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Audio Tape Transcription – Transcribed on 14/6/2014 by J.Lane from digital copy (also made June 2014) of original audio cassette)

Current name of digital file is: '1995 Lake Ballard Tape – Keep' (Side A, 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt)', which is based on the labelling on the original audio cassette.

All of this audio-recording (except the un-related Woodvale meeting at the end of Side A) is of JAK Lane's voice, recorded while undertaking research, with others, on a Banded Stilt breeding event at Lake Ballard in 1995.

- Where '[BREAK]' has been inserted, this indicates that the audio-recorder was turned off and then on again. There is no way of knowing (unless stated in the recording) how long these breaks were. Some might have been for a few seconds; others for a number of minutes.
- Some of these recordings don't have dates. Compare these transcriptions with JL's field notes, and possibly other papers, to work out the dates that apply to each.
- In some places, original recordings have later recordings over the top of them – and have thus been lost. JL did some transcribing into his notebooks while at Lake Ballard. Perhaps some of the now missing recordings were captured by him then, and thus have not been lost. Check JL's notebooks for possible transcriptions of 'lost' recordings. Note that it's possible that JL had a limited number of tapes and deliberately re-used some – after transcribing (e.g. to field notebook/s) the earlier recording/s.
- Copy this transcription to relevant BaSt RMCR's.

→ 1995 aerial surveys.  
1995 Nesting area, not end of date

**SIDE A (of original audio-cassette)**

Digital audio-recording section 00.00-00.06 (i.e. 00mins00secs-00min06secs): Blank (totally silent).

Aerial survey of 27/6/1995

Digital audio-recording section 00.07-01.49: [Only aircraft noise – while in flight. There is only one BREAK in this section, at the end, i.e. at 01.49]. Given the length and position of this section, and the lack of BREAKs, it's probable that the recorder was on when it was meant to be off (i.e. when JL wasn't speaking) and off when it was meant to be on (i.e. when JL was speaking).

Digital audio-recording section 01.50-03.14: (Recorded part of) Aerial survey of Lake Barlee: JL says: Mainly very shallow water and large areas exposed south of the spot height of 405 [metres? Check map for location]. [BREAK]. Altitude is 150 [ft] [BREAK] and flying at a speed of 140 knots. [BREAK] 0906hrs turning [at] the western limit of the first bay. [BREAK] 100 shelduck east of Mount Elvire at 0913[hrs]. [BREAK] Flock of 50 [BaSt] chicks with 10 adults I photographed just to the south-west of Auriferous Island. [BREAK] One flock of 250, another flock of 500, also south-west of Auriferous Island. [BREAK] And hundreds more a bit further south-west. [BREAK] That third lot was about 300 or so. [BREAK] A Wedge-tailed Eagle was heading for the flock as we went in to do photography'.

Digital audio-recording section 03.15-03.41: JL's voice says: '[BaSt Nest No.] 58 [contains] one egg cold, 57 one egg warm, 56 one egg cold, 55 is one egg cold, 54 is one egg cold' [This is an accidental 'over-recording' – on top of the aerial survey recording].

Aerial survey of 27/4/1995 contd.

Digital audio-recording section 03:42-05.02: Aerial survey of Lake Barlee and Lake Ballard continues: [BREAK] Two avocet. [BREAK] One more avocet. [BREAK] Heading south just to the west of the island with a spot height of 406 [metres? Check map for location] at 0934hrs. [BREAK] Three ducks, look like Grey Teal. ... *[approx. one second of recording of BaSt nest contents overlaying approx. one second of original aerial survey recording]* ... [BREAK] 0936hrs another avocet. [BREAK] 0937hrs east of number 4 bore turning and heading east again. [BREAK] Group of 10 flying right at the western end of Lake Ballard as I approach the three small islands at the western end at 1011hrs. [BREAK] Fifty Mountain Ducks just south of the first island [BREAK], and another 40 at the second and third islands. [BREAK] [Crossing?] small creek. [BREAK] And many family parties at the western end at 1015hrs. *[It appears that the remainder of this aerial survey recording has been lost – overlain by the recordings on Lake Ballard (i.e. on the ground) that immediately follow].*

Digital audio-recording section 05.03-16.03: Adult Banded Stilt calls audible in the background. These are nesting adults moved off their nests while JL checked nest contents. JL's voice says: '... cold, '43 is two eggs cold, 42 is three eggs cold, 41 is three eggs warm, 40 is two eggs cold, 50 is one egg cold, 39 is two eggs very cold, 38 is three eggs cold, 37 is three eggs warm, 39 is two eggs very cold, 36 is two eggs cold, 35 is two eggs cold, 33 is one egg cold, 34 is three eggs definitely warm, 32 is three eggs definitely cold. Oh my back! [BREAK] Now checking the eggs in the UVWX area. Nest number 1 is two eggs warm, nest number 2 one egg warm, nest number 3 one egg definitely warm, nest number 4 two eggs warm, nest number 5 two eggs cold, nest number 6 two eggs cold, nest number 7 three eggs definitely warm, nest number 8 is two eggs hard to say maybe warm, nest number 9 is three eggs – phew – hard to say. Half way. Nest number 10 has two eggs I think they're warm, nest number 11 has two eggs cold, nest number 12 is one buried egg that's very cold, nest number 13 has two eggs hard to say, nest number 14 has two eggs again hard to say, nest number 15 has two eggs hard to say, nest number 16 has two eggs hard to say, nest number 17 has three eggs hard to say, nest number 18 has one egg hard to say, nest number 19 has two eggs hard to say, nest number 20 has three eggs – they seem cold, nest number 21 has three eggs they seem cold. Ah, where the ? Nest number 22 has four eggs and they're hard to tell, nest number 23 has two eggs cold, nest 25 has one egg cold – maybe, 22 was four eggs. Um. Where the f\*\*\* are we? Nest number 26 – if that's still it – is two eggs hard to say, nest number 27 is one egg hard to say, 28 is one egg hard to say, 29 is four eggs seem cold, nest number 30 is three eggs hard to say, 31 is three eggs hard to say, 32 is two eggs hard to say, 33 is four eggs hard to say, nest 24 is two eggs hard to say, nest 34 is two eggs warm p'raps, nest 35 is three eggs hard to say, 36 is three eggs hard to say, 37 is two eggs hard to say, 38 is two eggs hard to say, 39 is two eggs hard to say, nest 40 is one egg hard to say, 41 is three eggs hard to say, 42 is one egg hard to say, 43 is one egg cold, 44 is two eggs hard to say, 45 is one egg hard to say, 46 is two eggs hard to say, 47 – I don't know, maybe it's disappeared, couldn't really say what [indecipherable] the eggs missing, 48 is two eggs hard to say, 49 – I don't know which one it is – it is either two eggs hard to say or three eggs warm, 50 is two eggs cold. And it's now 29 [minutes] on the stop watch and I'm moving out. I'll move back through the colony. It disturbs the birds but at least I get off the island quickly. [BREAK] And at 32 on the stop watch, which is 3.49pm, I'm in the boat [and] I'm motoring away, the birds are largely settled behind me except for the eastern end where I had the boat but they're moving in there quickly. There's been a moderate easterly. It's been sunny while I've been doing the work and I spent most time at each end [of the island] doing the individual nests but at least while I was crouched down then the birds on the rest of the island were down on their nests. So although the total disturbance

was probably 30 minutes – that was the total time I was on the island – I expect no bird was off the nest for more than the 20 minute limit. [BREAK]

Digital audio-recording section 16.04-17.36: It's now 4.04pm and I've got back to the first breeding island and shortly I will do the laying quadrats. I've used up to [exposure] number 21 down at the other island on the new camera with the 28mm lens and 100ASA. [BREAK] I moved in the correct order on my way through. It took me about – the whole exercise took five minutes finishing at 4.17 [pm]. This time for the first time I took a second photo of each one and I did them out of sequence. I did the second last quadrat first, from the south, then the last quadrat second, from the south, then I had to do the second quadrat - I did that third, from the north, and then I did the first quadrat – which is ABCD – from the south. And that finished it. Bright sunshine. Birds had become very accustomed to me. [BREAK]

Digital audio-recording section 17.37-22.14: Adult Banded Stilt calls audible in the background. These are nesting adults moved off their nests while JL checked nest contents. JL's voice says: 'At 4.23 [pm] nest number 1 has three eggs and they are quite cold, nest number 3 has two eggs and they are warm, nest number 4 has two eggs and they are quite cold , nest number 2 has two eggs and they are warm, nest number 5 has 3 eggs and they are warm, nest number 2 had three eggs, nest number 4 had three eggs, nest 3 had two eggs, nest 6 has two eggs and they are warm, nest 7 has three eggs and they are definitely warm, nest 8 has one egg and that's warm, nest 9 has two eggs and that's warm, nest 10 – ah that's nest 16 has two eggs and they're warm, nest 15 has two eggs and they're warm, nest 10 has two eggs and they're definitely warm, nest 14 has three eggs and they're warm, nest 11 has three eggs and they're warm, 14 was three, 15 was two, 16 was two, 10 was two, 9 was two, 8 was two, 7 was three, 6 was two, 2 was three, 3 was two, 11 was three and they're warm, 12 was three and they're warm, 13 is two and they're warm, 17 is three and they're warm, 18 is two and they're warm, 19 is two and they're so-so, 20 is three and they're fairly so-so also, 21 is two and they're neither here nor there, 22 is two and they're definitely cold, 24 is three and they're warm, 25 is two and they're warm, 23 is two and they're cold, 28 is empty, 27 is two and they're quite cold, 30 is three and they're warm, 31 is two and they're quite cold, and 29 is two and they're quite cold. It's now 4.28 [pm] and I'm moving out'. [BREAK].

Digital audio-recording section 22.15-24.24: [sound of outboard motor at idle speed]. 'It's now 5.06pm and I'm starting another clockwise survey of Crossover Lake. The first thing I can see is a coot. This afternoon – two coots – this afternoon I saw two swans together on the [Crossover] lake when I took Cam [Campbell ... sound recordist of ABC Natural History Unit] over at must have been 2.15pm or so. [BREAK] One more coot in front, low in the water, and I can hear male Musk Duck calling. [BREAK] And at 5.15pm found a nest, looks like coot, seven eggs, white, with a lot of very small – appear to be brown – speckles, and the eggs were warm and I've left a red tape on a marker bush about 10 metres from it – 10 metres east of it. [BREAK] One Pink-eared Duck low in the water up ahead. [BREAK] One Maned Duck flying. [BREAK] One Grey Teal very low in the water, among the bushes. And another Grey Teal out on the open water. [BREAK] Another coot nest with of course no down and a platform running up to it. There are eight eggs, they're warm, they're white with fine brown speckling. [BREAK] Two Black Duck flying overhead went different ways. [BREAK] Another Black Duck took off from the water in front of me. [BREAK] Two crows flying away from the lake. [BREAK] Another coot nest, this time with 10 warm eggs. [BREAK] Another coot nest with six eggs, all warm, being incubated [BREAK] '.

Digital audio-recording section 24.25-25.38: [Outboard motor audible, at planing speed]. 'And it's now 2.53 [pm] on Fri 7<sup>th</sup> April [1995], and I'm boating from the 1<sup>st</sup> [BaSt] breeding island [on Lake Ballard] to the 2<sup>nd</sup> breeding island and probably halfway between Camp Island and the next big island and I've just passed several parties of [BaSt] adults with young. Although the broods are grouped and maybe two or four or six broods in the group, they're still retaining their distinct brood identity and each brood has one or more adults with it. [BREAK] The wind this afternoon is a light easterly and the northern half of the sky is overcast. *[Here the word 'cold' lies over the earlier recording. Adult BaSt can be heard in the background. This was presumably a very brief and accidental 'over-recording' while checking BaSt egg temperatures].* [BREAK] Two Grey Teal flying by [outboard motor audible, still at planning speed]'. Broods [eggs]

Digital audio-recording section 25.39-26.10: 'I've landed at the viewing island and it's now 3.08 pm. I'm going to use the old camera with the 100ASA film and 28mm lens and I've used photo numbers 2 to 7 already on the way down here photographing broods with the 70-210mm zoom lens' [BREAK] . Broods

Digital audio-recording section 26.11-27.02: [sound of outboard at idling speed now audible] 'And on my right I can see at least six [BaSt] broods, two clumped together, one adult each in that group, then another single adult with three chicks and then on a little point on the viewing island – sandy point – there's a group of maybe 50 adults and interestingly among them were a couple of broods of young. [some words missing?] ... whether they were actually resting on the bank or not' [BREAK] . Broods

Digital audio-recording section 27.03-36.51: Adult Banded Stilt calls audible in the background. These are nesting adults moved off their nests while JL checked nest contents. JL's voice says: 'Nest 32 has three eggs warm, 33 has one egg warm, 35 has two eggs warm, 34 has three eggs warm, 37 has three eggs warm, 39 has one egg definitely cold, ... [?] has two eggs warm, 41 has three eggs warm, 50 has two eggs warm, 42 has three eggs warm, 43 has two eggs warm, 44 has three eggs warm, 45 has four eggs warm, 46 has two eggs warm, 47 has one egg warm, 48 has two eggs warm, 49 has one egg warm, 51 has one egg warm, 52 has one egg warm, 54 has one egg warm, 53 has two eggs warm, 55 has three eggs warm, 44 has three eggs warm, 46 has two eggs warm, 43 has two eggs warm, 45 has four eggs warm, ... has one egg warm [nest number missing or is it a correction for nest 45?], 55 has three eggs warm, 56 has two eggs warm, 57 has two eggs warm, 58 has two eggs warm, 59 has two eggs, 60 has two eggs warm, 61 has one egg warm, 62 has two eggs warm, 63 has two eggs warm, 64 has two eggs warm, 65 has four eggs warm, 66 has three eggs warm, 67 has three eggs warm, 68 has two eggs warm, 69 has two eggs warm, 70 has two eggs warm. OK, now I'll do the quadrats. [BREAK] Now, nest 1 two eggs warm, nest 2 one egg warm, nest 3 one egg warm, nest 4 two eggs warm, nest 5 two eggs warm, nest 6 two eggs warm, nest 7 three eggs warm, nest 8 two eggs warm, nest 9 three eggs warm, nest 10 two eggs warm, nest 11 three eggs warm, nest 12 one egg cold – it's a far distance from the marker, nest 13 two eggs warm, 14 two eggs warm, ... [nest number not recorded] two eggs warm, 18 two eggs warm, 17 ... [number of eggs not recorded] eggs warm, 16 – I can't pick a nest for that, 19 two eggs warm, 20 three eggs warm, 21 three eggs warm, ..4 [indecipherable, 24? or 34?] two eggs warm. I'm [now] in the UVWX quadrat. 23 two eggs warm, 22 looks to be four eggs warm, 25 – if it's the right nest – one egg warm, 26 two eggs warm, 27 it's either five eggs warm or its one egg warm, 28 is one egg warm, 29 I think might have been the five eggs warm – rolled down the hill a bit, 31 is three eggs warm, 32 is either two eggs warm (in front) or three eggs cold (just behind), 33 eggs warm [or is this '30 three eggs warm?], 36 is three eggs, 34 is two eggs warm, 33 is either one egg cold or three eggs warm, 35 is

two eggs warm, 37 is two eggs warm, 36 if I got it is three eggs warm, 42 is one egg warm, 35 is two eggs warm, 38 I can't see which, 39 is two eggs warm, 40 I think is one egg warm, 46 I can't make out – I think it might be two eggs warm, 45 is one egg warm, ..9 [49?] is two eggs warm, 41 is three eggs warm, 43 is two eggs warm, 44 is two eggs warm, 45 is one egg warm, 47 I can't make out whose that is, 48 is two eggs warm, 49 is either two eggs warm or three eggs warm, and 50 is two eggs warm. [BREAK] Now I've finished and it's 25 minutes on the stop watch. The birds weren't disturbed for more than 18 [minutes]. Now I have to re-disturb them as I walk back along the western side. I'll go out in the water' [BREAK].

Digital audio-recording section 36.52-37.23: 'And at 26 minutes [on the stop watch] I'm walking east parallel to the island and ... [indecipherable] metres from it and all the birds are settled except for the extreme western end, where I've just come from – and they're pouring in there. [BREAK] And at 28 minutes [on the stop watch] I'm back at the boat'. [BREAK].

Digital audio-recording section 37.24-38.01: [outboard noise audible] 'I made a couple of slip-ups with my photographic sequence there. I think it was [at] the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> quadrat I had to take a third photo – I forget why – and later on I think I photographed from the back markers instead of the front markers initially and I had to re-photograph, [so I] probably [took] three more photos than usual. If I look at the scenery behind and match photos together I should be able to work it out afterwards' [BREAK].

Digital audio-recording section 38.02-42.07: 'I'm back at breeding island No. 1 at 4.16pm. [BREAK] And it's now 4.22 [pm] and I'm going to do four laying quadrats on breeding island No. 1 and I've just put a new film in the new camera. It's 100ASA. Set it on auto. Set it on 100ASA. Starting from photo No. 2. [BREAK] Back at boat and talking to Mark [Lamble, cinematographer of the ABC Natural History Unit] for a couple of minutes, and it was 16 [minutes] on the stop watch and 4.42 [pm] real time. [BREAK] Now going in to the numbered nests on breeding island No. 1. At 4.43 [pm] I'm just coming up over the rise. [BREAK] Nest 1 has three eggs and it's cold, nest 3 has two eggs cold, nest 4 has three eggs cold, nest 2 has three eggs warm, nest 5 has three eggs warm, nest 6 has two eggs warm, nest 7 has three eggs warm, nest 8 has one egg warm, nest 9 has two eggs warm, nest 10 has two eggs warm, nest 16 has two eggs warm, nest 15 has two eggs warm, nest 14 has three eggs warm, nest 11 has three eggs warm, nest 12 has three eggs warm, nest 13 has two eggs warm, nest 17 has three eggs warm, nest 18 has two eggs warm, nest 19 has two eggs warm, nest 20 is three eggs cold, nest 21 has two eggs warm, nest 22 has two eggs cold, – the cold ones are because they are not sitting on the nests at all –, nest 24 has three eggs warm, nest 23 has two eggs stone cold, nest 28 is empty – always has been I think, nest 27 has two eggs cold, nest 30 is three eggs warm, nest 31 is two eggs cold, nest 29 is two eggs cold. It's now 4.47 [pm] and I'm starting to move out [of the nesting area]. 4.47 [pm] I'm right out and the birds are settled back on the nest'. [BREAK]

Digital audio-recording section 42.08-43.13: [sound of outboard at idling speed is audible] 'It's in the blue bag. The zip's at the top [JL talking to whom?]. Starting survey of Crossover Lake on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 5.44pm. [BREAK] One pair of Blue-billed Duck and four coot. [BREAK] ... [indecipherable] breeding. One pair of Grey Teal took off. [BREAK] Another coot. [BREAK] And male Musk Duck heard. [BREAK] And one more coot. [BREAK] And another coot and a Grey Teal. [BREAK] And another coot. [BREAK] And two more coot. [BREAK] And one coot and another Grey Teal. [BREAK] And a Pink-eared Duck just took off. [BREAK] And another Pink-eared Duck took off. [BREAK] [JL

*Coots on lake*

laughing with other person in punt]. Another coot. [BREAK] One Black Duck flying. [BREAK] Another two Black Duck taking off and one Grey Teal' [BREAK].

*BaSt adults coming and going + behaviour*

Digital audio-recording section 43.14-56.26: 'Two out, one out, one in, one in, one in, two out, two in, waiting [long gap between birds], two in, one out, waiting [long gap between birds], one out, two in, one in. That's the end of that, I'll now do the beach sector. None at the south end of the eastern beach. Four washing, two preening, one drinking – definitely, one feeding, one preening, one resting, two preening, five preening, two pecking at the water, one washing, seven preening, one washing, and it's now 3.11 pm. [BREAK] [two in?], one out, two out, one in, one in, one out, one in, one in, one out, one in, two in, one in, two out, two in, three out, one in, one in, one out, one in, one in, one in, two in, one out, two out, one in, two out, one in, two out, one out, one in, one in, one out, two in, one out, two out, one in, two out, one in, two out, one out, one in, one in, one out, two in, one out, two out, one in, two in, three in, four out, one out, one in, two in, two out, one out, three in, two in, one in, one out, one out, one out, two in, one in, one out, one out, three out, one in, two in, one out, one in, two in, one in, one in, one in, one out, one in, one in, one in, one in, one out, one out, two out, one in, two out, one in, two out, one out, three out, one in, two in. That's the end of the 1400 one [1400hrs?] [54.53 on the digital audio-recording]. I'll now do the beach. On the southern section of the eastern beach. And we have four preening, two washing, two washing, one trying to mount [copulate] another, three preening, one preening, two standing on the beach, ten preening, one washing, seven preening, three washing, twelve preening, six washing, one preening, one walking, one chasing another feeding, one preening, one preening, one walking, That's it. Finished that at 2.11 pm. [56.26 on the digital audio-recording] [BREAK].

Digital audio-recording section 56.27-01.00.41: *[A recording of a staff meeting at the Wildlife Research Centre, Woodvale, then starts, without introduction and only a one second gap between it and the BaSt recording. It's possible, but not certain, that this was over the top of some BaSt recording. This continues to the end of this side of the tape, which is at 01.00.44 on the digital audio-recording. Recognisable voices include Tony Start (Chair), Grant Pearson, Andrew Burbidge, Gordon Friend. The audio-recording of this meeting continues on Side B of the original audio-cassette].*

Digital audio-recording section 01.00.42-01.00.51 (End): Blank.

#### ***SIDE B (of original audio-cassette)***

Digital audio-recording section 00.00-01.58: Blank.

Digital audio-recording section 01.59-48.16: *[Continuation of a recording of a staff meeting at the Wildlife Research Centre, Woodvale, that starts on side A.]*

Digital audio-recording section 48.17-01.04.25 (END): Blank.