Recent Literature

BANDING and RECOVERY REPORTS

Bird Report: 1969. Complied by D. R. Wells. *Malayan Nature Journal*, 25:43-61.

A total of 9143 birds of 272 species were banded in Malaysia during 1969. A short recovery list of 17 birds of eight species tabulates all distant (= over one mile) recoveries. Six Barn Swallows *Hirundo rustica* were recovered in USSR, Thailand, North Korea and Japan; all other recoveries were within Malaya. The principal banding activity concerned netting nocturnal migrants (2735 birds of 61 species). Twenty-five graphs illustrate the numbers of various species caught nightly. A systematic section lists significant records of 119 species during the year.

Migratory Animal Pathological Survey, Annual Progress Report 1971. H. Elliott McClure, July 1972. U.S. Army Research and Development Group, Far East, APO San Francisco 96343. 118 pp.

During the period of active bird ringing by the MAPS groups, from July 1963 to July 1971, a total of 1,165,288 birds of 1216 species were captured and marked. This report lists the species by family and by species and year, giving the totals that were banded.

Point Reyes Bird Observatory: Seventh Annual Report: 1971. 1972. Point Reyes Bird Observatory, California, U.S.A. 24 pp.

The report, as usual, contains several short papers. Land Bird Studies (Robert M. Stewart) summarizes work on censuses (area and breeding), passerine migrants and breeding biology of warblers. Shorebird Studies (Gary Page) deals with the intensive investigations aimed at determining what makes the particular area an important shorebird habitat; these are species composition, age and sex ratios, movements, mortality, moult and utilization of food. The Farallon Islands (D. G. Ainley, T. J. Lewis, and M. Coulter) considers the breeding populations of the eleven species of seabirds, as well as passerine species. Oil Spill (John Smail) recounts the aftermath of a collision between two tankers in January 1971: over 6000 fouled birds were treated in the many cleaning stations, but only about 220 survived to be released. No acceptable tested cleanser is presently available for use on oil-fouled birds. Two banding reports list the birds banded each month (9527 birds of 97 species at Southeast Farallon Island, 7076 birds of 110 species at mainland Bolinas). Recoveries of three species of seabirds are mapped.

ANALYTICAL STUDIES

Analysis of Ovenbirds Killed in Central Florida. Walter Kingsley Taylor. 1972. *Bird-banding*, 43:15-19.

Ovenbirds *Seiurus aurocapillus* migrate in large numbers across a board area of eastern North America, and represent about 19 per cent of birds reported killed by tall structures over the past 20 years. Some 740 Ovenbirds killed at a tower in Florida were analysed for age and sex; mean weights and wing chord for each class were determined.

Wave Phenomena of Land Migrants at Island Beach State Park, New Jersey. Charles F. Leck. 1972. *Bird-banding*, 43:20-25.

About 22,000 birds are banded at Island Beach each year. The present paper analyses the factor of birds taken per net hour of operation for the years 1961-69, and graphically shows the fluctuations in migration rates on a daily basis. Major peaks (most years up to 10 birds per net per hour; in 1966, 16 birds per net per hour for one day) occur in October, typically after passage of cold fronts.

Movements of Starlings Banded in California. W. O. Royall, Jr., J. L. Guarino, A. Zajanc, and O. O. Siebe. 1972. *Bird-banding*, 43:26-37.

Some 822 recoveries eventuated from over 41 000 starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* banded in California between 1961 and 1964. Starlings banded were a mixture of residents and migrants. The recovery pattern supports the view that the starlings follow a SW-NE migrational route (see also *Aust. Bird Bander* 6:90).

The Breeding Biology of the Rook *Corvus frugilegus* L. **in Canterbury, New Zealand.** J. D. Coleman. 1972. *Notornis*, 19:118-139.

The rooks were studied at West Melton (where they are an agricultural pest) and at Banks Peninsula (where they are valued by farmers). Most nested in *Pinus radiata*, and most nests were at heights about 5 m. Nests were built between mid August and late October, and nest building ranged from 5 to 20 days. Some 12 per cent of all nests were lost during the breeding season. Eggs were laid between late August and early November, most being laid within one day of their predecessor. Most clutches (63%) contained three or four eggs, followed in frequency by clutches of two, five, one and six. Incubation period ranged from 14 to 22 days (mean 17.4). Hatching period of entire clutches took from 24 to 27 hours, the eggs hatching in order laid. Mean nestling time was 33 days; nestling time was longer for large broods (31.9 days for single birds; 36.4 days for broods of four). Hatching success varied between 35 and 62 per cent for different rookeries, while breeding success varied from 22 to 46 per cent; hatching and breeding success was apparently not related. Hatching, nestling, and breeding success was greatest for birds laying early in the season.

Nine Years of Cardinal Banding. Katharine B. Kelley and Amelia J. Betts. 1972. *I.B.B. News*, 44:9-12.

A total of 366 Cardinals *Richmondena cardinalis* was banded in Kansas, USA. About 11 per cent of birds returned in later years; longest return was 5 and 1/3rd years after banding. Only four recoveries of dead birds have eventuated: all were local and within six months of banding. Mean survival rate calculated from returns was 52.2 per cent.

TECHNIQUES

An Improved Mist Net Rig for Use in Forests. A. H. Whitaker. 1972. *Bird-banding*, 43:1-8.

Seven rigs were erected at heights ranging from 13 to 18 m in sub-tropical rain forest near Wellington, NZ. Detail of the rig is described and illustrated.

The Reliability of Aging Some Fall Migrants by Skull Pneumatization. Robert M. Stewart. 1972. *Bird-banding*, 43:9-14.

Use of skull pneumatization (= ossification) to age passerine autumnal migrants in California, USA is discussed. Four stages of pneumatization are illustrated and described, and the rate of pneumatization is considered for eight species.

A Harness for Radio-tagging Raptoral Birds. Thomas O. Dunstan. 1972. *I.B.B. News*, 44:4-8.

A harness for fitting hawks and owls with a transmitter package (transmitter, battery and whip antenna) is described and illustrated. Fledgelings, juveniles and adults carried the packages equally well.

The Field Identification and Distribution of the Thin-billed Prion (*Pachyptila belcheri*) and the Antarctic Prion (*Pachyptila desolata*). Peter O. Harper. 1972. *Notornis*, 19:140-175.

In hand identification of six species of prions was the subject of a recent 'Bird in the hand' (*Aust. Bird Bander* 10:36-39). The present paper amplifies (by description, photographs and distribution) differences between two of these species.

Wing Tags for Raptors. N. Picozzi. 1971. Ring, 68-69: 169-170.

A patagial wing tag, claimed suitable for Buzzards, *Buteo buteo*, is described and illustrated.

MISCELLANEOUS

Point Reyes Bird Observatory Newsletter, Number 20. December 1971.

This newsletter contains several short papers of interest. Breeding of the Western Gull in Different Habitats on Southeast Farallon Island (Malcolm O. Coulter, David G. Ainsley and T. James Lewis) details a study of the gull breeding in six locations, each in a different habitat. The plots were visited each three days for about two months. Average clutch was 2.86; hatching success 78.4%; survival to banding at five days 95.8%; survival to fledging 92%; total success 69%. Farallon Fall Migration, 1971 (Robert M. Stewart) lists the waves of passerine migrants sighted during September and October on Farallon Island. Bolinas Fall Migration (Robert M. Stewart) contrasts the migration patterns in 1970 and 1971 in terms of birds per 1000 net hours. Breeding of the only resident passerine on Farallon Island (Rock Wren, *Salpinctes obsoletus*) is detailed in Rock Wrens on the Farallones (David G. Ainley).

A Project Guide for Nesting Studies. Frederick S. Schaeffer. 1971. *Ring*, 68-69:151-160.

The paper consists basically of a long list of questions which ideally might be answered during a nesting study. The main subdivisions are concerned with arrival, establishment of territory, preparation of nest site, nest lining, copulation, number of eggs, incubation, other clutches, hatching, sanitation, incubation of young, development, mortality, disturbance and parasitism.

REVIEWS

Australian Bird Calls Index—Series One—Western Australia, produced by and available from John N. Hutchinson, Gascoyne Research Station, Carnarvon, Western Australia, 6701. 12 inch LP Disc or 60 minute Tape Cassette. $5.00 each.

This series of fifty bird calls, with commentary by Gillian Waite, includes the Noisy Scrub-bird, White-tailed Black Cockatoo and Emu contributed by Norman Robinson of the Division of Wildlife Research, CSIRO. The calls are excellently recorded and the disc or cassette should be in the library of all serious ornithologists. Background noise is at a minimum level and even in the peaks of song, as for instance in the loud trill of the White-winged Triller overloading and distortion are not evident. This is probably because the Author is meticulous in his recording techniques. He does not use a parabolic reflector with its accompanying effect upon timbre of calls but relies entirely upon learning the bird's habits over a period, then slowly accustoming the bird to the microphone at its favourite song-perch. Some birds are recorded at the nest and the voices of the young add to that of the parents.

Although background noise is at a minimum level occasional background calls of other species are evident and provide a tantalising challenge to be identified by the listener. Some calls, as for instance the clear calls of the adult White Ibis among a noisy breeding colony, or the cacaphony of the literally thousands of corellas in flight, take me back in an instant to the north-west of Western Australia.

The fifty calls, 17 non-passerines and 33 passerines, have been well selected to include many well known species as well as rarer ones.

Being Western Australian and mainly recorded in the North-west and Kimberley regions, some unique calls are presented: I doubt if the Brown and Brown-breasted Shrike-Thrushes *Colluricincla brunnea* and *C. woodwardi*, White-gaped Honeyeater *Stomiopera unicolor*, Golden-backed Honeyeater *Melithreptus laetior* and Great Bower-bird *Chlamydera nuchalis* have been recorded previously.

Special mention must be made of the recordings of the White-plumed Honeyeater *Meliphaga penicillata*. Six different calls are presented ranging from its 'chick-o-wee' song to the hawk-alarm call typical of most honeyeaters. These demonstrate the range of calls with which the observer must be familiar if relying upon calls only for field identification.

In summary, this is a clear, well-produced aural presentation of Australian bird calls well worth having.

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