

All capture and tagging of birds was carried out under licence from the Australian Bird Banding Scheme, New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service. Finally, the work of Project Egret Watch would not be able to proceed without the continual goodwill of property owners who have provided access to breeding colonies.

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BOOK REVIEW

Australian Grass Parrakeets — The *Psephotus* and *Northiella* Genera

S. Sindel and J. Gill. 1996. Singil Press, Austral, Australia. 203 pp. \$A45.00

This is the fourth book in the planned series of six aviculture specialist books covering the Australian Psittaciformes. The previous three dealt with Australian lorikeets, cockatoos and the small *Neophema* grass parrots and all have previously been reviewed in *Corella*.

Stan Sindel and Jim Gill between them have acquired in excess of 80 years experience of Australian parrots in the field and aviary. They both have exceptional avicultural skills and are highly respected in their field both within Australia and overseas. Jim Gill is also widely acclaimed as a leading avian veterinarian.

This book follows the same successful format as the earlier publications with chapters on housing, diet and management of birds and a chapter on the diseases which may afflict *Psephotus* parrots. A chapter is devoted to each of the five *Psephotus* species and two chapters to *Northiella* — the Naretha Blue Bonnet is afforded species status as *N. narethae* and the other three subspecies are dealt with under *N. haematogaster*. These species accounts provide information on such subjects as classification; early reports of the species; range; habitat and field notes, including breeding in the wild; avicultural history; sexing; display; avicultural nesting requirements; incubation and development of the young and information on avicultural mutations. Each species chapter also includes a distribution map and numerous colour photographs to illustrate development of the young, plumage stages and mutations. An interesting photograph is included of a Naretha Blue Bonnet with an acquired red suffusion, which is thought to be age related, over most of its body.

This is another good reference book which should be essential reading for all who keep these parrots in aviaries. It not only imparts an immense amount of knowledge about the do's and don'ts for the subject species in aviculture, but also raises an appreciation for the birds in their natural environment. Lessons are to be learned from the demise of the Paradise Parrot and the current threats to the Golden-shouldered Parrot, which are both well documented in this book.

The earlier books in this series have become standard texts for serious aviculturists and I am sure that this volume will achieve the same high status. I am also sure that those who may not wish to keep birds in captivity would also find this book quite interesting.

This is a limited edition publication, which is not available through retailers, it can only be purchased through avicultural societies or direct from the publisher Singil Press, P.O. Box 9, Austral, New South Wales 2171.

J. W. Hardy
20 Lindsay Avenue
Ermington, New South Wales 2115