

NESTING BY BLACK-FACED WOODSWALLOWS *Artamus cinereus* IN THE WHEATBELT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

IAN ROWLEY

53 Swan Street, Guildford, Western Australia 6055

Received: 12 December, 2000

Between 1973 and 1976 a population of Black-faced Woodswallows *Artamus cinereus* was studied at Manmanning, Western Australia. Forty-six breeding groups with an average group size of 3.34 birds were monitored in four years. Of 73 nests that were laid in, 48 hatched and 37 fledged young, a nesting success of 51 per cent. Young that survived the winter and did not find a mate stayed with their parents into the next breeding season and many helped to raise siblings. This species is one of the few to benefit from the clearing of heathlands for agriculture. In return they appear to be expert predators of grasshoppers.