

Recent Literature

BANDING and RECOVERY REPORTS

Report on Bird-ringing for 1969. Robert Spencer. 1971. *British Birds*, 64: 137-186.

During 1969, some 501,400 birds were banded, compared with 593,917 for the previous year. The decrease is attributed to a combination of failure of "vast numbers of a few common summer visitors" to appear in the spring and to a new price structure for bands. Because handling of recoveries is the most costly operation at the banding office, the price structure for rings has been adjusted to take into account the probability of recoveries for each band size. The report considers criticism of reporting single, spectacular recoveries, and gives good reasons for continuing the practice. Recoveries (at 12,551) are the lowest since 1962. As usual the recovery list is highly selective, and contains only 268 birds of 96 species; recoveries of other species are summarized. Recoveries of six species are mapped.

Long Point Bird Observatory: 1970 Annual Report. 1971. Long Point Bird Observatory, Ontario, Canada. 20 pp.

The ten year report of this observatory was reviewed in *Aust. Bird Bander* 9:69, and covered activities to 1969. During 1970, 8184 birds of 148 species were banded. The distribution and mortality of Red-heads *Aythya americana* is considered in detail in a paper by William Fox and Chris Holdsworth. Recoveries are mapped and hypothetical migration routes are given for autumn (considerable data) and spring (meagre data) movements. The timing of the autumnal migration is estimated by considering the progressive recoveries to the south-east as winter approaches. Banding indicates a male female ratio of 3:1, but recovery data indicates similar rates for adult males and females. The difference in sex ratio may be due to some aspect of hunting immature birds. Various research projects were undertaken: an attempt is being made to compare the feeding habits and food of four avian species; birds killed at a lighthouse are used to investigate weight loss and energy utilization during migratory flight. Other projects include studies of breeding Tree Swallows and Kingbirds, and of Sanderlings. Another 1000 Monarch (= Wanderer of Australia) butterflies were tagged; movements included 315 miles in 11 days and 370 miles in 15 days.

Preliminary Report on Bird Banding in New Zealand 1964-1971. C. J. R. Robertson. 1972. *Notornis*, 19:61-73.

The report provisionally summarises banding activities for the seven years to March 1971. In all 283,385 birds of 174 species were banded and 30,129 birds were recovered at least once. Banding and recovery data are given for "a selection of interesting recoveries": these recoveries mostly refer to seabirds, and include various species recovered in Australia (Wandering and Black-browed Albatross, Giant Petrel, Gannet, White-fronted Tern). The recoveries include some interesting longevity data (e.g. 15 years for a

Caspian Tern, 9 years for a House Sparrow), and include some notable movements for species which are usually considered sedentary in Australia, (e.g. 317 km for a House Sparrow and 322 km Greenfinch). Annual reports of the New Zealand banding scheme were notable for the long and detailed recovery data reported: it is to be hoped that many of the recoveries which have eventuated during the seven years covered by this report will eventually be published.

ANALYTICAL STUDIES

Survival Rates of Barn Swallows at Glenhaven Farm. Russel S. Davis. 1971. *Inland Bird Banding News*, 43: 13-15.

Survival rates for Barn Swallows *Hirundo rustica* were calculated from retrap data from a five-year study in Illinois, U.S.A. Mean survival rate was calculated at 42.9 per cent.

Harris' Sparrow Banding Project. W. C. de Long. 1971. *Inland Bird Banding News*, 43: 16-18.

An analysis of retrap data of Harris' Sparrow *Zonotrichia querula* in Iowa, U.S.A. gave a calculated mean survival rate of 54.49 per cent. Yearly rates varied between 45 and 66 per cent.

TECHNIQUES

The Use of Mist Nets and Decoys in Heron and Ibis Banding Studies. Julian L. Dusi, Rosemary T. Dusi and Darrel L. Bateman. 1971. *Inland Bird Banding News*, 43:6-7.

Water birds are usually banded as nestlings, as techniques available rarely allow large numbers of adults to be captured. The authors caught few Cattle Egrets *Ardeola ibis* and White Ibis *Guara alba* in mist nets, but the use of three-dimensional decoys (illustrated) effectively increased the capture rate near colonies during the breeding season.

Ageing Red-tailed Hawks by Tail Color in Wisconsin. Frances Hamerstrom. 1971. *Inland Bird Banding News*, 43:9-11.

Red-tailed Hawks *Buteo jamaicensis* can be aged by a combination of tail colour and moult condition. An ageing chart is appended.

MISCELLANEOUS

Red-winged Blackbirds Wintering in a Decoy Trap. Harold E. Burt and Maurice L. Giltz. 1971. *Bird-banding*, 42:287-289.

A large decoy trap has been operated at Columbus, Ohio since 1963. The Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* normally vacates the area in winter, but a few individuals overwinter. In the winter of 1970-71, a group of Red-wings overwintered in the decoy trap: 25 particular birds were captured a total of 744 times. These represent birds which normally would have migrated.

Roseate Tern Breeds During Its Second Year. Grace Donaldson. 1971. *Bird-banding*, 42:300.

A Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* banded as a nestling in Massachusetts on 3 July 69 was found on a nest with a one-day-old chick 3 Aug. 71.