

Department of Conservation and Land Management
Western Australian Threatened Species and Communities Unit



W.A. Wildlife Research Centre
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To: Peter Kendrick

Your Ref:

My Ref:

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Subject: **MONTEBELLOS SURVEY DATA**

Dear Peter,

Attached are my preliminary compilations of the results of our recent work. I will get them checked over once Phil returns. Could you please also check them for errors or omissions?

I have written to the Museum asking for a reptile print out for the Montebellos.

I presume you are arranging for the specimens to be forwarded to the Museum.

ANDREW A BURBIDGE
Director, Threatened Species and Communities Unit

22 June 1994

MAMMAL RECORDS, MONTEBELLO ISLANDS, MAY-JUNE 1994

Rattus rattus Ah Chong (trapped), Alpha (tracks), Bluebell (trapped), Brooke (trapped), Campbell (trapped), Crocus (trapped), Delta (trapped), East Hermite (tracks), Gardenia (tracks), Hermite (tracks), Islet 2 (?diggings), Islet 3 (scats), Islet 7 (old diggings), North West (tracks), Trimouille (tracks).

Eptesicus finlaysoni Delta (seen in cave), Hermite (observed at dawn)

Felis catus Alpha (old scats), Bluebell (old scats), Buttercup (old scats), Campbell (old scats), Crocus (old scats), Delta (old scats), Hermite (tracks), Islet 1 (possible sign), North West (old scats), Trimouille (tracks).

Dugong dugon two sightings of single animals; one in Stephenson Channel, one to the west of Primrose Island.

Marigold	no sign, cat or rat
South East	no sign, cat or rat
Islet 4,	no sign cat or rat
Islet 6,	no sign cat or rat
Islet 7,	no sign cat or rat

We saw a single bat, larger than *Eptesicus*, in a cave on Delta Island. This may have been a *Chalinolobus*.

BIRD SPECIES RECORDED, MONTEBELLO ISLANDS, MAY-JUNE 1994

Australian Kestrel	Bluebell, Crocus, East Hermite, Hermite, South East
Australian Pelican	Bluebell, Island 6, North West, Primrose
Bar-shouldered Dove	Alpha, Bluebell, Gardenia, Hermite, Primrose
Bar-tailed Godwit	Hermite
Beach Thick-knee	Buttercup, East Hermite, Hermite, Primrose
Black-shouldered Kite	Ah Chong, Alpha, Crocus, Hermite
Brahminny Kite	Crocus (b)*, Hermite, Primrose, Primrose
Bridled Tern	Dahlia (b), Island 7, South East (b)
Brown Booby	Island 9 (group)
Brown Honeyeater	Campbell, Crocus, Gardenia, Hermite
Caspian Tern	Ah Chong, Bluebell (b), Bluebell (islet to S) (b), Buttercup, Crocus (islet to E) (b), Dandelion, East Hermite, Flag (b), Gardenia, Hermite, Island 4, Island 4, Island 7 (b), Island 8 (b), Marigold, Primrose, Primrose (rock to NE) (b), South East Daisy, Island 9 (group), North West, South East
Common Noddy	Ah Chong, Aster, Bluebell, Brooke, Buttercup, Daisy (b), Epsilon (b), Hermite, How, Island 10 (b), Island 2, Island 2 (ESE of Brooke), Marigold, North West, Primrose, South East
Crested Tern	Hermite
Curlew Sandpiper	Alpha, Bluebell, Brooke (islet to W), Buttercup (b), Dahlia, East Hermite, Flag, Gardenia, Hermite, Island 2, Island 2 (ESE of Brooke), Island 9 (group), Marigold, North West, Primrose, South East
Eastern Reef Egret	Hermite, Island 9 (group)
Fairy Tern	Hermite
Greenshank	Alpha, Buttercup, Hermite
Grey-tailed Tattler	Hermite
Large Sand Plover	Ah Chong, Buttercup, Daisy, Hermite, Island 2 (ESE of Brooke), Island 4, Marigold
Lesser Crested Tern	Bluebell, Hermite
Marsh Harrier	Ah Chong, Alpha (b), Alpha (islet to NW) (b), Bluebell, Buttercup (b), East Hermite, Hermite, Island 10 (b), Island 2 (ESE of Brooke), Island 8 (b), North West, Primrose (b), Trimouille
Osprey	Hermite
Pallid Cuckoo	Ah Chong
Peregrine Falcon	Bluebell, Brooke, Brooke (islet to W), East Hermite, Gardenia, Hermite, How, Island 10, Island 2, Island 6, Marigold, North West
Pied Cormorant	Alpha, Bluebell, Buttercup, Campbell, Crocus,
Pied Oystercatcher	

* breeding

	Delta, East Hermite, Hermite, South East, Trimouille
Red-capped Plover	Alpha, Hermite, Trimouille
Red-necked Stint	Hermite
Richard's Pipit	Bluebell, Bluebell (islet to S), Flag, Hermite, North West, Primrose, Trimouille
Roseate Tern	Aster, Dahlia (b), Dahlia (islet to west) (b), Dandelion (b), Dandelion (islet to west), Gannet (b), Gannet (islet to N) (b), Island 9 (group) (b), Ivy (islet to ESE) (b)
Ruddy Turnstone	Alpha, Hermite, North West, Trimouille
Rufous Night Heron	Gardenia
Sacred Kingfisher	Campbell, Hermite
Silver Gull	Ah Chong (b), Brooke (b), Buttercup, Dahlia, East Hermite (b), Gardenia (b), Hermite, How, Island 10 (b), Island 2 (b), Island 2 (ESE of Brooke), Island 4, Island 6, Marigold, North West, Primrose, South East (b)
Sooty Oystercatcher	Alpha, Buttercup, Crocus, Crocus, East Hermite, Hermite, Marigold, North West, Primrose
Sooty Tern	South East (b)
Spotted Harrier	Hermite
Stubble Quail	Hermite
Quail (? species)	Bluebell
Tree Martin	Bluebell, Buttercup, East Hermite, Hermite
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	Ah Chong (b), Brooke (b), Flag (b), Gardenia (b), South East (b)
Welcome Swallow	Bluebell, Delta (b), East Hermite, Hermite, Primrose
Whimbrel	East Hermite, Hermite
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Ah Chong, Bluebell, Brooke (b), Campbell, Hermite, Island 3, Island 4 (b), South East (b), Trimouille
White-breasted Woodswallow	Alpha, Bluebell, Campbell, Hermite (b)
White-faced Heron	Buttercup, Hermite, Primrose, South East
White-winged Triller	Flag, Hermite
Willie Wagtail	Bluebell, Hermite, Trimouille
Yellow White-eye	Bluebell, Campbell, Crocus, Gardenia, Hermite, Trimouille

The Montebellos are major breeding sites for the Crested Tern (x islands, approx 710 000 pairs) and Roseate Tern (x islands, approx ?? pairs). Five colonies of the widespread Wedge-tailed Shearwater were located, totalling approx. xxxx burrows. Since shearwater breeding had finished at the time of our visit the estimate is of the number of recently occupied breeding burrows rather than pairs. Other seabirds recorded breeding were Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Eastern Reef Egret, Silver Gull, Caspian Tern, Sooty Tern (a dead runner found on South East Island) and Bridled Tern. Visits during spring and early summer would probably reveal more species of breeding seabirds; checking South East Island for Sooty Terns would be important.

MONTEBELLO ISLANDS

REPTILES RECORDED, MAY-JUNE 1994

<i>Diplodactylus jeanae</i>	Hermite
<i>Gehyra variegata</i>	Hermite
<i>Heteronotia binoei</i>	Ah Chong, Alpha, Crocus, Brooke, Hermite, Primrose
<i>Lialis burtonis</i>	Alpha, Hermite
<i>Gemmatophora gilberti</i>	Ah Chong, Hermite
<i>Ctenotus saxatilis</i>	Ah Chong, Alpha, Brooke, Campbell, Crocus, Delta, Primrose
<i>Ctenotus</i> sp.	Ah Chong, Hermite
<i>Lerista bipes</i>	Ah Chong, Alpha, Brooke, Crocus, Delta, Hermite, North West
<i>Lerista elegans</i>	Hermite
<i>Lerista muelleri</i>	Brooke, Hermite
<i>Sphenomorphus isolepis</i>	Ah Chong, Alpha, Bluebell, Campbell, Crocus, Delta, Hermite, North West
<i>Varanus gouldii</i>	Alpha (photographed, not collected)
<i>Varanus</i> sp. (tracks)	Campbell, Delta, North West, Primrose
<i>Demansia psammophis reticulata</i>	Hermite

All the above are supported by vouchers, except for goannas.

Several other species have been recorded previously. Some of the specimens are overseas and can not be checked; however the following are lodged in the WA Museum: ??????????

GET PRINT OUT!!!

Aprasia rostrata rostrata is known only from Hermite Island, having been collected in 1952. It is on the Reserve Species List. We failed to capture it despite 20 sets of two pit-fall traps being open on Hermite for more than two weeks. Some hand searching was also undertaken. The very low rainfall over the past two years may have reduced the chances of capturing this taxon. A major effort should be made to clarify its status during 1995; a specialist reptile collector could be added to the eradication team for a period; David Knowles has already volunteered to help if he can get leave from his job at an appropriate time.