreeper** *Climacteris leucophaea*. Regular sightings in open forest of EN.
- Brown Treecreeper** *Climacteris picumnus*. Occasional sightings of pairs in eucalypt treed country at AV.
- Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater** *Acanthagenys rufogularis*. One at N in August 1980; one at EN in June 1985; eight 5 km south of N on 15 January 1988.
- *Striped Honeyeater** *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*. Regular spring-summer visitor with occasional birds in the winter months.
- *Noisy Friarbird** *Philemon corniculatus*. Moderately common in the summer months. Build-up of numbers from September to November. Regular autumn movement of large groups in March-April.
- *Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis*. Moderately common in all months with a build-up of numbers from September to November.
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- ***Blue-faced Honeyeater** *Entomyzon cyanotis*. Uncommon: small numbers present in all months.
- ***Noisy Miner** *Manorina melanocephala*. Moderately common in open forest and around farmyards.
- ***Lewin's Honeyeater** *Meliphaga lewinii*. Moderately common at ENF. Found spasmodically throughout open forest, visiting parks and residential areas in autumn and winter. Numbers fluctuate greatly, with flocks of over 40 at one locality in ENF in May-June 1991 and 1992.
- ***Yellow-faced Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus chrysops*. Uncommon: present all months in small numbers.
- White-eared Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus leucotis*. A single bird at EN on 15 July 1985.
- ***Fuscous Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus fuscus*. Uncommon: regular sightings at EN, with occasional sightings at AV. Present in all months.
- ***White-plumed Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus penicillatus*. Moderately common in the 1940's in eucalypt forest at EN, where it was found breeding. Occasional sightings in 1970's, none since 1980.
- Black-chinned Honeyeater** *Melithreptus gularis*. Occasional sightings of 2-12 at N and EN.
- Brown-headed Honeyeater** *Melithreptus brevirostris*. Occasional sightings. Three netted at EN in September 1990.
- ***White-throated Honeyeater** *Melithreptus albogularis*. Uncommon: sightings of 2-10 in all months. Numbers fluctuate, largest groups present in October, November and April.
- ***Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta*. Moderately common throughout the whole shire. Flocks of more than 30 at N and EN in January 1989, October and November 1990 and April 1991.
- New Holland Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*. A single bird at EN on 15 July 1985.
- ***Eastern Spinebill** *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*. Uncommon: appears to keep to the vine forests of ENF from August to March. Occasional sightings in open forest of EN, residential gardens at N, and along a tree-lined creek at AV in winter.
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- ***Scarlet Honeyeater** *Myzomela sanguinolenta*. Moderately common from September to December. Flocks of over 50 feed on flowering Jacaranda *Jacaranda ovalifolia* at ENF from October to November.
- ***Mistletoebird** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*. Uncommon: present in all months.
- ***Spotted Pardalote** *Pardalotus punctatus*. Uncommon: usual sightings are at EN and ENF from May to December. It has been found breeding in sloping ground within the vine forests from June to September.
- ***Striated Pardalote** *Pardalotus striatus*. Moderately common throughout the whole area from June to November.
- ***Silvereye** *Zosterops lateralis*. Common: exhibits great seasonal and year to year fluctuations in numbers.
- ***House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*. Common resident at N and around some farmyards.
- ***Red-browed Firetail** *Emblema temporalis*. Moderately common at the East Nanango Fauna and Flora Sanctuary and ENF. Flocks of over 50 congregate from June to October. Numbers appear to be greatly reduced since the 1940's, when it was more widespread throughout the EN area.
- Diamond Firetail** *Emblema guttata*. A pair at N on 5-6 March 1953; three at AV on 3 August 1991.
- ***Zebra Finch** *Poephila guttata*. Uncommon: sparsely spread over grasslands. First observed at EN in November 1943 in cultivations and adjacent grasslands, with flocks of over 200 building up by the mid 1940's. Numbers have greatly reduced in recent years since much of the cultivated areas has been turned into grazing land.
- ***Double-banded Finch** *Poephila bichenovii*. Common in all suitable habitats, with flocks of over 60 forming. Subject to heavy predation by domestic cats.
- ***Plum-headed Finch** *Aidemosyne modesta*. A pair bred at EN in October 1945. Occasional sightings of up to six birds in the same locality from 1945 to 1953. Pairs at N on 6 December 1991, and 15 December 1992.
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- ***Chestnut-breasted Mannikin** *Lonchura castaneothorax*. Common in rushes, tall grasses and cultivation where flocks of over 200 form in winter and spring. It was first recorded when a pair was found breeding at EN in 1943, then small flocks of about 10 birds formed in autumn and winter with flocks increasing to over 50 by 1950.
- ***Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*. Moderately common around N and in agricultural and open forest areas. A flock of an estimated 500 roosted in a bushy eucalypt at PP during the winter of 1990.
- ***Olive-backed Oriole** *Oriolus sagittatus*. Moderately uncommon throughout the whole shire, with sightings in all months.
- ***Figbird** *Sphecotheres viridis*. Moderately common: spasmodic flocking onto ripening fruit, with flock sizes of over 50 in March-April.
- Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus*. Single birds and pairs in all months except May and July.
- ***Satin Bowerbird** *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*. Three known active bowers at ENF. Numbers have greatly decreased since the 1950's.
- ***Regent Bowerbird** *Sericulus chrysocephalus*. Uncommon: regular sightings at ENF of 2-8 with occasional sightings in open forest of EN. Numbers greatly reduced since the 1940's when flocks of over 50 fed out from the vine forests of ENF.
- Green Catbird** *Ailuroedus crassirostris*. Regularly heard and sighted in the vine forests of EN in the 1940's. Recent records of two on 23 December 1976, and three in July 1985 at ENF.
- Paradise Riflebird** *Ptiloris paradiseus*. Occasional sightings at ENF in the 1940's and early 1950's. The only recent record was a female netted at ENF in September 1988.
- ***White-winged Chough** *Corcorax melanorhamphos*. Seven known parties of 5-12 birds scattered throughout the eucalypt woodlands of the shire.
- ***Apostlebird** *Struthidea cinerea*. Moderately common around farmyards and open areas in forest. Flocks of about 50 form at AV in winter.
- ***Australian Magpie-lark** *Grallina cyanoleuca*. Common in all suitably cleared areas. Flocks of about 30 form in winter.
- Masked Woodswallow** *Artamus personatus*. Occasional small parties of 2-10 birds.
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***White-browed Woodswallow** *Artamus superciliosus*. Occurs spasmodically, in small flocks. Bred at EN in September 1953.

Black-faced Woodswallow *Artamus cinereus*. Six at EN in September 1953.

***Dusky Woodswallow** *Artamus cyanopterus*. Occasional pairs arrive about August and sometimes breed.

***Grey Butcherbird** *Cracticus torquatus*. Pairs scattered through forested areas.

***Pied Butcherbird** *Cracticus nigrogularis*. Moderately common at all localities except ENF.

***Australian Magpie** *Gymnorhina tibicen*. Common at all localities. Loose groups of about 30 congregate in autumn and winter.

***Pied Currawong** *Strepera graculina*. Pairs scattered throughout the area in spring and summer. Flocks of up to about 50 move about N in autumn and winter.

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*. Two at ENF on 16 March 1991.

Little Crow *Corvus bennetti*. A flock of an estimated 30 birds at N in May 1991. One trapped and banded.

***Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru*. Common throughout the area, with flocks of over 30 congregating in winter at N.

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BOOK REVIEW

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS. BIRDS. T. R. Lindsey. The National Photographic Index of Australian Wildlife, The Australian Museum. Angus & Robertson, Pymble, N.S.W, 1992, 469 pages, \$49.95 (recommended retail price).

This book is one of four volumes: others cover Frogs, Reptiles and Mammals. Over 700 species of birds are described and illustrated following two pages on the distinctive features and ancestry of birds. Each entry comprises common name, scientific name (with pronunciation and derivation), around 500 words of descriptive text, brief (usually less than one line) statements on habitat, length, distribution (six area classes), abundance and status, a colour photograph from 55 x 42 mm (several honeyeaters) to 175 x 152 mm (e.g. Sacred Ibis) in size, and a map of Australia (35 x 33 mm) showing geographical distribution. There is also a double-page fronticepiece and two full page end-plates. Photographs are from the National Photographic Index of Australian Wildlife and our best-known bird photographers are well-represented. The book has an attractive, "coffee-table" format and will be competing for a share of the gift market.

Use of "Encyclopedia" ("Book giving information on all branches of knowledge or of one subject, usually arranged alphabetically" (Oxford English Dictionary)) in the title is pretentious in the extreme. Information falls far short of that in "The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds" - a "handbook", not an "encyclopedia". The only justification for "encyclopedia" is the presentation of entries within families in alphabetical order of generic and specific names. Ironically, this leads to a major weakness with the generic order within families bearing no relation to taxonomic affinities (e.g. *Anas* begins the Anatidae), and, even worse, separating closely related and similar species (e.g. *C. canutus*, Red Knot, and *C. tenuirostris*, Great Knot) by several pages. To add to confusion, the common names recommended by RAOU, and predominantly used in the popular field guides, have been frequently abandoned in favour of superceded names (although RAOU names are usually presented as alternatives).

For those who buy this book to help identify birds they see around them, or hear and read about, the photographs will be especially important. Many fulfil the purpose well (e.g. the four herons). In contrast, the pictures of the Marbled Frogmouth, Grey Swiftlet (i.e. White-rumped Swiftlet) and Grey Butcherbird will help no one. Far too many photographs are too small to be of any value. Others have blurred images, even the fronticepiece. While several "in-flight" images (e.g. Bourke's Parrot, Rainbow Bee-eater, Noisy Miner) demonstrate the photographers' skill, and the power of their equipment, they are poor

aids to identification, particularly with their dark backgrounds. In the review copy, at least, much colour printing is atrocious, with too many pictures saturated with blues or greens. The Glossy Black-Cockatoo has become the Glossy Green-Cockatoo! The Blue-winged Shoveler (i.e. Australasian Shoveler) suffers too, yet the Pink-eared Duck by the same photographer is perhaps one of the most accurate and useful representations in the book. To detail all the faults in reproduction would result in a long list - a glance at the pigeons and doves will show the problems.

In content and aim, the book is closest to the "Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds". Indeed, the same photographs of several species appear in both books. Although a few species are better illustrated in the "Encyclopedia", "Reader's Digest" remains a far better book, with better use and reproduction of photographs and more comprehensive information.

In conclusion, this reviewer finds it regrettable that the stated aim of using photographs from the National Photographic Index of Australian Wildlife as "... the basis of outstanding books" has not been attained. The book does not enhance the standing of Australian natural history publishing. Selection of photographs and production standards fall far short of those in comparable European and North American natural history publications.

GRAHAM LEACH, P.O. Box 568, Kenmore, Q 4069.

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

The Sunbird is published quarterly by the Queensland Ornithological Society to further the knowledge of birds in Queensland and adjacent northern regions of Australia.

Papers are invited from non-members as well as members on all aspects of ornithology, e.g. life history, taxonomy, distribution, behaviour, and ecology. Articles may take the form of major articles on specific birds, birds in specific areas or habitats, or short notes on either birds themselves or the literature on birds, such as reviews of books or comments on published articles.

Submission of a paper implies that the results reported have not been published and are not being considered for publication elsewhere. The editor reserves the right to submit records of rare birds to the Records Appraisal Committee of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union.

Manuscripts can be supplied on floppy disk (IBM or MACINTOSH systems using plain text 'ASCII format') or in typed form on paper. When typed, the manuscript should be double-spaced and two copies sent. Papers longer than four typed A4 pages should have a summary. If needed, help may be given to authors to find relevant literature. Common names, scientific names and order of names should follow 'Recommended English Names for Australian Birds', in *The Emu* Volume 77, Supplement, 1978. Intending authors should consult recent issues of *The Sunbird* to see acceptable forms of contributions.

References should be listed in alphabetical order at the end of papers in the following styles; titles of journals will be abbreviated as in the *World List of Scientific Periodicals*:

FLEAY, D.H. 1937. Nesting habits of the brush turkey. *Emu* 36: 153-163.

FRITH, H.J. (Ed.). 1976. Mallee fowl. In *Complete Book of Australian Birds*, pp. 136-137. Sydney: Reader's Digest.

SERVENTY, D., SERVENTY, V.N. & WARHAM, J. 1971. *The Handbook of Australian Sea-birds*. Sydney: Reed.

SLATER, P. 1970. *A Field Guide to Australian Birds. Non-Passerines*. Adelaide: Rigby.

Tables and Figures should be numbered with Arabic numerals. Drawings and diagrams should be in Indian Ink on cartridge paper or tracing cloth. If authors cannot arrange suitable drawings, the editor may arrange the drawing of figures and diagrams. Authors may submit photographs (preferably black and white) with their manuscripts.

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