

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RAOU NEST RECORD SCHEME

As is known, it was necessary to change the organization of the scheme in the middle of 1969, and this report is my last before finalizing matters and handing them over to Mr D. G. Thomas. It covers the 1968-69 recording season and, as usual, is prepared probably before returns are complete, though I estimate that at the time of writing more than 95% of completed cards have been sent in.

PARTICIPATION

Since 1 July 1968 the following twenty-four individuals and two corporate bodies have joined the scheme:

B. N. Angel (Mrs) (Tas.)	D. R. Milledge (Tas.)
M. Carins (ACT)	S. A. Parker (NT)
G. Chenall (NSW)	H. F. Recher (NSW)
G. S. Clark (ACT)	J. Richards (Vic.)
M. Clayton (ACT)	P. E. Roberts (NSW)
C. Green (ACT)	M. Spinaze (Miss) (NSW)
A. J. Hartup (Vic.)	G. W. Swainson (Vic.)
J. G. Holman (Vic.)	S. Temple Watts (Q)
G. Holmes (NSW)	J. M. Truran (Vic.)
P. Jackson (Vic.)	F. R. Vasey (Mrs) (Vic.)
J. W. Johnstone (Mrs) (Vic.)	F. Warren (Miss) (Tas.)
B. J. Knight (NSW)	Bird Observers Club
J. M. Low (NSW)	Portland FNC

This was a better rate of recruitment than in other years, and was probably encouraged by some advertisement of the scheme, particularly at Congress 1968. It also benefited the scheme financially so that it was not necessary to ask for funds direct from the Union, as had been expected a year ago. The scheme had somewhat more money on hand at the end of the period than at the beginning.

In total, 104 individuals and four corporate bodies are now official participants. Sunraysia FNC has unfortunately been obliged to drop out. As may be realized from the above list of recruits, representation remains dominantly in south-eastern Australia. One can only again appeal for help from Queensland, Western Australia and all parts of central and northern Australia.

A total of 2,317 cards for 1968-69, plus a number of cards for earlier seasons, was returned by thirty-nine individuals and the VORG/BOC combination organized by D. Bowrey. However many other people have also taken part either by helping participants or by contributing through the co-operative effort of VORG and BOC. In fact some of these anonymous helpers (e.g. Barry Baker and Teda Sears) continue to provide extremely valuable records. Thus active participation remains steady from the previous season, and the same individuals (e.g. Mrs C. Crowe, B. L. Doecke, L. C. Heinecke, J. N. Hobbs, F. E. Jones, L. Nielsen, Mrs J. B. Paton, E. B. Thomas, VORG/BOC, J. R. Wheeler) tend again to be the major contributors, with C. Green and G. W. Swainson as prominent newcomers. However everyone who has contributed completed cards is to be congratulated and thanked for his or her continued support, which is gradually providing a respectable corpus of information. Table I lists the contributions for the year.

TABLE I

Contributors to the scheme for 1968-69
(Number of cards contributed in brackets after name)

P. & R. Balmford (17)	Mrs H. N. Laybourne Smith (16)
Mrs C. Bevege (27)	S. Marchant (314)
Mrs C. Bigg (38)	R. J. Martin (16)
J. Bywater (20)	D. R. Milledge (5)
M. Clayton (63)	A. Morris (10)
Mrs C. C. Crowe (48)	L. Nielsen (207)
D. H. Davidson (5)	Mrs J. B. Paton (69)
D. F. Dorward (8)	M. Ridpath (1)
B. L. Doecke (35)	I. C. R. Rowley (15)
Mrs P. J. Foster (18)	E. R. Seymour (2)
Mrs A. Grant (6)	A. Stokes (28)
C. Green (125)	G. W. Swainson (64)
T. H. Guthrie (2)	D. G. Thomas (11)
F. M. Hamilton (17)	E. B. Thomas (127)
L. C. Heinecke (132)	VORG/BOC (347)
J. N. Hobbs (147)	L. E. Wall (26)
G. Holmes (11)	Miss F. E. Warren (7)
Mrs J. W. Johnstone (51)	N. Weatherill (27)
F. E. Jones (40)	J. R. Wheeler (146)
B. J. Knight (47)	
S. G. Lane (22)	

RESULTS

The total number of completed cards in the scheme is now 10,308, divided as follows:

pre-1964	606
1964-65	1,584
1965-66	1,633
1966-67	1,785
1967-68	2,383
1968-69	2,317

These represent 435 species of Australian, New Guinean and introduced birds, giving an average of 23.5 cards per species. As for last year, only 96 species exceed the average. In accordance with previous practice only those species with substantial totals (>50) are listed in Table II. Scientific names are omitted for reasons of space, and the common names are those of the 1926 RAOU Checklist.

This year 52 species qualify for inclusion in Table II. The Whistling Eagle has dropped out, while the Fairy Penguin, Little Grebe, Tawny Frogmouth and Superb Lyrebird have come in. Broadly there has been very little change in the pattern set last year; cards for all the species in the Table have been added in similar proportions, with the commoner or more easily observed species benefiting most. However for the first time the annual intake for the Spur-winged Plover has dropped below 100. The Fairy Penguin replaced it as the most recorded species and the only one with more than 100 records for the year. This was because of large contributions by VORG from Phillip Island and by Barry Baker from Montague Island. Almost as spectacular was the advance of the Superb Lyrebird, again contributed by VORG, from Sherbrooke Forest, but entirely for years before

1966. Two other contributions of 10 records each for the Noisy Pitta and the Bell Miner by L. Nielsen and G. W. Swainson respectively deserve special mention, because very few cards have ever been received for these species. There are now three species with more than 300 cards in total, four with more than 200 and 16 with more than 100. About three quarters of the cards returned for the season were for passerines, and if it had not been for the Fairy Penguin cards recording among seabirds would have been as poor as it usually is. J. R. Wheeler and VORG were almost the only contributors to return such records.

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21 September 1969.

Geographical representation was dominantly from south-eastern areas and calls for little comment. However most interesting and valuable records were provided by C. Green and R. Buckingham (BOC) from the Canberra and Melbourne Botanical Gardens respectively. Those from Melbourne particularly demonstrate how much really useful information can be collected in even urban surroundings. The species concerned may be introduced or very common, but the records of their nests are badly wanted, and the nests themselves can, of course, often be followed rather closely in such places. That enhances the value of the cards greatly.

TABLE II

Species list of Nest Record Cards (only species with 50+ cards)

	to 1967	1967-68	1968-69	Total		to 1967	1967-68	1968-69	Total
Fairy Penguin	13	6	103	122	Brown Thornbill	39	11	19	69
Crested Pigeon	55	63	37	155	Buff-tailed Thornbill	35	26	12	73
Little Grebe	27	12	18	57	Yellow-tailed Thornbill	69	69	57	195
Silver Gull	50	6	9	65	Reed Warbler	58	16	6	80
Spur-winged Plover	621	105	52	778	Superb Blue Wren	112	76	72	260
Banded Plover	104	10	30	144	White-browed Woodswallow	56	31	11	98
Red-capped Dotterel	100	60	13	173	Dusky Woodswallow	81	32	27	140
Black Duck	55	8	6	69	Silvereye	73	41	44	158
Tawny Frogmouth	31	10	13	54	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	63	33	25	121
Laughing Kookaburra	43	14	11	68	White-plumed Honeyeater	39	20	7	66
Superb Lyrebird	57	6	9	72	Yellow-winged Honeyeater	56	22	10	88
Welcome Swallow	179	61	69	309	Noisy Miner	32	28	13	73
Fairy Martin	46	17	5	68	Little Wattlebird	30	15	5	50
Grey Fantail	117	62	55	234	Red Wattlebird	23	23	9	55
Willie Wagtail	169	92	83	344	Noisy Friarbird	25	17	14	56
Leaden Flycatcher	29	15	8	52	Zebra Finch	29	19	21	69
Southern Yellow Robin	88	27	44	159	Banded Finch	44	13	21	78
Golden Whistler	37	13	13	63	Red-browed Finch	46	25	55	126
Rufous Whistler	69	32	41	142	Little Raven	10	45	28	83
Grey Shrike-Thrush	35	13	24	72	White-winged Chough	27	23	37	87
Magpie-Lark	95	74	83	252	Black-backed Magpie	44	46	53	143
Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike	53	13	31	97	White-backed Magpie	35	53	32	120
White-winged Triller	52	19	16	87	Blackbird	56	26	76	158
White-fronted Chat	58	17	19	94	House Sparrow	15	36	16	67
White-throated Warbler	47	33	29	109	Goldfinch	164	35	33	232
Brown Weebill	22	31	5	58	Starling	35	56	27	118

NOTICES

THE RING'S INDEX ORNITHOLOGORUM

The editor of the International Ornithological Bulletin THE RING proposes to publish an Index Ornithologorum embracing the professional and amateur ornithologists of the world.

All entries should be in English and should be accompanied by one International Postal Reply Coupon for further correspondence. Closing date for all entries is 30 June 1970, but earlier arrival of entries would be appreciated.

The address is: The Editor, THE RING, Laboratory of Ornithology, Sienkiewicza, 21, Wroclaw, Poland.

An entry (in English) should contain the following information:

1. Surname.
2. Names in full.
3. Year of birth (optional).
4. Title.
5. Positions held (including editorships, memberships, etc.).
6. Principal interest in ornithology.
7. Address.
8. Authors of ornithological publications are requested to quote the most important of them.
9. Do you intend to purchase a copy of the INDEX if reasonably priced?
10. One I.P.R. Coupon is enclosed: yes — no.

Date

Signature

INDEX TO CURRENT AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGY

The Field Investigation Committee of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union is attempting to compile and publish an index to current ornithological research in Australia. This will not be a bibliography of published work, but a guide to research, in all phases, now being undertaken. Personal entries will be listed alphabetically by researcher's surname. Indices to species and fields of research will be provided.

The publication should contain sufficient information to enable a reader to determine the species being studied by another, the aspect of life history, and the broad field of investigation. It should enable a reader to determine who is working on what, give him a ready means of assessing the relevance of other studies to his own, and facilitate correspondence among individuals with common research interests.

Both amateurs and professionals are urged to participate. Details should be sent to, or standard forms requested from, the compiler: **Dr Douglas D. Dow, Department of Zoology, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Brisbane, Queensland 4067.**