• *Olive-backed Oriole at nest.*

Photo: A. J. Elliott

**Little Wattlebird** *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

060-83635. Banded by P. J. Spurge at Davidson Park, NSW on 10 June 66. Found dead at Cheltenham, N.S.W. on 23 Oct. 74, over 8 years 4 months after banding. 11 km SW.

**Red Wattlebird** *Anthochaera carunculata*

070-83986. Adult banded by M. H. Waterman near Clarendon, SA on 5 Mar. 66. Found dead south of Adelaide on 7 Sept. 74, over 8 years 6 months after banding. (This is the oldest recorded for this species).

**Olive-backed Oriole** *Oriolus sagittatus*

060-29219. Juvenile banded by G. P. Clancy at Tumbi Umbi near Tuggerah, NSW on 6 Jan. 73. Retrapped at banding place by D. I. Smedley on 23 Feb. 75, over 2 years 1 month after banding. (This is the oldest recorded for this species).

**Little Raven** *Corvus mellori*

(a) 100-02956. Immature banded by E. B. Thomas near Barham, NSW on 30 Apr. 67. Shot near Cohuna, Vic. on 30 Nov. 74, 7 years 7 months after banding. 33 km S.

(b) 100-38599. Adult banded by E. F. Boehm near Sutherlands, SA on 5 June 66. Retrapped 5 km west of banding place seven times, the last occasion on 15 Oct. 74, over 8 years 4 months after banding. (This is the oldest recorded for this species).

(c) 100-50880. Adult banded by G. D. Thomas near Finley, NSW on 26 June 68. Shot near Deniliquin, NSW on 26 Oct. 74, 6 years 4 months after banding. 50 km WNW.

(d) 100-52037. Adult banded by E. F. Boehm near Sutherlands, SA on 11 June 66. Retrapped at banding place 13 times, the last occasion on 30 July 74, over 8 years 1 month after banding.

# *Recent Literature*

## BANDING AND RECOVERY REPORTS

**Preliminary Report on Bird Banding in New Zealand** 1972-1973. C. J. R. Robertson. 1974. *Notornis* 21:70-78.

During the year ended 31 March 1973 a total of 29 680 birds were banded. There were 9923 recoveries and 9582 repeats. Continued progress has been made in the check of data on computer files. Seven new species have been included for the first time. Percentages recovered were, game species 23.74%, non game 11.20%, all species 15.64%.

## ANALYTICAL STUDIES

**Double Brooding in a *Western Australian Population of the Silver Gull Larus novaehollandiae*** Stephens. C. A. Nicholls. 1974. *Aust. J. Zool.* 22:63-70.

The Australian Silver Gull is one of a number of marine bird species which shows a bimodal nesting regime along the Western Australian coast. The author had previously established that in captivity the same individual bred in the autumn and the spring of the same year (i.e. were double brooded). This paper confirms that at a nesting island off Fremantle in 1972 a similar nesting regime operated under natural conditions.

**Moult Season of the British Corvidae.** D. Holyoak 1974. *Bird Study* 21:15-20.

This description of the annual post nuptial moult among British crows shows that one year old Magpies and Carrion Crows begin ahead of the adults and that the timetable is different in these two species.

**The Results of Ringing Auks in Britain and Ireland.** C. J. Mead. 1974. *Bird Study* 21:45-86.

The movements of British Auks as revealed by ringing are highly complex and the detailed analysis undertaken shows that different age groups and different local populations within a species are often exposed to different risks during the non-breeding season. Any conservation measures must therefore depend heavily on ringing results. International action to prevent oil pollution would benefit all populations and the outlook for many British colonies would be improved if shooting for sport in areas as distant as the Norwegian, French and Iberian coast could be banned.

Bird ringing recoveries of Auks have been analysed to show the extent and timing of their movements and the factors affecting their survival. Movement seems to take place throughout the year and first year birds move farther than older but still immature individuals and breeding birds move least far.

**Movement and Survival of British Razorbills.** C. Lloyd. *Bird Study* 21:102-116.

This study of the results of ringing Razorbills in Britain shows the information that can be drawn from

the Bird Ringing Scheme with a recovery rate as low as 3%. Records are grouped by age classes and distance from the ringing site and illustrate a migratory tendency in younger birds but a random dispersive movement for those of three years old or more. The paper deals with the recovery of British Razorbills reported between 1923-1971. Factors affecting the recovery of ringed birds and the biases in their distribution are discussed. The average annual mortality estimates from the recoveries of birds ringed as adults is 11%. This figure is compared with similar estimates for other seabird species.

**The White Collar of the Oystercatcher.** P. J. Dare and A. J. Mercer. 1974. *Bird Study* 21:180-184.

The great majority of Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus* have a white collar outside the nesting season. The authors discuss the incidence of this plumage character and its significance to oystercatchers' breeding behaviour.

The white neck collar of oystercatchers is an integral component of immature plumages at all seasons and is first developed during the first autumn after fledging. In adults it is associated with the post nuptial plumage and is most prevalent in autumn and early winter. The primary function of the collar is possibly to inhibit interactions between breeding and non-breeding birds in areas where oystercatchers nest on the shore and share feeding grounds with summering immatures.

**Breeding of Sacred Ibis (Threskiornis aethiopica) at Lake Shala, Ethiopia.** E. K. Urban. 1974. *Ibis* 116: 263-277.

Descriptions are given of the physical and biological features of the lake, nesting colony activities and breeding plumage. The average clutch in 34 nests was 2.24 eggs. Fledgling success in 1968 was 1.06 young per pair. The number of pairs successfully rearing young varied annually from none to 81%, on average over six years (1966-1970, 1971) 35%.

Predation, feeding areas and interspecific competition between Sacred Ibis and other nesting birds are discussed.

Among possible factors stimulating nesting at Shala, one, fairly heavy rainfall, seems to be especially important. It is also suggested that especially heavy rain storms cause ibises to abandon the colonies and result in poor breeding success.

**Local Distribution and Feeding Habits of Buller's Shearwater Puffinus bulleri.** J. A. F. Jenkins. 1974. *Notornis* 21:109-120.

Observations from fifteen years of voyages in coastal New Zealand waters are analysed. There is evidence for a continued increase in numbers of Buller's Shearwaters. The population pressure in northern waters is thought to be such that the extra birds are forced southwards to feed. The suggestion that the southern birds are non-breeders may be true but it is pointed out that as the total population increases so do the numbers of breeding birds which then have to forage further afield. Distribution maps showing seasonal movements and numbers including areas to the east and west of New Zealand are given. The three main feeding methods observed are described.

**Seabirds of Eastern Cook Strait, New Zealand in Autumn.** J. A. Bartes. 1974. *Notornis* 21:135-166.

The distribution and abundance of seabirds in Eastern Cook Strait during autumn is described. Notes on identification and behaviour are included.

**Prey Specific Feeding of the New Zealand Oystercatcher.** A. J. Baker. 1974.*Notornis* 21:219-233.

New Zealand oystercatchers use specialised prey-specific methods to feed on common prey found in the marine littoral zone. Methods of locating and dealing with prey are described. Feeding behaviour may be modified by climatic factors, physical factors of the environment, and competition for food. It is suggested that differential niche utilization may have been an important factor in the specialization of New Zealand Oystercatchers.

**Breeding Biology of the Indian Myna in City and Aviary.** J. J. Counsilman. 1974. *Notornis* 21: 318-333.

The paper deals with the breeding of Indian Mynas in Auckland including notes on the formation and defence of territories, clutch sizes and nesting success.

**Age related Spatial Distribution of Adelie Penguins.** R. D. Crawford. 1974. *Notornis* 21:334-336.

During the period 20-21 December 1972 while travelling from Wellington, New Zealand to Hallett Station, Antarctica observations were made on the spatial distribution of Adelie Penguin age groups. It was found that during this period one year old birds were found at a noticeably greater distance from an established breeding rookery than were the birds of two years or older.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Local Gull Movements as a Hazard to Aircraft.** D. R. Grant. 1974. *Bird Study* 21:169-179.

The author, reporting on a study of gull movements around Edinburgh Airport, suggests that a useful 'bird forecast' could be based on a knowledge of the birds' daily and seasonal feeding and roosting habits.

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