

## 5. Nesting Success and Productivity

The nesting success and productivity of common species in the study area are summarized in Table XIII. The nests deserted before laying were omitted. Although most nests of territory-holding birds were found, the discovery of the nests was not complete and some pairs also made nests outside the study area, thus the average number of nests per pair in the table is probably lower than the true average. In Silvereyes there may have been a few more nests built later in the breeding season at which time visits to the area were not frequent enough to make complete observations of every pair. Most Bellbirds nested in canopy or tall pine trees, and not all the unsuccessful nests could be found. However, the number of fledged young in the area could be counted fairly accurately as fledglings were conspicuous while they were fed by parent birds outside the nests.

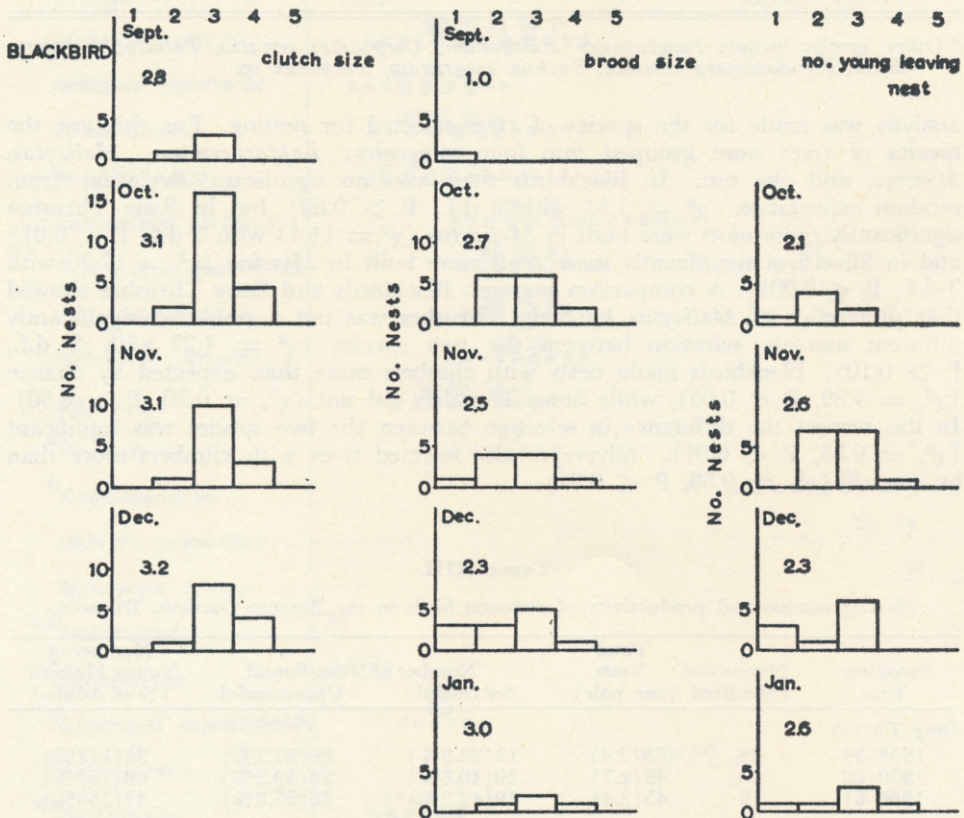


FIG. 5.—Frequency distribution, according to the month, of clutch size, brood size, and number of young leaving nest in the seasons 1958–61 at the Botanic Gardens, Dunedin. Figures indicate mean values. (a) Blackbird.

Fig. 5 shows, for the three breeding seasons 1958–61, the clutch size (according to the month in which laying was completed), the brood size (according to the month in which hatching was completed), and the number of young leaving nest (according to the month in which young left nest). As not all the nests were found before the eggs hatched, and less than half of these reached fledging stage, the data are not all from the same population. The Song Thrush made a