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ROYAL SPOONBILLS SEEN ON WANDERING LAKE



Royal Spoonbill

Honorary Warden of Fauna, Mr. L. Bell, reported to an officer of this Department that he observed four Royal Spoonbills on Wandering Lake. The observation was made during the period April 7 to April 13, 1968.

The Royal Spoonbill (Platalea regia) in its distribution ranges pretty well throughout Western Australia, except in the south-eastern parts of the State. There is however, no definite record of its breeding within the area of Western Australia. This bird is also known as the Black-billed

Spoonbill because of its black legs and beak. Otherwise the bird is entirely white. The beak is large and expanded at the end into a wide spoon-shape. Serventy and Whittell in their handbook "Birds of Western Australia" state that these birds feed with a sideways swishing of the bill in shallow water. It stalks its food in swampy areas, and is mainly made up from small fish, aquatic insects and molluscs.