

ERRATUM

The recovery for the Australian Magpie band No. 090-40501 published in Recovery Round-up, *Corella* 27(2): 60, June 2003 incorrectly stated that 'This was the oldest recorded for the species'.

The above error was pointed out by David Purchase, who was the officer-in-charge of the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme from 1966 to 1984 during the period it was administered by the CSIRO. David also provided the following information on what is the longevity record for an Australian Magpie.

The oldest I know of is 090-05314 which was banded as an adult female on 12 September 1956 by Robert Carrick, at 'Gungahlin' homestead on the outskirts of Canberra (headquarters of the then CSIRO Wildlife Survey Section (now Sustainable Ecosystems)). She was one of the population studied by Dr Carrick in his investigation into the social and ecological factors in population regulation of the Australian Magpie. On 26 June 1980 she was found unable to fly about 120 m NE of the place she was banded (see Recovery Round-up in *Corella* 4(5) December 1980).

The day was cold and wet. She was brought to my office and I took her home for rehabilitation (aka TLC). She was kept in a cage on the deck of our house where she responded well to treatment, so much so that she began to concern the local pair of resident magpies who seemed to view her as a threat. A great deal of aggressive, rather than joyous, carolling ensued as the local pair tried to evict her from the area. This became a problem for all concerned, both avian and human, and she was transferred to the care of the Wildlife Foundation (an organisation that cared for sick and injured wildlife in the ACT) and placed in an aviary at Murrumbateman, New South Wales, together with other magpies.

She could not be released back into the wild as she was developing cataracts. However, although partly blind, she was so aggressive to these magpies that she had to be removed and was placed in an aviary with a blind Tawny Frogmouth. She became totally blind and eventually died on 9 February 1981. [age over 24 years, 5 months after banding] Her skin and band are now in the Australian National Wildlife Collection (it is rather reminiscent of Phar Lap!).

It would appear she spent all of her banded life in the wild in the same territory where she had been originally banded as an adult female. During her life as well as colour bands, she carried three metal bands, the first two aluminium, Nos. 090-05314 and 090-63723, both of these bands were changed due to wear and finally a stainless steel band No. 091-02991.