

MOVEMENT PATTERNS OF PIED CURRAWONGS *Strepera graculina* IN CENTRAL WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES

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During 1988 and 1989 a total of 254 Pied Currawongs was trapped and colour-banded at Springwood, New South Wales. The data resulting from this study show a build up of Pied Currawong numbers at Springwood from January to a peak in April. Numbers then declined with only isolated breeding pairs present from September to December. The arrival of immature birds peaked two months before the peak in adult numbers. Immature birds were far more mobile than adult birds and accounted for a greater percentage of movements within the Blue Mountains region. More than half of the immature birds disappeared from the study site after being banded while the adult birds stayed at the banding site, on average, nearly twice as long as the immature birds (1.5 months compared with 0.9/0.8 months). During 1989, 56 per cent of all the Pied Currawongs banded in the previous year returned to the banding site. Of these, 27 per cent were immature birds. Recoveries document a general easterly movement to lower altitudes during most months of the year. Westerly movements only commenced in July with banded birds not reaching Blackheath until September. Movement of a small number of birds was recorded to the north of the study site during August and September. Only immature birds were recorded moving away from the Blue Mountains region with recoveries highlighting a north-easterly path through Blacktown, West Pennant Hills, Mooney Mooney, the central coast and on to Newcastle and Thornton. A small number also moved in a south/south-east direction.