

**WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE: A CANNIBAL.** On 31 July 1991, my son John and I observed a Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax* on top of an *Acacia paradoxa* shrub. It was moving its head up and down, and was feeding. As we approached the bird flew away revealing the fresh carcass of another Wedge-tailed Eagle. Feathers were strewn about and the fleshy part of the wing had been exposed and partly eaten. The carcass was slumped across the shrub about 1.5 m above the ground. The cause of death was not known. However, the bush was adjacent to a track south of Termination Hill on Myrtle Springs Station, NW of Leigh Creek and the eagle may have been shot the previous night by kangaroo shooters. We had seen spotlights in the vicinity that night but heard no shots, perhaps because of the distance involved.

Although this was the first time that I have seen one Wedge-tailed Eagle eating another, Tom Carter reports a similar incidence from the Broome Hill district of Western Australia (North 1912). In October 1908, Carter put strichnine in the carcasses of two ewes killed by the eagles and upon returning the next morning found six dead birds. Two of those lying on their backs had their breasts exposed and were being eaten by other Wedge-tailed Eagles.

#### REFERENCES

North, A. J. 1912. *Nests and Eggs of Birds Found Breeding in Australia and Tasmania*. Vol. 3. F. W. White, Sydney.

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