

## BARROW ISLAND SPOTLIGHTING TRAVERSES

Counts are carried out by two teams over two nights, usually consecutive. Two 4WD tray-top vehicles, each with one 100 W spotlights are used. On the first night one team counts the north run and the other the south one; on the second night the same teams count the other run, starting at the opposite end from the first night. Each traverse is about 30 km long. Vehicles are driven at 12 to 15 km/h; the spotlifter stands on the tray behind the cab and the same spotlights are used for the same proportion of time each night. All animals seen are recorded, whether in the spotlight or in the vehicle headlights.

The North Run is mostly undisturbed, while the South Run is wholly within the oil-field.

The same runs have been counted very biennial visit since 1972. Animals frequently sighted and included in the Table below are:

Spectacled Hare-wallaby *Lagorchestes conspicillatus*  
Boodie (Burrowing Bettong) *Bettongia lesueur*  
native rodents, *Zyromys argurus* and *Pseudomys nanus*  
Northern Brush Possum *Trichosurus arnhemensis*  
Golden Bandicoot *Isodon auratus*  
Barrow Island Euro *Macropus robustus isabellinus*

As well as these the Black-Flanked Rock-wallaby *Petrogale lateralis lateralis* is occasionally seen on the north run. Over the years one *Parantechinus macdonnellensis* and one *Planigale maculata* have also been sighted.

The data are collected to provide a quick overview of numbers of mammals inside and outside the oil-field. Spotlighting data are difficult to interpret because of uncontrolled variables such as weather, visibility, observer bias, etc. and it would be a mistake to read too much from the data given in the Table. However, it is clear that mammal numbers do not differ greatly between the two traverses in any one year and this generalization is maintained when examining the 1991 figures.

Variations in the lengths of the traverses in some years are due to odometer variations and some teams becoming lost in the maze of oil-field tracks!

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24 June 1991

TABLE - BARROW ISLAND SPOTLIGHT TRAVERSES

Date (yy-mm-dd)	Length (km)	Hare Wallaby	Boodie	Rodent	Possum	Bandi -coot	Euro
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1972 North							
72.12.05	30.1	53	18	4	6	8	11
72.12.07	29.8	50	28	8	9	7	9
Total	59.9	103	46	12	15	15	20
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1972 South							
72.12.06	29.8	64	12	5	22	6	3
72.12.08	30.6	59	9	4	8	16	8
Total	60.4	123	21	9	30	22	11
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1975 North							
75.01.27	31.5	16	4	4	1	5	8
75.01.28	31.9	9	6	18	3	11	5
Total	63.4	25	10	22	4	16	13
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1975 South							
75.01.27	30.6	13	8	2	7	13	4
75.01.28	30.1	16	7	2	7	10	0
Total	60.7	29	15	4	14	23	4
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1977 North							
77.02.14	30.9	17	4	2	8	9	3
77.02.15	31.1	16	2	4	5	15	1
Total	62.0	33	6	6	13	24	4
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1977 South							
77.02.14	30.6	16	13	2	7	11	1
77.02.15	30.3	18	4	1	8	4	4
Total	60.9	34	17	3	15	15	5
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1979 North							
79.02.06	30.9	12	2	0	10	3	5
79.02.08	26.4	22	6	1	12	10	3
Total	57.3	34	8	1	22	13	8
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1979 South							
79.02.06	27.9	61	7	5	32	10	2
79.02.08	30.9	29	6	1	8	3	1
Total	58.8	90	13	6	40	13	3
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Date (yy-mm-dd)	Length (km)	Hare Wallaby	Boodie	Rodent	Possum	Bandi -coot	Euro
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1981 North							
81.02.10	32.0	39	14	2	9	23	4
81.02.11	25.7	36	0	4	10	11	7
Total	57.7	75	14	6	19	34	11
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1981 South							
81.02.10	25.6	80	7	7	25	21	1
81.02.11	30.8	85	5	5	7	10	15
Total	56.4	165	12	12	32	31	16
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1983 North							
83.03.07	31.5	25	3	6	3	16	2
83.03.09	31.6	36	6	5	9	27	5
Total	63.1	61	9	11	12	43	7
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1983 South							
83.03.07	31.2	53	7	2	22	24	4
83.03.09	39.0	21	3	3	9	22	2
Total	70.2	74	10	5	31	46	6
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1985 North							
85.02.19	29.9	40	7	1	5	16	0
85.02.21	20.0	46	10	2	4	11	3
Total	49.9	86	17	3	9	27	3
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1985 South							
85.02.19	26.2	40	6	2	9	9	1
85.02.21	27.2	53	5	5	12	18	2
Total	53.4	93	11	7	21	27	3
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1985 North							
85.11.09	29.7	15	5	3	6	10	0
85.11.10	30.4	33	19	4	7	10	6
Total	60.1	48	24	7	13	20	6
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1985 South							
85.11.09	24.3	17	10	1	10	5	4
85.11.10	26.9	22	5	5	8	12	5
Total	51.2	39	15	6	18	17	9
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Date (yy-mm-dd)	Length (km)	Hare Wallaby	Boodie	Rodent	Possum	Bandi -coot	Euro
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1987 North							
87.05.05	27.7	25	7	1	11	11	4
87.05.06	30.7	39	6	3	12	8	7
Total	58.4	64	13	4	23	19	11
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1987 South							
87.05.05	23.2	35	1	2	5	7	8
87.05.06	27.8	33	7	2	8	7	3
Total	51.0	68	8	4	13	14	11
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1989 North							
89.03.14	30.0	20	1	2	9	11	4
89.03.15	30.0	29	9	1	15	11	2
Total	60.0	49	10	3	24	22	6
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1989 South							
89.03.14	30.3	23	6	1	13	13	4
89.03.15	30.3	24	5	1	4	6	0
Total	60.6	47	11	2	17	19	4
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1991 North							
91.06.18	29.7	34	1	4	7	6	6
91.06.19	30.0	30	3	4	11	4	14
Total	59.7	64	4	8	18	10	20
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1991 South							
91.06.18	30.0	45	4	5	6	8	2
91.06.19	29.2	29	2	0	10	7	5
Total	59.2	74	6	5	16	15	7
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