

SHORT BREEDING SEASON OF FIGBIRDS *Sphecotheres viridis* IN DARWIN, NORTHERN TERRITORY

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Opportunistic observations of 55 nests of Figbirds over eight years on the Northern Territory University campus suggest that nesting commences in early September and that the breeding season lasts between two and three months only. Laying was apparently synchronized and two eggs were usual. Nests were often close together indicating some advantage in quasi-colonial nesting, either through improved predator surveillance or defense, or facilitation of post-breeding dispersal and feeding activities.