

Recent Literature

BANDING and RECOVERY REPORTS

Point Reyes Bird Observatory; Sixth Annual Report 1970. 1971. Point Reyes Bird Observatory, California, U.S.A. 20 pp.

Observatory activities are carried out on the important breeding station of Southeast Farallon Island (6937 birds of 118 species banded) and on a number of mainland stations (11,834 birds of 128 species banded). Recovery data are given for 12 species; 27 recoveries for the Western Gull, 8 for Brandt's Cormorant, and 11 for the other 10 species. Five full pages list nearly 1800 contributing members; these include a surprising number of family members (annual fee \$10), sustaining (\$15) and contributing members (\$30). The income during the year (over \$70,000) and expenditure (over \$50,000) are staggering by Australian standards.

ANALYTICAL STUDIES

Ringed Recovery Circumstances of Small Birds of Prey. David E. Glue, 1971. *Bird Study*, 18: 137-146.

A total of 1696 recovery details for five British birds of prey banded during the period 1910-1969 were examined. The information obtained from this investigation is used to relate the recovery circumstances of each predator to its mode of living, to compare the recovery causes of the nocturnal owls with those of the diurnal raptors, and to compare the relative importance of the various recovery causes over the periods 1910-1954 and 1955-1969.

Seasonal Movements of British Terns in the Atlantic Ocean. N. P. E. Langham, 1971. *Bird Study*, 18: 155-174.

All recoveries up to November 1966 of four species of British breeding *Sterna* terns were analysed in relation to latitudinal changes in distribution. In all species post-fledgling dispersal is followed by a southerly autumn migration. *Sterna hirundo*, *S. dougallii* and *S. sandvicensis* had an average wintering latitude of 0-10° N, whereas *S. paradisaea* had moved much further south into the Antarctic Ocean.

During the second year, all species remained in their wintering areas apart from a northward movement of *S. paradisaea* to avoid the southern winter. All species moved north in the third year, and some visited their natal area though not attempting to breed. In the fourth summer most terns bred but breeding was delayed for another year in *S. sandvicensis*. The wintering area of birds more than three years old resembles that occupied in the first autumn.

Cormorant Ringing in Saskatchewan, Canada. C. Stuart Houston, 1971. *Ring*, 67:125-128.

The Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* has been banded in Saskatchewan since 1923, and 688

recoveries have eventuated from 4838 birds banded. Recovery rate is decreasing, from about 20 per cent in earlier years to about 10 per cent since 1950. A smaller proportion of recovered birds are shot, and more are being found dead or in fishing nets. Based on recovery data, the migration route has shown a gradual trend away from the heavily populated Mississippi Valley to about 500 km westward.

TECHNIQUES

Method of Deciphering Illegible Rings. U. Feurer, 1971. *Ring*, 6:132-133.

Banding offices occasionally receive bands which are badly worn and illegible. This short paper gives a method (and the editor repeats two previously published methods) for deciphering some worn rings by cleaning, heating and chemically etching.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ectoparasites from Eight Tree Sparrows Wintering in Southern Ontario. John G. Woods, 1971. *Bird-banding*, 42:292-294.

Eight male Tree Sparrows *Spizella arborea* at Guelph, Canada, all exhibited multiple parasitism. Parasites found consisted of two genera of feather mites and three genera of bird lice. Five different parasites were taken from one particular bird.

Age of First Breeding and Adult Survival Rates in the Swift. Christopher Perrins, 1971. *Bird Study* 18: 61-70.

Data are presented on survival rates of adult Swifts and age of first breeding. The population studied was nesting in nest boxes provided in a tower, and survival rates were measured on the study population and also from recoveries of birds banded under the national banding scheme. The former method produces a higher survival rate and this is also true of other species which have been examined by both methods. It is suggested that this difference is due to a difference between the birds in the two samples, and the choice of the most suitable method for calculating survival rates is discussed.

Movements and Mortality of Corvidae. David Holyoak, 1971. *Bird Study*, 18: 97-106.

This paper summarises the recoveries of British banded *Corvidae* up to the end of 1965, and a comparison is made with published foreign recoveries. Where data are sufficient the movements of birds from different age groups and at different seasons are discussed. Estimates of mortality rates for most species are given and are based on the banding recoveries. Mortality for some species is heaviest in the adult and sub adult age group during and just before the

breeding season. This is not a period of food shortage and the main proximate factors causing the mortality appear to be territorial strife (adults and sub-adults) and the strain of breeding (adults).

Ecological Adaptions of Moults in Some British Gulls. M. P. Harris. 1971. *Bird Study*, 18: 113-118.

The moult sequences for three species of British Gulls are described and are similar. Moults is commenced towards the end of the breeding cycle and takes about four months. The Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* is a migrant and probably interrupts its wing moult so as to migrate without gaps in the wings.

Immature gulls commence moult before the adults and replace their primaries during the time the adults are breeding. Assuming breeding occurs when food is most easily obtained, adult birds raising young are required to delay the moult until the completion of breeding so as to be efficient in flight at this time, whilst immatures are not under these pressures and are able to moult. Possibly the early timing of the moult in immatures makes breeding difficult for sexually mature, but still immature-plumaged gulls.

Wing Measurement Variations: H. Wallace N. MacBriar, Jr. 1971. *Inland Bird Banding News*, 43:21-27.

A standard method of wing measurement was given in *Aust. Bird Bander* 8:59.

The present paper discusses some aspects of wing measurements. It is postulated that a variation of ± 2 mm in the wing length of a small swallow should be expected. Measurements of birds retrapped in 1970 were compared with the original banding data; about half of the birds showed no change, and a further 37 per cent showed changes of ± 1 mm. But about one per cent of birds showed variations of ± 6 mm. In another check, the author compared the length of right and left wings for a series of Bank Martins *Riparia riparia*; to his "astonishment all but 19 of the right wings proved to be shorter than the left." A series of measurements of left and right wings for 14 species is tabulated; in all cases the right wing is shown as shorter than the left wing, on average. Perhaps some Australian banders who have, or can make, long series of measurements, might comment.

Horuhoru Revisited. Peter Stein. 1971. *Notornis*, 18:310-365

Horuhoru is an important rookery of the Gannet *Sula bassana* in New Zealand; and the author first visited the island in 1919! The island is described and mapped. The paper describes in (more or less) chronological order various investigations and data derived since regular studies were undertaken in 1949. These include mortality, incubation, plumage changes in chicks, age of eggs, growth of tail feathers, survival of young, mishaps of adults, age of chicks at departure, age of breeding, nest building, movement of nesting sites, stealing nest material. Banding (started in 1951), recoveries, methods of capturing gannets, and the activities of each year are all discussed. A very interesting, if rather disjointed, paper for those interested in sea-bird studies.

Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station: First Annual Report. Marshall Field. 1971. *Ontario Bird Banding*, 7:56-75.

The development of this banding station has been previously described (reviewed *Aust. Bird Bander* 9:93). The present paper covers activities from September 1971 to January 1972. A general summary is given for each raptor species. Structural improvements (a living and trapping station was established) and finance and organisation of the project are described. In the period, 719 hawks of nine species, and 14 owls of four species, were trapped. Most were caught by mist net (349) or by bow net (315; see *Aust. Bird Bander* 7:70 for brief description of method). Bal-chatri (27) and nestlings (33) were the only other trapping methods which yielded significant numbers.

Loss of Rings in Mute Swan. Pelle Andersen-Harild. 1971. *Ring*, 6:131-132.

About 100 Mute Swans *Cygnus olor* were regularly controlled in Denmark over two years. Fifteen aluminium oval bands were lost. It is not known why the bands open. Swan bands now incorporate a lock, and have 10 mm high numbers to allow the bands to be read with binoculars.

A Study of Dippers on the St. Vrain Creek, Colorado. Margaret and Gilbert Whitney. 1972. *Western Bird Bander*, 47:3-9.

Experiences from the three-year study of Dippers *Cinclus mexicanus* are detailed. Birds were caught in mist nets or in fish nets held over nests.

Notice of Meeting

The Eleventh Annual General Meeting of The Bird Banders' Association of Australia will be held at Muogamarra Field Studies Centre, Pacific Highway, Cowan, N.S.W. at 1.30 p.m. on Saturday, 20 January 1973.

The agenda will include—

1. Reports
2. Election of Officers
3. General Business

A Scientific Meeting will follow the Annual Meeting. The speakers will include Dr A. M. Gwynn and Mr H. Battam.

All visitors and friends will be welcome and those attending are assured of an interesting and informative afternoon. Picnic facilities are available at the site. For further details please contact the Honorary Secretary or members of the Committee.

Corrigendum

In vol. 10, no. 3, September 1972, on page 62, the reference in the text to a "report by Sorensen (1950) of a Grey-mantled Albatross . . ." should read Light-mantled Sooty Albatross.