

NUMBERS OF WATERBIRDS AT A SWAMP IN FERNDALE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 1978 to 1981

SARAH H. HNATIUK

13 Ellis Place, Cook, Australian Capital Territory 2614

Received: 26 July, 1985

Weekly counts of waterbirds on a small swamp were made from January 1978 to May 1981. Three species accounting for 67% of the birds counted were the Eurasian Coot (33%), Pacific Black Duck (23%), and Grey Teal (11%). Greater numbers of birds were observed during the summer months than at other times of the year. Species showing significant seasonal variation in numbers were the Eurasian Coot, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Australian Shelduck, and Little Black Cormorant; those with more constant numbers throughout the year were the Hardhead, Dusky Moorhen, and Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebe. Variations between years in the pattern of fluctuating numbers were noted and some of the variations may be related to events such as drought.