

Opinions differ on the movements of this species. It may be that in some areas it is a resident and in others it is, at least at times, partly migratory. The accepted breeding season appears to be spring and summer.

*Ellen M. McCulloch (Mrs.), Mitcham, Victoria, 11/4/1972.*

**Social Display by Pied Flycatchers.** At about 8.30 a.m. on March 29, 1972, I was strolling along a trail which leads through rain-forest in the Kuranda State Forest Reserve, north Queensland. I had been casually observing rain-forest bird species generally when I heard a Pied Flycatcher, *Arses kaupi*, calling. I spied the bird as it preened on a branch of a tall acacia. A short distance away two other Pied Flycatchers were located as they answered the calls of the other while they continued to feed. After watching the Flycatchers for several minutes I proceeded along the track.

I had progressed only a few yards when the Flycatchers uttered more excitable call-notes. I ventured back near to where I had last seen the birds and there were four adult Pied Flycatchers in the twiggy end of the one branch. They were within a few inches of each other and could be studied simultaneously through binoculars. They were performing a display of some kind.

The entire white parts of their plumage were fluffed out to their fullest extent so that the only black areas visible were the head, the breast-band, the ends only of the primaries and the tail. The white throat, abdomen and wing-coverts were so extended that very little of the remainder of their plumage was visible. The outstanding feature of the display was the very extended white feathers encircling the throat and neck, so that each individual bird appeared as if it were wearing an Elizabethan lace-ruff. The blue orbital ring was clearly defined on the black head. They appeared like balls of cotton-wool as they pranced about the limb.

The birds advanced towards each other in their powder-puff attitude; all the while uttering their deep, drawn-out calls of "zzzrreeee, zzzrreeee, zzzrreeee". They continually bowed to each other and it was then that the extended ruffs were most emphasized. Some birds clung sideways to drooping twigs while others perched on more horizontal twigs. The tail of each bird was frequently fanned and brought towards the abdomen. At first it seemed as if the advancing birds were the aggressors; but physical contact was never made or even attempted. It appeared, therefore, that it was more of a social display than one of threat of any kind.

After about a minute of displaying, the birds ceased and each pair departed in roughly opposite directions and resumed feeding. They spiralled up and along the trunks and branches of the trees, and foraged beneath the bark, where they probed for insects. Their aerobatics were quite spectacular as they pursued any flying insect which they dislodged. The entire spectacle was enthralling and a delight to observe.

*Len Robinson, Murrumbeena, Victoria, 1/4/1972.*