

# Breeding of the Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata* in native and exotic woodlands near Armidale, New South Wales

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The breeding behaviour and habitat of three groups of Hooded Robins *Melanodryas cucullata* were studied near Armidale, on the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales, from winter 2006 to winter 2007, by quantifying nest sites, colour-banding nestlings, and observing Robin families until beyond independence of the banded juveniles. Egg-laying commenced in September, and continued until December for the last of five consecutive unsuccessful clutches (all C/2). Two broods (each B/2) fledged, after an incubation to fledging period of 27 days, including a nestling period of more than 11 days. Breeding productivity was 1.3 fledglings/group and 0.57 fledglings/attempt (nest success and fledging success were both 29%;  $n = 3$  pairs or groups, 7 nests). Fledglings were dependent on their parents for eight weeks, with post-juvenile moult starting at 6–8 weeks and completed by 6–7 months post-fledging (in autumn); one offspring acquired adult-like male plumage by this time. Breeding groups consisted of 2–5 adults, in home ranges of 30+ hectares; nest sites were in eucalypt saplings and in an exotic pine plantation. Nest-building, breeding behaviour, and food and foraging are described.