Recent Literature

BANDING AND RECOVERY REPORTS

Report on Bird-ringing for 1966. Robert Spencer. 1967. *British Birds*, 60:429-474.

During 1966, 552,237 birds were banded and 13,408 recoveries resulted. For the first time over 100,000 nestlings were banded in a single breeding season. The banding total includes a massive 75,098 Sand Martins. Of particular interest to Australian banders is the recovery at Bega, New South Wales on 31 December 1966 of an Arctic Tern banded as a nestling on 28 June 1966 at Anglesey, Wales; it is suggested that Eastern Australia may be in the normal winter range of the British breeding population.

ANALYTICAL STUDIES

Distribution, Migration and Mortality of the White-faced Ibis *(Plegadis chihi)*. Ronald A. Ryder, 1967. *Bird-Banding*, 38: 257-277.

One hundred and twelve recoveries of White-faced Ibises are analysed. The ibises leave the marshes of Utah, U.S.A. in late September and early October and migrate to central Mexico. 92 percent of recoveries have been from Mexico, mostly from the high central valleys. Most recovered ibises are shot, probably for food. White-faced Ibises in North America apparently have a lower first-year annual mortality than do Glossy Ibises banded in Hungary but a higher annual mortality rate in later years. White-faced Ibises wander widely and have been reported from Hawaii and Alberta; these wanderings seem to be more pronounced before the nesting season than afterwards and may result from drought conditions on the normal nesting area.

Band Loss—Its Effect on Banding Data and Apparent Survivorship in The Ring-billed Gull Population of the Great Lakes. James Pinson Ludwig, 1967. *Bird-Banding*, 38: 309-323.

A sample of 362 aluminium bands recovered from Ring-billed Gulls was examined for wear. Wear rate averaged 9.55 percent per year weight loss, calculated as percentage of the original weight. The rate of metal loss was constant, and the average life of a band was calculated as 6.81 years after banding. One band per 1,000 is predicted to withstand 19.6 years of wear. Survivorship of bands is predictable, provided an adequate sample is examined. Band loss begins to depress recovery rates between the fourth and fifth year, and after the sixth year assumes a constant rate of 38 percent per year of the surviving bands.

Correction factors were computed and applied to the raw banding data; this produced a corrected estimate of survivorship in this gull population, where 49.7 percent of the fledglings survive to first breeding, 13 percent of the adults die annually, and a fledgling rate of 0.523 chicks per pair maintains a stable population.

Monel bands last longer on the gulls, and metal loss from monel bands is about one third that from similar style aluminium bands. Monel bands are severely corroded by faeces and are less suited for species, such as the Caspian Tern, which defecate on their legs. The theory that salt water corrodes aluminium bands rapidly is not supported by the detailed examination of the recovered bands from the gulls.

A Preliminary Study of the Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor*. C. M. Perrins and C. M. Reynolds. *Wildfowl Trust, 18th Annual Report*: 74-84.

Results of a study of the Mute Swan in Oxford, England, in the years 1960-66 are discussed. Relatively few birds travel any distance and those that do are mostly immature. Mean clutch size is about six, close to the national average. Mortality is about 50 percent between hatching and fledging in September. Brood size in September is about three for those pairs with young or two if the unsuccessful breeders are included. About one third of the remaining young die within the nine months October-June. Thereafter mortality is about 25-33 percent per year for the next two or three years, dropping to 18 percent for breeding adults. Highest losses occur in late winter and early spring. Life-table data suggest that the swans are maintaining their numbers in the study area, but there is evidence that there are more suitable nesting sites than there are pairs to occupy them.

TECHNIQUES

A Nest Trap for Taking Adult Skimmers, Terns and Gulls. William E. Savell. 1967. *EBBA News*, 30: 240-242.

A simple, effective, portable trap for taking adult ground nesting birds is described and illustrated. The trap is a modified 'lobster-pot' nest trap, and is similar to that described in *Aust. Bird Bander*, 1: 129. The importance of marking the traps to assist location in featureless sandy areas is stressed.

Dipnetting Blackbirds in a Marsh Roost in Missouri. Richard R. West and Jerome F. Besser. 1967. *IBBA News*, 39: 91.

Long-handled dip nets are used in Europe and America to capture a variety of species at night. Only 18 man-hours were required to capture and band 1,013 blackbirds and starlings from a roost of some 3-4 million birds roosting in a marsh in Missouri, U.S.A. The investigation by Australian banders, in suitable localities, of this productive technique is obviously worthwhile.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bird-Ringing in Southern Africa. M. K. Rowan. *Bokmakierie*, 19: 35-38.

The history of bird banding is briefly reviewed, with particular emphasis on the South African scheme, which started in 1948. Initially the prime aim of banding was to trace bird movements, but biological studies based upon recognition of individuals is becoming increasingly important. Data which can be derived from the recovery of marked birds include potential longevity of a species in nature, and average life expectancy. By noting the ratio of marked to unmarked birds in a population and by applying the 'Lincoln Index', it is possible to estimate

the total numbers of a species. Little is presently known of the factors which in nature regulate the numbers of a population or of a species; banded populations are being increasingly used for these studies which can have far-reaching implications both in conservation and in control of 'pest' species.

Finance and general administration of the banding scheme is briefly outlined. South African bands have 'Notify Zoo Pretoria' inscribed as the return address. This has caused much controversy, and arguments for and against retention of this address are discussed at some length. The adverse effect of poor record keeping by some individual banders on the overall scheme is emphasised.

Net Hours: The Myth of their Importance. John and Mary Schmid. 1967. *EBBA News*, 30: 208-209.

More on Net Hours. George A. Hall. 1967. *EBBA News*, 30: 209-212.

Net Hours: A Common Denominator for the Study of Bird Populations by Banders. Chandler S. Robbins. 1968. *EBBA NEWS*, 31: 31-35.

The first two of these papers support Mabel Warburton's 'Net Hours: The Myth of their Importance' (summarized in *Aust. Bird Bander*, 6:14). Because most birds are netted in the early morning, Hall emphasises that the calculated 'birds per net hour' on any day will usually fall markedly as the duration of the netting activity increases.

Robbins, of the Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel, U.S.A., states that net hours, despite shortcomings, can have great practical applications if banders standardise their activities, record carefully their procedures, and refine the procedures for analysing the results of banding activities. A banding activity form, soon to be available to U.S. banders, will allow critical analysis of netting activities, as factors affecting netting success can be compensated for on the computer.

Annual General Meeting 1969

The next Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held in Melbourne, Victoria, on 4 January 1969. The venue and other details will be notified in the December issue.

This early advice is given in the hope that as many members as possible, particularly those from country and interstate locations, may be able to arrange to be present.

SYDNEY MEETING

A scientific meeting will be held on Saturday, 20 July 1968 at 2.00 p.m. in the Hallstrom Theatre, Australian Museum, College Street, Sydney.

The programme for the meeting has not yet been finalised but you will be assured of an interesting and informative afternoon.

Members, friends and visitors are cordially invited to be present.

CORRIGENDUM

The histogram on page 4 of the March issue (Vol. 6 no. 1) was incorrectly printed in that the shaded portions for the September period should be ignored. No male Flame Robins were present after 23 August.

NEW MEMBERS

Full Members:

BENNETT, G., 80 Hansen St, Moorooka, Qld.
CARINS, M., Viscount Apts, Antill & Knox St, Watson, A.C.T.
THOMASON, A. T., Barkly Medical Centre, Barkly Highway, Mt Isa, Qld.

Associate Members:

ASHFORD, D., 17 High St, Willoughby, N.S.W.
BELL, J. A., "Cabanda", Julia Creek, Qld.
DAVIES, P. W., 19 Addington Ave, Ryde, N.S.W.
DAY, W. N., Norco, Louisiana, U.S.A.
HAMILTON, F. M., 8 Ironside St, St Lucia, Qld.
REED, Mrs S., 4 Mamaku St, Meadowbank, Auckland, N.Z.
RUSHTON, D. K., 35 Winnall St, Clapham, S.A.
SIMMONS, Major J., J.T.C. Canungra, Qld.
STRETTON, Mrs E. I., Wooroona Station, Camooweal, Qld.
TAYLOR, E. J., 34 Church St, Windsor, N.S.W.
TURNER, A. E. "Black Creek", Adelong, N.S.W.
WALKER, A. L., 9 Bouvardia St, Five Dock, N.S.W.

Junior Members:

DOECKE, N. W., C/- P.O., Sutherlands, S.A.
HEPERSTALL, J., 179 Terry St, S. Hurstville, N.S.W.
LENEHAN, L., 24 Bowen Ave, Turramurra, N.S.W.
PRIOR, M. F., 15 Latrobe St, Mentone, Vic.
ROSS, Miss J., 11 Heathcote St, Rockdale, N.S.W.
WATSON, D., 198 Marsden Rd, Dundas, N.S.W.

Change Of Status:

The following members have been advanced to Full Membership:

KAVENEY, M. T., Public School, Albert, N.S.W.
JONES, B., 716 Henry Lawson Drive, East Hills, N.S.W.