

VERTEBRATES FOUND IN CATTLE EGRET CHICK REGURGITATES

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The vertebrate prey of the Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis* was determined from 850 boluses regurgitated by advanced chicks over 12 breeding seasons from 1981 to 1993, at three heronries in the Lockyer Valley, south-east Queensland. Vertebrates comprised one species of mammal, 16 species of reptile and nine species of amphibians and included the locally rare skinks *Ctenotus eurydice* and *Eremiascincus richardsonii* and Grey Snake *Hemiaspis damelii*. In large numbers were the Cane Toad *Bufo marinus*, the native Eastern Dwarf Tree-frog *Litoria fallax* and skink *Lampropholis delicata*. Almost 50 per cent of the amphibian and reptilian species recorded for Lockyer Valley pastures and cultivation were discovered in the Cattle Egret regurgitates.