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THE DAWN CHORUS IN A EUCALYPT FOREST BIRD COMMUNITY, SEASONAL SHIFTS IN TIMING AND CONTRIBUTION OF INDIVIDUAL SPECIES

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An analysis of the early morning period of maximum communal song (dawn chorus) at different times of the year in an eastern Australian eucalypt forest bird community showed the following: (1) it characteristically extended from 35–30 to 10–5 minutes before sunrise; (2) it was largely a feature of the spring breeding season; (3) not all members of the community contributed to it; (4) the major contributors changed seasonally, partly due to some species singing minimally when they had young.