

## Recent Literature

### BANDING AND RECOVERY REPORTS

**Bird Report: 1970 and 1971.** Compiled by D. R. Wells 1974. *Malayan Nature Journal* 27: 30-49.

This report covers two years, 1970 and 1971. A total of 3895 birds of 220 species was ringed in 1970 and 2510 birds of 171 species in 1971. The twenty five "distant" recoveries (more than a mile from banding site) are tabulated. Overseas reports were all for Barn Swallows, four in North Korea and one in North Vietnam. The twelve recoveries of Black Crowned Night-herons confirmed the local nature of dispersal. Special activities reported are ornithological surveys by bird ringing project personnel. Banding of night-flying migrants continued as in previous years. The known periods of passage migration were extended for 19 species. A systematic section lists records for 124 species and there is a recent literature section for the region.

### ANALYTICAL STUDIES

**Range Extremes for Ring-billed Gulls from the Great Lakes Region.** William E. Southern and Frank R. Moore. 1974. *Inland Bird Banding News* 46: 83-87.

Recovery data indicated that the exchange rate between the two regions was low, there were no records of individuals breeding outside the geographical region in which they were reared. Maps and tables illustrate recovery data.

**Recoveries of Brown-headed Cowbirds Banded at Sand Lake, South Dakota.** Olin E. Bray, John W. De Grazio, Joseph L. Guarino and Robert G. Streeter. 1974. *Inland Bird Banding News* 46: 204-209.

This paper presents information on geographical and seasonal distribution of 20 recoveries of Brown-headed Cowbirds, *Molothrus ater* and discusses recovery rates. The recovery rate for normally banded cowbirds was 0.4% and cowbirds banded with plastic leg streamers 1.4%.

**Large Scale Ringing of Young Gulls and Terns in Estonia "Operation Larus".** S. Onno. 1974. *The Ring* 78: 117-119.

This is the report for 1972-73 of investigations started in 1959 into population ecology of the Common Gull, the Arctic Tern and Common Tern. Mortality rate of adult Common Gulls has been estimated as low (10-12% per year).

**Bird Ringing in the Galapagos Island.** M. P. Harris. 1974. *The Ring*, 79:131-134.

Bird ringing activities carried out by workers attached to the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos

Islands to the end of 1973 are detailed. Intensive retrapping of Waved Albatrosses has shown that the age of first breeding is much lower than that in any other albatross species, and post fledgling and adult survivals are extremely high (in excess of 90 per cent per year).

The oldest of the Darwin Finches banded, *Geospiza scandens* and *G. fortis*, had attained ages in excess of seven years.

### TECHNIQUES

**Ageing Swamp Sparrows by Plumage.** John and Heather Riggins. 1974. *Inland Bird Banding News* 46: 5-9.

Swamp Sparrows with fully ossified skulls were found to have grey superciliary lines (over the eye) and birds with incomplete ossified skulls always had buffy or buffy-yellow superciliary lines.

**Criteria for Sexing Eastern Bluebirds in Juvenile Plumage.** Benedict C. Pinkowski. 1974. *Inland Bird Banding News* 46: 88-91.

A method of sexing by plumage colour of young, nestling and juvenile Eastern Bluebirds, *Sialia sialis* is detailed. Dull and dingy blue indicated females and bright blue indicated males. Difficulty in sexing nestlings occurred when the broods were all of one sex.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**Life Table Analysis for the White Pelican.** Lawrence E. Strait and Norman F. Sloan. 1974. *Inland Bird Banding News* 46: 20-28.

Band wear and loss causes the calculated mortality rate to increase and the life expectancy to be lowered.

**Bird Banding as an Educational Method.** Chrissie Maclay. 1974. *Inland Bird Banding News* 46: 163-167.

An addition to research work at Manomet Bird Observatory is educational school visits. Visits are conducted by trained volunteers and a description of the organisation and aims of visits is given.

**Mortality in Ringing — A Personal Viewpoint.** Dr Stuart Houston. 1974. *The Ring* 80: 157-161.

The author argues that a percentage mortality is justified as the unit of study is the bird population not the individual, and suggests the collection of data concerning the benefit: risk ratios in each aspect of bird ringing. Examples of mortality caused by ringing in hawks and colonial birds are given.

**Birds Showing Abnormalities.** Bernard N. Brauchoud. 1974. *Inland Bird Banding News* 46:95-100.

From the banding of 33 142 birds of 177 species, abnormalities and plumage variations were noted.

Analysis presented is in three tables including the percentage of the total banded that were abnormal and a comparison between cavity nesters and non-cavity nesters. Cavity nesters were shown to have a higher percentage of leg and toe abnormalities.

**Effects of Prairie Burning on Migrant Birds.** Peter C. Petersen, 1974. *Inland Bird Banding News* 46:137-139.

Bird usage of an area before and after burning is discussed, as reflected by mist netting.

**Birds of a Caragana-Alder Wind-Row** near a Wyoming Strip Mine, J. W. Todd, 1974. *Inland Bird Banding News* 46:168-171.

Increased development of surface mines results in a decrease in bird habitat. This paper describes environmental study using netting and trapping for a reclamation plan to restore and improve the habitat for birds after mining.

**Two Kestrel Nestings.** Merit B. Skaggs, 1974. *Inland Bird Banding News* 46:171-176.

Observations of breeding and behaviour of the American Kestrel are detailed.

**Bird Report, 1972-73.** Compiled by Brian Glover, 1975. *S. Aust. Orn.* 26:175-180.

The report is for the period 1 July 1972 to 30 June 1973, covering 321 species of birds reported in South Australia. Of special interest the 'invasion' of the Black-tailed Native-hen and a Sooty Tern record.

**Birds of the Gawler Ranges, South Australia.** J. B. Paton, 1975. *S. Aust. Orn.* 26:180-193.

A description is given of the Gawler Ranges north of Eyre Peninsula, the former home of the Night Parrot *Geopsittacus occidentalis*. A history and bird list for the area is given. A comparison between the years 1902 and 1912, and 1972-1973 can be made in the table listing birds observed.

## Kestrel Study Group

A Kestrel Study Group has been formed recently in Sydney, the main objectives being —

1. To co-ordinate kestrel study in N.S.W.
2. To collect and collate data primarily to ascertain plumage progression, age and sex characters.

Those interested in participating are invited to contact

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## Reviews

**The Dictionary of Birds in Colour** by Bruce Campbell. Michael Ltd, London 1974. pp. 352, col. pl. 1008, figs. 9. 303 mm x 230 mm, \$Aust.15.95.

Presented as a colour photographic dictionary covering the birds of the world, this book achieves a high standard of presentation with a concise, accurate text. It may be used as a highly informative text book on the world's birds or as a book to browse through at one's leisure.

Introductory chapters deal adequately with The Faunal Regions, Origins and Species, The Bird's Anatomy, and Classification; the sequence of orders and families is essentially that of the *Check-List of Birds of the World* by J. L. Peters.

The bulk of the book is taken up with the section of colour illustrations which are grouped together, and consist of 191 pages containing 1008 illustrations. Mostly the colour photographs are of a very high quality both in photographic and printing merits. Some show a loss of shadow detail due either to faulty colour separation or heavy printing; this gives them a very dark appearance with a loss of clarity in the darker areas. One (823) has been inverted in the printing, while a few must have been included for their rarity and not their quality; they may have been better omitted.

The text is concise with each species being covered in about 90 words. There is a brief description of range and distribution, but no mention of status. Descriptions of male, female, and immature where known, voice, nesting and behaviour are given, providing considerable information in the space available. There is a numerical cross reference to the photographs to facilitate use of the text.

It is inevitable that there are some inaccuracies, which are obvious with better-known birds. These include, for example, the reference to the range of the Galah which incorrectly excludes the east and west coast; the male Eastern Spinebill is stated as having a grey crown instead of black; and the Little Wattlebird having a small red wattle.

Also it is surprising that the text material for the Grey-breasted Silveryeye has been based on data from New Zealand where it is a comparatively recent arrival; there has been a wealth of material published on this species in Australia during the past decade, including its migration pattern which is not mentioned.

The book is of a large format, is well printed and strongly bound, and can be recommended as an addition to any ornithological library.

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