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Notes on the Breeding of Varied Sittellas Daphoenositta chrysoptera

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Two nests of Varied Sittellas Daphoenositta chrysoptera were watched near Moruya, New South Wales, for about 125 hours in 1982, one from laying of eggs to fledging of young and the other from the middle of incubation to fledging. Both incubation and nestling periods were 20 days. Though individual birds were not identifiable, probably the primary female alone incubated and brooded and the primary male brought most food to his sitting mate and to the young, as found by Noske (1980). Up to at least five other birds attended the nests, being most active in early morning and evening at one nest. None of these attendants was likely to have been the product of a previous brood in the 1982 season.