

(7) The advantages, to a burrow-nesting bird, of bringing the young to a self-reliant stage underground, are obvious, and parallels may be found in unrelated species such as the petrels (*Puffinus* spp.).

(8) The parents are in attendance at least for a short period after fledging, and accompany the young, keeping them close by urgent calling.

From the lack of response to man's presence, this species of pardalote seems a tenacious bird once the site has been selected, although I have found nests deserted where cave-ins allowed light to penetrate to the nest cavity. The usual site is a steep bank along water-courses or in road cuttings. Great agitation was observed on one occasion when a domestic cat came close to the burrow, and both birds called loudly and urgently from the wires. Despite the lack of variance in the call notes, the birds could lend intense urgency to calls on suitable occasions, sufficient to draw my attention. In the field, I have never observed more than two or three of this species in one area, and they are most commonly encountered singly in the extreme outer tips of the foliage of eucalypts. The maximum clutch number I have recorded in any one nest is three.

## Notes from Noosa Heads, Queensland

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In late November and early December 1959 I spent a fortnight at Tewantin, Queensland, near Noosa Heads, the scene of the 1958 R.A.O.U. Camp-out. Unfortunately *The Emu* containing the account of the birds in the area did not reach me until my return to Warwick: it would have been of great value to have been able to check up on the birds listed at the Camp-out. I was particularly disappointed in missing the Beach Stone-curlew. When comparing notes with Roy Wheeler's report of 'The R.A.O.U. Camp-out at Noosa Heads, Queensland, 1958', in volume 59, part 4, pages 229-249, I find there are several points which may be of interest to those who were at the Camp-out.

On November 27, I found the nest of a Shining Flycatcher (*Piezorhynchus alecto*) containing three newly-hatched young, on a small mangrove island near the entrance to Lake Cooroibah. The male bird was in attendance. The nest was in the vertical fork of a small mangrove about 30 inches from the ground. When the island was next visited by me, on December 10, the nest was empty and there was no sign of the birds.

On December 1, a female was observed for some time in the process of constructing a new nest placed in a small mangrove at the height of about 42 inches and at the junc-

tion of a vertical twig and a small horizontal branch. This nest was on another small mangrove island on the opposite side of Lake Cooroibah. I did not visit this area again.

On December 6 a nest containing two eggs with a female sitting was found on another small mangrove island at Noosaville, about 50 yards from the shore. This nest was placed in a similar situation to the other two nests and at much the same height from the ground.

No other birds of this species were observed, and it is perhaps significant that the only birds seen were located in the proximity of their nests. This tends to emphasize the wariness of the species. The only male bird seen 'called' briefly—not unlike the call of the Leaden Flycatcher. The female, while engaged in nest-building, uttered, a number of times, a peculiar sound like the croaking of a frog. All nests were of similar construction.

Mangrove Bitterns (*Butorides striata*) were plentiful and during my inspections of mangrove areas between November 27 and December 10 I located five nests. Three of these contained young birds, in each case three per nest; another nest contained two eggs, and a fifth a single egg.

The birds chose, as nesting sites, thin horizontal branches of slender mangroves at heights of between 9 and 12 feet. In every case nests were located in fairly dense thickets of mangroves and not over water, although one nest would have been over water at high tide only.

The Black Bittern (*Dupetor flavicollis*) was not recorded at the Camp-out. These birds were present amongst the mangroves although only one bird was seen. It was sitting on a clutch of three eggs, but quickly disappeared as my boat went past. Another nest of three white eggs was also located, but the adults were not seen. Both nests were placed amongst the outer branches of large mangroves and well out over the water.

Very few Little Terns (*Sterna albifrons*) were seen at Noosa, and they were certainly breeding on the 'green-topped' sandbank again and elsewhere about the mouth of the Noosa River. However, quite a strong colony of these birds (approximately 1,000) was noted on a sand-spit at the mouth of the Maroochy River about 10 to 15 miles south of Noosa. Some 30 to 40 pairs were still nesting, nests containing one or two eggs, and some with young.

Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) were again nesting in the sand-hills at the mouth of the Noosa River, and a dozen or so nests, with one or two eggs each, were seen.