

GRANTTASKS FOR SAT 8 → THURS 11 APRIL 95 INCL.

1. ~~Find~~ Find 5 distinct families of Bast on the water (each 1 adult and 3-4 chicks). Preferably families that are feeding, but it is possible that little or no feeding by families will occur while you are there. Shoot the single, most protective adult in each family (sometimes there may be ~~another~~, ~~but not~~ a second, non-protective adult with a family). Collect all the chicks of the family. Retain the oesophageal contents of each adult and chick. If oesophagus empty — check stomach for contents and retain if any. Measure the bill length (not incl. head) of each chick and identify which oesophageal contents go with it (i.e. cross reference). Also check for presence and size of yolk sac in each chick.

2. Take a surface water sample whenever you collect a family group (or single adult) — for salinity & total P and turbidity \rightarrow unfiltered. Also measure water depth. Also do a standard, surface-only, invertebrate sweep at each shooting location.

3. ~~Be~~ Opportunistically, record number of adults and chicks in each family group you see, and number of families grouped together. Record only definites, not maybes. Record any genuine clustering (undisturbed families of chicks grouping together).

12. Transcribe your aerial survey tape

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REPORT ON SURVEY TO LAKE BALLARD AND LAKE MARMION 8 JUNE
1995 TO 13 JUNE 1995

G Pearson and A Clarke in Toyota Landcruiser 7QE 236. Met Andy Chapman in Kalgoorlie on 9/6 and departed for Ballard. A Chapman had flown the lakes and reported no flightless chicks remained on Ballard but young chicks found at Marmion

OBJECTIVES (from Jims notes)

Obtain further water chemistry data

Measure extent of breeding site on Camp Island colony

Download datalogger

Withdraw gear from Camp Island

Record waterbirds seen on crossover lake during trips

Results

Water samples for salinity, Total P (unfiltered) were collected from the camp island site and from the crossover lake site.

Camp Isd... Depth.775mm...Temp?NA.... pH.8.67..

Crossover53cm.12.0.....8.76...

Invertebrate sweeps collected at each site

The extent of the breeding was measured and mapped for Camp island colony

Datalogger was downloaded and reset to record every hour and average every 6 hours

Waterlevels varied from 398 to 689 for the 70 days it was in place.

All gear was withdrawn from the island and Crossover camp leaving the sites clear.

Waterbirds

Ballard

BaSt	6
Pipit	1
White-backed Swallow	1
Banded Lapwing	2
RNAV	7
Shel	2
Gytl	11
RCaP	2 plus 1 juv

Crossover Lake

Coot	11 plus 6 juv
MusD	3 male
	2 female

Family 4 Depth 12 cm

3 young 1 adult

4a	30	22.7	46.3	23.6	36	y	y
4b	-	34	23.5	49.8	26.3	23	y
4c	y	-	24.1	49.9	26.5	25	y
4adult	200	34.3	-damaged bill	189	y ost.		y
m							

1 15.5

r 10.4

Brood patch yes Band full Belly 100%

Family 5 depth 9cm

2 young 1 adult

5a	35	24.1	52.1	22.2	25	y	y
5b	-	34	24.9	50.2	29.8	25	y
ost, ants, coleo							
5adult	205	32.0	104.9	68.5	193	y ost,	y
14.4							
Brood patch yes							

Band full Belly 100%

13/6/95

0615 to colony on a bearing of 300degrees determined from flight of aircraft previous day.. Distance unknown

Gyt 4 large waders 8

small waders 30 shel 2

Masses of adults and broods at north end of Big Island.

Proceeded west along north side of Big island. Located colony with telescope from west end of Big Island.

Proceeded west across expanse of water to 52cm deep.

Approaching colony 28 chicks and 18 adults in a loose creche. Numerous dead chicks about 1-5 days old along the strand line of the colony island.

300-400 adults at the waters edge in front of the central part of the colony. Agitated and flighty. Occasional dashes by 30-50 birds up the bank to the colony but they would almost immediately fly off in alarm. Peregrine falcon flew low over colony putting flock of Bast on the colony to flight. Wedge-tailed Eagle took off from rear of colony about 100m from active area and flew to a raised tussock about 200 m west of the colony where it sat and watched.

On our approach of the colony the eagle departed and during measurements every stilt flew out of site out of sight.

Began measurements at 0846 and finished at 0931

Observations

21 chicks in nests with unhatched eggs in a small discrete area of the colony