

at the ground, or turning its head and walking a few steps in a manner that I have often seen Bower-birds do in front of a displaying bird. Eventually the Currawong walked to the other side of the shrub where it was obscured from my sight, and the Bower-bird followed it still whirring.

The display was watched by a number of birds of both species, and the whole performance lasted about a quarter of an hour.

— (Mrs.) *Reta E. Vellenga, Leura, New South Wales, 3/8/1963.*

Unusual Clutch of Eggs of the Brolga. On May 16, 1963, I had the opportunity to visit extensive areas of swamp at Beachmont, a few miles south of Home-Hill, in central-coastal Queensland. Brolgas were numerous, also other water-frequenting birds including the Masked Plover.

Some of the Brolgas were still nesting and eight nests were found containing either one or two eggs. Seven of the nests were built on small islands in the swamps, with a few pieces of short, thick plant stems and a few small tufts of grass forming their entire construction. Only one nest had a substantial platform which was well built and placed on reed-covered water.

One of the nests contained three eggs, which is unusual as normally only two eggs are laid. In the area where the clutch was found, Brolgas are very plentiful and they breed regularly in the swampy areas. Local bird observers have no records of a three egg clutch of the Brolga.

Usually, with abnormally large clutches, the eggs tend to be smaller than average. However, this was reversed in this case the measurements of the eggs being 4.0 x 2.55 inches, 3.95 x 2.57 inches, and 4.0 x 2.63 inches. The largest sizes quoted by A. J. North (*Nests and Eggs of Birds found Breeding in Australia and Tasmania: 4,238*) are 3.93 inches and 2.41 inches. In addition to their large size the eggs were more heavily marked than usual.

— *Lloyd Nielsen, Jandowae, Queensland, 21/6/63.*

Ravaging Ravens. In the last few years there has been a great increase in the Raven (*Corvus coronoides*) population in the Kangaroo Flat area, mainly due to growth and extension of poultry farms at the edge of the forested areas. The influx of these black marauders has caused havoc among the many species of birds nesting at or near the edge of the forest. I have found many nests that have been robbed of their contents, either eggs or young.

Ravens have caused the Hooded, Red-capped, Scarlet and Yellow Robins to desert the area, and other species are moving out also. The Gilbert Whistler and the Chestnut-tailed Ground-Wren have lost nestlings, while the Grey Thrush, Crested Bell-bird and several species of honeyeaters have suffered likewise. A few seasons ago large numbers of White-browed Wood-Swallows were nesting at Big Hill. The Ravens arrived in the area and robbed all the nests of eggs or young birds.

— *J. V. Ryan, Kangaroo Flat, Victoria.*