

TERRITORIALISM AND CO-OPERATIVE BREEDING OF THE EASTERN YELLOW ROBIN *Eopsaltria australis*

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Received 29th January, 1986

I studied the Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis* from 1975 to 1986 near Moruya, N.S.W. The birds were distributed in territories of 1 to 2 hectares. A fire in 1980 did not at once reduce breeding numbers; they declined next season. Established pairs held territories while breeding. In the non-breeding season they lived in the same areas but were not seen to defend territories. Some first year birds also bred, almost always without success; having attempted to breed, these pairs then dispersed. Others attended the nests of their parents or near neighbours. These attendants were first-year males. First-year females were unobtrusive and were not known to act as attendants. Mildly threatening disputes within territories early in the breeding season were probably directed towards evicting unwanted immature birds by established pairs. Attendants were attached to only about one fifth of the annual breeding attempts.