



AVOCET

The Department's Warden stationed at Wyndham, Mr. V.T. Nelson, reported sighting two Avocets (Recurvirostra novae-hollandiae) at Point Spring on Carlton Hill Station in November 1967. As Mr. Nelson indicated in his report, these birds occur all over the State, but this was actually his first sighting of them in the Wyndham area.

Serventy and Whittell in their handbook record that this species occurs all over the State, but is rare in the north and rare or absent in the extreme South-west. It visits the coastal plain estuaries in the summer months as far south as Busselton.

The Avocet's (Recurvirostra novae-hollandiae) body plumage is mainly white with a chestnut head and a broad white band across the middle of the brownish-black wings. The mantle is white with two black stripes along it. The long, delicate black beak has a pronounced up-curve, and the very long legs are a light grey-blue. There is no hind toe, and the toes are fully webbed. It stands 18 inches high. The flight is rather laboured, and when flying the Avocet carries its legs stretched out straight behind. Its food is mainly aquatic animals and plants.