

# SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RAOU NEST RECORD SCHEME

## INTRODUCTION

The number of cards returned for the 1979-80 season was significantly lower than the return for the previous season in two respects: the number of cards returned (3,250 v. 4,362) and the average return per contributor (26 v. 37). However, there were similar numbers of contributors in each season. This tends to suggest that there was a significant difference in nesting activity between the two seasons.

## PARTICIPATION

Between 1 July 1979 and 30 June 1980 forty-seven individuals joined the Scheme.

A total of one hundred and twenty individuals and five corporate bodies contributed to the scheme and these are listed in Table I. Cards were also received from Atlas camp-outs and the Eyre Observatory. The number of contributors this season has increased by eight since last season.

In the return of 3,250 cards, three-hundred and fifty were submitted for previous seasons and the totals have been altered accordingly. Totals for seven species were substantially increased by (number of cards in brackets);

K. Lowe	Sacred Ibis	(209)
B. Robertson	Pacific Gull	(67)
J. and P. Klapste	Little Raven	(59)
R. and M. Brown	Clamorous Reed Warbler	(39)
S. Marchant	Eastern Yellow Robin	(36)
R. and M. Brown	White-breasted Robin	(33)
K. Lowe	Royal Spoonbill	(28)

The return of cards from northern Australia has again substantially increased the number of species represented in the scheme. However, many more cards are needed from northern Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory to substantiate the collection. The larger contributions came from K. Lowe, 293 cards; R. and M. Brown,

TABLE I

Contributors to the Scheme for 1979-80  
(number of cards in brackets after name)

P. Allan (Vic.)	27	C. Gill (SA)	8	R. Noske (NSW)	36
R. Allomes, G. Weber (NSW)	55	A.M. Gilmore (Vic.)	5	G. Park (Vic.)	8
C. Ashton (SA)	7	P. Du Guesclin (Vic.)	15	J. Parry (Vic.)	4
Atlas	13	D. Haig (NSW)	19	P. Peake (Vic.)	8
D. Baker-Gabb (Vic.)	20	J. and P. Hall (NSW)	69	K. Perry (WA)	7
D. Bates (NSW)	17	L. Heinecke (SA)	20	Qld Orn. Soc (Qld)	37
H. Bell (NSW)	3	S. Henry (Vic.)	4	P. Reilly (Vic.)	10
G. Binns (Vic.)	8	T. Hertog, J. Estbergs (NT)	10	D. Roberts (Vic.)	16
C. Bird (Tas.)	9	R. Hoare (Tas.)	13	B. Robertson (Vic)	108
E. Birt (Qld)	16	M. Holdsworth (Tas.)	7	A. Rose (NSW)	36
E. Boehm (SA)	13	J. Houghton (NSW)	17	V. Routley (NSW)	57
M. Brooker (ACT)	8	M. Howard (WA)	11	E. Sedgwick (WA)	48
G. Brown (Vic.)	8	B. Howie (NSW)	21	M. Sharp (WA)	11
R. and M. Brown (WA)	247	V. Hubregste (Vic.)	2	M. Sinclair (NSW)	48
D. Byrne (Vic.)	26	D. Johnston (WA)	4	The Smiths (NSW)	104
C. Chick (SA)	113	J. Johnstone (Vic.)	12	A. Smyth (Qld)	2
D. Close (SA)	3	P. Kasper (Vic.)	3	H. Somerset (Vic.)	3
The Congreves (WA)	46	Kentish (Vic.)	29	SA Orn. Ass. (SA)	38
L. Conole (Vic.)	80	A. Kerle, M. Fleming (Vic.)	8	R. Stephens (Vic.)	21
R. Cooper (Tas.)	39	J. and P. Klapste (Vic.)	204	D. Stewart (Qld)	9
A. Corrick (Vic.)	36	W. Klau (WA)	9	J. Strudwick (Vic.)	2
R. Cox (NSW)	4	L. Kupke (NSW)	21	G. Surman (Qld)	3
F. Creer (NSW)	3	N. Kurtz (NSW)	22	M. Sympton (Vic.)	2
M. Crouther (Qld)	10	M. Lewis (Qld)	3	J. Tarr (NSW)	34
C. Crowe (NSW)	80	K. Lowe (Vic.)	293	P. Taylor (SA)	6
P. Dann (Vic.)	45	T. Lynam (WA)	7	G. Tirrell (Vic.)	3
S. Davies (WA)	8	S. Marchant (NSW)	125	B. Traill (Vic.)	14
A. Daw (WA)	6	Meandarra OFS Unit (Qld)	8	P. Tully (Vic.)	14
R. Draffan (Qld)	13	M. Miles (Qld)	10	L. Vernon (WA)	5
D. Drakes (WA)	10	D. Milledge (NSW)	4	VORG (Vic.)	56
R. Drummond (Vic.)	15	A. Morris (NSW)	29	L. Wall (Tas.)	6
P. Duncan (Vic.)	1	S. Morton (NSW)	5	L. and R. Waterman, D.	
M. Emmerson (Vic.)	12	J. McKean, W. Mason (NT)	143	Franklin, E. Bennet (NSW)	39
Eyre Observatory (WA)	25	B. Newbey (WA)	8	J. Whatman (ACT)	18
A. Fletcher (Tas.)	11	O. Newman (Tas.)	33	C. Wild (Vic.)	1
H. Ford (NSW)	15	NSW FOC. (NSW)	30	G. Wilson (NT)	10
D. Geering (NSW)	15			I. Wilson (WA)	4
B. Geddes (NSW)	37			J. Wren (Qld)	19
N. Gibson (Qld)	51			M. and B. Wright (SA)	27

TABLE II  
Species list of Nest Record Cards  
(only species with 200 or more cards)

	to 1978	1978-79	1979-80	TOTAL		to 1978	1978-79	1979-80	TOTAL
Australasian					Yellow-rumped				
Grebe	360	47	16	423	Thornbill	620	130	60	810
Little Penguin	274	15	10	299	Red Wattlebird	218	33	21	272
Sacred Ibis	59	108	214	381	Noisy Miner	228	43	12	283
Black Swan	337	17	19	373	Yellow-faced				
Australian Kestrel	200	14	19	233	Honeyeater	380	55	18	453
Eurasian Coot	194	42	22	258	White-plumed				
Masked Lapwing	1075	59	67	1201	Honeyeater	218	20	5	243
Banded Lapwing	285	19	12	316	New Holland				
Red-capped Plover	288	15	16	319	Honeyeater	291	36	51	378
Crested Pigeon	352	38	37	427	White-fronted Chat	231	19	20	270
Galah	187	33	15	235	Silvereye	408	27	25	460
Welcome Swallow	1309	136	103	1548	Red-browed Firetail	608	65	12	685
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	271	55	21	347	Zebra Finch	267	18	13	298
White-winged Triller	242	33	17	292	White-winged Chough	254	43	11	308
Eastern Yellow Robin	578	80	69	727	Australian Magpie-lark	650	99	66	815
Rufous Whistler	323	51	15	389	White-browed				
Grey Shrike-thrush	258	34	21	313	Woodswallow	398	29	32	459
Grey Fantail	623	102	31	756	Dusky Woodswallow	374	62	36	472
Willie Wagtail	1158	149	125	1432	Australian Magpie	687	140	67	894
Clamorous Reed-warbler	205	21	43	269	Little Raven	288	111	76	475
Superb Fairy-wren	662	90	48	800	Little Crow	196	4	0	200
Brown Thornbill	307	53	27	387	Blackbird	714	173	87	974
					European Goldfinch	470	29	9	508
					Common Starling	452	46	42	540

247; J. and P. Klapste, 204; and J. McKean and W. Mason, 143. All contributions increase the value of the Scheme's collection and all contributors are to be congratulated for their effort.

### RESULTS

The total number of cards in the collection is now 38,406 and the annual totals are as follows:

Pre-1964	917
1964-65	1602
1965-66	1640
1966-67	1786
1967-68	2414
1968-69	2407
1969-70	1600
1970-71	1679
1971-72	1921
1972-73	2117
1973-74	3638
1974-75	2605
1975-76	2193
1976-77	1840
1977-78	2835
1978-79	4312
1979-80	2900
	38,406

Five hundred and forty species are represented. Cards were received for eighteen species not previously represented: Orange-footed Scrubfowl (J. McKean); Chestnut-quilled

Rock-Pigeon (J. Kerle); Partridge Pigeon (H. Beste, J. Estbergs); Beach Thick-knee (J. McKean, W. Mason, R. Draffan); Pied Heron (J. McKean, A. Hertog); Eastern Grass Owl (J. McKean); Rainbow Lorikeet (P. Smith); Little Kingfisher (J. Estbergs, A. Hertog); Rainbow Pitta (J. Estbergs); White-browed Robin (G. Bladen); Grey Whistler (A. Hertog, J. Estbergs, J. McKean); Sandstone Shrike-thrush (J. McKean); Western Whipbird (H. Webster); Red-headed Honeyeater (J. McKean, W. Mason); Silver-crowned Friarbird (J. Estbergs, J. McKean); Masked Finch (R. Drummond); Victoria's Riflebird (M. Miles); Mallard (L. Conole, D. Haig).

During the year cards were borrowed by eighteen individuals. The level of use of the breeding information in the Scheme has been maintained over the last two seasons and attests to its usefulness. Membership has also been maintained over the last two seasons and it is hoped that more members will join after the Atlas of Australian Birds is completed. This solid core of observers has and will allow collection of sufficient cards for analysis and publication of nest-record data for several species.

After four years as organizer of the Scheme Peter Dann has passed the Scheme into my hands. Under his skillful guidance the Scheme has flourished; membership and use of data in the Scheme has doubled. This was due to Peter's pleasant manner and infectious enthusiasm. I am sure all contributors would join me in thanking Peter for his splendid effort. I would also like to thank Margaret Blakers for her help and acknowledge the invaluable voluntary assistance of Kaye MacRae and Jack Jones.