

"Lake Disappointment Taxon list.xls"

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Lake Disappointment August 23, 2004. Preliminary Taxon list

Class	Order	Family	Subfamily/Tribe	FamilyCode	Genus	LowestID	LowestIDNC	Taxon status	Authority	Abundance	Comments
Nematoda	-	-	-	-	-	Nematoda				Rare	
Rotifera	Ploimida	Brachionidae				Brachionidae				Uncommon	At least three species
Crustacea	Anostraca	Branchiopodidae	-		Parartemia	Parartemia n sp. G		TRUE	Jane McRae	Uncommon	Localised coastal Carnarvon/Pilbara, and central inland of WA, and at least southern NT
Crustacea	Cladocera	Daphniidae	-		Daphnia	Daphnia				Rare	One only
Crustacea	Ostracoda					Ostracoda				Abundant	Suspect only one species
Crustacea	Copepoda	Cyclopidae				Cyclopidae				Rare	
Insecta	Coleoptera					Coleoptera				Uncommon	Larvae only
Insecta	Diptera	Chironomidae				Chironomidae				Common	Multiple species

BANDED STILT BREEDING ATTEMPT AT LAKE DISAPPOINTMENT

ALAN CLARKE¹, BILL MUIR¹, SUE ELSCOT² AND JIM LANE².

Department of Conservation and Land Management. ¹ PO Box 51, Wanneroo, Western Australia, 6065. ² 14 Queen Street, Busselton, Western Australia, 6280.

On 23 August 2004, two of the authors (A.C. and B.M.) visited Lake Disappointment in central Western Australia. At the northernmost access point to the main lake, between Wells No. 20 and No. 21 on the Canning Stock Route, a large (3 km x 5 km), banana-shaped embayment was found to be mostly dry with the exception of two small, shallow (1-2 cm deep) ponds of water at the base of a dune on the north-eastern edge of the lake. The remainder of the lake floor was covered with a thin salt crust which was broken through to reveal damp to wet sediment. A total of 220 juvenile Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus* were found lying dead both around and within the two remaining areas of water. A few were scattered further away from the waters edge and two were found on the dune adjacent with evidence of predation. A third, similarly-sized pool with only a film of surface water was located approximately 1 km to the east-southeast of the access point and an additional 10 dead Banded Stilt were found there. The dead Banded Stilt found in the embayment appeared to be close to fledging. None had chest-band markings and they were noticeably smaller than adult Banded Stilt. The birds appeared to have been dead for around two weeks. A series of strand lines around the shore of the embayment had a light spread of white feathers. Small, dead, salt-preserved frogs were collected from the pools.

A second part of the main lake was accessed from a track off the Canning Stock Route located 5 km south of the turnoff to Well No. 20. Here approximately 40 dead juvenile Banded Stilt were found both within and around a small, very shallow pool on the lake surface, just below the samphire line. The dead stilts at this site appeared to be smaller than those found 10 km further north although all were fully feathered with no down visible. At this site, the lake edge had been eroded by runoff from a recent major rainfall event and some of the resultant erosion gullies still contained water.

The lake was also accessed where Savory Creek enters Lake Disappointment. The creek system leading into the lake was deep (about 1.5 m) and there was evidence that the creek had recently flooded and broken its banks. Where the creek entered the main lake basin, it opened out into a fan with a main body of water that became progressively shallower and was dry approximately 1 km from the creek mouth. Larger, very shallow pools of water were scattered

further into the lake for some kilometres. At this site, more dead juvenile Banded Stilt were seen than at the previous two sites. Approximately 500 dead birds were scattered over an area of about 1 km² and there was evidence of predation of live young by cats. Dog/dingo tracks were also evident. Sixteen Banded Stilt without chest bands were observed feeding in shallow water in the lake, approximately 200 m from the entrance of Savory Creek. Both anostracan shrimps and ostracods were observed in the water where the birds were feeding. Other birds feeding in the vicinity were 10 Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*, 60 Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*, two Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* and 11 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*. More dead stilts were seen upstream along Savory Creek for at least 3 km.

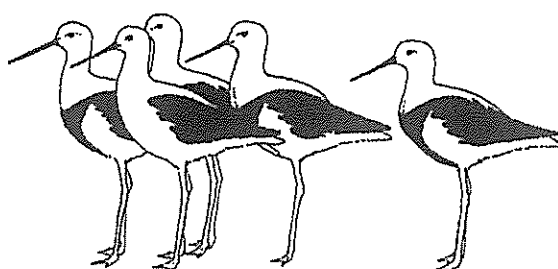
Although several large islands were visible further out into the lake, the exact location of the Banded Stilt breeding site could not be located, due to the distance and difficulty of access.

During 6-9 September 2004, two weeks after the dead Banded Stilts were recorded at Lake Disappointment, Clive Minton (pers. comm.) recorded 28 Banded Stilt, all juveniles, using a small, ephemeral saltmarsh lagoon located about a kilometre from Coral Bay, 1,000 km west of Lake Disappointment. This sighting suggests that some birds may have successfully fledged from Lake Disappointment.

Banded Stilt have previously been recorded breeding at or near Lake Disappointment. In August 1971, W.H. Butler recorded both adult and juvenile Banded Stilt using a claypan 30 km south of Durba Spring on the Canning Stock Route, and others using a claypan 4 km north of Well No. 11 (Kolichis, 1976). He collected an immature specimen that was thought to have come from a presumed nesting attempt at Lake Disappointment, which had filled in May of that year (ibid.). In 1975, the Western Australian Museum received fragments of Banded Stilt eggs which were found partly buried in clay in the Percival Lakes, to the north-east (ibid.). The eggs were still pigmented and were evidently of recent age.

REFERENCE

Kolichis, N. 1976. New breeding records of the Banded Stilt in Western Australia. *Western Australian Naturalist* 13:114-119.



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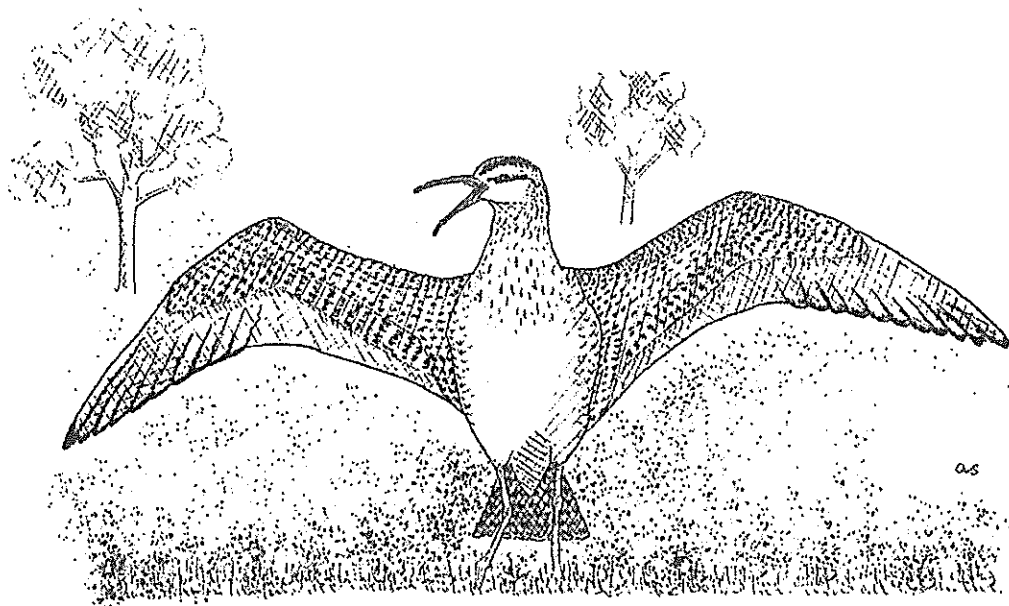
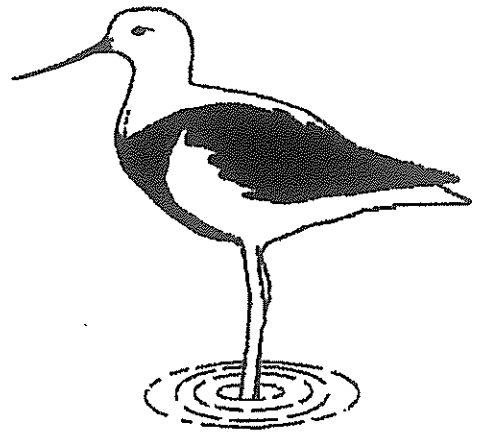
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The Stilt

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Number 46
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main body of water that became progressively shallower and was dry approximately 1 km from the creek mouth. Larger, very shallow pools of water were scattered further into the lake for some kilometres. At this site, there were larger numbers of dead juvenile Banded Stilt than had been observed at the previous two sites. Approximately 500 dead birds were scattered over an area of about 1 km² and there was evidence of predation of live young by cats. Dog/dingo tracks were also evident. Sixteen Banded Stilt without chest bands were observed feeding in shallow water in the lake, approximately 200 m from the entrance of Savory Creek. Both anostracan shrimps and ostracods were observed in the water where the birds were feeding. Other birds feeding in the vicinity were 10 Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*, 60 Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*, two Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* and 11 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*. More dead stilts were seen upstream along Savory Creek for at least 3 km.

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"FW Banded Stilt at Lake Disappointment" ("Outlook Item")

Posted 24/4/2014 J

Lane, Jim

From: Lane, Jim
Sent: Monday, 23 April 2007 4:05 PM
To: Elscot, Susan
Subject: FW: Banded Stilt at Lake Disappointment

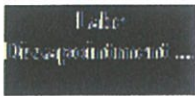
-----Original Message-----

From: Clarke, Alan
Sent: Tuesday, September 07, 2004 9:31 AM
To: Lane, Jim; Elscot, Susan
Cc: Pearson, Grant
Subject: Banded Stilt at Lake Disappointment

Jim and Sue,

Please call me to discuss any further information that you require regarding this event. I have recorded everything from my notes, but further questions may prompt additional information.

AC



Alan Clarke
Senior Technical Officer
Science Division
Woodvale Wildlife Research Centre
Department of Conservation and Land Management
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To: Sue Elscot
Jim Lane
From: Alan Clarke
Date: September 6, 2004
Subject: Lake Disappointment Banded Stilt Breeding event 2004

Observations made by Alan Clarke and Bill Muir, Senior Technical Officers, while investigating new Directory of Important Wetlands sites and adding additional information to current sites in the Little Sandy Desert. Lake Disappointment was visited on August 23, 2004. Access to the western shore of Lake Disappointment is via The Canning Stock Route. Vehicle access to the lake can be made at four places.

The first of these visited was the northern most access point where the Track intersects the lake between Well 21 and Well 20. The coordinates for this site are GDA94, S 23 14.482 E 122 42.089 UTM Zone 51 469463 E 7497280 N. At this site a banana shaped embayment sweeping to the northwest from the main lake was mostly dry. Two small, shallow (1-2 cm See photos) areas of water remained on the northeast edge of the lake where a dune protected the water from drying northeast wind. The water bodies did not contain any aquatic invertebrates visible to the eye. The remaining lake surface was dry with a thin salt crust. This crust could be broken through to reveal damp/wet soil. A total of 220 dead Banded Stilt young lay around and in the two bodies of water. A few were scattered further south along the shore progressively away from the water. Two stilt were found near the top of the dune adjacent to the water bodies with evidence of predation. A third similarly sized water body, which had only a film of water, was 1 kilometer to the ESE in the main body of the lake. An additional 10 dead Stilt lay around this area. None of the Stilt had chest bands, but were close to fledging, although noticeably smaller than adult birds (Stage 3). A few birds had been predated, but there was no evidence of a struggle in the mud. The birds seem to have been dead for approximately two weeks. Dog tracks were observed through the area. The majority of birds seemed to be unmarked by physical trauma. A series of wash lines (Debris from higher water levels) had only a light spread of white, Stilt ?, feathers. No Anostraca bodies were observed on these wash lines. Small frogs, dead and preserved in salt, were collected in the middle of the embayment that contained the dead Stilt. They were common in an area traversed from the main lake across the embayment on the dry salt crust. 8 specimens were collected.

The second site heading south involves taking a track heading east off the CSR at a point 5km south of the turnoff to Well 20. The track leads into the main lake body. Once again dead Stilts were observed around the edges of the lake just below the samphire line. The highest concentration of dead birds was in and around a small, very shallow pool on the lake surface. Approximately 40 dead birds in total with the average size noticeably smaller than the previous site, which is 10km further north via a straight line. The birds were fully feathered with no down visible. The lake edges had been eroded by significant rainfall runoff causing deep rutting and small creeks feeding into the lake. Some of these recently created drainage lines were deep enough to still contain water.

The third site visited to the south was the entry point of Savory Creek into Lake Disappointment. The creek system leading into the lake was deep (1.5m) and filled the drainage line, but scars of a recent high water flow braking its banks were evident. The creek opened out into a delta system with a main body of water that progressively became shallower and dry 1km from the creek entrance. Larger very shallow areas of water were scattered further into the lake for some kilometers out and along the main lake area. The dead Stilt were scattered in higher concentrations than the previous two sites. Most of the Stilt bodies had been predated resulting in severed heads and or wings. Evidence of cats chasing and catching young Stilt (see photos) and dog tracks were seen in the mud. 500 dead Stilt were estimated to be at this site over an area of 1km square. More dead Stilt were seen upstream along Savory Creek for 3 kilometers where we crossed the creek and headed south. 16 Banded Stilt were feeding in water connected to the creek 200m into the lake from the Creek entrance at a depth of 0.3m. The coordinates for this site are GDA94 23 21.441 S 122 39.855 E or UTM Zone 51 465682 7416881. Anostraca and small Ostracoda were observed in the water at the site where the Stilt were feeding.

water samples and aquatic invertebrate sweeps were collected at this site for analysis in the laboratory. None of these birds had any breast band markings at all. They were observed flying strongly when approached. Other birds feeding at or adjacent to this area were 10 Red-necked Avocet, 60 Red-capped Plover, 2 Red-necked Stint and 11 Sharptailed Sandpiper. Three low, small 'islands', which had been covered by the recent flood event, each had a nest scrape. One had an eggshell with coloring consistent with that laid by Banded Stilts. Large islands could be seen further out into the lake. The site or sites for the breeding event/s were not located because of the lack of appropriate transport. A north and southern most access point was not visited. Access to this point is via a track heading east from the Stock Route 18 kilometers south of Well 19.

Alan Clarke