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NESTING HABITS OF WHITE-CAPPED NODDIES

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INTRODUCTION

Nests of White capped Noddies *Anous minutus* were watched from 19 December to 26 December 1972 at Heron Island in the Capricorn Group on the Great Barrier Reef. On 20 December the first hatched egg was noticed and by 24 December 20% of nests contained a nestling, 5% of pairs were still courting, and the rest were incubating their single eggs. Yellowing *Pisonia grandis* leaves were added to existing nests but I saw no evidence of new nest building at this time. Most observations were made on two groups of thirty nests each. Both male and female incubate the egg and feed the young.

MacGillivray (1926) in the Capricorn group, and Cullen and Ashmole (1963) on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic have described much of the breeding behaviour of this species and this report will attempt to supplement these works. The species referred to on Ascension Island is *Anous tenuirostris*, but Moynihan (1959) believes this to be conspecific with *A. minutus*.

LENGTH OF TIME AT NEST

In an attempt to estimate the length of time birds spent on the nest I tallied, on an hourly basis, the number of times one bird replaced another at the nest in a whole group of thirty occupied nests. On 24 and 25 December a total of six one-hour watches in different parts of the day from dawn to dusk showed a relatively constant rate of changeover, except for a slight decrease during the afternoon (Table I). The data are too few to attach significance to this.

Birds with chicks were replaced frequently, probably in less than two hours, whereas incubating birds remained in excess of

twelve hours. Birds with chicks rarely left the nest until relieved by the mate but incubating birds did so frequently. The frequency of trips away from the nest increased with time since relief. Often these trips were a short flight around the tree, or a trip to the sea for a quick drink. The birds would also congregate in groups of up to a dozen on the hot sand where they might remain for twenty minutes, preening or sunning their wings. Brian King (pers. comm.) recorded a temperature of 52°C on the sand where some Noddies were grouped. Perhaps this habit helps control ectoparasites in this highly gregarious species.

TABLE I

Total number of changeovers by parent birds at thirty nests during various one hour intervals

Time Interval	Changeovers
0630 - 0730	6
1000 - 1100	5
1100 - 1200	7
1600 - 1700	2
1630 - 1730	3
1800 - 1900	6

Nests are recognised by their approach paths. If a Noddy misses the nest it will circle and repeatedly approach from the same direction until the correct nest is found in the maze of relatively uniform *Pisonia* trees.

BEHAVIOUR AT NEST

On arrival at the nest, the mate may preen itself a few inches away before relieving the nesting bird. Nodding, allopreening and courtship feeding may occur at changeover which takes place over several minutes. However, once the egg is hatched changeover occurs directly and without ceremony. The former nester leaves and the chick is fed. For the first few days after hatching the nestling is constantly with one or other of the pair. The adult bird will stand on the rim of the nest and shield the juvenile from the sun. However, Cullen and Ashmole (1963) suggest that after the first few days the young is left in the nest by itself. Observations by W. Wyatt (pers. comm.) suggest that after the first couple of days Noddy chicks are too large to be taken by Reef Herons *Egretta sacra*. However, on days unsuitable for reef flat foraging, Reef Herons prey on young Noddy chicks. The fact that Noddies respond to Reef Herons with vigorous alarm calls, whereas they respond with silence to White-breasted Sea Eagles *Haliaeetus leucogaster*, suggests that they will defend the nest against Reef Herons and thus always

stay with the chick over this critical stage.

Some simple experiments were conducted to investigate the reactions of Noddies to eggs or chicks other than their own. Noddies accepted any chick or egg in place of, or in addition to, their own. On one occasion when an egg was replaced by a chick, the adult pecked the head of the chick but was readily appeased when the chick bent its head forward. The chick was then accepted under the wing of the nesting adult. The nest is the only site with which the adults appear concerned. If a chick falls from a nest it seems doomed.

The "personal" space defended by nesting Noddies seems to be about thirty centimetres in front of their heads but about ten centimetres in other directions. Although agonistic behaviour is common it does not seem as frequent as suggested by Cullen and Ashmole (1963) for Noddies on Ascension Island. On Ascension Island the Noddies nest on cliffs and nesting space seems to be at a premium. While many Noddies on Ascension attempted to breed in the overcrowded colony without success (Ashmole, 1962), the population on Heron Island does not appear to be affected in this way. Numerous potential nesting sites are unused in the *Pisonia* trees, where the birds mainly nest at Heron Island (Shipway, 1969). However, a small group of non-nesting birds could be found roosting in the casuarinas on the east side of the island day and night. Also contributing to a decrease in agonistic encounters at Heron Island is the opportunity for birds searching for their nests to land on undefended parts of branches, whereas on Ascension Island, all suitable ledges in a colony have nesting birds and there appear to be few undefended landing places.

DISPERSION OF NESTS

The dispersion of nests is governed by a number of factors:
(1) The nests are sited off the ground - the lowest nest seen was 1.2 metres from the ground. The mean height of two hundred and seven nests of ten trees in the centre of the National Park was 5.3 metres.
(2) Nests were found mainly in *Pisonia grandis* and *Ficus opposita* - the two most abundant trees. Notably, Noddies did not use *Casuarina equisetifolia* and *Pandanus pedunculatus* for nesting, though one *Pandanus* , in a thick grove of *Pisonia* with nests, was surprisingly found with some Noddies' nests in it. The structure of these trees is notably unsuitable for Noddy nests.
(3) Nests were located in trees, and parts of trees, most sheltered from the wind. Sometimes all nests were on the leeward side on an exposed tree. The highest nest was ten metres in a fifteen metre tree but a five metre tree, sheltered amidst the taller trees, had its highest nest at four metres. Shelter from sun appeared unimportant as many nests were exposed to the sun for much of the day.

(4) Nests in substantial open forks tend to be prone to predation by Reef Herons (W. Wyatt, pers. comm.) and thus these sites may be avoided to some extent.
(5) Nests were located in close proximity to other nests. Mean distance to closest nest in a five metre *Ficus* with twelve nests was fifty centimetres. They may be as close as 12.7 centimetres apart. However, in one aberrant case the nest was fourteen metres from its closest neighbour.

AVAILABILITY OF NEST SITES

The establishment of a Resort and Research Station has resulted in a decrease in the density of trees in these man disturbed areas. The wider spacing of trees has made the trees more exposed to wind which tends to decrease the height attained by *Pisonia*. The mean height of ten *Pisonia* in the research station area was 7.6 metres compared with 11.9 metres in the National Park. Thus the increased wind exposure resulted in a mean of 11.1 nests for the ten trees in the research station area and 20.7 in the National Park. Although man has caused a considerable decrease in the number of suitable nesting trees on the island, the population is not saturating the breeding sites available, at least in the present season.

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THE SOUTHERN EMU-WREN IN SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND

CHRIS CORBEN

INTRODUCTION

On 1 April 1972, Glen Ingram, Robert Raven and myself were searching for Ground Parrots *Pezoporous wallicus* in the flat heathland at the northern extremity of the Noosa Plain, Cooloola. The vegetation consisted of 'wallum heath' with rather sparse plant cover except for thickets up to two thirds of a metre high, particularly of *Banksia robur* and *B. oblongifolia*. The area concerning us here was in the form of a triangle, bounded on one side by a dirt road, on another by an area of recently burnt 'wallum heath' and on the third side by a swampy area. This swampy area contained much thick vegetation, consisting largely of rushes, a fern *Gleichenia* sp., and the tall sedge *Gahnia sieberi*. This vegetation was often up to two metres tall and, for the purposes of pursuing small birds, virtually impenetrable. The whole area is adjacent to a small log bridge (26°03'23"S, 153°02'19"E) which is 1.7 kilometres from Coop's Corner on the road to Teewah Creek.

OBSERVATIONS

In the rapidly failing light of the late afternoon, we were leaving the area when a small bird was flushed. The light was too poor to note any colouring but the bird immediately aroused interest. Its flight was not undulating but very direct and low. It appeared very small in the body, and seemed to have an insectival frailty about it. The most significant feature was the tail. In flight this appeared very long and slender, and streamed out, more or less horizontally behind the bird. I was strongly reminded of the Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*, a bird with which I am familiar, having often watched it in southern Victoria.

Attempts to re-flush this individual failed at first, but eventually succeeded on two occasions. By this time the light was too poor for continuation of the search to be worthwhile. The two later observations strongly reinforced the original impressions, though colour was never discerned. At this stage I was convinced we had been watching emu-wrens.

In the early hours of the following morning we spent about two hours traversing the area of the original sighting. In this

period several more sightings were obtained. The form of the tail was seen well and the colouring of the upperparts noted, particularly by Glen, who commented on the *"Cisticola-* like patterning" of the back. Glen also observed them running along the ground only a short distance in front of him. On one occasion two birds were flushed simultaneously, but other sightings were of single birds. We gained the impression that there were about four emu-wrens in the vicinity. Searches in similar habitat nearby failed to produce any evidence of the species.

Two weeks later, on 15 April, Greg Roberts and I were in the same area. Extensive searching resulted in only one emu-wren being seen. It appeared to be immature, with irregular pale patches evident on the wings.

From these two trips our observations can be summarised as follows. The birds under discussion appeared notably smaller in body size than Red-backed Wrens *Malurus melanocephalus* but had proportionately longer tails. The tail seemed very slender and insubstantial - a characteristic of the genus *Stipiturus*. Colouring was not at all well seen, but the upperparts showed the blackish streaking on a brownish background, so typical of the Southern Emu-wren. The birds made every effort to remain concealed. When flushed they would fly only a short distance before landing, and then run along the ground. Unless the observer was very quick to reach the spot where it had landed, a great deal of effort was necessary to put the bird to flight again. Generally, they were flushed from the plain and flew back towards the thick vegetation along the swamp. Once they had reached this refuge there was no chance of seeing them again.

On 29 November 1972, I received a letter from David Gravatt in which he told me of seeing, on 24 October 1972, a bird which he is "convinced was an Emu-wren", about four hundred metres east of the original sighting. He comments that "its flight posture was different from any other species in the area" and also mentions how his bird flew from the short 'heath' towards denser vegetation "in a wetter area".

During a more recent trip to the area, David Gravatt (pers. comm.) obtained a good view of one of the birds. At 1800 hours on 10 February 1973 he saw an emu-wren and a flock of Red-backed Wrens in the same area as the original sightings. This time the emu-wren was perched up in a *Ghania seiberi* about forty metres west south-west of the log bridge. It was perched within fifty centimetres of a female Red-backed Wren, allowing a comparison to be made between the frontal aspect of each bird. From a distance of about twenty metres using 9x35 binoculars he was able to see clearly the unmistakeable tail of the emu-wren. Both birds had a pale coloured throat and breast but the grey tonings of the Red-backed Wren contrasted with the brown tonings of the emu-wren.

DISCUSSION

From the above observations and previous experience of *Stipiturus malachurus*, there is no doubt in my mind as to the presence on the Noosa Plain of at least one small colony of emu-wrens. While it would be natural to assume that the species is *S. malachurus*, on the present evidence it would be rash to state that this population belongs to that species. We intend to carry out further investigations of this population in the near future.

There is little to suggest that emu-wrens have been recorded previously from south-east Queensland. It is worthy of note, however, that Cayley (1949) gives the distribution of *S. malachurus* as extending north to about Beerwah (26°52'S, 152°59'E). I have been unable, as yet, to discover the basis for this. McGill (1970) gives its northern limit as just south of the New South Wales and Queensland border. If this is the case, our records represent an extension of range of over three hundred kilometres. In the Queensland museum there are three unlabelled specimens of unknown origin.

It is of particular interest that emu-wrens should be found at Cooloola. Assuming that the population belongs to, or is at least derived from *S. m. richmondi* in northern New South Wales, it seems surprising that the species has not been reported from similar localities along the coast of southern Queensland. This suggests that the Cooloola population may be a very small relict. That we were unable to locate further emu-wrens in similar adjacent areas suggests that this small population may be very selective about their habitat. In view of the changing pattern of wallum heathland which burns periodically, this population probably requires a large area of plain in order to survive. Vast areas of such habitat have already been destroyed and various forms of land use are rapidly encroaching on the remaining areas. So far the Noosa Plain has remained virtually untouched. Damage to it may mean the extinction of emu-wrens in Queensland.

I gratefully acknowledge the assistance given to me by Messrs R. Elks, D. Gravatt, and A. Hiller.

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TURQUOISE PARROT AT COOLOOLA

DAVID GRAVATT

While mist netting and banding birds for the Australian Bird Banding Scheme at Teewah Creek in the Cooloola area on 15 August 1972, an immature male Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella* was caught, photographed and released unbanded. Only one inner wing covert was red.

On two separate occasions after this a single bird (possibly the same individual) was flushed in the same area, once by myself and once by Keith Taylor. On both occasions the bird flew to perch in a nearby Scribbly Gum *Eucalyptus signata*. Two days after the original sighting Keith Taylor found a few very weathered feathers and bones of a Turquoise Parrot about two kilometres to the north-west. Most of the red inner wing coverts remained, showing that the bird had been an adult male.

The exact location of the live bird was the south-east bank of Teewah Creek fifty metres from the left hand side of the road about seventy-five metres past the Teewah Creek bridge on the way from Coop's Corner to Lake Cooloomera (26°03'20"S, 153°02'32"E). The area is one of open shrub woodland dominated by *Banksia aemula* trees growing to about five metres. There are occasional eucalypts, being either *Eucalyptus umbra* (Bastard Mahogany) or small *E. signata*. The understorey is sparse, with some *Leptospermum*, while the ground cover consists of a variety of herbs growing to a height of half a metre on sand.

Forshaw (1969) notes that "Little is known of the present distribution of *N. pulchella* in Queensland. It formerly ranged north to the Suttor River district, but all recent records have been from south of Gayndah." Most Queensland records are from the granite belt. I have been unable to find any published records of this species near the coast in south-east Queensland, although the Queensland Museum holds a specimen from Esk, in the Brisbane Valley. I am unaware of any previous records of this species in the Cooloola area.

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A YELLOW SCALY-BREASTED LORIKEET

PETER DAWSON

One morning early in November 1972, my son called to me excitedly, "What's this yellow bird on the feeder, Dad?" I went out with my 8x binoculars and found a bright yellow Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus* feeding with normally coloured individuals of his own species and Rainbow Lorikeets *T. haematodus*. The bird was bright yellow with very faint bars of dark green (appearing blackish) on the wings. Its red beak did not appear as bright as normal. I was unable to photograph the bird but several other observers saw it on the one day that it stayed in the locality.

The subject of plumage colouration is reviewed by Voitkevich (1966). Most green colouring of feathers is produced by a yellow pigment overlying a structural blue colour. There is no blue pigment in the feathers. Blue is purely a structural effect dependent on the fine, colourless framework of the feather barbs which scatter the light (see also Rawles, 1960). This appearance of blue, known as the Tyndall affect, may easily be masked by reflected white light. The presence of black melanin pigment in the central portion of the barb allows unreflected white light to be absorbed and thus prevents it from interfering with the visibility of the scattered blue fraction. Variations in the intensity of blue depend largely upon the number and position of the melanocytes. The yellow colour, which in combination with Tyndall blue produces green, is due to the presence of a pigment, usually a carotenoid, in the cuticle which covers the blue-reflecting layer (Mason, 1923).

In the Budgerygah *Melopsittacus undulatus*, blue and yellow varieties have a genetical basis (Fox and Vevers, 1960). Wild Budgerygahs are green, but one recessive gene prevents the accumulation of yellow pigment in the feathers, and this gives blue birds. Other genes block melanin formation, and so the scattered light is not seen, making the birds yellow. This is the most likely explanation for the observed yellow lorikeet. In *Trichoglossus flavicans* of Pacific Islands, the wing feathers are usually bright green but in some localities this colour is olive or dull yellowish-green and, according to Mayr (Fox and Vevers, 1960), this seems to be caused by a thickening of the yellow screen. It is unlikely that this mechanism could produce the bright yellow of the Scaly-breasted Lorikeet that I saw.

I would like to thank David Gravatt for drawing my attention to the literature on this subject.

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NESTS OF THE RED WATTLE-BIRD

MERLE BALDWIN

INTRODUCTION

I have studied the Red Wattle-bird *Anthochaera carunculata* for eleven years in the Inverell district of northern New South Wales. Here the species is a blossom nomad from January to May. Numbers increase in winter and nesting occurs from July to December. The size of nesting territories vary from fifty to two hundred metres in diameter.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

All the nests that I have examined during the study period have had three distinct parts.

1. A concave SUBSTRUCTURE
2. A CUP built in the hollow of the substructure
3. A soft LINING

The nest is supported by several lateral twigs near the end of a leafy branch. Mistletoe clumps provide an alternative site. Nest heights vary from 2.5 to 17.5 metres above the ground.

From the design of the nests it appears that the birds can separate angled, curved and straight twigs, and are aware of their qualities as building materials.

A NEST IN DETAIL

This nest began with a few slightly curved twigs of Crepe Myrtle *Lagerstroemia* sp. arranged upon three laterals. The many side stems meshed, holding the twigs together. Twenty-seven dry sprigs each with a near right angled fork or curve near the base were pushed down past the primary twigs and moved about until the forks hooked under the laterals, clinching the nest to the branch. The sprigs were kept erect by lacing them with more twigs. The forked pieces crossing at the base of the sub-structure were tied to each other and to the laterals with fine bark, cotton threads and plastic strips. Six tight twists of thread held two of the twigs together.

A cup made of naturally curved twigs interlocking with a few vertical pieces was woven around in the hollow of the sub-structure. Tough, pliant branchlets of *Kunzea* added strength to the frame which prior to this could be pulled apart easily. In fact, an Apostle-bird *Struthidea cinerea* which appeared annoyed by the proximity of a particular Red Wattle-bird's nest, threw away the lining then tweaked out the *Kunzea*, allowing the nest to collapse.

The cup had a lining twelve millimetres thick of strips of a stringybark *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* stiffened with fine upright twigs. At the base was felted wool, bark and feathers to a depth of twenty millimetres. The Crepe Myrtle twigs were plucked from a tree 150 metres from the nest; *Kunzea* was brought 400 metres. A variety of shrubs grew close by but none were as angular as *Lagerstroemia;* none so fine and tough as *Kunzea*.

MEASUREMENTS

Diameter - overall, 230mm; inside cup, 100mm.
Width - stick rim, 50mm; bark lining 12mm.
Depth - outside, 125mm; inside cup, 62mm; woolen lining, 20mm.

SUBSTRUCTURE

Uprights

17 pieces Crepe Myrtle, 90mm to 120mm. Length of right-angled forks at base, 20mm to 50mm. Diameter largest twig, 2mm.
1 piece angled root, 80mm.
2 pieces twisted creeper, 160mm, 400mm.
7 pieces *Kunzea*, 100mm to 220mm.

Interlacing twigs

24 pieces slightly curved Crepe Myrtle, 90mm to 290mm.

4 pieces *Kunzea*, 100mm to 200mm.
1 piece root, 180mm.
1 grass stem, 35mm.

Threads

16 cotton threads from towels, 15mm to 310mm.
4 fine strips bark, 100mm to 150mm.
2 narrow strips plastic, 260mm, 420mm.

CUP

11 pieces curved Crepe Myrtle, 75mm to 140mm.
80 pieces *Kunzea*, 90mm to 235mm.
2 pieces creeper, 100mm, 175mm.
1 piece fine root, 200mm.
2 pieces grass stem, 170mm, 295mm.
6 pieces fine bark, 110mm to 290mm.

LINING

98 pieces stringybark, 56mm to 260mm; mere threads to 7mm wide.
31 pieces fine *Kunzea*, 50mm to 80mm.
5 unidentified fine circular stems, 80mm to 140mm.
6 pieces fine grass stem, 54mm to 296mm.
1 root, 63mm.
The base was lined with fine threads of bark, tufts of wool and 10 brood patch feathers.

A SECOND NEST

The substructure of a second nest, hastily built by a second pair of Red Wattle-birds, rested across a horizontal fork in an *Angophora* which also provided twigs with many laterals in the form of whorls, right-angles and fans to fix the nest to the limb. One egg was laid and the cup gradually built up around it during the incubation period. There was a thin lining of fine grass with scraps of wool and wisps of bark. After a sudden heavy shower, the wet lining was discarded and the sodden chick stood out on the rim to dry.

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A SURVEY OF MOVEMENTS OF MIGRANT SPECIES, 1972

QUEENSLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The following notes are compiled from data obtained in response to a questionnaire posted to members of The Queensland Ornithological Society. Respondents were requested to supply dates and locations of their first records of migrant species for the 1972-1973 summer. Sightings detailed in survey returns are listed below in chronological order; the latitude and longitude of each location are given only once, when that location is first listed.

Unfortunately, the amount of data obtained was not sufficient to show any clear pattern of movement of species; also, returns were obtained from only a relatively small range of latitude. The species for which most data were obtained were Pallid Cuckoo, Koel, Channel-billed Cuckoo, and Dollar-bird, and the dates of first sightings for these birds in relation to latitude are shown graphically in Figure 1. The survey method used has a number of limitations which these illustrations serve in part to emphasize. Obviously the sightings should not be considered to represent accurately the dates when these species first moved into the respective areas; rather, they represent a group of sightings made more or less at random not long after the arrival of significant numbers of each species.

In three of the four plots presented in Figure 1, it appears that there is a significant increase in the number of sightings subsequent to a certain point in time, which may represent the period when the main influx of birds commenced. For Channel-billed Cuckoo, Koel, and Dollar-bird, sightings increase markedly after mid-September. On the other hand, records of Pallid Cuckoo are widely spaced in time, and give little indication of any definite migration; this may be due to the very small amount of data presented, but could also reflect a more gradual movement of this species, or a less clearly defined pattern of migration.

Other factors should be taken into account in relation to the sightings in general. A number of records may represent the dates when species first commenced to call, rather than when they first moved into an area. Other records probably reflect sporadic movements in relation to food supply or factors other than a definite migration; because of the paucity of information currently available on the movements of many of these species

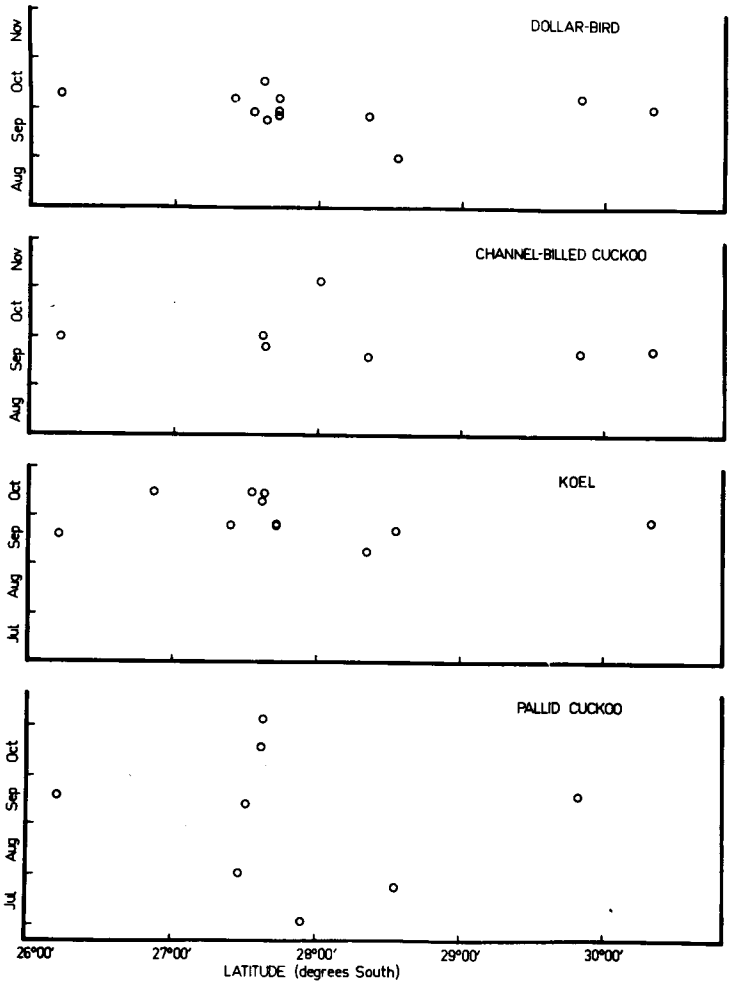

Figure 1. Dates of first sightings of migrant species in relation to latitude.

it has been expedient merely to present all data, without attempting to differentiate between migratory movements and nomadic ones.

RECORDS OF MIGRANT ARRIVALS

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*
4 Nov 72 Pittsworth area 27°43'S,151°38'E J.Walter

Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*
2 Jul 72 Gleneagle 27°54'S,153°00'E P.Dawson
23 Jul 72 Granite Belt 28°33'S,151°57'E E.L.Greenup
1 Aug 72 Brisbane 27°28'S,153°01'E N.Hopkins
13 Sep 72 Cleveland 27°31'S,153°17'E G.Roberts
18 Sep 72 Gympie 26°13'S,152°41'E
21 Sep 72 Gigai 29°50'S,151°10'E M.Baldwin
18 Oct 72 Goodna area 27°37'S,152°54'E R.J.Hadley
4 Nov 72 Blenheim 27°38'S,152°20'E R.F.Thornton

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*
6 Oct 72 Coffs Harbour 30°20'S,153°10'E P.Roberts
11 Oct 72 Murwillumbah 28°21'S,153°30'E E.K.Pratt
21 Oct 72 Logan Reserve 27°43'S,153°07'E P.Dawson
31 Oct 72 Pittsworth area B.Temple Watts

Fantailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis pyrrhophanus*
4 Aug 72 Pittsworth area B.Temple Watts

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*
10 Oct 72 Pittsworth area J.Walter

Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis*
9 Aug 72 Gilgai M.Baldwin
1 Nov 72 Pittsworth area B.Temple Watts

Golden Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx plagosus*
7 Aug 72 Pittsworth area B.Temple Watts

Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*
8 Sep 72 Murwillumbah E.K.Pratt
18 Sep 72 Gympie
21 Sep 72 Granite Belt E.L.Greenup
24 Sep 72 Camp Mountain 27°24'S,152°52'E N.Hopkins
24 Sep 72 Logan Reserve P.Dawson
25 Sep 72 Logan Reserve I.S.Reynolds
27 Sep 72 Coffs Harbour P.Roberts
9 Oct 72 Goodna area R.J.Hadley
14 Oct 72 Blenheim R.F.Thornton
15 Oct 72 Toowoomba 27°33'S,151°56'E N.McKilligan
15 Oct 72 Beerwah 26°52'S,152°58'E G.Roberts
10 Dec 72 Pittsworth area B.Temple Watts

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

18 Sep 72	Murwillumbah	E.K.Pratt
21 Sep 72	Gilgai	M.Baldwin
23 Sep 72	Coffs Harbour	P.Roberts
24 Sep 72	Blenheim	R.F.Thornton
30 Sep 72	Laidley	27°38'S,152°24'E	G.Roberts
30 Sep 72	Gympie	
1 Oct 72	Goodna area	R.J.Hadley
5 Nov 72	Canungra	28°01'S,153°10'E	P.Dawson
31 Jan 73	Pittsworth area	B.Temple Watts

Spine-tailed Swift *Hirundapus caudacutus*

23 Sep 72	Logan Reserve	I.S.Reynolds
6 Oct 72	Murwillumbah	E.K.Pratt
11 Oct 72	Coffs Harbour	P.Roberts
12 Oct 72	Brisbane	P.Dawson
21 Oct 72	Gympie	
11 Nov 72	Blenheim	R.F.Thornton

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

28 Dec 72	Pittsworth area	B.Temple Watts

Forest Kingfisher *Halcyon macleayii*

9 Oct 72	Gympie	

Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*

25 Aug 72	Gilgai	M.Baldwin
28 Aug 72	Murwillumbah	E.K.Pratt
27 Sep 72	Pittsworth area	B.Temple Watts
29 Sep 72	Logan Reserve	I.S.Reynolds
18 Oct 72	Goodna area	R.J.Hadley

Dollar-bird *Eurystomus orientalis*

1 Sep 72	Granite Belt	E.L.Greenup
24 Sep 72	Blenheim	R.F.Thornton
27 Sep 72	Murwillumbah	E.K.Pratt
27 Sep 72	Logan Reserve	I.S.Reynolds
29 Sep 72	Toowoomba	N.McKilligan
30 Sep 72	Logan Reserve	P.D.Dawson
2 Oct 72	Coffs Harbour	P.Roberts
7 Oct 72	Pittsworth area	B.Temple Watts
7 Oct 72	Lytton 27°25'S,153°08'E	G.Roberts
8 Oct 72	Gilgai	M.Baldwin
9 Oct 72	Gympie	
18 Oct 72	Goodna area	R.J.Hadley

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*

28 Aug 72	Pittsworth area	B.Temple Watts
16 Oct 72	Kilkoy 26°57'S,152°34'E	G.Roberts
16 Oct 72	Blenheim	R.F.Thornton

Cicada-bird *Edoliisoma tenuirostre*
7 Oct 72 Laidley G.Roberts
10 Oct 72 Coffs Harbour P.Roberts
14 Oct 72 Blenheim R.F.Thornton
19 Oct 72 Murwillumbah E.K.Pratt
22 Oct 72 Logan Reserve I.S.Reynolds
22 Oct 72 Logan Reserve P.D.Dawson
2 Nov 72 Gilgai M.Baldwin

White-throated Warbler *Gerygone olivacea*
13 Aug 72 Goodna area R.J.Hadley

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*
17 Sep 72 Maleny 26°46'S,152°51'E G.Roberts
11 Nov 72 Blenheim R.F.Thornton

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*
9 Sep 72 Redland Bay 27°37'S,153°18'E G.Roberts
21 Sep 72 Brisbane N.Hopkins
1 Oct 72 Murwillumbah E.K.Pratt

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*
24 Sep 72 Blenheim R.F.Thornton

Black-faced Flycatcher *Monarcha melanopsis*
15 Oct 72 Landsborough 26°49'S,152°58'E G.Roberts
18 Oct 72 Goodna area R.J.Hadley

Spectacled Flycatcher *Monarcha trivirgata*
16 Sep 72 Maleny G.Roberts

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*
9 Sep 72 Pittsworth area B.Temple Watts

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*
1 Aug 72 Gympie
23 Sep 72 Murwillumbah E.K.Pratt
17 Nov 72 Pittsworth area J.Walter

MIGRANT DEPARTURES

The following information refers to migrant species departing from the Murwillumbah area after winter, 1972 (data from E.K. Pratt, Reserve Creek, Murwillumbah, NSW 2484)

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea:* late August
Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Meliphaga chrysops:* early September
Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis:* mid September
Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons:* late September
Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa:* early October

Compiled by MR D.L.PERKINS, Surveys Officer, Queensland Ornithological Society.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

THE AUSTRALIAN PELICAN

Mr W.J.M. Vestjens of CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research is preparing for publication his research on the Australian Pelican. Several gaps occur in knowledge of the species' breeding distribution, mainly in Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland.

Any of the following information would be helpful:

(a) place of colonies,
(b) date,
(c) presence of eggs or young.

If anyone has any information, or knows some other ornithologist who might be able to provide information, on breeding in Queensland or Northern Territory please write directly to Mr W.J.M. Vestjens, Division of Wildlife Research, CSIRO, P.O. Box 84, Lyneham, A.C.T. 2262.

NESTS OF HONEYEATERS IN COASTAL SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND

Honeyeaters living in coastal south-east Queensland appear to have very extended breeding "seasons" and often appear to nest at seemingly unusual times. I would be extremely grateful for any records of honeyeater nesting activity in the area although I am particularly interested in those from wallum or sclerophyll habitats. Species of particular interest are; Scarlet Honeyeater, White-throated Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Lewin Honeyeater, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Little Wattle-bird, Little Friar-bird, and Noisy Friar-bird. Of chief concern are the exact location, date and stage of activity, type of vegetation, position in vegetation and any notes on possible nectar sources nearby, *ie.*, whether surrounding plants such as eucalypts, banksias *etc.* were flowering at the time. The information will supplement other data being collected for thesis purposes and will be appropriately acknowledged.

David J. Gravatt, Zoology Department, University of Queensland, St Lucia, Queensland 4067.