

**OSPREY IN SAFE HANDS**



**RICK DUNLOP, a volunteer from the Society for Raptors, welcomes an injured osprey to his backyard in High Wycombe.**

The bird, which has a broken left wing, was picked up at Exmouth. It had been looked after for five

weeks there when Exmouth District Manager Stephan Fritz received a call to see if the bird could be flown to Perth for proper care.

The bird was picked up at the airport by Wildlife Officer Trevor Walley.

Rick will take the osprey to local vet Andy Keefe, who treats injured

birds.

CALM regularly refers injured birds to Rick, who has 33 birds in the backyard: wedge-tailed eagles, falcons, sparrow hawks, a sea eagle, kites, swamp harriers and many varieties of owl.

Neither Rick or Dr Keefe receive money for the work they do.

# WATERBIRD SURVEY FRUITFUL

By *ROGER JAENSCH and RODNEY VERVEST*

**ON a recent RAOU expedition to Lake MacLeod, the 14 observers who braved wind, salt and mud were privileged to witness spectacular concentrations of waders.**

Dense, swarm-like flocks, each comprising several thousand waders, rose off the mudflat during each day as the changeable wind shifted the shallow water back and forth.

A total of 115,000 waterbirds of 53 species was counted from surveys at the lake and over 111,000 of these (27 species) were waders.

With only five other sites in Australia known to support more than 100,000 waders, the expedition has shown that Lake MacLeod is of high national importance for these birds.

The most abundant species were the Banded Stilt (53,100), Curlew Sandpiper (41,600) and Red-necked Stint (8300) and large numbers of the Red Knot and Red-necked Avocet were also counted.

Rarer species sighted included the Asian Dowitcher, Broad-billed Sandpiper and Mongolian Plover.

Twenty-three of the species observed at Lake MacLeod are given international protection by the Japan Australian Migratory Birds Agreement.

On a separate expedition to Shark Bay, 14 RAOU observers conducted surveys by light aircraft, boat, motorbike and foot

at sites selected for their potential to support waders.

A total of 34,600 waterbirds of 53 species was counted in the surveys, and 25,100 of these birds (28 species) were waders.

Abundant species in the sample of birds identified in ground surveys included the Bar-tailed Godwit (1580), Red-necked Stint (850) and Curlew Sandpiper (840), and more than 7000 Pied Cormorants and 8600 Banded Stilts were recorded in aerial surveys.

Rarer species sighted included the Oriental Plover, Little Curlew and Mongolian Plover.

Twenty-five of the species at Shark Bay are given international protection by JAMBA.

It is likely that Lake MacLeod and Shark Bay each support more than 20,000 waders each year and are therefore of international importance for waterbirds.

In the national context, the counts of Banded Stilts and Curlew Sandpipers at Lake MacLeod are each the second highest on record and the count of Large Sand Plovers at Shark Bay is the fifth highest.

In the WA context, the counts of many species

were the second or third highest on record and were also high in the national context.

A comprehensive report of the expedition is to be published in the RAOU Report series.

The RAOU is under contract to CALM to conduct this programme of expeditions to remote wetlands.

## Safety, health praise

**CALM comes in for high praise in the final report of a visit to Australia by two officers of the US Forest Service.**

Jerry Monesmith and Art Jukkala travelled throughout Australia on a technology exchange to find out more about our firefighting safety and health programme.

Their final report recently arrived on the desk of Fire Branch Manager Jock Smart.

The report's section on

# Lacepede Islands Visited

RECENTLY Kimberley Region Wildlife Officer Mike Osborn, Technical Officer Andy Williams, and a work experience student from St Jones College, Darwin, Steven Storey, took a trip to the Lacepede Islands Nature Reserves off the coast of Broome to erect new nature reserve signs, carry out