

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RAOU NEST RECORD SCHEME

The return of cards for the 1978-79 season was outstanding in two respects: the number of cards returned (4,362) and the number of previously unrepresented species (24) added to the Scheme. The total number of cards submitted in 1978-79 is the highest since the Scheme began and reflects the increased effort by the many new participants of the previous year. The twenty-four species added to the collection came largely from northern Australian and offshore islands.

PARTICIPATION

Between 1 July 1978 and 30 June 1979, one hundred and four individuals joined the Scheme, now too numerous to list individually as in previous reports.

One hundred and fifteen individuals and two corporate bodies contributed to the Scheme and these are listed in Table I. Cards were also received from Atlas Camp-outs. The number of contributors and the average return per contributor have increased since last season. There are thirty-four more contributors this season and the average return per contributor has increased from thirty-five cards in 1977-78 to thirty-seven in 1978-79. Now that there is a solid core of contributors in the Scheme, it may be possible to direct the type and method of information collected. The spread of participants throughout Australia may allow nation-wide projects to be initiated, perhaps concentrating on the breeding of some species each season.

TABLE I

Contributors to the Scheme for 1978-79
(number of cards in brackets after name)

P. Allan, Vic.	(34)	K. and M. Fishley, Vic.	(16)	B. Newbey, WA	(13)
C. Allen, Vic.	(23)	D. Franklin, Vic.	(8)	O. Newman, Tas.	(28)
R. Allomes, G. Weber, NSW	(35)	T. Garnett, Vic.	(3)	R. Noske, NSW	(62)
E. Atkins, WA	(2)	D. Geering, NSW	(17)	P. Park, Tas.	(2)
Atlas	(123)	B. Geddes, NSW	(46)	J. Parry, Vic.	(14)
B. Baker, SA	(45)	N. Gibson, Qld	(17)	J. Paton, SA	(39)
A. Barnett, Qld	(10)	C. Gill, SA	(26)	P. Peake, Vic.	(2)
D. Bates, NSW	(14)	B. Gilligan, NSW	(7)	K. Perry, WA	(13)
H. Bell, NSW	(29)	S. Gilmore, Vic.	(39)	P. Reilly, Vic.	(6)
C. Biggs, Vic.	(11)	D. Haig, NSW	(13)	D. Roberts, Vic.	(4)
E. Birt, Qld	(22)	J. and P. Hall, NSW	(29)	B. Robertson, Vic.	(27)
C. Bond, Qld	(60)	P. Harris, NSW	(9)	A. Rose, NSW	(56)
E. Briggs, WA	(10)	S. Henry, Vic.	(5)	V. Routley, NSW	(38)
M. Brooker, J. Estbergs, M. Jones, ACT	(26)	L. Heinecke E. Boehm, SA	(74)	N. Schrader, NSW	(70)
R. and M. Brown, WA	(225)	S. Heron, Qld	(13)	E. Sedgwick, WA	(32)
R. Buckingham, Vic.	(4)	R. Hoare, Tas.	(9)	M. Sharp, WA	(8)
D. Byrne, Vic.	(11)	M. Holdsworth, Tas.	(15)	M. Sinclair, NSW	(72)
C. Chick, SA	(102)	J. Houghton, NSW	(25)	T. Sinclair, Vic.	(5)
D. Close, SA	(18)	M. Howard, WA	(4)	P. Smith, H. Recher, Aust. Mus., NSW	(205)
R. Cooper, Tas.	(26)	R. Howe, NSW	(36)	R. Smith, NSW	(29)
The Congreves, WA	(61)	B. Howie, NSW	(43)	H. Somerset, Vic.	(10)
R. Cox, NSW	(5)	T. Hunt, SA	(59)	M. Spreadborough, Qld	(7)
T. Cox, SA	(12)	J. Johnstone, Vic.	(23)	P. Stone, WA	(35)
F. Creer, NSW	(13)	L. Joseph, SA	(4)	J. Tarr, NSW	(10)
R. Crocker, Vic.	(5)	B. Kentish, Vic.	(14)	G. Tirrell, Vic.	(2)
B. Cross, Vic.	(5)	O. Kershaw, NSW	(67)	B. Traill, Vic.	(49)
C. Crowe, NSW	(64)	J. and P. Klapste, Vic.	(467)	P. Tully, Vic.	(12)
F. and H. Dann, Vic.	(75)	W. Klau, WA	(3)	S. Unthank, Vic.	(62)
P. Dann, Vic.	(140)	R. and D. Long, NSW	(14)	J. Versace, Qld	(4)
S. Davies, WA	(17)	K. Lowe, Vic.	(88)	N. Vincent, Vic.	(7)
R. Draffan, Qld	(5)	I. Lutz, WA	(23)	VORG, Vic.	(57)
D. Drakes, WA	(27)	T. Lynam, WA	(23)	L. Wall, Tas.	(18)
R. Drummond, Vic.	(39)	K. Mack, SA	(29)	R. and L. Waterman, E. Bennet, Vic.	(23)
L. Dunkley, SA	(2)	J. Malone, WA	(14)	J. Whatman, ACT	(6)
A. Elliott, Qld	(15)	S. Marchant, NSW	(316)	G. Wilson, NT	(5)
M. Emmerson, Vic.	(23)	J. Mattiske, Vic.	(6)	I. Wilson, WA	(4)
J. Fearnside, Qld	(6)	M. Miles, Qld	(3)	J. Wren, Qld	(21)
P. Fell, Vic.	(20)	A. Morris, N. Kurtz,		M. and B. Wright, SA	(10)
A. Fewster, WA	(13)	A. Pritchard, NSW	(114)		
Fish. and Wildlife, Vic.	(69)	J. McKean, W. Mason, NT	(100)		
		M. McNaughton, NSW	(5)		

In the return of 4,362 cards, one hundred and seventy-four 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):

J. and P. Klapste	Little Raven	(81)
J. and P. Klapste	Blackbird	(76)
P. Dann	Sacred Ibis	(54)
P. Dann, K. Lowe	Blackbird	(43)
K. Lowe	Sacred Ibis	(42)
J. and P. Klapste	Australian Magpie	(40)
S. Marchant	Eastern Yellow Robin	(39)

Breeding information from northern Australia, a highlight of the returns, was largely attributable to the efforts of J. McKean and W.R. Mason. A.K. Morris, N. Kurtz, A. Pritchard and P.S. Stone filled in many of the gaps in the cards for uncommon species. The larger contributions came from J. and P. Klapste (Elwood, Vic.), 467 cards; S. Marchant (Moruya, NSW), 316 cards; and R. and M. Brown (Manjimup, WA), 255 cards. As well as these outstanding contributions, all contributors deserve thanks for their time and effort throughout the season.

RESULTS

The total number of cards in the collection is now 35,157 and the annual totals are as follows:

Pre-1964	904
1964-65	1,602
1965-66	1,640
1966-67	1,786
1967-68	2,405
1968-69	2,407
1969-70	1,598
1970-71	1,675
1971-72	1,917
1972-73	2,109
1973-74	3,628
1974-75	2,593
1975-76	2,135
1976-77	1,782
1977-78	2,788
1978-79	4,188

35,157

Five hundred and twenty-two species are represented. Cards were received for twenty-four species not previously represented: Masked Booby (P. Dann); Red-tailed Tropicbird (P. Dann); White-quilled Rock-Pigeon (R. Drummond); Sooty Tern (P. Dann); Grey Ternlet (P. Dann); Magpie Goose (J. McKean, A. Hertog); Green Pygmy-Goose (J. McKean, P. Pangque); Wandering Whistling-Duck (J. McKean, A. Hertog, F. Gigliotti); Radjah Shelduck (J. McKean F. Gigliotti, H. Thompson, A. Hertog); Glossy Black-Cockatoo (L.

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

	to 1977	1977 to 78	1978 to 79	Total		to 1977	1977 to 78	1978 to 79	Total
Australasian Grebe	331	28	47	406	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	543	76	127	746
Little Penguin	261	12	15	288	Red Wattlebird	183	35	32	250
Black Swan	318	8	16	342	Noisy Miner	212	16	41	269
Australian Kestrel	174	25	14	213	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	342	38	55	435
Eurasian Coot	175	17	42	234	White-plumed Honeyeater	201	16	18	235
Masked Lapwing	1030	41	56	1127	New Holland Honeyeater	255	36	35	326
Banded Lapwing	260	20	18	298	White-fronted Chat	216	14	19	249
Red-capped Plover	263	18	10	291	Silvereye	372	32	25	429
Crested Pigeon	338	14	36	388	Red-browed Firetail	568	40	65	673
Galah	175	11	33	219	Zebra Finch	247	19	17	283
Welcome Swallow	1235	71	135	1441	White-winged Chough	244	10	42	296
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	231	39	55	325	Australian Magpie-lark	571	77	99	747
White-winged Triller	204	38	32	274	White-browed Woodswallow	336	62	28	426
Eastern Yellow Robin	510	68	79	657	Dusky Woodswallow	306	67	59	432
Rufous Whistler	285	38	51	374	Australian Magpie	644	42	138	824
Grey Shrike-thrush	233	24	33	290	Little Raven	271	17	111	399
Grey Fantail	534	89	102	725	Little Crow	192	4	4	200
Willie Wagtail	1025	133	148	1306	Blackbird	583	127	173	883
Clamorous Reed-Warbler	182	23	21	226	European Goldfinch	439	29	29	497
Superb Fairy-wren	608	54	88	750	Common Starling	403	49	46	498
Brown Thornbill	278	27	53	358					

Joseph); Red-winged Parrot (J. McKean); Ground Parrot (R. Hoare); Blue-winged Kookaburra (W. Mason); Little Bronze-Cuckoo (J. Wren); Northern Fantail (W. Mason); Dusky Gerygone (M. Callanan); Slaty-backed Thornbill (P. Menkhorst, B. Gleeson); Scrub Tit (R. Hoare); White-throated Grasswren (J. McKean, W. Mason); Black-tailed Treecreeper (R. and S. Noske); Grey Honeyeater (J. Masters, V. Read, S. Bennett, P. Curry); White-gaped Honeyeater (J. McKean); Tawny-breasted Honeyeater (H. and J. Beste, J. McKean); Star Finch (the Congreves).

During the year almost twenty individuals or organizations borrowed, or took data from, the cards of many species. This shows that the value of the Scheme is being more widely realized than before. At the same time it must be emphasized that there are barely a dozen species yet with enough cards (>500) for a proper analysis of the breeding of particular species.

Membership of the Scheme has doubled in the last two years and the Scheme ought to develop fruitfully in the years ahead. It is hoped to encourage as many people as possible to record nests after the Atlas is finished. Increased participation has been one of my primary aims during the past three years and I hope that the increased interest shown during this time will be maintained and that more emphasis will be placed on the analysis of data.

During the year I was helped by Dawn Cameron, who capably managed the Scheme for two months while I was away. I also wish to acknowledge the help given to me by Margaret Considine and Margaret Blakers at RAOU Headquarters. Finally, thanks must go to the participants who spend their time and effort finding and recording the information in the interests of Australian ornithology.

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