

BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee Unusual Record Report Form

This form is intended to aid observers in the preparation of a submission for a major rarity in Australia. (It is not a mandatory requirement) Please complete all sections ensuring that you attach all relevant information including any digital images (email to tonyp@bigpond.net.au or andrew.silcocks@birdlife.org.au). Submissions to BARC should be submitted electronically wherever possible.

Full Name: Clive John Nealon	Office Use
Address:	Phone No:
	Email:
Species Name: Collared Pratincole	Scientific Name: <i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Date(s) and time(s) of observation:	22/01/2019 08:15 – 08:45
How long did you watch the bird(s)?	30 minutes
First and last date of occurrence:	The bird was not seen at this location, Point Walter, on the next day. The same species was subsequently found at Herdsman Lake, approx 9.5 Km to the north, on 01/02/2019 by other birders. The last reported sighting of the bird at Herdsman Lake 09/03/2019 (per Bill Betts).
Distance to bird:	Bird allowed approach to c. 6 meters

Site Location: Point Walter, Bicton. The bird was just off the main part of the sandspit extending into the Swan River, between 50 – 75 meters from the start of the spit.

Habitat: The bird was settled on a patch of sea grass just off the northern side of the sandspit. The area was damp but not waterlogged.

Sighting conditions: Excellent visibility – clear skies and a steady, but not strong breeze, across the water.

To your knowledge, is the species seen frequently at this site? No

Were other observers present? Yes

Claire Gerrish

Do any of the other observers disagree with your identification, if so, who? No

Other observers who provided photographs taken at Herdsman Lake -

Bill Betts

Lee Rose Beavis

Geoffrey Groom

How confident are you of your identification? 100%

Please confirm that you are willing for BARC to display your images: Yes

Other details: e.g. Do you have historical and or anecdotal information/comments relating to the prior occurrence/status of the species within or near this location? **No**

Physical Description of Bird - Please describe only what you saw: (1) No. of individuals present (living or dead); (2) age (adult, juvenile, immature) and sex; (3) size and shape; (4) plumage colour and pattern (including any details of moult); (5) colour of bill, eyes and legs/feet; (6) calls; (7) behaviour, movements, flight pattern, and anything else that might help to identify the bird e.g. feeding, interactions with other birds, describe where the bird was – on ground, in canopy, flying etc. Were comparisons made with other species?

1) 1 living individual seen

2) Adult – unsure of breeding condition but see point 4) below. Sex unknown.

3) Typically Pratincole shape and markings

4) Basically a 'plump' light brown bird with long blackish wing tips; paler underneath with a pale buff gorget surrounded by a thin blackish line.

The back plumage is concolorous suggesting adult plumage.

The breast was greyish brown and shaded down to a white belly (**Pictures 1 and 2** below) with no hint of a rufous wash that might be expected in *G. maldivarum*.

The tail extended well past the tips of the closed wings (**Picture 3** below). This is a diagnostic feature of *G. pratincola*.

The black border to the throat was not strongly defined, suggesting a non-breeding plumaged bird. **Pictures 6 and 7** below show the 'broken' nature of the black border.

The eye colour was black and the ring around the eye was creamy-white, broken at the front and extending to a point behind the eye – see **Picture 8** below.

5) Bill colour black with red base, legs greyish. **Pictures 9, 10, and 11** below show the extent of the red colour at the base of the bill.

The nostrils were shaped like a 'slot' as in *G. pratincola* rather than 'egg-shaped' as in *G. maldivarum*. This feature is clearly shown in most of the pictures below.

6) No calls noted

7) The bird did not fly nor even stretch its wings while we were watching; there were no interactions with other birds.

The bird moved only by standing and shuffling 2 or 3 meters before again resting on the sea grass. I remarked at the time that the bird appeared to be exhausted. It showed no inclination to fly nor to move far away when approached.

These notes were from the January 22 sighting at Point Walter and subsequent inspection of photographs, **Pictures 1,2,3,6,7,8,9,10, and 11** taken on that day.

A photograph taken at Herdsman Lake on February 3 at 7:51 am by **Lee Rose Beavis** showed the bird on the ground with its wings extended. The trailing edge of the secondaries clearly show pale / white tips (**Pictures 4 and 5**) below. The white trailing edge is a diagnostic feature of *G. pratincola*.

Later shots from Herdsman Lake, **Pictures 12** (February 7 06:01 am) and **13** (February 9 08:08 am), taken by **Bill Betts**, show the bird in flight, and the trailing edge of the wing and the long tail are shown clearly.

Picture 14 is a montage of 5 flight shots, taken by **Geoffrey Groom** shortly before 09:00 am on February 17, that show the long tail and the trailing edge of the wings.

Please indicate other species with which you think it might be confused and how these were eliminated?

Our initial thoughts were that this was an Oriental Pratincole – *Glareola maldivarum* - which itself would have been an unusual sighting in Perth.

However the bird was seen again at Herdsman Lake on January 31 by Geoffrey Groom. On February 1 a visiting South African birder, Cleo Artemides questioned the id on the basis of tail length. That caused me to examine more closely the pictures that I had taken and the tail did indeed extend well beyond the folded wing tips.

Subsequent sightings at Herdsman Lake enabled others to get pictures of the bird in flight and also with wings outstretched. Some of these pictures showed a thin white trailing edge to the secondaries.

Was the description written from memory? From memory and pictures taken.

Were photographs taken? Yes



Picture 1 – The Point Walter bird

Photo – Clive Nealon



Picture 2 – The Point Walter bird

Photo – Clive Nealon



Picture 3. Cropped picture of Point Walter bird showing tail extension beyond wing tips

Photo – Clive Nealon



Picture 4 - Obtained at Herdsman Lake February 3

Photo - Lee Rose Beavis



Picture 5 – previous picture cropped to improve view of underwing showing pale trailing edge to secondaries

Photo - Lee Rose Beavis



Picture 6

Photo – Clive Nealon



Picture 7

Photo – Clive Nealon



Picture 8

Photo – Clive Nealon



Picture 9

Photo – Clive Nealon



Picture 10

Photo – Clive Nealon



Picture 11

Photo – Clive Nealon



Picture 12 – Herdsman Lake February 7

Photo – Bill Betts



Picture 13 – Herdsman Lake February 9

Photo – Bill Betts



Picture 14 – Herdsman Lake. Photomontage of flight shots February 17 Photo – Geoffrey Groom

What experience have you had with the species in question?

I initially thought this was an Oriental Pratincole – *Glareola maldivarum* – an uncommon or rare bird for Perth.

However, it appears to have been a rare bird for Australia.

I was familiar with Collared Pratincole – *Glareola pratincola* in Africa many years ago but did not consider the possibility of one turning up here.

Name: Clive Nealon