



● Nest box fixed to side of tree.

run-off from the roof and a short perch was fixed under the entrance hole.

It appears that this nest box design is suitable for the Striated Pardalote because the internal volume (2581 cm³) and proportions allowed the normal dome-shaped nest to be built and the usual clutch for this species to be successfully raised in all cases observed. Boxes sited lower than 2 m and higher than 4 m would also probably be suitable because I have recorded Striated Pardalotes breeding in Tasmania in natural holes from the ground to 30 m above ground level. However, boxes placed much higher than 4 m would become impracticable for inspection purposes and those lower than 2 m would become more vulnerable to predation.

A more secure fixing method than the nailed galvanised iron strips, such as adjustable wires or straps, should be used for longer life. The two boxes that fell down after four years had their strips broken by bark growth outwards from the trunk.

It is not readily apparent why Forty-spotted Pardalotes did not use the boxes, because they frequently chose very poor nest sites close by that failed after heavy rain and were easily predated. Perhaps the Striated Pardalote is far more

opportunistic in its choice of sites than the other species and, with the Spotted Pardalote which digs its own nest holes, is at a considerable selective advantage over the Forty-spotted Pardalote. This could be one of the contributing factors in the present decline of the Tasmanian endemic pardalote.

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Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike and Native Figs

Each year a party of Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina lineata* comes to our locality to feast on the fruit of a large native fig tree *Ficus* sp. This year the birds arrived on 17 March 1977, but they were a little early for the figs and had to wait until the end of March until these ripened. The crop was so good that the small number of Cuckoo-shrikes that stayed on for the feast could not eat all the supply. The maximum number of Cuckoo-shrikes counted in the tree at any one time this season was only seven, including one in immature plumage. The birds moved on when the *Monolepta* beetles started on the figs on 24 April 1977.

It has been noted over the years that when these beetles move into a fruiting or flowering tree the birds move out except for brief "reconnaissance" visits. Sometimes after the beetles have gone the birds return to the tree to feed. I have not been able to determine whether the beetles repel the birds by emitting a smell or whether their presence in the birds' feathers is the potent factor.

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