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MOVEMENTS



*The whole secret of life in arid regions is movement,
a readiness and a freedom to migrate.*

F Debenham

The Australian continent's isolation, relatively limited land area and extremes of climatic and environmental variability are among the primary factors that drive the many and varied adaptations of its flora and fauna. Australia's birds are adapted to cope with the environment's variability and extreme conditions through a variety of strategies. Species or populations may exhibit boom-bust population fluctuations, switch diets to exploit available resources opportunistically, be able to tolerate lean periods, change activity rates, or move to more productive regions as required. While these strategies combine in different ways to determine an animal's ultimate response to its environment, for birds in particular, among the most important mechanisms for coping with change is their mobility. A notable outcome of the ability to fly is that birds can travel over