

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RAOU NEST RECORD SCHEME

This is my first report since taking over the organization of the scheme from Mr S. Marchant and covers the 1969-70 nesting season. I have delayed preparation of this report in the hope that more completed cards would be sent in. Probably 95 per cent of completed cards have now been received. It would greatly assist if participants ensured that cards were returned before 30 June each year.

PARTICIPATION

Between 1 July 1969 and 30 June 1970 the following individuals joined the scheme:

G. Alcorn (NSW)	J. Frankenberg (Mrs) (NSW)
E. Britt (Q)	R. Garstone (WA)
Brother Matthew (NSW)	D. G. Gosper (NSW)
Brother Michael (Q)	J. L. Hayward (Vic)
P. G. Bulfin (V)	R. Jaensch (SA)
T. E. Bush (WA)	H. F. J. Janssen (Vic)
M. Cameron (Mrs) (NSW)	V. and T. Lowe (Vic)
B. Clenert (WA)	E. M. McCulloch (Mrs) (Vic)
P. de Rebiera (WA)	M. Templeton (Tas)
D. D. Dow (Q)	

It was necessary to re-print the standard card. The cost of this was met by a grant from the Ingram Trust. I wish to express my appreciation to the Trustees for their generosity. At the above recruitment, expenses and income are similar and the financial position remains unchanged.

The total of official participants now stands at 122 individuals and four corporate bodies. The scheme lost a staunch supporter through the death of Mr F. E. Jones. It is gratifying that recruits have come forward from Queensland and Western Australia, but more recorders are needed from those States, and indeed from everywhere.

The total of 1,423 cards for 1969-70 is very disappointing. This was the first season since the scheme started that the total was substantially lower than that for the preceding year. Cards were received from forty-two individuals and the VORG/BOC combination, slightly more than last year. Partly the reason for the decrease has been because some participants had to curtail their efforts, such as S. Marchant and L. Nielsen, who previously made substantial contributions. I would particularly like to express my appreciation of the efforts of Mr D. Bowrey in organizing the VORG/BOC contribution, a task he has now relinquished. This co-operative venture has produced some very valuable records. Some participants sent in cards completed by helpers whom they themselves had recruited (e.g. Mr E. Boehm, Miss S. Duncan and Teda Sears). Substantial numbers of cards were received from the same individuals as in earlier years (Mrs C. Crowe, B. Baker, M. Clayton, B. L. Doecke, L. C. Heinecke, Mrs J. B. Paton, G. W. Swainson, VORG/BOC, J. R. Wheeler). Prominent among the newcomers were V. and T. Lowe (including some for earlier years) and M. Templeton. However, I would stress, as in previous reports, that everyone who has contributed cards is to be congratulated and thanked for his or her continued support. Every contribution, if only a single card, helps to add to the bank of knowledge that is accumulating. Table I lists the contributions for the year.

TABLE I

Contributors to the scheme for 1969-70
(Number of cards contributed (if > 25) in brackets
after name)

B. Baker (93)	S. G. Lane
P. and R. Balmford	Mrs H. N. Laybourne-Smith
Mrs C. Bigg (46)	V. and T. Lowe (99)
E. B. Birt	Mrs McArthur
M. G. Brooker	Mrs E. M. McCulloch
A. H. Burbridge	S. Marchant
T. E. Bush	A. K. Norris
G. Clark	Mrs J. B. Paton (85)
M. Clayton (58)	P. E. Roberts
E. Collins (35)	E. H. Sedgwick
Mrs C. C. Crowe (48)	G. W. Swainson (107)
A. D'Andria	M. T. Templeton (47)
B. L. Doecke (86)	D. G. Thomas (37)
D. D. Dow	E. B. Thomas
Mrs A. J. Grant	B. Thompson
T. H. Guthrie	VORG/BOC (195)
L. C. Heinecke (148)	L. E. Wall
J. N. Hobbs (27)	Miss F. E. Warren
J. G. Holman	N. Weatherill (38)
Mrs J. W. Johnstone (25)	J. R. Wheeler (82)
B. J. Knight (36)	Mrs C. M. Williams

RESULTS

The total number of completed cards in the scheme is now 11,807, divided as follows:

pre-1964	672
1964-65	1,585
1965-66	1,633
1966-67	1,787
1967-68	2,388
1968-69	2,319
1969-70	1,423

These represent 440 (an increase of five) species of Australian, New Guinean and introduced birds, giving an average of 26.8 cards per species. As for the last two years, only ninety-six exceed the average. In accordance with previous practice, only those species with substantial totals (> 70) are listed in Table II. Scientific names are omitted for reasons of space, and the common names are those of the 1926 RAOU Checklist.

This year only forty-three species qualify for inclusion in Table II, compared to fifty-two last year. The Little Grebe, Silver Gull, Tawny Frogmouth, Fairy Martin, Leaden Flycatcher, Brown Weebill, Little Wattlebird, Red Wattlebird and Noisy Friarbird drop out, while there have been no newcomers. The Willie Wagtail, with sixty-five cards, replaced the Little Penguin as the most-recorded species. Once again the Penguin Study Group of VORG made a fine contribution, and G. W. Swainson contributed a splendid series of cards for the Bell Miner complete with records of parasitism by cuckoos. Generally, contributions for most species were down on last year's, sometimes dramatically (e.g. Magpie-Lark down from 86 to 28, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike down from 31 to 7, White-throated Warbler down from 29 to 3, Banded Finch down from 21 to 1). The only major gains were for the Bell Miner, up from 11 to 48, and Starling, up from 28 to 48.

Once again geographical representation was predominantly from south-eastern areas. During the year the cards for pardalotes were consulted by D. R. Milledge and those for the Eastern Spinebill by Mrs E. M. McCulloch.

D. G. THOMAS, 9 Lallaby Road, Moonah, Tas. 7009.
14 November 1970.

TABLE II
Species list of Nest Record Cards
(only species with 70+ cards)

	to 1968	1968-69	1969-70	Total
Little Penguin	19	103	44	166
Crested Pigeon	118	37	21	176
Spur-winged Plover	728	52	40	820
Banded Plover	114	30	15	159
Red-capped Dotterel	160	13	7	180
Black Duck	63	6	4	73
Laughing Kookaburra	57	11	7	75
Superb Lyrebird	63	9	6	78
Welcome Swallow	240	70	21	331
Grey Fantail	179	56	49	284
Willie Wagtail	261	83	65	409
Southern Yellow Robin	115	44	42	201
Golden Whistler	50	13	17	80
Rufous Whistler	104	41	15	160
Grey Shrike-Thrush	51	24	25	100
Magpie-Lark	170	86	28	284

Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike	66	31	7	104
White-winged Triller	71	16	4	91
White-fronted Chat	75	19	7	101
White-throated Warbler	80	29	3	112
Brown Thornbill	50	19	11	80
Buff-tailed Thornbill	61	12	1	74
Yellow-tailed Thornbill	138	57	41	236
Reed Warbler	74	6	3	83
Superb Blue Wren	188	72	35	295
White-browed Woodswallow	88	11	2	101
Dusky Woodswallow	113	27	16	156
Silvereye	114	44	22	180
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	96	25	14	135
White-plumed Honeyeater	59	7	10	76
Yellow-winged Honeyeater	78	11	12	101
Noisy Miner	60	13	8	81
Zebra Finch	48	21	22	91
Banded Finch	57	21	1	79
Red-browed Finch	71	55	16	142
Little Raven	55	28	34	117
White-winged Chough	50	37	28	115
Black-backed Magpie	90	53	23	166
White-backed Magpie	88	32	30	150
Blackbird	82	76	48	206
House Sparrow	51	16	12	79
Goldfinch	199	33	17	249
Starling	91	28	48	167