

ROYAL SPOONBILL AT ALBANY

Warden R. Grayson, the Ranger at Two Peoples Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, reports sighting a Royal Spoonbill on the shallows of Princess Royal Harbour at Albany during July, August and September. Both Mr Grayson and many local residents say this is the first time they have ever seen a Royal Spoonbill at Albany.

Albany is, in fact, at the eastern extremity of the bird's range in W.A. and this would seem to account for the few sightings recorded in that area. Warden Grayson suggests that abnormal weather conditions experienced in Albany in the preceding three years may have affected the birds's normal pattern of movement.

Royal Spoonbills are large white birds with a black bill and black legs. They nest in trees, bushes and rushes and feed in shallow water. In sustained flight the head and neck are stretched forward and slow flapping wing beats alternate with short glides.



Royal Spoonbill (*Platalea regia*)