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## **CO-OPERATIVE BREEDING IN AUSTRALASIAN BIRDS: A REVIEW OF HYPOTHESES AND EVIDENCE**

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Studies of co-operative breeding in Australia and New Zealand have made a considerable contribution to the current understanding of this phenomenon. This review considers the progress that has been made since I. Rowley's pioneering work on the Superb Fairy-wren in the 1950s and 60s in testing hypotheses proposed to explain (a) why individuals refrain from dispersing from their natal territory (i.e. are philopatric) and (b) why philopatric individuals help to raise young that are not their own. I survey all Australian species that have been recorded as breeding co-operatively, and possible explanations for the disproportionately large number of Australian species that breed co-operatively are discussed.