LONGEVITY OF PIED CURRAWONGS AT TIMBERTOP, VICTORIA

D. G. NICHOLLS¹ and J. C. Z. WOINARSKI²

¹Frankston College of Technical and Further Education, Frankston, Vic. 3199 ²Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, Katherine, N.T. 5780

Received 1 September 1985: Revised 1 February 1987

Between 1962 and 1976, 1 910 Pied Currawongs were banded at Timbertop in north-eastern Victoria. The number of individuals retrapped was 332 (17.4%). The longest elapsed time between banding and recovery was 14 years, and 1.7 per cent of birds were known to be alive over ten years after banding. The mean annual survival rate was estimated to be between 64.4 and 79.8 per cent (from three separate forumlae) and the mean for further expectation of life was between 2.5 and 4.5 years. These may represent underestimates of the actual survival rate because of the low probability of recapturing surviving marked birds. Although the bulk of the population was not resident year-round, there were few recoveries away from the banding location.