

**A NORTHERN SIGHTING OF THE CINNAMON QUAIL-THRUSH
CINCLOSOMA CINNAMOMEUM IN QUEENSLAND**

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The nominate subspecies of the Cinnamon Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma cinnamomeum* is found among dry stony areas, especially around dried creek-lines. Within Queensland, the northern limit of its distribution is 56 km west of "Glenormiston", near Boulia (Ford 1983). There is no evidence of large-scale seasonal movements (Blakers *et al.* 1984), and clutches have been found in South Australia in all months (Ford 1983).

During the period 15 May to 25 May 1993, I was contracted to perform an avifaunal survey in an area of central-western Queensland. The funding for this survey was supplied by BHP Minerals. During the survey I was assisted by Stephen Malone, an employee of BHP. On 22 May, at 0900 h, we observed two female Cinnamon Quail-thrushes feeding around a series of dry creek beds on "El Rita" Station, about 130 km SSE of Cloncurry (21°55'52"S, 141°07'52"E). The vegetation within the area was predominantly Gidgee *Acacia cambagei*, Spinifex *Triodia molesta* and Barley Mitchell Grass *Astrelba pectinata*. On the same day, at 1300 h, I saw another female Cinnamon Quail-thrush, approximately 2.5 km north of the first site. On 24 May, at 0930 h, I saw a fourth bird, another female, in the vicinity of the previous sighting. This locality is some 275 km ENE of "Glenormiston".

A second avifaunal survey was conducted at the same site during the period 28 March to 6 April 1994. Several visits were made to "El Rita" Station, but no Cinnamon Quail-thrushes were sighted. However, during the late May 1993 to late March 1994 period, when Stephen Malone made numerous visits to the area, both male and female birds were seen regularly and there were no obvious periods of absence.

If further funds are available a third visit will be made to the area in August 1995. Ford (1983) lists July and August as egg-laying months in Queensland, while a female detailed in Hall (1974) was in full breeding condition in early June. It is possible that the August visit will provide an opportunity to confirm breeding at this site.

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