

Van Vessem and Draulans (1986) found greater variation in nest attendance between pairs than within pairs, and this and the small number of nests observed requires the results of the present study to be interpreted with caution. Nevertheless, the male Intermediate Egret does appear to spend more time at the nest than the female. This sex difference in time investment seems an inescapable consequence of the male's high level of nest attendance at pre-incubation, most probably aimed at guarding his female against extrapair copulation when she is at the nest and preventing stick theft while she is absent. Extrapair copulation was observed in this study and it may be that, as in the Cattle Egret (McKilligan 1990a), it can potentially increase or decrease a male's breeding success by a significant amount. The possibility that the female Intermediate Egret's breeding behaviour is adapted to exploit the male (Krebs and Davies 1984, p.267) by her contributing less food for the chicks deserves further study.

As in other bird species (O'Connor 1984), the smaller Intermediate Egret brood was brooded longer than the larger one. This single chick was also guarded (intermittently) for a longer period, possibly because its food needs were more easily satisfied than those of two chicks, leaving the parents with time to spare.

The third chick in Nest 1 fed from fewer of the boluses and received a lesser share of the food provided by the female than from its male parent. This inequality occurred during indirect feeding, however, and thus seems unlikely to result from a bias by the female against feeding this chick.

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BOOK REVIEW

Taronga Zoo's Guide to the Care of Urban Wildlife. Erna Walraven, 1990. Allen & Unwin Australia Pty Ltd. 157 pp., rrp \$19.95 paperback, \$24.95 hardback.

Erna Walraven is the wildlife rehabilitation officer at Sydney's Taronga Park Zoo. Apart from her personal expertise and qualifications in this area, she has been in the enviable position of being able to draw upon the wealth of knowledge possessed by her colleagues to compile this guide.

The seven chapters are written in an easy to read format which explore just about all of the needs and problems facing native fauna in the urban environment. The book is packed with useful information the average person will find helpful in understanding the environmental needs of wildlife and how to modify the existing environment to better suit and attract

native species. The book also provides extensive, but very basic, information on first aid and short-term care of sick, injured and orphaned animals. I am pleased to note that the author does point out that in the interests of any animal rescued, the assistance of experienced foster carers should be sought at the earliest opportunity.

The guide is nicely rounded-off with a number of appendices which provide information on legal obligations and telephone numbers and addresses of State and Territory fauna authorities, organizations involved in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation and of suppliers of various products mentioned in the text. Finally, a useful list of other references is provided, under various sub-headings, for those who may wish to further their knowledge after whetting their appetite with this book.

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