

lessens the possibility of the tag passing over the underdeveloped wing and later damaging the wing as it develops. Adults may try to remove wing-tags on young (either hatched or in pipped eggs), causing damage or death to the nestling in some cases. It is suggested that tagged birds be returned to the nest with the wing-tag hidden if possible. For young tagged in the egg, it is suggested that the tag be pushed into the egg; on hatching the adults apparently accept the tag and do not try to remove it.

Wing-tagging Ducklings in Pipped Eggs. Jiri Havlin. 1968. *Journal of Wildlife Management*, 32:172-174.

Wing-tagging of ducklings may cause losses if the birds leave the nest prematurely, and the incubating female follows them. The technique of applying the wing-tag in the egg while hatching is underway is described and recommended. In one sample loss of young tagged in pipped eggs equalled normal losses in successful nests, while losses of young tagged only after hatching were twice as high as normal losses.

MISCELLANEOUS

Recommendations for an International Standard for a Mapping Method in Bird Census Work. 1969. *Bird Study*, 16:249-255.

Many banders have chosen area surveys as their banding project, and some are combining banding with census work. It may be desirable that this census

work follow the recommendations of the International Bird Census Committee for those aspects which apply to Australian conditions. These recommendations are based on the mapping of breeding territories and apply basically to non-colonial passerines; the method is most useful where breeding is strictly seasonal, e.g. northern Europe. Fairly detailed recommendations are given for the organization of the census plot, organization of the census work, methods of recording and evaluation of records.

Orientation Behaviour of Ring-billed Gull Chicks and Fledglings. William E. Southern. 1969. *Condor*, 71: 418-425.

Orientation cage experiments were carried out on 294 Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) chicks from a colony on Lake Huron, Michigan, U.S.A. Preferential headings of E., S.E. and S. were shown by more than half (57.8 per cent) of the chicks; these headings correspond to the initial autumn migration of the species. During magnetic storms there was a decrease in the intensity of the selection of these headings, but this is inconclusive as only mild storms were experienced during the experiments. Sixty juvenile gulls were subjected to homing trials for their maiden flight; about half (51.8 per cent) selected E. or S.E. courses. The study suggests that many, if not all, young gulls from the colony have an innate ability for selecting a flight path which enables them to reach their main wintering grounds.

REVIEWS

An Index of Australian Bird Names. Compiled by CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research, Technical Paper No. 20, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Australia, 1969. 93 pp.

The primary object of this useful publication is to record an acceptable and uniform English vernacular name for every Australian bird species, and to give other names that may be used in various parts of the species' range. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list, but is confined to those considered to be in use in recent times. A comprehensive Index covers 14 pages for common names and 13 for scientific titles. I regret that capitals have been discarded, except for the commencing letter, the latter no doubt being given solely because of the name arrangement and would be altered when appearing in the middle of a sentence. Capitals for specific vernaculars have been the usual practise in ornithological journals for many years, although change in this system has been advocated recently. Capitals should always be used for names of persons, places, days, months etc. and to my view it would be just as illogical to write "north sydney" or "raymond terrace" as it is to give "chestnut quail-thrush" or "Chestnut quail-thrush".

However, despite the main purpose for publication and the usefulness of such a well-planned Australian list of English names, I found the treatment and arrangement of scientific names the most interesting part of the book. It is clearly stated "This Index is not to be regarded as a Checklist of Australian birds . . . Nevertheless some decision had to be made as to the selection of names, the systematic arrangement of the species, and the limits of the taxo-

nomic categories employed". In the systematic arrangement the list follows closely that employed by its State predecessors—*Birds of Western Australia*, 4th edn., *A Handlist of the Birds of South Australia*, *List of Northern Territory Birds*, *A Hand List of the Birds of New South Wales*, etc. As the latest official *Checklist* was published in 1926, and as extremely few publications covering all Australian birds have appeared since, the specific limits are most likely to cause debate. I believe that the limits given have greatly uplifted the value of the book and I would like to think that the next *Official Checklist*, when completed, will vary extremely little from the specific decisions included in this Index.

A count gives a total of 730 species, including about 20 introduced and established, which is far different from the oft-times quoted 650 recorded from Australia. However, there is scarcely one species included which is not worthy of the distinction, and possibly a further ten could be added safely to make the final total workable in field ornithology. Those relegated to subspecies such as *Sericornis humilis*, *Cinclosoma castaneothorax*, *Monarcha melanopsis*, *Gerygone tenebrosa*, *Ailuroedus crassirostris*, *Ptiloris victoriae*, *Amytornis dorotheae*, etc., are just as distinct to most observers as are *Chrysococcyx lucidus*, *Malurus leucopterus*, *Pardalotus ornatus*, etc., which are accepted as species in the Index.

An Index of Australian Bird Names is available from the CSIRO and should be in the library of every keen ornithologist, be read carefully and regularly referred to in all nomenclatural problems.

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