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Zoology Department, University of Western Australia.
Present address: Western Australian Museum, Perth.
Manuscript received March 23, 1964.

Double clutch of Pied Butcher-bird.—During the breeding season of 1961 I found a nest with five eggs of the Pied Butcher-bird, *Cracticus nigrogularis*, at Jandowae. At the time I thought it was an unusually large clutch, and noticed that four adult butcher-birds attacked me while I examined the nest.

In the season of 1963 I found another nest, situated near the 1961 nest. As I approached the nesting area I noticed two birds together on the ground. Upon seeing me, they flew to the nest-tree, where a third bird was sitting, and a fourth perched close by. From their actions it seemed as though all four were interested in the nest. As I watched, one of the three flew down and relieved the sitting bird.

Later, when I examined the nest, I was surprised to find seven eggs, of two distinct types and undoubtedly the product of two females. The four birds again attacked me whilst I was at the nest.

No nest was seen in this area in 1962, and I feel sure that none was built by these birds. I have noticed previously that some pairs of Pied Butcher-birds will only breed every second year, while others breed annually.

Previously, I have seen occupied nests of different pairs of the Pied Butcher-bird as close as 75 yards (*Aust. Bird Watcher* 1: 193), but this is my first record of two pairs using the one nest.

Taking into account the nest with five eggs in 1961 (a very dry year when other butcher-birds laid no more than 3-egg clutches), the double clutch seems to be more deliberate than fortuitous, but I can offer no obvious explanation of this behaviour. I do have some evidence that, in the Jandowae district, the species is not strictly territorial.—LLOYD NIELSEN, Mail Service 118, Jandowae, Qld.