

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Compiled by B. Baker

This section is compiled from journals which are often not available to non-professional ornithologists in Australia. The following criteria are used to select papers for review:

- They relate to species which occur in Australia and its Territories;
- They provide details of techniques and equipment that may be of use in Australia;
- They provide details of studies that may be of general interest to Australian ornithologists.

**Journals perused:** *Australian Bird Watcher* 15 (7, 8), 16 (1), *Australian Journal of Ecology* 20 (1, 2, 3), *Australian Journal of Zoology* 43 (5), *Canberra Bird Notes* Condor 97 (1, 2), *Ecological Abstracts* 1994 (12), 1995 (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9), *Ecological Monographs* 65 (2, 3), *Emu* 95 (2, 3, 4), *Journal of Wildlife Management* 59 (2, 3, 4) *North American Bird Bander* 19 (2), *Wildlife Review* 246, *Wilson Bulletin* 107 (2, 3)

### GENERAL INTEREST

**Bird diversity components within and between habitats in Australia.** Cody, M. L. (1993). Pp 365–404 in Ricklefs, R. E. and Schluter, D. (Eds) *Species diversity in ecological communities*. Univ. of Chicago Press. (Compares the distribution of birds over a habitat gradient and over distance within habitats in NE and SW Australia.)

**Habitat-specific guild structure of forest birds in south-eastern Australia: a regional scale perspective.** MacNally, R. (1994) *Journal of Animal Ecology* 63: 988–1001. (Uses foraging information to produce a guild classification for birds of forests and woodlands of central Victoria. Results indicate that there is a systematic basis for guild structure that can be broadly related to habitat structure.)

### AUSTRALIAN SPECIES

**Wet-season feeding by four species of granivorous birds in the Northern Territory.** Garnett, S. and Crowley, G. (1994) *Australian Bird Watcher* 15: 306–309. (Gouldian Finch, Peaceful Dove, Hooded Parrot.)

**Can nest predation explain the timing of the breeding season and the pattern of nest dispersion of New Holland Honeyeaters?** Major, R. E., Pyke, G. H., Christy, M. T., Gowing, G. and Hill, R. S. (1994) *Oikos* 69: 364–372.

**The reproductive biology of the Helmeted Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus melanops cassidix*.** Franklin, D. C., Smales, I. J., Miller, M. A. and Menkhurst, P. W. (1995) *Wildlife Research* 22: 173–191.

**The importance of demographic uncertainty: an example from the Helmeted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops cassidix*.** McCarthy, M. A., Franklin, D. C. and Burgman, M. A. (1994). *Biological Conservation* 67: 135–142.

**The Helmeted Honeyeater recovery programme: a view of its organization and operation.** Smales, I., Menkhurst, P. and Horrocks, G. (1995). Pp 35–44 in *People and nature conservation: perspectives on conservation on private land and endangered species recovery*. Transactions of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales.

**Movements of Helmeted Honeyeaters during the non-breeding season.** Runciman, D., Franklin, D. C. and Menkhurst, P. W. (1995) *Emu* 95: 111–118.

**Territoriality and breeding success of Australian Magpies in a Canberra suburb.** Davey, C. (1995) *Canberra Bird Notes* 20: 25–31.

**Court site constancy, dispersion, male survival and court ownership in the male Tooth-billed Bowerbird, *Scenopoeetes dentirostris* (Ptilonorhynchidae).** Frith, C. B. and Frith, D. W. (1995) *Emu* 95: 84–98.

**Notes on the nesting biology and diet of Victoria's Riflebird *Ptiloris victoriae*.** Frith, C. B. and Frith, D. W. (1995) *Emu* 95: 162–174.

**Survivorship, dispersal and sex ratios of Zebra Finches *Taeniopygia guttata* in south-east Australia.** Zann, R. and Runciman, D. (1994) *Ibis* 136: 136–146.

**Eutrophication and Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus* Latham) populations: tests of two simple relationships.** McKinnon, S. L. and Mitchell, S. F. (1994) *Hydrobiologia* 279–280: 163–170. (Winter swan populations are directly correlated with macrophytes.)

### POPULATION MONITORING

**Refining the use of point counts for winter studies of individual species.** Gutzwiller, K. J. (1993) *Wilson Bull.* 105: 612–627.

**Can bird atlas data be used to estimate population size? A case study using Namibian endemics.** Robertson, A., Simmons, R. E., Jarvis, A. M. and Brown, C. J. (1995) *Biological Conservation* 71: 87–95. (Findings indicate that reporting rates can be used to give reasonable estimates of abundance for some species.)

### TECHNIQUES AND ANALYSES

**Flipper-bands on penguins: what is the cost of a life-long commitment?** Culik, B. M., Wilson, R. P. and Bannasch, R. (1993) *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 98: 209–214.

**Effects of harness-attached transmitters on pre-migration and reproduction of Brant.** Ward, D. H. and Flint, P. L. (1995) *Journal of Wildlife Management* 59: 39–46.

**Banding and foot loss: an addendum.** Gratto-Trevor, C. L. (1994) *Journal of Field Ornithology* 65: 133–134. (In at least some species of shorebirds, leg injuries from banding are rare when appropriate bands and techniques are used.)

**Effects of nest and brood visits and radio transmitters on Rock Ptarmigan.** Cotter, R. C. and Gratto, C. J. (1995) *Journal of Wildlife Management* 59: 93–98. (Survival of radio-marked males was lower than that of unmarked males.)

Use of implanted satellite transmitters to locate Spectacled Eiders at sea. Petersen, M. R., Douglas, D. C. and Mulcahy, D. M. (1995) *Condor* 97: 276–278. (Implanted 30 gm transmitters — less than 3% body weight — in the peritoneal cavity. Transmitters provided location data from between 29 and 165 days.)

An improved radio transmitter harness with a weak link to prevent snagging. Karl, B. J. and Clout, M. N. (1987) *Journal of Field Ornithology* 58: 73–77.

Inexpensive camera systems for detecting martens, fishers, and other animals: guidelines for use and standardization. Jones, L. L. C. and Raphael, M. G. 1993 *General Technical Report* — US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, PNW-GTR-306, 22pp.

### SEABIRDS

Population increase and nesting patterns of the Black Noddy *Anous minutus* in Pisonia forest on Heron Island: observations in 1978, 1979 and 1992. Ogden, J. 1993 *Australian Journal of Ecology* 18: 395–403.

Cephalopod prey of the Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophrys* at South Georgia. Rodhouse, P. G. and Prince, P. A. (1993) *Polar Biology* 13: 373–376.

Foods of the Southern Polar skua *Catharacta maccormicki* in the eastern Larsemann Hills, Princess Elizabeth Land, East Antarctica. Wang, Z. and Norman, F. I. (1993) *Polar Biology* 13: 255–262.

Survival, site and mate fidelity in South Polar skuas *Catharacta maccormicki* at Anvers Island, Antarctica. Pietz, P. J. and Parmelee, D. F. (1994) *Ibis* 136: 32–38.

Plastics in nests of Australasian Gannets *Morus serrator* in Victoria, Australia. Norman, F. I., Menkhurst, P. W. and Hurley, V. G. (1995) *Emu* 95: 129–133.

The relationship of pair-bond formation and duration to reproductive success in Short-tailed Shearwaters *Puffinus tenuirostris*. Bradley, J. S., Wooller, R. D. and Skira, I. J. (1995) *Journal of Animal Ecology* 64: 31–38.

Population dynamics of Black-browed and Grey-headed Albatrosses *Diomedea melanophrys* and *D. chrysostoma* at Bird Island, South Georgia. Prince, P. A., Rothery, P., Croxall, J. P. and Wood, A. G. (1994) *Ibis* 136: 50–71.

The breeding biology and diet of Little Penguins *Eudyptula minor* on Montague Island, New South Wales. Weber, J. J. (1994) *Honours thesis*, Charles Sturt University: Albury.

Pelagic seabirds and the marine environment: foraging patterns of Wandering Albatrosses in relation to prey availability and distribution. Weimerskirch, H., Doncaster, C. P. and Cuenot-Chaillet, F. (1994) *Proceedings — Royal Society of London, B*, 255: 91–97.

### SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Male phenotype, fertility, and the pursuit of extra-pair copulations by female birds. Sheldon, B. C. (1994) *Proceedings — Royal Society of London, B*, 257(1348): 25–30. (Females pursue extra-pair copulations as insurance against the functional infertility of their mate, and obtain only direct benefits for themselves in their current reproductive event.)

Timing of prenuptial molt as a sexually selected indicator of male quality in Superb Fairy-wrens (*Malurus cyaneus*). Mulder, R. A. and Magrath, M. J. L. (1994) *Behavioral Ecology* 5: 393–400. (Males undergo the prenuptial molt earlier as they age and when in superior condition. Moulting earlier is apparently costlier, so this handicap would appear to be a reliable reflection of male quality.)

Fairy-wren helpers often care for young to which they are unrelated. Dunn, P. O., Cockburn, A. and Mulder, R. A. (1995) *Proc. R. Soc. Lond. B*. 259: 339–343.

The breeding biology of the White-winged Fairy-wren *Malurus leucopterus leuconotus* in a Western Australian coastal heath. Rowley, I. and Russell, E. (1995) *Emu* 95: 175–184. (Describes social organization, survival, territory and mating systems.)

Demography of the co-operatively breeding Splendid Fairy-wren, *Malurus splendens* (Maluridae). Russell, E. M. and Rowley, I. (1993) *Australian Journal of Zoology* 41: 475–505.

Hatching asynchrony and brood reduction in co-operatively breeding White-winged Choughs *Corcorax melanorhamphos*. Heinsohn, R. (1995) *Emu* 95: 252–258.

Helping is costly to young birds in co-operatively breeding White-winged Choughs. Heinsohn, R. and Cockburn, A. (1994) *Proc. R. Soc. Lond. B*. 256: 293–298. (Although choughs generally do not lose body mass over incubation, young helpers lose mass in proportion to the amount of incubation they perform.)

Co-operative breeding in the Australian avifauna and brood parasitism by cuckoos (Cuculidae). Poiani, A. and Elgar, M. A. (1994) *Animal Behaviour* 47: 697–706.

Sexual competition and courtship disruptions: why do male bowerbirds destroy each other's bowers? Pruett-Jones, S. and Pruett-Jones, M. (1994) *Animal Behaviour* 47: 607–620.

Female mate choice in the Zebra Finch — the effect of male beak colour and male song. Collins, S. A., Hubbard, C. and Houtman, A. M. 1994 *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* 35: 21–25. (High song rate in males is more important than beak colour in mate selection by females.)

### RAPTORS

Reproductive parameters of the Grey Goshawk (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*) and Brown Goshawk (*Accipiter fasciatus*) at Abergowie, northern Queensland, Australia. Burton, A. M., Alford, R. A. and Young, J. (1994) *Journal of Zoology* 232: 347–363.