Recent Literature

BANDING AND RECOVERY REPORTS

Recoveries in Great Britain and Ireland of Birds Ringed Abroad. Robert Hudson. 1968. *British Birds*, 61: 65-76.

During 1966, 529 foreign ringed birds of 77 species were recovered in Great Britain and Ireland. The highly selective list of recoveries details data for 164 recoveries of 68 species of particular note.

Bird Report: 1966. Lord Medway and I.C.T. Nisbet. 1967. *Malayan Nature Journal*, 21:34-50.

During 1966 a total of 27,697 birds were banded in Malaya and 25 were banded in Singapore. Banding efforts were again concentrated on swallows, and the totals include 21,953 Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) and 974 Pacific Swallows (*H. tahitica*). The short recovery lists include 12 distant recoveries of Malayan banded swallows, including three from Asiatic USSR and five from North Korea. The report also summarises data resulting from studies of migrants and from the nest record card scheme. An annotated list of 73 species of particular note completes the report.

ANALYTICAL STUDIES

Movements of Cormorants Ringed in the British Isles and Evidence of Colony-specific Dispersal. J. C. Coulson and M. G. Brazendale. 1968. *British Birds*, 61: 1-21.

Analysis of recoveries of nestlings from eleven colonies in Great Britain and Ireland indicates that the Cormorant (*Phalacrocrax carbo*) does not migrate, but disperses widely. Differences in the direction of dispersal, the dispersal rate and the tendency to cross large land masses were found between the individual colonies. These differences appear to arise from environmental factors and genetical differences in each colony. It is demonstrated that the direction of dispersal is influenced markedly by the reluctance of the birds to cross large areas of open water, although the species undoubtedly has the ability to fly such distances. Almost half of all recovered cormorants are shot, and the data indicate that there has been a general decrease in the intensity of shooting since about 1930, although a reverse trend was apparent in three widely separated regions.

Some results from the Ringing of Rock Pipits on Skokholm 1952-1965. P. R. Evans. 1967. *Skokholm Bird Observatory Report*, 1966: 22-27.

Over 2,000 Rock Pipits have been banded, but the species has not been the subject of an intensive study. The species is sedentary, and no distant recoveries have resulted. Banding data are critically examined to determine if biologically useful information can be extracted. Mortality data from banded birds are negligible, the only recoveries being three bands found in Kestrel pellets. Analysis of retrap data gave an apparent survival rate of 25-28 percent, which is obviously too low. Variation in weight was analysed and gave inconclusive results. The importance of treating weights and measurements in groups by age and/or sex is stressed.

TECHNIQUES

Color-Dyeing Albatrosses. W. L. N. Tickell. 1968. *Bird-Banding*, 39: 36-40.

Wandering Albatrosses (*Diomedea exulans*) on Bird Island, South Georgia, have been colour marked since 1961 to assist in obtaining data concerning the pelagic distribution of the species. The dye used is 10 grams of Rhodamine "B" powder dissolved in five gallons of isopropyl alcohol and the mixture diluted with an equivalent volume of water. Initial methods of application were to immerse and/or paint the birds with large brushes, but 18 gallons of dye sufficed to colour only 75 birds. In later years a three-gallon portable agricultural sprayer was used, and a further 885 birds were colour marked to 1964. The distribution of 57 sightings of coloured albatrosses is mapped, and some difficulties in the interpretation of random sightings of colour-dyed albatrosses are considered.

Catching Colonial Seabirds for Banding. R. L. Edgar. 1968. *Bird-Banding*, 39: 41-43.

A noose on a pole used to catch selected adult or young gannets from a crowded colony without unduly disturbing their neighbours is described and illustrated. Two of these devices have been regularly used for seven years at Cape Kidnappers, N.Z. An assistant is needed to remove the bird from the end of the pole.

A Technique for Mist-Netting in the Forest Canopy. Philip S. Humphrey, David Bridge, and Thomas E. Lovejoy. 1968. *Bird-Banding*, 39:43-50.

In recent years several methods of rigging high mist nets have been suggested to catch birds frequenting the forest crown. All high-set rigs require far more preparation and effort than do the normal ground-set nets, but the extra effort may be warranted in special studies. The present paper fully describes and illustrates a technique developed in the rain forests of Brazil. The rig depends upon a rope suspended between two tall trees: a series of metal rings acting as pulleys allows a continuous nylon line to be strung so that one vertical line at each end will move in the same direction and at the same speed. The rig takes three or four nets at heights of 17-24 metres and it can be operated by one man from either end.

Bird Bands in Owl Pellets. Karl E. Bartel. 1968. *IBBA News*, 40:38.

This short note records an off-beat method of recovering bands from hollows of trees used by nesting owls. The author worked in a cemetery where there were many hollow trees—when these were cut down, he sifted through the rotten, decayed wood. This work resulted in the recovery of five bands from birds banded in the cemetery by the author.

Notes on the Ageing and Sexing of Juvenile House Sparrows. Anthony S. Cheke. 1967. *Ringers' Bulletin*, 3: 7-8.

The 'Bird in the Hand', *Aust. Bird Bander*, 4: 60, described and illustrated some age and sex plumage variations. Many banders have difficulty in separating some juvenile sparrows from adult females; the present paper attempts to resolve this problem, but the author states that a few birds are difficult to place.

The following precis of the features is extracted from the paper; the notes apply only up to the first moult, when sparrows change all of their feathers.

1. Beak flange. Unreliable guide unless very large, as many adult females show a lot of yellow. If flange is blackish, the bird is adult.
2. Legs. Adult females generally have textured legs, with brittle skin. Colour can range from yellow to orange

to strongly pinkish. Juvenile legs are soft textured, with pliable skin. Colour is generally pale grey-blue or grey-pinkish. The skin hardens by about two months, but the colour is retained rather longer. Some juveniles have very yellow undersides to the feet and legs, contrasting with the bluish upper parts of the leg. As a few adult females have bluish legs, this character must not be used in isolation.

3. Plumage. Summer plumage of adults is usually very worn, whereas juveniles have fresh feathers. The differences in texture are easily checked by stroking the flanks: juvenile feathers are soft and fluffy, adult feathers are coarse, with more clear-cut vanes, and are usually abraded. Abrasion on the secondaries should be checked, as these are more protected than the primaries and tail feathers. The underwing between the elbow and carpal joint is well feathered in adults, but hardly at all in juveniles. The inner secondaries are amongst the last feathers to be moulted and can thus be used to age birds until the moult is nearly complete. Most adult females have a brood patch, but these should be distinguished from juveniles which are are very incompletely feathered in this region. Breeding females tend to have a rather dilated cloaca, which is very obvious during the period of egg laying.
4. Size of the outermost (10th) primary. Sparrows have reduced outermost primaries, this feather being larger in juveniles than in adults. This outer primary in juveniles is rather broad, as is its covert, and is three-quarters to as long as the covert of the next primary. In adults the outer primary is very narrow, and only half to three-quarters of the length of the covert of the next primary. The relative lengths may overlap a little, but the shape differences are consistent.
5. Fault bars. Some juveniles show striking fault bars, particularly on the underside of the tail.
6. Sexing of juveniles. This is open to doubt, and errors can occur if the dusky throat patch is used as a male character, and its absence used to indicate females. Some adult females show a dusky throat patch similar to that found in juvenile males.

[*Note. Care must be observed when using these features, as Australian conditions probably cause variations which do not occur in Europe. Breeding throughout the year may occur in mild seasons and immature birds are not infrequently recorded nesting.*—**Hon. Editor.**]

Banders' Supplies

Spring Balances

Pesola (Swiss made) spring balances which are particularly good for weighing birds are now available.

30gm—$3.95 (for birds taking up size 03 bands).
100gm—$3.95 (for birds up to size 06 bands).
300gm—$5.80 (for larger birds).

These balances are equipped with spring clips. A smallish black bag is required to hold the bird being weighed.

Mist Nets

The following nets are available. (Those marked * will be in short supply until October.)

(a) Standard mist nets
3-shelf, 1¼ inch mesh, in the following sizes

20 ft x 9 ft	$5.25
30 ft x 9 ft	7.15
40 ft x 9 ft	9.20 *
60 ft x 9 ft	13.60

(b) Special large 4-shelf nets, 1¼ inch mesh

30 ft x 12 ft	$9.55
40 ft x 12 ft	12.60

(c) Wader nets
2 inch mesh, 3-shelf, light weight thread

40 ft x 9 ft	$8.40 *
60 ft x 9 ft	12.40

(d) Duck nets
3 inch mesh, heavy weight thread

60 ft x 6 ft (2-shelf)	$8.20
60 ft x 9 ft (3-shelf)	10.40

(e) Bulk netting
Available in any desired length. 1¼ inch mesh. No shelf strings. Three feet high.

per 10 yards	$1.40 *

Orders should be addressed to: Mr S. J. Wilson, Bird Banders' Association of Australia, 2 Scott St., NARRABUNDAH, A.C.T. 2604.

Postage: Nets and balances will be forwarded by registered mail. Postage should be added to remittances to cover this cost, which is approximately 30c for one net, 50c for two, or 30c for balances.

The above prices are subject to 12½% discount to financial Full Members of The Bird Banders' Association of Australia.

Approved Projects

(Additional)

185. **SACRED KINGFISHER;** Migration, measurements.
Territory of Papua and New Guinea (including New Britain.).
K. F. Silva, Box 332, Port Moresby, T.P.N.G.

186. **AREA SURVEY**; To supplement work being carried out under an existing RAOU Individual Observation Point.
East Ivanhoe, Vic.
P. and R. Balmford, 459 The Boulevard, East Ivanhoe, Vic.

187. **RALLIDAE**; Movements, life-histories, weights, measurements, plumages.
Port Phillip Bay, Vic.
J. F. Shiels, 16 Grange Road, Carnegie, Vic.

188. **MARSH TERN**; Movements, breeding.
Willaura, Vic.
Rev. C. G. Burtt, Scots Manse, Warranooke Street, Willaura, Vic.

189. **WATER BIRDS**; Factors influencing breeding behaviour, statistics, dispersal.
Willaura, Vic.
Rev. J. M. O'Kelly, St Mary's Cathedral, Sale, Vic.

190. **WHITE IBIS** and **STRAW-NECKED IBIS;** Movements.
Willaura, Vic.
Rev. C. G. Burtt, Scots Manse, Warranooke Street, Willaura Vic.

191. **RED-NECKED AVOCET**; Movements.
Willaura, Vic.
Rev. C. G. Burtt, Scots Manse, Warranooke Street, Willaura, Vic.

192. **AREA SURVEY**; Population dynamics, movements, behaviour, habitat preference, life histories, longevity, weights, plumages.
Mount Wilson, N.S.W.
E. G. Reynolds, 9 Silvia Street, Hornsby, N.S.W.