

population. I found, as did Lane (1972b), that the numbers of Silvereyes present tended to vary considerably from year to year. In particular large numbers were present during 1970 to 1972.

I found trapping to be much more effective than mist-netting. Birds rapidly become net shy and avoid nets, whereas they enter traps readily and repeatedly and give a more accurate indication of birds present in the area.

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## THE DIET OF WEDGE-TAILED EAGLES *Aquila audax*

In Cindy Hull's recent article (Hull 1986) on this subject, based on a study of pellets and other prey remains at nest sites and roosting trees, I noted a list of species not previously recorded in the Wedge-tailed Eagles' diet. These species included the Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopica*. The following observations, as recorded in my diary, may therefore be of interest.

On 6 April 1980, I was motoring near Yuckandandah, Victoria, when I saw two Wedge-tailed Eagles on the ground, one standing on a strugg-

ling Sacred Ibis while the other looked on. When disturbed, the attacking eagle backed-off and the ibis got to its feet and staggered to the shelter of some nearby rushes. The eagles then flew up into a tall adjacent eucalypt, where a number of ravens had gathered. We then left the scene.

Hull, C. (1986). The diet of the Wedge-tailed Eagle, *Aquila audax*, breeding near Melbourne. *Corella* 10: 21-24.

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