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BREEDING OF MANED DUCK AND OTHER WATERBIRDS ON EPHEMERAL WETLANDS IN NORTH-WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Ephemeral wetlands on Nocoleche Nature Reserve in north-western New South Wales flooded and dried three times between October 1985 and October 1988. Forty-nine species of waterbirds used the wetlands. Maned Ducks and Grey Teal bred in each of these flooding events, and laid at all times of the year except late summer. Other waterbirds, including Black Swans, Pacific Black Ducks, Australasian Shovelers, Pink-eared Ducks, White-faced Herons and grebes, bred during one or two of the flooding events. Some Maned Ducks bred in spring on permanent water. The Paroo River flooded four times during the study, but its overflow areas were not filled long enough to allow most waterbirds to breed.