

ducklings and made the establishment of the captive colony possible.

The co-operation of the Department of Fisheries, Perth, who promptly granted permission to collect the birds when found, is gratefully acknowledged.

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First arrivals at Lane Cove and North Ryde, N.S.W.—The spread of introduced species is often difficult to trace due to records being unavailable. The following notes concern the first observations by me of the Common Myna, *Acridotheres tristis*, and Blackbird, *Turdus merula* at Lane Cove and North Ryde, Sydney, N.S.W.

I took up residence in west Lane Cove in December 1947 and for some years maintained a monthly record of birds observed in the locality. I recorded a Common Myna for the first time on November 18, 1950. During the following month two birds were seen together and were observed entering the roof of the old council depot building. In January 1951 two flying young were being fed by the adults. Throughout the next year or two, the birds were occasionally seen farther afield in slowly increasing numbers. Now, more than twelve years later, the species is firmly established in the district, being seen daily in streets, parks and similar areas.

On September 9, 1963, a Blackbird was heard calling, at west Lane Cove for the first time. This has now become a regular occurrence and a male bird has been sighted a number of times. Much to my surprise, within a week of the first record, I found the species at North Ryde, two miles north-west of Lane Cove, on September 15. Since May 1959 I have regularly carried out banding operations in this area, the number of visits averaging one per week but I have no previous records of this species. The bird was neither seen nor heard on the next visit, September 28, but was present on October 13 and November 8. On each occasion the bird was heard to mimic the Grey Butcherbird, *Cracticus torquatus*.

I observed a male Blackbird in my garden on November 3, 1963, about half a mile from the location of the first Lane Cove sighting, but it was not seen or heard during the following week.—S. G. LANE, 65 Wood Street, Lane Cove, N.S.W.