

of a precedent for *Geranoaetus* being considered an eagle). Among booted eagles, DNA evidence says that *Hieraaetus kienerii* belongs in monotypic *Lophotriorchis*; *Aquila* (*sensu stricto*) takes in Bonelli's Eagle and African Hawk-Eagle (from *Hieraaetus*) and '*Spizaetus*' *africanus*, but the spotted eagles and *Lophaetus* belong within *Ictinaetus*; *Hieraaetus* (*sensu stricto*) is now more circumscribed; Asian *Spizaetus* should be *Nisaetus*; and *Spizaetus* (*sensu stricto*, Latin America) takes in *Oroaetus* and *Spizastur*.

From an Australasian perspective, one notes that one New Guinea Harpy Eagle author has produced a scientific paper from his work (Watson and Asoyama 2001, *J. Raptor Research* **35**: 235–239), but the other has not, perhaps because his short account in the book is all that resulted under difficult conditions. Also, that the Wedge-tailed Eagle author has not conducted a field study on that species, whereas Michael Brooker (an obvious choice) and others have. Perhaps for this species, author selection reflects that author's public profile (a short Wedge-tailed Eagle monograph, again not based on personal field study) rather than the editors' knowledge of Australian eagle research. Jason Wiersma was a good choice on White-bellied Sea-Eagle, though most of his work is yet to be published.

I'm unaware of any publication giving the Little Eagle's incubation period as 33 days. Scientific literature has long given it as 36–40 days (like authentic values for its close relatives), recently refined to 37–39 days (*Aust. Field Ornithology* **24**: 137–156). The editors' Northern Hemisphere bias is reflected in the statement, on breeding behaviour (Ch. 1), that eagles occupy and defend breeding territories starting in early spring, which doesn't necessarily apply in tropical or subtropical (or even austral temperate) zones. One can hardly overlook the occasional gaffe like 'elate' (for alate) termites, 'peaked' for peeked, or 'breach' for [firearm] breech.

The book is highly readable and entertaining, with wider appeal than just raptor or bird enthusiasts. It masterfully samples the whole gamut of recent eagle research and conservation, its practitioners, and the diverse problems eagles (and eagle-watchers) face, and it therefore should be a great inspiration to a new generation of would-be eagle students (and, one hopes, their graduate supervisors!). As such, it is highly recommended as a gift for aspiring eagle-watchers, and as a worthy addition to library shelves public, private and education-institutional.

Stephen Debus
Honorary Associate
University of New England
Armidale, NSW

Corella 36(2)

RECOVERY ROUND-UP

This section is prepared with the co-operation of the Secretary, Australian Bird and Bat Banding Schemes, Australian Nature Conservation Agency. The recoveries are only a selection of the thousands received each year; they are not a complete list and should not be analysed in full or part without prior consent of the banders concerned. Longevity and distance records refer to the ABBBS unless otherwise stated. The distance is the shortest distance in kilometres along the direct line joining the place of banding and recovery; the compass direction refers to the same direct line. (There is no implication regarding the distance flown or the route followed by the bird). Where available ABBBS age codes have been included in the banding data.

Recovery or longevity items may be submitted directly to me whereupon their merits for inclusion will be considered.

Hon. Editor

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*

BS29215*. Nestling banded on Kerguelen Island, Terres Australes et Antarctiques, France (49°03'34"S 70°22'26"E) on 13 Oct. 2010. Recovered dead, beachwashed north of Diggers Camp Village near Wooli NSW (29°48'47"S 153°17'19"E) on 27 Feb. 2012. 7064 km ENE.

*French Banding Scheme band

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*

CF39461* (plus readable band: White 991). Adult (6+) banded on Kerguelen Islands, Terres Australes et Antarctiques, France (49°21'00"S 70°13'00"E) on 1 Nov. 2002. Readable band sighted

in field, band number inferred at sea off Portland, Vic. (38°45'45"S 141°23'38"E) on 14 Aug. 2011, over 8 years, 9 months after banding. 5591 km ENE.

*French Banding Scheme band

Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

(a) 1068-05928*. Nestling banded near North Palmer Station, Anverse Island, Antarctica (64°46'00"S 64°04'00"W) on 5 March 2010. Recovered injured, bird is in care at Cape Bridgewater, Vic. (38°22'12"S 141°24'24"E) on 23 Oct. 2011. 8332 km NW.

*US Banding Scheme band

(b) V-28165*. Nestling banded at Stinker Point, Elephant Island, Antarctica (61°07'31"S 55°19'26"W) on 4 March 2011. Band number read in field, bird not trapped at sea c.4 nautical miles off Bateau Bay, NSW (33°23'40"S 151°32'29"E) on 1 July 2011. 9226 km

*Brazilian Banding Scheme band

(c) 132-33335. Nestling banded on Macquarie Island, Tas. (54°30'00"S 158°55'00"E) by R.P. Gale on 2 March 2011. Recovered dead at San Sebastian, Cartagena, Chile (33°31'43"S 71036'14"W) on 27 Oct. 2011. 9100 km ENE.

Northern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes halli*

132-34046. Nestling banded by R.P. Gales on Macquarie Island, Tas. (54°30'00"S 158°55'00"E) on 14 Jan. 2011. Recovered dead at Jeffrey's Bay, South Africa (34°03'01"S 24°55'33"E) on 7 Feb. 2012. 9229 km WNW.

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris*

111-26363 (plus leg flag Yellow A1). Nestling banded by G.P. Clancy at Marshalls Creek, Brunswick Heads, NSW on 11 Feb. 2011. Colour marking sighted in field, band number inferred four times, three times within 21 km of banding site and the last occasion at Lammermoor Beach, Yeppoon, Qld. on 19 Dec. 2011. 659 km NNW.

(This is the longest movement recorded for the species.)

Australian Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

101-27776 (plus engraved leg flag: LU Yellow J4). Nestling banded by G.P. Clancy at South Balina Beach on 26 Nov. 2008. Colour marking sighted in field, band number inferred eight times; the first six times within 6 km of banding site then twice in southern Qld., the last occasion on Bribie Island, Qld., on 29 Dec. 2011. 230 km N.

Common Noddy *Anous stolidus*

- (a) 062-36783. Adult (3+) banded by J.N. Dunlop on Lancelin Island, WA on 25 Nov. 1995. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place on 16 Oct. 2010, over 14 years 10 months after banding.
- (b) 062-40802. Adult (2+) banded by J.N. Dunlop on Lancelin Island, WA on 9 Nov. 1996. Recovered dead at Grouper Beach, Barrow Island, WA on 20 Oct. 2011, over 14 years, 11 months after banding. 1134 km N.

(This is the oldest recorded for the species.)

- (c) 062-40850. Adult (3+) banded by J.N. Dunlop on Lancelin Island, WA on 9 Nov. 1996. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place on 16 Oct. 2010, over 13 years 11 months after banding.
- (d) 062-47963. Adult (3+) banded by J.N. Dunlop on Lancelin Island, WA on 15 Nov. 1997. Recaptured, released alive with two bands at banding place on 5 Nov. 2011, over 13 years 11 months after banding.

(The bird was also banded with band no. 063-51022.)

- (e) 062-49864. Adult (3+) banded by J.N. Dunlop on Lancelin Island, WA on 20 Dec. 1997. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place on 7 Oct. 2011, over 13 years 9 months after banding.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

042-29706 (plus leg flag: RL Metal/Orange, LL Red/Blue). Nestling banded by VWSG at Danger Point, Brown Bay, near Port MacDonnell, SA on 7 Jan. 2007. Colour marking sighted in field, band number inferred on three occasions, twice at banding place on 5 Mar. 2007 and 28 Dec. 2010 and the third occasion on South Stradbroke Island, Qld on 14 Oct. 2011. 1641 km NE.

Recovery Round-up has, for many years, recorded interesting data on the longevity and distances traversed by many species of Australian birds, particularly those seasoned global travellers. There is another aspect, most-times hidden within banding data, that to date hasn't been brought to the notice of our readers. What is alluded to here is the return of migratory or partially migratory species of bushbirds (e.g. Black-faced Monarchs, Sacred Kingfishers, Rufous Whistlers, Golden Whistlers etc.) to their banding place. Below are presented banding records that shed light on some of these species and help contribute to a better understanding of the movements of these species.

Banders are encouraged to search their data for any items that could be included in this new section (as well as the usual distance and longevity items) and submit them to me, whereupon their merits for inclusion will be considered.

Migratory and Partial Migratory Returns.

In our research of the avian fauna on the north-west sector of the Cumberland Plain we very rarely retrap Red-browed Finches *Neochmia temporalis* older than three years. In July 2011 we revisited one of our banding sites at Scheyville National Park after an absence of three years. On our first visit we retrapped three Red-browed Finches that had been banded by our team during our prior banding period (August 2007–July 2008). Two of these birds were subsequently caught on our third monthly visit and an additional Red-browed Finch was retrapped. These four birds were originally banded in either April or May 2008 thus making them at least four years old as all were aged as adults when banded.

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*

- (a) 017-03068. Adult (1+) banded by J. Hardy at Scheyville National Park, NSW on 13 April 2008. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place by P. Hanke on 11 Sept. 2011, over 3 years 4 months after banding.
- (b) 017-03079. Adult (1+) banded by J. Hardy at Scheyville National Park, NSW on 13 April 2008. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place by J. Hardy on 10 July 2011, over 3 years 2 months after banding.
- (c) 019-30108. Adult (1+) banded by J. Farrell at Scheyville National Park, NSW on 10 May 2008. Recaptured twice at banding site, released alive with band on 10 July 2011 by J. Hardy and again on 11 Sept. 2011 by C. Scholz, over 3 years 4 months after banding.
- (d) 019-30136. Adult (1+) banded by C. Young at Scheyville National Park, NSW on 10 May 2008. Recaptured twice at banding site, released alive with band on 10 July 2011 by J. Hardy and again on 11 Sept. 2011 by J. Farrell, over 3 years 4 months after banding.

The last two birds could possibly belong to the same flock (a pair?) as they were caught on the same day on three separate occasions over an approximately 3½ year period.

J. Farrell

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

- (a) 032-55589. Adult (1+) male banded by A.J. Leishman at Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve near Mudgee, NSW on 23 April 2005. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place twice the last occasion by R. & R. Jacobs on 23 April 2011, over 6 years after banding.
- (b) 035-14145. Adult (2+) male banded by G. Fry at Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve near Mudgee, NSW on 23 April 2005. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place twice the last occasion by R. & R. Jacobs on 24 April 2011, over 6 years after banding.

The retraps of two New Holland Honeyeaters above show how banding can provided intriguing results.

They were both adult males and were banded at the same location on the 23rd April 2005. They were subsequently retrapped on 23 April 2011 and 24 April 2011 at the same location exactly 6 years later.

In the time since the originally banding and the retrap there have been 48 banding days and yet they were not caught on any of those occasions, which suggests that they are not residents at this location. As they were retrapped on different days, it could be that they were in a flock of honeyeaters that regularly migrate to this area at this time of the year and were not necessarily with each other. These results could also suggest that males of this species move around in single sex flocks.

G. Fry