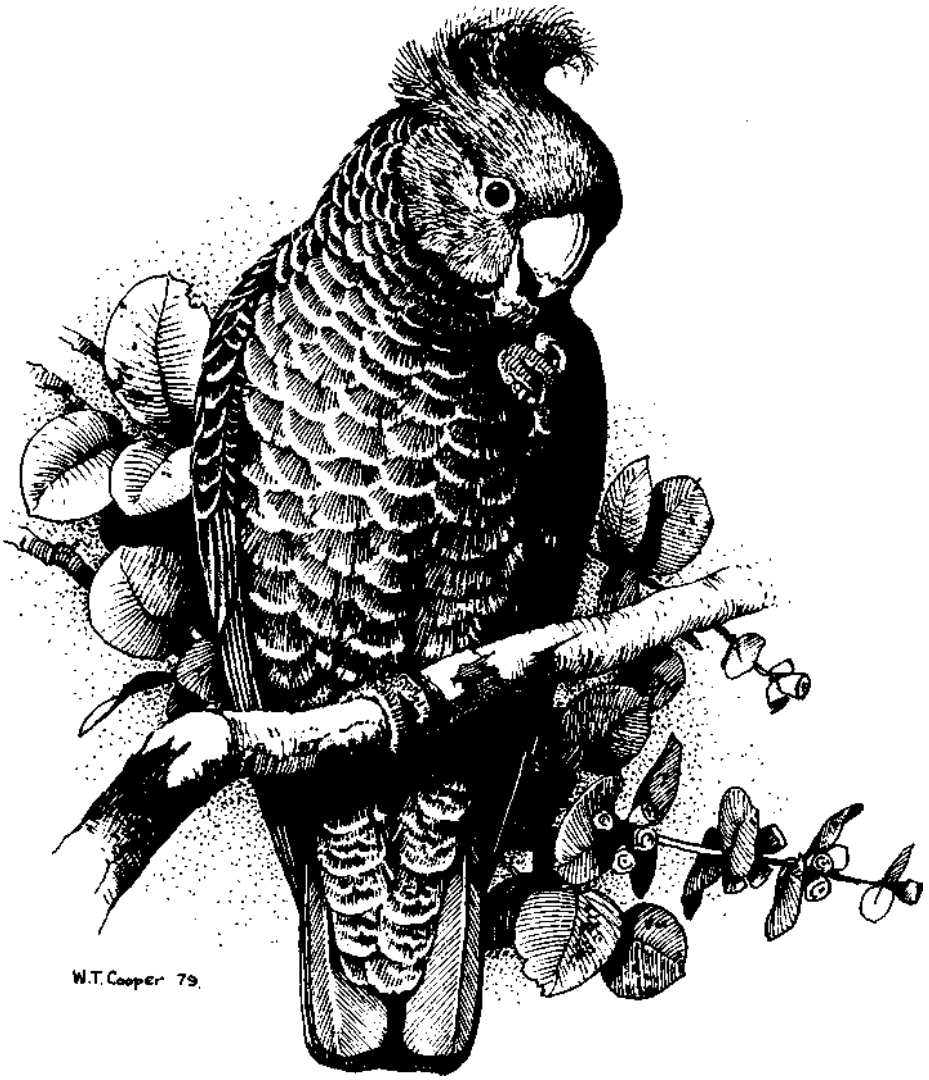
ISSN 0314-8211

CANBERRA BIRD NOTES

Volume 13
Number 2
June 1988

Registered by Australia Post - publication No NBH 0255



NOTES ON CURRAWONG - SPARROWHAWK INTERACTIONS

E.C. (Slim) Metcalf, 11 Peel St, O'CONNOR ACT 2601
Received: 10 February 1988

In a previous paper (R. & E.C. Metcalf 1986) I reported that the Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina* was the instigator and receiver of most of the physical harassment at the nest of a pair of Collared Sparrowhawks *Accipiter cirrocephalus.* Here I discuss this aspect in greater detail. As is clear from observation and many published reports, the Pied Currawong is a versatile feeder but takes a considerable number of small birds, mainly nestlings and fledglings. The Collared Sparrowhawk by contrast feeds almost entirely on small flying birds (Czechura, Debus and Mooney 1987). Thus whilst there is a small ecological overlap it appears that the Sparrowhawk is of little threat to the Currawong but being so small, it probably suffers by virtue of the latter's antagonism towards hawks, attempts at thieving prey and presumably risk of predation on young chicks. J. & P. Olsen have an adult female Sparrowhawk that is missing an eye due to attack by Currawongs.

Pied Currawongs appear to be capable of 'urban drift'. It has been suggested that in 1987/8 the Currawongs' previously marked summer migration to the ranges to breed has just about ceased. Certainly there were much greater numbers of these birds in Canberra seeking nest sites than in prior years. This may be having significant effect on the breeding success of many other birds. The following observations relate to 1987 in the small area Where I have studied Sparrowhawks nesting for several years. The intensity of the interference appears to have increased with more Currawongs nesting nearby.

I have observed a constant harassment of the female Sparrowhawk during the nest making period by usually five to ten but up to a maximum of 20 Currawongs. It was hard to tell Whether territorial pressure or scavenging Was the driving force. Harassment Was at its height from 22 September to 21 October at which time I suspect the female had been incubating for 6 days. The decline coincided with the commencement of nesting of the Currawongs.

The intense attention of the Currawongs produced a marked change in Sparrowhawk behaviour from previous years. No longer was prey exchanged and eaten at a distance from the nest but was often brought to the nest by the male. The female ate on the nest with the male in close attendance, prepared to attack inquisitive Currawongs.

On one occasion, on 15 October, between 9.30 to 11.40, ten Currawongs attacked the female on the nest with great ferocity and much noise for 30 minutes. There were three or four of them constantly close to the nest and as there was no sign of the male Sparrowhawk at the time, the female began (or was compelled) to fight back. Immediately, two Currawongs grabbed her by the legs and dragged her out and

down into the open With ten of them closing in on her. She fell about 7 to 10 metres before freeing herself and the whole melee flew up and continued fighting through the nearby pine trees, for ten minutes. Two young Currawongs came and peered at the nest and then left. Perhaps there Was some prey there, as the male had been off hunting before the Currawongs arrived.

In March 1983 at various times over a three Week period I observed six to eight Currawongs harass one juvenile female Sparrowhawk during her morning feeding sessions. They would gather around her and wait without success, for an opportunity to thieve something (see Veerman 1986 for similar observations). Occasionally an adult Sparrowhawk was observed to pass food to fledged young in flight. When flying some ten metres above and in front of the young bird it would drop the prey for the fledgling to catch. After one such event when the young male hawk spent three hours to consume the prey, he had four Currawongs waiting around watching. A Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita* approached the young hawk, screeching and threatening (exactly the same behaviour has been noted by P. Veerman pers. comm. between a Cockatoo and a fledgling male Brown Goshawk). The Cockatoo grabbed at the young Sparrowhawk aiming at the face, which so shocked the young bird that it dropped the prey and shuffled back, the Cockatoo continued screeching and a Currawong snatched the fallen prey remains and rapidly departed.

Similar harassing behaviour of Currawongs towards the Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis* has been observed, with as many as ten of them bothering the falcons over the three weeks before brooding, this being most pronounced as egg laying proceeds. I have also recently observed (May 1988) a Currawong in prolonged aerial pursuit of a Hobby which was carrying prey, possibly intent on kleptoparasitism (thieving).

REFERENCES

Czechura, G.V., Debus, S.J.S. & Mooney, N.J. (1987), 'The Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrocephalus:* A Review and Comparison with the Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus', Aust. Bird Watcher* 12:35-62.

Metcalf, R. & E.C. (1986), 'Notes on a Breeding Pair of Collared Sparrowhawks: Arrival to Hatching', *CBN* 11:114-120.

Veerman, P. (1986), 'Pied Currawong: Thief', *CBN* 11:132.

****

OBSERVATIONS ON AVIPHAGY BY PIED CURRAWONGS

Rosemary A. Metcalf, 18 Hemmant St, O'CONNOR ACT 2601
Received: 10 February 1988

The 'Aviphagy' (literally bird-eating) habits of the Pied Currawong are well known (see *CBN* 1(9):13, 4(2):26, 4(3):12, 5:32-33, 7:51, 11:132-133) here I detail a few observations which extend this knowledge. The Currawong is shown to be shrike-like in feeding habits, occasionally using its feet, capturing mostly young but sometimes adult small birds, it even seems to show some foresight in its predatory habits. A major sign of spring is the Currawongs starting to raid nests of other birds. Ian Taylor (pers. comm.) has suggested that first broods of many species end up as Currawong food. The Blackbirds, Common Starlings and House Sparrows get a lot of attention in urban areas.

One January afternoon at 1.30pm AE (Summer) Time, temperature close to 38°C, local birds panting on their perches. An adult Currawong hopped up a large wattle tree, its progress impeded by the wild swinging of an apparently dead, juvenile though well feathered House Sparrow *Passer domesticus,* hanging from its beak. The Currawong finally selected a branch about little finger thick in preference to the much thicker main branch. It then started jabbing with its beak at its prey whilst holding it under one foot. Feathers drifted but this appeared to be a result of inefficient attempts to rend the prey, rather than deliberate plucking. After breaking open the rib cage it ate the insides it could reach, it then had a rest. The attempt to tear up the carcass then continued. It varied the jabbing with a pulling action, usually on a wing, which had too much 'give'. It didn't attempt to increase tension by changing the foot hold. As progress was slow it then moved the prey to the main branch and wrapped bits of it around two sharp twigs and a swift pull on a wing broke of some primary feathers, bones and attached wing muscle. It made some quick tosses ensuring the piece faced the right way (feathers out) before swallowing. This feeding method is, as expected, more like the way butcherbirds consume birds than the method used by raptors.

I have seen Currawongs inspecting Blackbird *Turdus merula* nests several days before harvesting them, presumably waiting until chicks reach maximum size before fledging, when they would become more difficult to catch. On one dramatic occasion supporting this idea, I saw a Currawong raid a Blackbird's nest of almost fledged young and capture one. The other two chicks fled the nest in different directions, watched by the Currawong. It then dropped to the ground with the chick it was carrying and pecked its eyes out and then caught the other two and did the same to them. It then flew off with the first one and was seen to return 15 minutes later for the second. The fate of the third was not observed.

Currawongs' aviphagy is not confined to nestlings. Early in the 1987 spring, agitation by a male House Sparrow and various other species led to the discovery of a female Sparrow in a Currawong's beak. I assumed that she had been pulled of the nest of recently hatched young. E.C. Metcalf observed a family group of Common Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* fly past a group of Currawongs which were chasing each other around a tree. One of the Currawongs 'fell' onto a juvenile plumage Starling and bore it down into the undergrowth. Another (third hand) report was of a Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla* singing at the top of a small bush. A Currawong was observed gliding past and simply snapped up the unsuspecting Thornbill, in its beak, midsong.

In 1987 Autumn I saw a Currawong gliding low, with a small green bird (presumed to be a Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis* which was later eaten) held in its feet, which were hanging down. This was the first time I had seen Currawongs carrying food in their feet though it has been observed by others (eg Robin Hill illustrated this in his *Australian Birds* (1967) Nelson, Melbourne) also Veerman 1986 *CBN* 11:133). I have seen them carry fruit, apple cores, bread and small birds in their beaks and expect that to be more typical.

****

PIED CURRAWONG: USE OF FEET WHEN FORAGING

A. Doug Ross, 64 Sprent Street, NARRABUNDAH ACT 2604.
Received: 18 May 1987

It is well known that the Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina* has a great range of feeding methods (see eg. *CBN* 7:80; 11:95; and 11:132-133). This is a report of yet another method. On 10 April 1987, I observed a small group of Pied Currawongs working over bark and leaf litter at the base of some small eucalypts near the High Court.

For the most part, the birds were tossing the litter into the air with their beaks, prior to removing and eating what, from a later inspection of the litter, I suspect to have been pupae. One bird was lying on its back at the foot of a sapling gum and, thinking it was sick or injured, I moved in for a closer inspection. Far from being out of sorts, however, this bird was picking over with its beak a low-growing branch which it was holding down with one of its feet. Presumably it was more convenient (or efficient) for the bird to work the branch over, while holding it down from a recumbent position, than to do so standing, which would have involved a craning of the neck or continual, leaping.

One is used to seeing birds grasp or hold food with their feet but this was the first occasion I can recall of seeing a recumbent bird pull a food source down to itself.

****

PREDATION OF SMALL BIRDS BY NON RAPTORS

Martin A. Butterfield, 4/18 Jaeger Cct, BRUCE ACT 2167
Received: 16 September 1987

Two recent issues of *CBN* (Taylor 1986, Barr 1986, Veerman 1987) referred to predation by Australian Magpies *Gymnorhina tibicen* and/or Pied Currawongs *Strepera graculina.* Shortly after reading these I observed, early one morning at Hawker College Oval, an instance of what could be termed double predation (actually predation and kleptoparasitism). A Pied Currawong landed near a flock of feeding Common Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris,* walked across the grass and killed a Starling by pecking it on the head. The rest of the flock of Starlings left rather hurriedly - and who can blame them! Immediately a Magpie assaulted the Currawong, driving it off the corpse. As we left the vicinity the Magpie was apparently feeding on its purloined breakfast. Interesting to compare this with a record where Currawongs were noted to retrieve and eat food cached by Magpies after the latter left the site (Chittick 1977).

Following this episode I was further surprised to see, at Congo, on the South Coast of NSW, a Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae* hit and fly off with a passing New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae.* In this case the Kookaburra was sitting on a perch in a decrepit eucalypt (of a species unknown to me) when the Honeyeater flew to the tree from a nearby NZ Flax. There was a thud, a cloud of feathers erupted and the Kookaburra flew away with a squeaking victim in its beak.

Parry (1970) referred to Kookaburra diets as allegedly including small birds but questioned how Kookaburras with poor manoeuvrability could prey on small birds in thick bush. On this occasion the answer to her question was that they don't go after their avian prey in thick bush. The coordination displayed by the Kookaburra did not surprise me as I have also seen a Kookaburra (at almost the same site) power-glide 50 metres horizontally from the top of an electricity pole to strike with a single direct blow a small skink on a lawn. I am sure that in this latter instance the bird had seen the reptile before launching itself and was able to make the flight and collect in one swoop.

REFERENCES

Barr, J. (1986), 'Magpie Attack on Sparrow', *CBN* 11:133.
Chittick, S. (197), 'Birds Hiding Food', *CBN* 3(9):19-20.
Parry, V.A. (1970), *Kookaburras,* Landsdowne Press.
Taylor, I.M. (1986), 'Pied Currawong Predation on Introduced Birds', *CBN* 11:132.
Veerman, P. (1987), 'Further Note on Magpies as Predators', *CBN* 12:26.

****

KOOKABURRAS KAMIKAZE CONDUCT

B.L.C. & D.M. Johnson, 7 Bamford St, HUGHES ACT 2605
Received: 14 October 1987

For more than a year our beach house at Durras had been the target of unprovoked attack by a Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae* who would hurl itself at full speed at one or another of two windows depending on the time of day and the state of the weather.

Our living room window faces east. Its fly-screen bears at least sixty punctures as witness to the bird's morning attacks as it swept in, missile-like from a perch 20m away. Our bedroom window faces west and has a coating of reflective film. Resounding thuds, usually in the afternoon indicated that the bird had shifted to its alternative perch 10m away to the west.

The house is elevated on piles. After each strike the bird swooped under the house, finishing up on a tall truncated leafless tree where, from a perch 15m up he/she would (after dipping out of sight into the hollow at the top) gaze down on its territory with a dazed look.

We waited for experience to teach the bird the painful pointlessness of its forays, but eventually felt constrained to take defensive action. I climbed into its easterly perch and discovered its problem. Our neighbour's house of white fibro was reflected in our living-room window, and my head was clearly silhouetted against the light background. A little work with a bush saw removed that perch, and similarly I removed its western launching pad.

The bombardments have ceased. The Kookaburra is still around, perching disconsolately on a clothes line post or its high viewpoint, gazing perplexed over the scene of so much reckless bravado. Maybe it thinks its was the final victory over that frequent intruder into its territory!

****

CHASTISED CHANNEL-BILLED CUCKOOS

B.L.C. & D.M. Johnson, *Received: 11 March 1987*

On 16 November 1986 two Channel-billed Cuckoos *Scythrops novaehollandiae* appeared in one of our young eucalypts in the same garden as for the Kookaburra note above. They perched there for about 15 minutes impervious to repeated attacks from Red Wattlebirds *Anthochaera carunculata* and Pied Currawongs *Strepera graculina.* Although this cuckoo rarer reaches Victoria it is uncommon at the latitude of Durras. As with most cuckoos, its appearance is marked by mobbing from potential hosts. The birds turned up again in November 1987.

****

NEST HEIGHT AND TREE SELECTION: A COMPARISON OF THE AUSTRALIAN MAGPIE-LARK AND AUSTRALIAN MAGPIE

Coordinator: Ian M. Taylor, April 1988

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca* and Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen* being both abundant, conspicuous, pied, ground feeding, mainly insect eating, tree nesters have many lifestyle features in common. As an easy field ornithological exercise it had been decided by IMT to make a comparison of the heights at which these birds make their nests and investigate whether the tree species used by them varies. The research was undertaken by participants in a course entitled 'Birds of the ACT' conducted through the Centre for Continuing Education, Australian National University.

For the Australian Magpie-Lark Frith (1984) recorded that the average height of 36 nests was 12m and in the Canberra area 70% of nests were built in Eucalypts and 17% in willows. Pizzey (1983) states that nest height ranges from 6-15m. Beruldsen (1980) states nests may be at any height from a few metres to twenty metres or more but most commonly between 4 and 12 metres. Vernon (1968) gives height as 6 to 9 metres. Serventy and Whittell (1967) say the nest of mud, matted with grass is generally placed on a horizontal fork of a tall tree.

For the Australian Magpie Frith states the nest height is commonly in the range 6-15m. Pizzey puts the usual range as 5-16m. Beruldsen states nest is "usually built at a considerable height in a substantial fork in a tall tree. where suitable trees are not available, small saplings and bushes are used in which case the nest may be only a few metres above the ground." Serventy and Whittell indicate that the stick nest is usually placed in a fork of a tree often up to 12 to 15m height. (Interestingly, they and Vernon (1968) also say nests made of wire are not uncommon.)

METHODS

The heights above ground of nests of these two species within the same general areas around Canberra was recorded during September and October 1987. Heights were estimated by comparison with an observer standing beside the tree or by projecting the height of the nest on to the ground and then pacing out the distance. This method was tested against a tree known height and found to be accurate to within 10% up to 20m. Also site tree was recorded as Eucalypt or Non Eucalypt.

RESULTS

Basic statistics for the nests found follow:

	Magpie-lark	Magpie
Sample Size (no.)	26	38
Height Range (m)	4-15	4-25
Mean Height (m)	8.23	12.18
Std. Dev. Height (m)	2.26	5.27
Use of Eucalypts (%)	68	46

Magpie nests were built significantly higher than those of Magpie-larks. Also, the range of heights of nests is significantly greater for the Magpie. (For both comparisons $P<0.001$.) The proportion of Magpie-lark nests in Eucalypts Was found to equal that stated by Frith (1984). Observed differences between the two species in their choice for Eucalypts or Non-Eucalypts was not statistically significant on this sample. In other Words the results don't establish that Magpie-larks use Eucalypts for a greater proportion of nests than Magpies. The highest Magpie nest at 25 metres was considerably higher than typical heights mentioned in the literature. (This height Was double checked.)

DISCUSSION

Being Widespread species that have adapted Well to urban environments, both are probably not very restricted in nest site selection. Therefore statistics on genus of tree selected and height of nest are not very indicative of behaviour differences unless they are compared with actual site availability in the community. However some significant points come from this exercise.

The lower nest of Magpie-larks can be considered appropriate for several reasons: They build their nests on flat forks or on branches at least 2cm in diameter. Although their nests are smaller than Magpies' they need broader branches on which to plaster their mud nests. Their nests are often positioned under a leafy branch. This presumably provides additional shelter from sun, rain, and predators for the eggs, chicks and nest. Such sites are more common in the middle and lower regions of large trees.

The higher nest of Magpies is also appropriate. They do not show a preference for shaded sites, indeed when nesting in dense trees such as Radiata Pine, they usually nest at the tree's perimeter (C. Davey pers. comm.). Also engineering reasons favour higher sites as higher up the branches are thinner, closer to the vertical (which makes it easier to balance a stick nest on them) and overhanging branches are fewer. The Magpie, having longer, pointed wings probably uses no more energy than the smaller bird, relative to size, in flying from ground to a higher nest.

There are other important factors to be compromised. Nests further from the base of the tree generally suffer more pitch and toss of the branches in the wind which can be very damaging. The same sites are more vulnerable to aerial predators (eg hawks) but less vulnerable to ground based predators (eg goannas). Interactions between species may be important. Australia has several species of pied birds inhabiting open woodland and there appears to be a strong tendency for them to nest close together. During the breeding season the Magpie-lark becomes moderately aggressive towards the Magpie (Which generally ignores the smaller birds' fussing). Some of the observed height separation could be related to competitive exclusion between the two as Well as all the other possible factors.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Data Was contributed by the following individuals: 0. Arman, D. Bowey, P. Bowey, C. Bradfield, F. Donnan, J. Fernon, J. Gibson, M. Hirschfeld, J. Hyland, M. Kay, P. Lather, B. Lawson, B. Myers, J. Pryce, P. Purchas, E. Read, D. Strong, I. Taylor, R. Waldron, B. West. Statistical advice given by J. Taffe ANU and D. Pederson CCAE.

REFERENCES

Beruldsen, G.R. (1980), *A Field Guide to Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds.* Rigby.

Frith, H.J. (1984), *Birds in the Australian High Country.* Angus & Robertson, Sydney.

Pizzey, G. (1983), *A field Guide to the Birds of Australia.* Collins, Sydney.

Serventy, D.L. & Whittell, H.M. (1967), *Birds of Western Australia.* Lamb, Perth.

Vernon, D.P. (1968), *Birds of Brisbane and Environs.* Queensland Museum.

****

EDITORIAL 1: NOTE ON AUTHORSHIP

The authors of some articles of this issue requested that I be co-author, on the basis of my input to those and their previous articles. I haven't done so because since *CBN* 11(2), much of the phraseology, interpretation and references cited have been the editor's doing, whilst maintaining articles as close as possible to their original form. That is part of editorial role.

****

GREY SHRIKE-THRUSH FEEDS NESTLING OLIVE-BACKED ORIOLES

Robyn McCulloch, 42 Dwyer St, COOK ACT 2614
Received: 22 February 1988

During Nov/Dec 1987 I observed an Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus* nesting in bushland to the West of Caswell Drive, Aranda. The bird on the nest Was very nervous and Would leave the nest if anyone came within about ten metres, this happened quite often as the nest Was near a track used regularly by joggers etc. The bird Would, however, remain close by and was observed taking food to the nest on at least one occasion.

On the morning of 7 December I noticed a bird feeding 2-3 very noisy young birds in the nest. This bird Was not in the least perturbed by my presence. I was rather intrigued by this apparent about-face of character, but then realised that it Wasn't an Oriole I was Watching, but a Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica.* This bird was kept very busy for the next 5-10 minutes with repeated visits to the nest with food.

Further observations of the nest on the following days revealed no activity at all and it is surmised that the young in the nest perished. Grey Shrike-thrushes remained in the area, but there was no evidence of the Oriole over the next week at least.

I have no doubt that it Was an Oriole nest With presumably Oriole young in it and can only offer the explanation that for some reason the Oriole abandoned the nest and the Shrike-thrush responded to the noisy begging calls of the nestlings, Which may in turn have led to their discovery by nest marauders.

****

SILVEREYES EATING FLOWER PETALS

Rosemary A. Metcalf, 18 Hemmant St, O'CONNOR ACT 2601
Received: 10 February 1988.

In the 1950s I recall orchardists accusing Silvereyes *Zosterops lateralis* of destroying flowers as well as fruit. Then more enlightened research suggested that they were after insects and that they did not attack flowers. I was therefore interested to observe from 1.5 metres, a group of Silvereyes eating the thick pink petals of *Feijoa.* Interestingly only the petals were taken, the anthers and their pollen Were left untouched.

****

AN UNUSUAL SONG SEQUENCE OF A SUPERB LYREBIRD

David I. Magrath, 29 Gingana Street, ARANDA ACT 2614
Received: 16 September 1987

I have been recording the song of the Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae* in three widely-separated areas of south-eastern NSW for several years and in common with others (Bell 1976, Robinson 1974, 1975, Taylor 1986) have noticed that While their species-specific calls and mimicry vary from one region to another, Within any one area the repertoire of all birds tends to be very similar. However, in January and again in June of this year in one small area at Wonboyn Lake on the NSW far south coast I encountered a Lyrebird Whose repertoire in full song differed considerably in both species-specific and mimicry components from all others in the vicinity.

It Was the only Lyrebird in the area heard to mimic the calls of the Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides* (also the sound of its wing-beat), the Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii,* the 'chime' of the Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys* (rarely) and perhaps most interestingly, the advertising call of the Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca,* as well as the unmistakable sound of its Wings in flight. Wonga Pigeons are plentiful in the Wonboyn area and are calling actively during June and July when Lyrebirds are nesting.

It has been stated by Robinson (1986) that on only one occasion, in southern Queensland, had he heard the Superb Lyrebird mimic the Wonga Pigeon, and then only briefly (once, for 10-15 sec) and under unusual circumstances, not in his normal song. Similarly, Mark Clayton of the CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Rangelands Research, who has spent considerable time in the Wonboyn area, has never heard a Lyrebird mimic the Wonga Pigeon (pers. comm. 1987). Nor is the Wonga Pigeon amongst the 19 species listed by Taylor (1986) or the 19 listed by Bell (1976) as being mimicked by Lyrebirds in the ACT and several other areas of south-eastern NSW, in most if not all of Which Wonga Pigeons occur. The Wonga Pigeon breeds throughout the year (Frith 1982) and the fact that Superb Lyrebirds in their full song do not in general mimic this bird is thus in accord with the finding of Robinson (1974, 1975) that the Lyrebird tends not to imitate the calls of birds with breeding seasons concurrent with its own. Also, the call of the Wonga Pigeon is a monotonous, low frequency sound, Whereas Lyrebirds prefer to mimic calls which are loud and varied (Frith 1984, Robinson 1974, 1975). Smith (1988) reports that a captive Lyrebird mimicked a Wonga Pigeon and other species sharing its aviary but these are unusual circumstances.

As well as mimicking these additional calls, certain differences in this Lyrebird's rendition of calls of birds commonly mimicked by Lyrebirds in the area Were noticeable, such as a much more sustained and complete rendition of the call of the Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae.* This

call was, incidentally, usually followed by a sound consisting of up to 14 beats reminiscent of a galloping horse, not made by other Lyrebirds in the vicinity. It Was similar to the shorter thudding sound (2-3 beats, probably the 'gulla, gulla, gulla' sound of Taylor (1986) and the 'clonk, clonk' sound of Smith (1968) usually heard immediately preceding (but not in the case of this bird) the loud, clear 'plick' (Taylor 1986), 'pilick' (Frith 1984), 'blick' or 'bilik' (Pizzey 1982) or 'quillip' (Pollock 1967) call that is characteristic of the Superb Lyrebird throughout its range (Pizzey 1982). The 'galloping horse' sequence should not be confused With the rapid metallic 'whirring' (Pollock 1967) or 'Whirring snapping' (Smith 1968) sound also given in association With the 'plick' call.

An explanation of the vocal uniqueness of this bird does not seem obvious. It has been postulated (Robinson 1986, Bell 1976) that, in general, the young Lyrebird learns its mimicry not directly from the model but from its own parents and neighbouring Lyrebirds, with the mimicry probably being reinforced by listening to the model in full song later in the season, and With perhaps also the occasional addition of an extra call by an individual bird.

The present bird seems to go rather beyond the above guidelines for song learning. Perhaps the occasional emergence of such 'rogue' birds may represent one way in which evolution of the communal Lyrebird repertoire of an area may occur.

REFERENCES

Bell, K. (1976), 'Song of the Superb Lyrebird in South-Eastern New South Wales, with some Observations on Habitat,' *Emu* 76: 59-63.

Frith, H.J. (1982), *Pigeons and Doves of Australia,* Rigby

Frith, H.J. (1984), *Birds in the Australian High Country,* Angus & Robertson.

Pizzey, G. (1982), *A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia,* Collins.

Pollock, H.J. (1967), *Menura - The Lyrebird* (with record), Jacaranda Press.

Robinson, F.N. (1974), 'The Function of Vocal Mimicry in Some Avian Displays', Emu 74: 9-10.

Robinson, F.N. (1975), 'Vocal Mimicry and the Evolution of Bird Song', *Emu* 75: 23-27.

Robinson, F.N. (1986), Lecture: *'Lyrebirds of Tidbinbilla',* delivered to the Canberra Ornithologists Group in May.

Smith, L.H. (1968), *The Lyrebird,* Lansdowne Press.

Smith, L.H. (1988), *The Life of the Lyrebird,* Heinemann.

Taylor, I. (1986), 'The Song of the Superb Lyrebird in the Australian Capital Territory', *Corella* 10(2): 46-54.

****

MULLIGAN'S FLAT ATLASSING - NOTES ON THE REGENT HONEYEATER

Jenny Bounds, PO Box 403, WODEN ACT 2606
Brendan J. Lepschi, 24 Fullwood Street, WESTON ACT 2611
Received: 15 July 1987

Mulligans Flat, an area of open grazing country on the Gundaroo Road north of Canberra, is the authors' adopted ACT Bird Atlas square (No. 3).

The habitat is open woodland (tending to savannah in parts), comprising mainly Scribbly Gum *Eucalyptus rossii,* Red Stringybark *E. macrorrhyncha,* Red Spotted Gum *E. mannifera,* Yellow Box *E. melliodora,* Blakely's Red Gum *E. blakelyi* and Silver Wattle *Acacia dealbata, w*hich in some places forms almost pure stands. Surface Water is present in the form of several small dams.

On the cool, overcast morning of 30 November 1986, we visited the square. Birds present at our arrival included Rufous Songlarks *Cinclorhamphus mathewsi,* Western *Gerygone fusca* and White-throated *G. olivacea* Gerygones and a mixed-species flock comprising Buff-rumped *Acanthiza reguloides,* Yellow-rumped *A. chrysorrhoa* and Striated *A. lineata* Thornbills, Scarlet Robins *Petroica multicolor* and Grey Fantails *Rhipidura fuliginosa,* moving through the nearby saplings. A short distance onward, we located Brown *Climacteris picumnus,* as well as White-throated *Cormobates leucophaea* Treecreepers, White-winged Trillers *Lalage sueurii,* Speckled Warblers *Sericornis sagittatus* and a pair of Leaden Flycatchers *Myiagra rubecula.*

On passing a large eucalypt we noticed a darkish bird hanging upside-down in a clump of foliage just above our heads. To our delight it was one of a pair of Regent Honeyeaters *Xanthomyza phrygia,* feeding in the tree. We spent the next 20 minutes watching these birds.

The Regent Honeyeater is a nomadic species which occasionally appears in the ACT there being several recent records. Despite a great deal of information regarding the species' status and distribution (Berry (1983), Blakers et *al* (1984), Franklin et al (1987), McCullough (1979), Morris et *al* (1982), Officer (1971), Peters (1979), Ryan (1981) and Spiker (1982)), published observations on its behaviour are few. Indeed, none of the 24 prior references to the bird in *CBN,* describe its behaviour. This note is only of a preliminary nature, but there is certainly scope for more detailed observations.

The birds were foraging low in a mature Candlebark *E. rubida,* and appeared to be feeding on lerp (exudate of nymphal psyllids: Hemiptera: Psyllidae), a major food source for many honeyeaters. For the period we watched the birds they did not leave the tree and foraged in a quiet and unobtrusive manner, constantly uttering an almost inaudible 'mewing' call, presumably for contact. Except for Pizzey (1980), most authors appear to have overlooked this call,

referring mainly to the more distinctive (bell-like), advertisement calls.

Contrary to Cayley (1959) and Stewart (1976), who describe the species as "pugnacious", the birds were usually on the receiving end of any aggression; a Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus* and four White-plumed Honeyeaters *Lichenostomus penicillatus,* also feeding in the tree, occasionally came into conflict with the Regent Honeyeaters, Who did not retaliate. They Were not aggressive to one-another, Which suggests they may have been a breeding pair, although due to time restrictions, no effort Was made to find a nest. Breeding has been noted in the past in the ACT (Anon. 1976), and there has been one recent record (at Ginninderra late 1987). This may be in keeping with the alleged overall decline of the species.

A full discussion of the status of the species in the region is in preparation for *CBN.*

REFERENCES

Anon, (1976), 'Status of birds in the Canberra District', *CBN* 3(6) :8.

Berry, J. (1983), 'A Study of the Regent Honeyeater', *Bird Obs.,* 623:109.

Blakers, M., Davies S.J.J.F. & Reilly, P.N. (1984), *The Atlas of Australian Birds.* Melbourne Uni. Press; Melbourne.

Cayley, N.W. (1959), *'What Bird is That'.* Angus and Robertson, Sydney.

Franklin, D.C., Menkhorst, P.W. & Robinson, J.L. (1987) 'Field surveys of the Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia* in Victoria', *Aust. Bird Watcher,* 12(3):91-95.

McCullogh, E.M. (1979), 'Is the Regent Honeyeater declining?', *Bird Obs.,* 573:53.

Morris, A.K. & Kurtz, N. (1982), 'The status of the Regent Honeyeater in the Upper Macquarie and Castlereagh Valleys', *Aust. Birds.,* 16:48-52.

Officer, H.R. (1971), *Australian Honeyeaters.* The Bird Obs. Club, Melbourne.

Peters, D.E. (1983), 'Some Evidence for a Decline in Population Status of the Regent Honeyeater', *Aust. Bird Watcher,* 8:117-123.

Pizzey, G. (1980), *A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia.* Collins, Sydney.

Ryan, J.V. (1981), 'The Regent Honeyeater - some early notes', *Bird Obs.,* 597:85.

Spiker, C. (1979), 'Regent Honeyeater survey', *Bird Obs.,* 576:76.

Stewart, D. (1976), Regent Honeyeater *in Readers Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds.* Readers Digest Services, Sydney.

****

FURTHER NOTE ON THE CALL OF THE REGENT HONEYEATER

Philip Veerman , September 1987

The above article provides context in which to report a call used by a Regent Honeyeater, not described in standard texts. The observation occurred on the overcast afternoon of 3 September 1974, while spending twenty minutes observing and photographing one of the celebrated group of these birds at Blackburn Lake, Melbourne. The one Regent Honeyeater was feeding in tangled bushes at a height of about two metres, between two and four metres from me, for the Whole period. The bird was clearly observed and on four Well spaced occasions it made the only sounds heard from it in the period. The call was almost identical to the typical "Kwock-Ay-Yok" main call of the Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata.* The bird threw its head back when emitting the call, exactly as the Wattlebird does. The only discernable difference was that the call lacked much of the volume and some of the harshness of the Wattlebird's rendition of the same notes. Had I not been watching the bird I would have been unhesitant in attributing the sound to a distant Red Wattlebird, so common in Melbourne parkland. The almost perfect Red Wattlebird call made by this Regent Honeyeater may have been mimicry. Although honeyeaters are not notable as mimics there are several records of this species associating with other large honeyeaters and giving their calls. There are also other possible explanations. As I am preparing a review on this aspect, (intended for the *Australian Bird Watcher)* I would appreciate any comments of relevance.

****

EDITORIAL 2: CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED AND NOTE ON ABR

If not for editorials, this issue would have more unwanted blank space than other issues over the last few years. With the emphasis on this issue of releasing many small articles, the in-tray is now almost empty. New contributions of articles are needed, relevant illustrations are also appreciated. Please submit in as close as possible the style of recent issues.

Traditionally the Annual Bird Report is issued a year after the end of the year concerned. Due to the great workload we are behind this year and it will be one issue late.

****

COPULATION IN GANG-GANG COCKATOOS

Brendan J. Lepschi, 24 Fullwood St, WESTON ACT 2611
Received: 2 December 1987

While copulation in birds is not infrequently observed, it is rarely reported. On 7 October 1987 Within the grounds of CSIRO Entomology on Black Mountain, ACT, I observed Gang-Gang Cockatoos *Callocephalon fimbriatum,* copulating.

The pair were perched about 2 metres above me in a mature *Eucalyptus globulus,* and were feeding quietly when first noted. The female was observed to adopt a posture with her body lowered, wings drooped and tail down, then the male initiated copulation. He sidled up to the female with Wings outstretched and mounted her. Almost immediately the female brought her head back and offered (?) the male a beakful of masticated eucalyptus seed she had been feeding on, which he took and swallowed. For the next two or so minutes the birds remained in this position, the female frequently bringing her head back and touching beaks With the male, Who had his Wings spread so as to maintain his balance. Both birds were completely silent throughout.

Once copulation was complete, the male dismounted and the female ruffled her feathers and assumed a normal resting position close to him. Both birds then indulged in allopreening (preening each other), mostly about the head.

On the whole, the behaviour described above seems fairly typical, although the offering of food (?) by the female is interesting. However until further information is available on copulatory behaviour in this and other species, no firm conclusions can be drawn as to its significance.

****

GREY FANTAIL ROBS SPIDER-WEBS

Brendan J. Lepschi, 24 Fullwood St, WESTON ACT 2611
Received: 28 January 1987

On 28 December 1986, a single Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa* was observed robbing spider-webs on an aviary at CSIRO Gungahlin. The bird hovered briefly before the Webs and plucked captured insects from them, occasionally returning to a convenient perch to devour its catch. Taylor *(CBN* 9(4), 146), reported similar behaviour in Restless Flycatchers *Myiagra inquieta* at the ANU in winter 1984. Both species are known to hover, albeit clumsily, while hunting among foliage, so Web-robbing may be an extension of this behaviour. Anon *(Bird Observers Club Monthly Notes,* Aug 1948, 1) reported web-robbing by the Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus* in Victoria but gave no details as to the feeding method.

****

FIGHTING: FUSCOUS HONEYEATERS AND STRIATED PARDALOTES

Rob Parnell, 31 Meehan Gardens, NARRABUNDAH ACT 2604
Received: 13 January 1988

On 5 December 1987 at about midday, on the NE lower flank of Yankee Hat (Namadgi N.P.) just after locating a Dusky Woodswallow's *Artamus cyanopterus* nest, Warren Martin and I watched two Fuscous Honeyeaters *Lichenostomus fuscus* fighting on the ground four metres from us. Their legs were locked together and they made the dust rise with the flapping of their wings. Two others alternatively tried to join in or prevent others from joining in. This melee continued for a minute or less. The birds then broke up and chased each other around from branch to branch Where they mobbed 3, 4 or 5 together on a branch for a few seconds, all agitated and calling before moving on to another branch and repeating the process. The birds moved too quickly to distinguish any one bird as being dominant or submissive.

This behaviour reminded me of the behaviour of two Striated Pardalotes *Pardalotus striatus* that Doug Laing and I Watched at Cave Creek in the Kosciusko N.P. They had their legs locked together and were on the ground beside a large gum tree. They were not using their beaks. We were able to get Within 2 metres before they broke up and flew off. This occurred on 22 November 1987 at about 10am. The species was numerous in the area.

****

BIRDWATCHING WHILST SPRING SKIING

Coral Dow, Rotamah Island Bird Observatory, PO Box 75, PAYNESVILLE VIC 3880 *Received: 6 November 1986*

Spring skiing is often advocated by skiing enthusiasts because the Weather is warmer and the days longer than winter-time. The other advantage is being able to combine bird watching and skiing. On a (1986) trip from Guthega to Mt Tate (at Tate East Ridge above Guthega), in Warm September Weather We saw or heard many birds migrating or moving back to their summer habitat as the snow melted. These included large flocks of White-naped Honeyeaters *Melithreptus lunatus,* heading West across the main range, also Fantailed Cuckoo *Cuculus pyrrhophanus,* Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae,* Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea,* Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla,* Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata* and Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops.* Large moths were also present and in parts the snow was covered with tiny gnats.

****

ADDITIONS TO BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BIRDS OF THE CANBERRA REGION

Brendan J. Lepschi, 24 Fullwood Street, WESTON ACT 2611
Received: 14 May 1987 (updated)

INTRODUCTION

This bibliography supplements parts one and two by H.D.V. Prendergast *(CBN* 9(2), 31-37 and 12(1), 20-24). All methods, abbreviations and such also apply here.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anon. (1937 & 1939), 'Bird Notes', *S. Aust. Orn.* 14:73 and 15:30. (Both contain early records for the ACT.)

Anon. (1963-1976), 'Recovery Round-up', *Aust. Bird Bander* 1-14 various pagings. (See following entry.)

Anon. (1976-1986), 'Recovery Round-up', *Corella* 1-10: various pagings. (These contain banding recoveries, often from Canberra region.)

Bedggood, G.W. (1973), 'Bird List from Cooma, *NSW', Bird Obs.* 498:8.

Bennett, G. (1834), *Wanderings in New South Wales, Batavia, Pedir Coast, Singapore and China: Being a Journal of a Naturalist in those Countries, during 1832, 1833 and 1834.* Richard Bentley, London. (See following entry.)

Bennett, G. (1860), *Gatherings of a Naturalist in Australasia: Being Observations Principally on the Animal and Vegetable Productions of New South Wales, New Zealand and some of the Austral Islands.* (Both contain notes on the ACT area, including detailed observations on the Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae.)*

Bransbury, J. (1988), *Where to find Birds in Australia.* Hutchinson, Melbourne.

Carnage, R.H. (1921), Exploration between the Wingecarribee, Shoalhaven, Macquarie and Murrumbidgee Rivers. *R. Aust. Hist. Soc J. Proc.* 7(5):217-288. (Extracts from Joseph Wild (the first European to travel through the region) papers; some bird observations.)

Cameron, R. & Hinchey, M. (1981), 'An apparently immature White-throated Needletail in Australia', *Aust. Bird Watcher* 9:68. (Note on injured bird found on Mt Taylor.)

Carrick, R. (1972), 'Population ecology of the Australian Black-backed Magpie, Royal Penguin and Silver Gull', *U.S. Dept. Interior Wildl. Res. Rep.* 2:41-98. (ACT magpie data included.)

Carrick, R. & Turnbull, N. (1956a, 1956b), 'First and Second Annual Reports of the Australian Bird Banding Scheme, October 1953 to June 1955', *CSIRO Wildl. Res.* 1:31-39 and 1:114-130.

Carrick, R., Keith, N. & Keith, K. (1957), 'Third Annual Report of the Australian Bird Banding Scheme', *CSIRO Wildl. Res.* 2,145-163. (All contain data on ACT birds; see also Hitchcock et a/ and Purchase.)

Clancy, G.P. (1985), 'Recent records of Magpie Geese in New South Wales', *Aust. Birds* 19:41-46. (Record from L. Bathurst included.)
Currie, M.J. (1825), Journal of an Excursion to the Southward of Lake George. in *Geological Memoirs on New South Wales* (ed. B. Field.) John Murray, London (Includes early records of the Emu.)
Czechura, G.V. & Debus, S.J.S. (1986), 'The Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis:* a review', *Aust. Bird Watcher* 11:185-208. (Some ACT data included.}
Czechura, G.V., Debus, S.J.S. & Mooney, N.J. (1987), 'The Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrocephalus:* A Review and Comparison With the Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus', Aust. Bird Watcher* 12:35-62. (some ACT data included).
Daley, C. (1946), 'Nature Notes on Canberra', *Vict. Nat.* 63:52-54. (Contains early bird records for the ACT.)
Debus, S.J. (1982), 'Range and status of the Red Goshawk in New South Wales', *Aust. Birds* 16:41-46. (Unconfirmed ACT records included.)
Dunnet, G.M. (1957), 'Notes on avian predation on young rabbits, *Oryctolagus cuniculus (L.)', CSIRO Wild. Res.,* 2:66-68. (Study site: Gungaderra Hstd. Gungahlin.)
Eberhard, I. & Schulz, L. (1973), A *Survey of the Vertebrate Fauna of the Cotter River Catchment.* Department of Territories and Local Government, Conservation Memorandum.
Frith, H.J. (1965), 'Ecology of the Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa* (Gould)', *CSIRO Wildl. Res.* 10:125-134. (Birds from L. George studied in captivity at Gungahlin.)
Frith, H.J., Brown, B.K. & Morris, A.K. (1977), 'Food habits of the Stubble Quail, *Coturnix pectoralis,* in south-eastern Australia, *CSIRO Wildl. Res. Tech. Pap.* 32:1-70. (Bungendore specimens included.)
Frith, H.J., Crome, F.H.J. & Brown, B.K. (1977), 'Aspects of the Biology of the Japanese Snipe, *Gallinago hardwickii', Aust J. Ecol.* 2:341-368. (Study area includes ACT.)
Frith, H.J. & Carpenter, S.M. (1980), 'Breeding of the Stubble Quail, *Coturnix pectoralis,* in south eastern Australia', *Aust. Wild. Res.* 7:117-137. (Bungendore specimens included.)
Gale, J. (1927), *Canberra, History and Legends.* A.M. Fallick and Sons. (Some old records for ACT.)
Gowland, P.N. (1972), *Stromlo Pine Forest (ACT) Bird Survey, December 1972.* Department of Territories and Local Government, Forests Branch. Internal Report.
Havard, W.L. (1956), Alan Cunningham's Journal of a Tour into Argyle, March-April 1824. *Canb. and Dist. Hist. Soc. Pap.,* 4 Sept. 1956. (Well documented observations, principally on the Emu.)
Hindwood, K.A. (1953), 'Yellow-faced Honeyeaters Migrating', *Emu* 53:89-90. (Describes Autumn Honeyeater Migration).

Hitchcock, W.B. & Carick, R. (1958) and (1960), 'Fourth and Fifth Annual Reports of the Australian Bird Banding *CSIRO Wildl. Res.* 3:115-141 and 5:52-84.

Hitchoock, W.B. (1961 to 1966), Sixth to Tenth Annual Reports of the Australian Bird Banding Scheme. *CSIRO Wildl. Res.* 6:56-87, and *CSIRO Wildl. Res. Tech. Pap.* nos. 4, 5, 7 and 11 respectively. (Includes ACT data.)

Helands, D.L.G. (1979), 'The Letter-Winged Kite irruption of 1976-77', *Aust. Bird Watcher* 8:1-19. (Includes ACT records.)

Klapste, J. (1980), 'Secondary flying ability of the Domestic Duck', *Aust Bird Watcher* 8:198-200. (Note on *Anas platyrhynchos* on L. Burley-Griffin included.)

Kukolic, K. (1976), *A Survey of the Vertebrate Fauna of Ainslie-Majura and Black Mountain Reserves.* Department of Territories and Local Government, Conservation and Agriculture Branch, Internal Report.

Lenz, M. (1988), 'Crimson Rosellas *Platycercus elegans* Nesting in Buildings in Canberra', *Aust. Bird Watcher* 12:171-173.

Lewis, M.J. (1987), 'A Boobook Owl *(Ninox novaeseelandiae)* feeding on an Eastern Rosella *(Platycercus eximius)', Vict. Nat.* 104:13. (Observations made at ANU.)

Lindsey, T.R. (1979-1985), 'Annual Bird Report for NSW' *Aust. Birds.* 14:1-22, 15:17-26, 16:1-23, 17:1-26, 18:37-69, 19:65-73. (ACT included.)

Macquarie, L. (1956), *Journals of his tours in New South Wales and Van Diemens Land 1810-1822.* Trustees of the Public Library of New South Wales, Sydney. (Notes on some bird observations south of Goulburn.)

Marchant, S. (1984), 'Nest records of the Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis', Emu* 84:167-175. (Includes ACT data.)

Marchant, S. & Fullagar, P.J. (1983), 'Nest records of the Welcome Swallow', *Emu* 83:66-74. (Includes ACT data.)

Martin, P.R., Thomson, B.G. & Witts, S.J. (1979), 'Niche separation in three species of waterbird', *Corella* 3:1-6. (Study site: Sullivans Ck, L. Burley-Griffin.)

McGill, A.R. (1947), 'Migrating Honeyeaters', *Emu* 47:56-57. (Describes Autumn honeyeater migration.)

Morris, A.K. (1971), 'The Red-chested Quail in New South Wales', *Emu* 71:178-180. (Contains local records.)

Murn, M. (1964), 'Plumage changes of the juvenile Southern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis', Aust. Bird Bander* 2:54-56.

Mykytowcz, R., Hesterman, E.R. & Purchase, D. (1959), 'Predation on the Wild Rabbit by the Australian Raven', *Emu* 59:41-43. (Study site: Gungahlin.)

National Capital Development Commission, (1,984), *The Ecological Resources of the ACT.* Technical Paper 42. (Contains information on ACT birds, provided by COG.)

National Parks Association of the ACT. (1971), *Mountains, Slopes and Plains; the Flora and Fauna of the Australian Capital Territory.* AGPS, Canberra.

(Chapter on ACT birds, based largely on Frith's *Birds in the Australian High Country.)*

Nix, H.A. (1976), 'Environmental control of breeding, post breeding dispersal and migration of birds in the Australian region', *Proc. 16th Int. Ornith. Congress:* 273-305. (Mostly based on ACT data.)

Olsen, P. (1982), 'Ecogeographic and temporal variation in the eggs and nests of the Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* (Ayes: Falconidae) in Australia', *Aust. Wildl. Res.* 9:277-293. (Contains much ACT data.)

Olsen, P. & Olsen, J. (1980), 'Observations on the development, nestling chronology and clutch and brood size in the Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides* (Ayes: Falconidae)', *Aust. Wildl. Res.* 7:247-257. (Study site: Sutton.)

Olsen, J. & Olsen, P. (1980), 'Observations on defence of nest against humans by Australian species of *Falco', Emu* 80:163-165. (Includes local data.)

Olsen, J. & Olsen, P. (1985), 'Notes from Canberra and Sutton: 1984 Breeding season', *ARA News* 6:26. (Includes breeding record for Marsh Harrier.)

Olsen, J. & Olsen, P. (1987), 'Further Comments on Hack', *ARA News* 8:65-66. (Rehabilitation and release of Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon & Brown Goshawk.)

Olsen, P., Olsen, J. & Jolly, J. (1979), 'Observations on interspecific conflict in the Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* and other Australian Falcons', *Aust. Bird Watcher* 8:51-57. (Includes ACT data.)

Olsen, P., Olsen, J. & Mooney, N.J. (1982), 'Growth and development of nestling Brown Goshawks *Accipiter fasciatus* With details of breeding biology', *Emu* 82:179-185. (Nest at Sutton included.)

Olsen, P., Vestjens, W.J.M. & Olsen, J. (1979), 'Observations on the diet of the Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides', Emu* 79:133-138. (Study site includes Sutton.)

Purchase, D. (1968-1973), Eleventh to Eighteenth Annual Reports of the Australian Bird Banding Scheme. *CSIRO Wildl. Res. Tech. Pap.* nos. 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25 and 27. (All contain data on ACT birds.)

Readshaw, J.L. (1968), 'The Distribution, Abundance and Movements of the Pied Currawong *(Strepera graculina)* (Shaw), an important predator of Phasmatidae in Eastern Australia', *Aust. J. Zool.* 16:37-47. (Study site includes part of ACT.)

Rogers, A.F. (1970-1978), 'Annual Bird Report for *NSW', Birds,* 5:10-11, 5:66-76, 6:77-99, 7:89-109, 8:97-119, 9:77-97, 10:61-84, 11:81-104, and 13:1-21. (Most contain Canberra region observations; see also Lindsay.)

Rowley, I. (1969), 'An evaluation of predation by 'crows' on young lambs', *CSIRO Wildl. Res.* 14:153-181. (Study site includes part of ACT.)

Simpson, K.G. (1972), 'Feeding of the Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo on cossid moth larvae inhabiting *Acacia* species', *Vict. Nat.* 89:32-40. (Observed in ACT.)
Smith, L.D., Larkins, D. & Pegler, J. (1984), 'Garden plants attractive to birds', *Aust. Birds* 18:17-23. (Section on ACT included.)
Schumack, S. (1967), *An Autobiography or Tales and Legends of Canberra Pioneers.* ANU Press, Canberra. (Some early bird observations.)
Tidemann, C.R., Woodside, D.P. & Stewart, A.P. (1979), *Fauna Survey of Gudgenby Nature Reserve.* Fauna Survey Group. ANU, Dept. Zoology.
van Tets, G.F. (1965), 'Parental feeding of a fledgling Dollarbird', *Emu* 65:79. (Observed at Gungahlin.)
van Tets, G.F. (1972), 'Removal of feathers from nest by Spur-Winged Plover', *Emu* 72:115. (Observation made at Gungahlin.)
van Tets, G.F., D'Andria, A.H., & Slater, E. (1967), 'Nesting distribution and nomenclature of Australian Vanelline Plovers', *Emu* 67:85-93. (Study site: Gungahlin.)
Vestjens, W. (1970), 'Collection of water by the Australian Pelican', *Emu* 70:140. (Observation made at L. George.)
Wheeler, R. (1987), *Birds and where to find them in New South Wales.* Collins, Sydney. (Includes ACT.)
White, H.W. (ed.) (1954), *Canberra: A Nations Capital.* A.N.Z.A.A.S. (Contains chapter on the "zoology" of the local area.)
Wilson, S.J. (1964), 'Fuscous Honeyeater *Meliphaga fuscus* in the Australian Capital Territory', *VORG Notes* 2:7.
Wilson, S.J. (1965a), 'NeW information on some birds in New South Wales', *Emu* 64:209-213. (Some Canberra region data included.)
Wilson, S.J. (1965b), 'Birds of the Brindabella Ranges', *VORG Notes* 3:6-12.
Wilson, S.J., Lane, S.G. & McKean, J.L. (1965), 'The use of Mist Nets in Australia', *CSIRO Wildl. Res. Tech. Pap.* 8:1-26. (Much ACT data included.)
Wright, W.D. (1923), *Canberra.* John Andrew, Sydney. (Includes early bird list from Queanbeyan.)

****

EDITORIAL 3: LITERATURE RELEVANT TO COG AREA

At least two of the above references should have appeared in *CBN* instead. Would anyone publishing articles elsewhere, which include substantial COG area data please inform the editor so that these bibliography lists can be kept up to date. Likewise, please notify on finding relevant articles written by others.

****

Canberra Bird Notes is published quarterly by the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc. The membership and subscription rates are: Student (Under 18) $6.00; Single $12.00; Family $15.00 all with one copy of CBN; Institutions $15.00.

Editor: Philip Veerman, PO Box 301, CIVIC SQUARE, ACT, 2608 or, 24 Castley Circuit, KAMBAH, ACT, 2902 *Rarities Panel:* B. FitzGerald (Secretary - Ph 485140), G. Chapman, M. Clayton, G. Clark, B. Baker, R. Schodde, N. Hermes, A. Drake.

CANBERRA ORNITHOLOGISTS GROUP COMMITTEE

Due to the long contents list, the full committee list has not been given on this issue. As there are four new members only they are listed, for other members see previous issue.

		Work	Home
Exhibitions	Sue Armstong	375120	512622
Conservation	Jim Hone	522979	470665
RAOU Liaison	Kim Lowe	466304	412292
Member	Bruce Lindenmayer	723506	731431

****

CONTENTS *PAGE*

****