

(most frequently used spot) at first seemed to be on the top of the rocks near the spot where a nest was later abandoned, and later on the north-eastern face near the completed nest, but *no definite watching post* was observed, though numerous large stones and jutting rocks seemed suitable. Fence posts were often used at random. No *distinctive* courtship display was observed. The size of the possible true territory is much larger than that quoted by James Fisher for various small British birds (*Watching Birds*, 1946); the number of other birds of the same species in the vicinity is correspondingly less, however. P. A. Bourke (*Emu*, vol. 47, p. 330) records several Pipits nesting within a few yards of each other. It would be interesting to know whether territory would exist in such a case. Finally it must be remembered that the breeding cycle of the pair under observation was not completed, as another clutch may have appeared after December 12.

From such limited data no safe conclusions can be drawn. The following points, however, are offered for consideration.

1. During the breeding season the Australian Pipit may occupy a fairly well-defined area.

2. Within this area there may be a smaller area, containing the nest, which, within the meaning of the definition could be legitimately called territory.

3. If point 2 be true, there may be in this territory a section sufficiently used for song-flight to be called a song area, and some, at least, of the manifestations of territory occupation established in other species (defence, display, etc.) may accompany the possession of the territory.

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The following questions suggest themselves—(1) were the attempted nests unfinished cock-nests? (2) does the Pipit use watching posts? (3) do all Victorian Pipits migrate? (4) what song, if any, has the female?

Collection of Cobwebs by Willie-Wagtails.—For the following note I have to thank Mr. Vernon Dennis of Warncoort. A pair of Willie-Wagtails (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) built a nest on a rafter in his woolshed. Shortly after incubation had started, shearing began, the men working a few feet away. Disturbed at first the birds had, in a day, settled down to the noise and activity. However, the vibration of the machines transmitted to the rafter weakened the foundations of the nest. The birds then flew through the thickest cobwebs in the shed and returned to the nest where they picked the cobwebs from their bodies and worked them into the structure. The brood was successfully reared and a second commenced.—A. GRAHAM BROWN, Colac, Vic., 24/2/49.