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FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Spotted harrier: a new record for Rottnest Island — On June 15, 1983, we saw an adult Spotted harrier *Circus assimilis* drifting across heathland near the Cathedral Rocks lookout at the west end of the island. The bird moved westward, following the contours of the dunes and heathlands in characteristic flight, and was last seen flying eastward towards Radar Reef. On the following day Mr. Ian White, the resident lighthouse keeper, reported that he had seen what he believed was a Spotted harrier in the vicinity of the lighthouse on Wadjemup Hill. The single bird was seen 6 times on the following dates: 22, 23 January 1983; some time before and including 28 March 1983; 11 May 1983 and 18 May 1983.

Serventy (1976) considers the Spotted harrier to be essentially an arid-country bird that periodically strays onto the coastal plain of south Western Australia. Milhinch and Ritcher (1979) found this species breeding in the Northam district in 1978, but the birds appeared to have deserted the area by January 1979.

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