terns at Raine Island are similar to those described by Gardner *et al.* (1985).

Herald Petrels have been recorded at Raine Island from April to August (BRK) and in February (Warham 1959) but not in October, November or December (BRK) nor in January (C.J. Limpus pers. comm.). These observations agree with the suggestion that the birds have a period of residence and breeding on Raine from February to at least September, followed by a post-breeding period of dispersal and feeding at sea by both adults and juveniles (King 1984). No long-distance band recoveries have been received, and records of wrecked birds or birds at sea have so far indicated no pattern of movements during the dispersal period (Gould & King 1967; King 1984).

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Honeyeater Plucks Koala for Nest Material

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In clear, sunny weather on 16 September 1989, I was censusing populations (using 10x50 binoculars) in woodland near Fairyland, south-east Queensland (26°33′S, 150°55′E), some 28km NE of Chincilla at 320 m asl. The woodland was dominated by Cypress Pine *Callitris columellaris*, some *Casuarina* spp., and emergent Spotted Gums *Eucalyptus maculatus* in the overstorey, and by wilga *Geijera parviflora* and several *Acacia* spp. in the understorey (especially *Acacia crassa*, with *A. spectabilis* and *A. harpophylla* less common). My survey of a 4.8 ha site produced 21 bird species with an overall density of 14.6 individuals/ha; two thornbills *Acanthiza pusilla* and *A. nana* and the Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops* were the most abundant species present at the site.

A Yellow-faced Honeyeater was seen making repeated trips between two Spotted Gums 36m apart. Three rounds trips were made between 0745 and 0755, and seven round trips between 0850 and 0920. The termini of these flights were a nest under construction 18m high in one gum, and a Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus* 23 m up in the second gum. The bird flew to a perch on the Koala's head, neck or shoulders, plucked the hair vigorously from it, attending particularly to the longer hair on or around the ears. A beakful of hair was accumulated in this fashion in 1.5-2.5 min. The bird then flew to its nest, incorporated the hair within it, and returned directly to the koala with an average turnaround time of 5.0 ± 3.1 min. (n = 10). On several occasions the plucking bird was accompanied from the nest to the Koala and back by a second individual, presumably the mate, but just one bird was involved in the hair-plucking activity. During these ministrations the Koala was apparently unperturbed, remaining immobile with eyes

closed but for an occasional twitching of its ears during the more energetic plucking activity.

Such hair-plucking of Koalas for nesting material has not been recorded previously, although some honeyeaters are credited with the habit of obtaining nesting material from cows, large marsupials such as possums, and even man (Salmonson & Ford 1985). Chisholm (1956) gives an account of the White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis* stealing human hair. Many passerines use mammal hair and fur for nest lining (e.g. Ehrlich *et al.* 1988, p. 391), presumably for its insulative properties. Indeed, the practice is diagnostic of some species, e.g. the horse-hair nest lining of European Robins *Erithacus rubecula*. Noisy Friarbirds *Philemon carunculatus* are known to make extensive use of sheep's wool in their nests. W. Stull (in Bent, 1968) reports the use of cattle, bison, deer, raccoon and human hair in nest linings of North American Chipping Sparrows *Spizella passerina*, that are sometimes known as 'hair-birds'; Stull used horsehair as an effective bait for trapping these birds. Typically, mammal hair or fur is taken for nest-lining from snags, barbed wire, or from the ground, and most birds would seem to acquire furred nest-linings opportunistically rather than by active depilation of live mammals.

The practice of plucking hair from live mammals is not entirely unnoticed around Los Angeles, U.S.A., where Northern Mockingbirds *Mimus polyglottos* sometimes pester sleeping dogs by their hair plucking; Eastman (1962) records the habit in the popular literature. Another recorded example is in African oxpeckers (Buphagidae), which extend their use of veld mammals as feeding substrates to live-plucking the hair from their backs for lining their tree-hole nest cavities (Maclean 1985).

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Domestication and Song Learning in Zebra Finches *Taeniopygia guttata*

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The Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata* is a common cage bird which was first taken to Europe from Australia in the late 18th century (Immelmann 1965). It breeds well in captivity and, over the past few decades, captive stock in Europe has been, to a large extent, isolated from birds in the wild due to tight controls on the export of birds from Australia. Domestication has led to a number of differences in behaviour between captive and wild Zebra Finches (Immelmann 1965; Sossinka 1970) but song has not hitherto been examined in this respect. Only the male Zebra Finch sings and each male has a single song phrase, used in similar form when directed to females during courtship and during 'undirected' song (Sossinka & Böhner 1980). The latter is thought to