

An unusual occurrence of *Eucalyptus leptophylla* and *Eucalyptus sargentii* at Beermullah, north west of Gingin.—After reading the article, A Record of the Slender-leaved White Mallee, *Eucalyptus foecunda*, in Reabold Park, Perth, by I. Lantzke and P. McMillan, in the *W.A. Naturalist*, 14 (3). I thought it may be of interest to record that in 1959, I sent specimens of two different mallees growing naturally on this farm to the Department of Agriculture for identification. In a letter dated May 26, 1959, Mr. R. D. Royce identified them as *Eucalyptus leptophylla* and the Salt River Gum, *Eucalyptus sargentii*. I raised seedlings in 1960 and have a fully grown specimen of each in the garden.

Eucalyptus leptophylla still grows on a small limestone ridge on the roadside bordering the farm. *Eucalyptus sargentii* grows in a low, flat, wet area of grey clay over shallow limestone. This farm is on the western part of the Beermullah plain c.24 km north west of Gingin and 26 km from the coast. The closest Tuarts, *Eucalyptus gomphocephala*, grow 11 km to the west.

On the eastern side of the Beermullah area are some Jam trees, *Acacia acuminata* and York gums, *Eucalyptus loxophleba*. While near Gingin on higher ground, a few specimens of the Weeping Pittosporum *Pittosporum phylliraeoides* and Manna wattle, *Acacia microbotrya*, still exist.

As these trees seem to be out of their usual range, it would appear that these also are relics surviving from when the climate was different from that at present.

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The Western Subspecies of the Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae grisea* (Vieillot)—On 22 October 1979 the writer and other members of the Western Australian Wildlife Authority Bird Committee visited the Agriculture Department's Poultry Research Station at Wembley. There, Messrs. R. H. Morris, A. V. Swain and A. B. Morrison showed us three stocks of Cape Barren Geese, including adjoining pens of 7 birds from Tasmania, 11 from South Australia and 9 from the Archipelago of the Recherche. The Western Australian birds were readily distinguished on coloration from eastern birds (in this respect Tasmanian and South Australian birds were inseparable).

The white of the crown in the western birds extended down to the top of the eye. In eastern birds it was narrower and more sharply delimited from the grey of the side of head. In western birds the pink of the legs was duller and less extensive, the greyish black of the feet extending up the front edge of the "tarsus" to the "knee". In eastern birds the leg was bright reddish pink, and the greyish black of the front edge of the "tarsus" extended only half way up to the "knee".

The back and wings of eastern birds averaged greyer and less brownish than those of western birds. The eastern birds appeared also to be slenderer. According to our hosts, the Western Australian birds were heaviest, the South Australian lightest.

The two Western Australian males in the Western Australian Museum (A16241-2) have wing lengths of 476 and 445 mm respectively. According to Mathews the holotype of *C. n. georgi* had a wing length of 491 mm. Thus the range in wing length of three western males is almost exactly the same as that given by Frith (*Waterfowl in Australia*, 1967, p. 127) for 14 adult males from Tasmania, viz. 450-490 mm.

The oldest name for the western subspecies is *Anser griseus* Vieillot (*Nouveau Dictionnaire d'Histoire Naturelle*, 1818, 23: 336), based on a specimen in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, collected by Labillardière. Vieillot said that Labillardière's specimen came from the "Terre de Diémen", but as Mathews suggested (*Bds Aust.* 4, 1914, 47), it must have come from Western Australia. There is no evidence that Labillardière

ever saw, let alone collect, a Cape Barren Goose in Tasmania. According to Whittell (*The Literature of Australian Birds*, 1954, p. 37), Labillardière collected a Cape Barren Goose on 12 December 1792 at Observatory Island, Archipelago of the Recherche.

At first sight *Cereopsis cinereus* Vieillot (*Nouveau Dictionnaire . . .* 5, 1816: 516) might seem to be an older name for the western subspecies. However it is clearly based on Latham's description of *C. novaehollandiae* (for a photocopy of which, I am grateful to Dr. D. L. Serventy). Two years later when he described *Anser griseus*, Vieillot did not mention *Cereopsis cinereus*; he was obviously unaware that the two names applied to the same species.

A much later name for the western subspecies is *Cereopsis novaehollandiae georgi* Mathews (*Novit. zool.*, 18, 1912: 446), based on a single specimen from North Twin Peak Island, Archipelago of the Recherche, said to be darker and larger than eastern birds. Though Mathews' figure of the Cape Barren Goose (*Bds Aust.*, 4, pl. 204, opp. p. 44) is based on the type of *georgi*, it does not depict the characters of the western subspecies: the leg coloration is more like that of eastern birds, and the median white stripe on the crown and nape is omitted.

—G. M. STORR, Western Australian Museum.

Sea Lions Breeding on North Fisherman Island, Western Australia.—

Australian sea lions *Neophoca cinerea* currently range from the south-east of South Australia to Shark Bay, Western Australia. However, colonies occur only between Houtman Abrolhos, near Geraldton, W.A., and the Pages, east of Kangaroo Island, S.A. On 6 September 1979 I visited North Fisherman Island some 5 km offshore from Green Head (about 21 km north of Jurien Bay), W.A., where a small breeding colony of sea lions resides.

North Fisherman Island, 30°08'S., 114°57'E., is only 1.5 hectares in area and measures 110 m by 104 m. It is a low-lying aeolian limestone

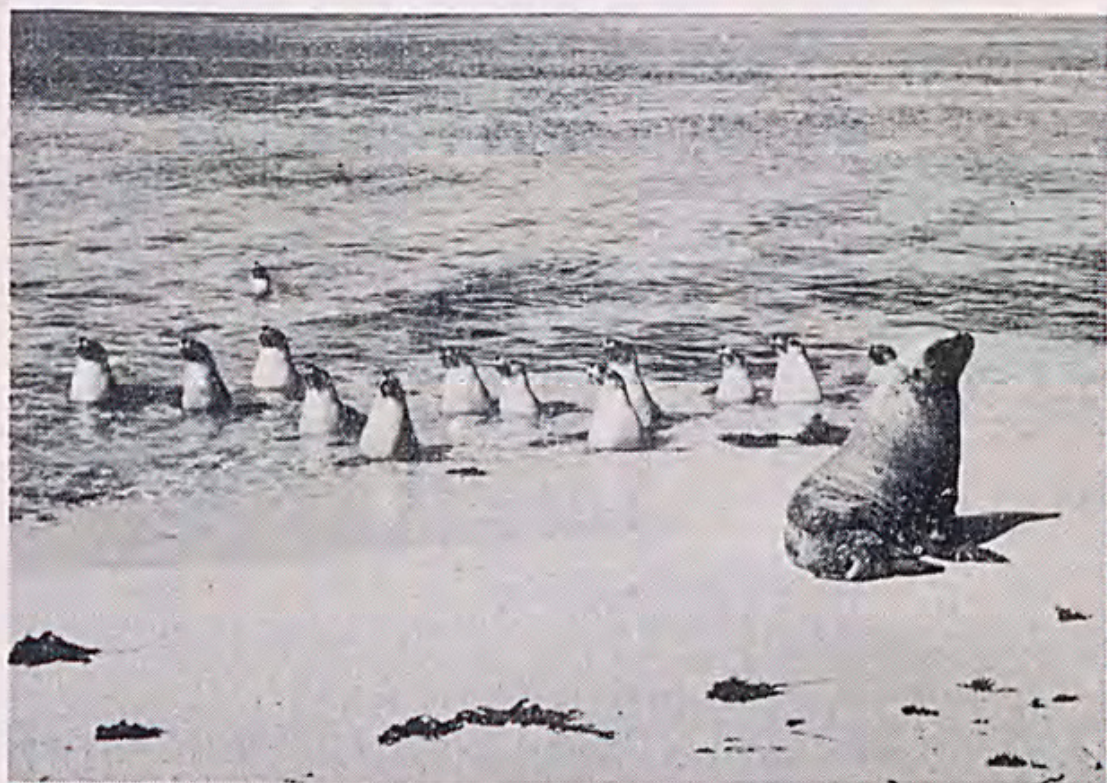


Fig. 1.—Breeding bull (note whitish mane and relative size) and 13 breeding cows.



Storr, G M. 1980. "From Field and Study: The western subspecies of the Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae grisea* (Vieillot)." *The Western Australian Naturalist* 14(7), 202–203.

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