

Field report  
**Milligan's Lagoon - Biodiversity Survey**



**Date of report:** 6-August-2012

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**Field period:** May 2012

**Field area:** Packsaddle Creek, Kununurra

**Summary:** Biodiversity survey while accompanying Amber Heitman on her research.

## General info and data

### Schedule of activities for the fieldwork

The methodology described in Amber Heitman's research paper gives a more descriptive account. In general, funnel traps and pitfall traps were checked three times a day, transects were walked, and opportunistic observations were made.

**Table 2: Participants**

Participant/staff	Affiliation/Agency	Role
Gary Rethus	Kimberley Toad Busters	Researcher
Amber Heitman	Kimberley Toad Busters	Researcher
Mat	Kimberley Toad Busters	Camera Man
Andrew	Kimberley Toad Busters	Assistant
Lyndon	Kimberley Toad Busters	Assistant

**Table 3: Biodiversity survey results.**

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name
Bird	Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>
Bird	Little Black Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>
Bird	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Bird	Pied Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>
Bird	Australasian Darter	<i>Anhinga novaehollandiae</i>
Bird	Australasian Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>
Bird	Plumed Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna eytoni</i>
Bird	Radjah Shelduck	<i>Tadorna radjah</i>
Bird	Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>
Bird	Hardhead	<i>Aythya australis</i>
Bird	Green Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus pulchellus</i>
Bird	Black-tailed Native-hen	<i>Gallinula ventralis</i>

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name
Bird	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus</i>
Bird	White-necked Heron	<i>Ardea pacifica</i>
Bird	White-faced Heron	<i>Ardea novaehollandiae</i>
Bird	Nankeen Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>
Bird	Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>
Bird	Straw-necked Ibis	<i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>
Bird	Jabiru	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>
Bird	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	<i>Platalea flavipes</i>
Bird	Australian Bustard	<i>Ardeotis australis</i>
Bird	Brolga	<i>Grus rubicunda</i>
Bird	Comb-crested Jacana	<i>Irediparra gallinacea</i>
Bird	Bush Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>
Bird	Masked Lapwing	<i>Vanellus miles</i>
Bird	Black-fronted Dotterel	<i>Charadrius melanops</i>
Bird	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus axillaris</i>
Bird	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans affinis</i>
Bird	Whistling Kite	<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>
Bird	Wedge-tailed Eagle	<i>Aquila audax audax</i>
Bird	Brown Goshawk	<i>Accipiter fasciatus didimus</i>
Bird	Spotted Harrier	<i>Circus assimilis</i>
Bird	Brown Falcon	<i>Falco berigora</i>
Bird	Nankeen Kestrel	<i>Falco cenchroides</i>
Bird	Peaceful Dove	<i>Geopelia striata placida</i>
Bird	Diamond Dove	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>
Bird	Bar-shouldered Dove	<i>Geopelia humeralis inexpectata</i>

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name
Bird	Crested Pigeon	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>
Bird	Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus banksii macrorhynchus</i>
Bird	Little Corella	<i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>
Bird	Galah	<i>Eolophus roseicapillus kuhli</i>
Bird	Red-collared Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus rubritorquis</i>
Bird	Red-winged Parrot	<i>Aprosmictus erythropterus</i>
Bird	Budgerigar	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>
Bird	Cockatiel	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>
Bird	Pheasant Coucal	<i>Centropus phasianinus melanurus</i>
Bird	Southern Boobook	<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae ocellata</i>
Bird	Tawny Frogmouth	<i>Podargus strigoides phalaenoides</i>
Bird	Spotted Nightjar	<i>Eurostopodus argus</i>
Bird	Australian Owlet-nightjar	<i>Aegotheles cristatus</i>
Bird	Blue-winged Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo leachii</i>
Bird	Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i>
Bird	Red-backed Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus pyrrhopygius</i>
Bird	Red-backed Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus melanocephalus cruentatus</i>
Bird	Yellow-throated Miner	<i>Manorina flavigula lutea</i>
Bird	White-gaped Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus unicolor</i>
Bird	Brown Honeyeater	<i>Lichmera indistincta</i>
Bird	Grey-crowned Babbler	<i>Pomatostomus temporalis rubeculus</i>
Bird	Rufous Whistler	<i>Pachycephala rufiventris falcata</i>
Bird	Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys picata</i>
Bird	Magpie-lark	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca neglecta</i>
Bird	Great Bowerbird	<i>Chlamydera nuchalis</i>

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name
Bird	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae melanops</i>
Bird	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina papuensis</i>
Bird	White-winged Triller	<i>Lalage sueurii</i>
Bird	White-breasted Woodswallow	<i>Artamus leucorynchus leucopygialis</i>
Bird	Masked Woodswallow	<i>Artamus personatus</i>
Bird	Black-faced Woodswallow	<i>Artamus cinereus melanops</i>
Bird	Little Woodswallow	<i>Artamus minor</i>
Bird	Pied Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus nigrogularis</i>
Bird	Silver-backed Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus torquatus argenteus</i>
Bird	Torresian Crow	<i>Corvus orru cecilae</i>
Bird	Fairy Martin	<i>Hirundo ariel</i>
Bird	Tree Martin	<i>Hirundo nigricans</i>
Bird	Australasian Pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae rogersi</i>
Bird	Rufous Songlark	<i>Cincloramphus mathewsi</i>
Bird	Double-barred Finch	<i>Taeniopygia bichenovii annulosa</i>
Bird	Zebra Finch	<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>
Bird	Mistletoebird	<i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>
Mammal	Long-tailed Planigale	<i>Planigale ingrami</i>
Mammal	Agile Wallaby	<i>Macropus agilis</i>
Mammal	Common Wallaroo	<i>Macropus robustus</i>
Mammal	Northern Nailtail Wallaby	<i>Onychogalea unguifera</i>
Mammal	Dingo	<i>Canis lupus dingo</i>
Amphibian	Bilingual Froglet	<i>Crinia bilingua</i>
Amphibian	Giant Frog	<i>Cyclorana australis</i>
Amphibian	Marbled Frog	<i>Limnodynastes convexiusculus</i>

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name
Amphibian	Flat-headed Frog	<i>Limnodynastes depressus</i>
Amphibian	Green Tree Frog	<i>Litoria caerulea</i>
Amphibian	Bumpy Rocket Frog	<i>Litoria inermis</i>
Amphibian	Striped Rocket Frog	<i>Litoria nasuta</i>
Amphibian	Pale Rocket Frog	<i>Litoria pallida</i>
Amphibian	Northern Laughing Tree Frog	<i>Litoria rothii</i>
Amphibian	Desert Tree Frog	<i>Litoria rubella</i>
Amphibian	Wotjulum Frog	<i>Litoria watjulumensis</i>
Amphibian	Ornate Burrowing Frog	<i>Platyplectrum ornatum</i>
Amphibian	Cane Toad	<i>Bufo marinus</i>
Reptile	Freshwater Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus johnstoni</i>
Reptile	Bynoe's Gecko	<i>Heteronotia binoei</i>
Reptile	Legless Lizard	<i>Delma borea</i>
Reptile	Rainbow Skinks	<i>Carlia munda</i>
Reptile	Tawny Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Cryptoblepharus ruber</i>
Reptile	Striped Skink	<i>Ctenotus inornatus</i>
Reptile	Striped skink	<i>Ctenotus robustus</i>
Reptile	Skink	<i>Menetia greyii</i>
Reptile	Fire-tail Skink	<i>Morethia ruficauda</i>
Reptile	Gilbert's Dragon	<i>Amphibolurus gilberti</i>
Reptile	Yellow-sided Two-lined Dragon	<i>Diporiphora magna</i>
Reptile	Greater Black Whipsnake	<i>Demansia papuensis</i>
Reptile	Golden Tree Snake	<i>Dendrelaphis punctulatus</i>
Reptile	Orange-naped Snake	<i>Furina ornata</i>
Reptile	Keelback	<i>Tropidonophis mairii</i>



Category	Common Name	Scientific Name
Reptile	Little Spotted Snake	<i>Suta punctata</i>
Reptile	Children's Python	<i>Antaresia childreni</i>
Reptile	Water Python	<i>Liasis mackloti</i>
Fish	Sea Mullet	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>
Fish	Barramundi	<i>Lates calcarifer</i>
Fish	Western Rainbowfish	<i>Melanotaenia australis</i>
Fish	Seven-spot Archerfish	<i>Toxotes chatareus</i>
Fish	Lesser Salmon Catfish	<i>Arius graeffei</i>

## Accomplishments

120 species were identified during or ten days at Millgans Lagoon. This included 79 birds, 5 mammals, 13 amphibian, 18 reptiles and 5 fish.

## Comments

Would just like to add that we camped 3.7 km to the north east of Millgans Lagoon on the Keep River during this survey. At this location we saw 1 adult Mertens' Water Monitor, 5 Mitchell's Water Monitors, 8 Spotted Tree Monitors (*V. scalaris*), 1 Golden Tree Snake and a 4-foot Black-headed Python. The smaller Monitors appear to be doing well at this location, Cane Toads were also present.

## Pictures

Pictures by Gary Rethus of some captured species including Keelback, Marbled Frog, Tawny Snake-eyed Skink, 2 Greater Black Whipsnakes, Yellow-sided Two-lined Dragon and a Spotted Tree Monitor.



Keelback *Tropidonophis mairii*



Marbled Frog *Limnodynastes convexiusculus*



Tawny Snake-eyed Skink  
*Cryptoblepharus ruber*



Greater Black Whipsnake *Demansia papuensis*



Yellow-sided Two-lined Dragon (female)  
*Diporiphora magna*



Spotted Tree Monitor *Varanus scalaris*