

REVIEWS

Sixteenth Annual Report of the Australian Bird-banding Scheme, July 1969 to June 1970, by D. Purchase, Division of Wildlife Research Technical Paper No. 22, CSIRO (Melbourne) 1971.

Table 1 of this Report lists the 680 species of birds banded from the inception of the Scheme in 1953 to 30 June 1970 and gives details of the number of bandings and recoveries for each species.

It appears that in 361 species, the total number of birds banded is less than fifty. The species in which the greatest number of birds have been banded are the Eastern Silvereye (100,103) and the Silver Gull (92,549). Between them, these two species make up 20.6% of the total of all birds banded (934,190). Thirteen thousand, two hundred and forty-five of the Silvereyes (13.2%) have since been recovered a total of 30,775 times. Three thousand, seven hundred and thirty-one of the Silver Gulls (4.0%) have since been recovered a total of 4,238 times.

During 1969-1970, 72,437 birds of 387 species were banded, the Eastern Silvereye and the Pied Cormorant providing the greatest numbers: 7,475 and 5,848 respectively.

Twelve thousand, six hundred and seventeen recovery records of 232 species were received during the year, counting multiple recoveries of the same bird. The total number of birds recovered 1953-1970 (82,952) represents 8.9% of all birds banded during that period.

There are now three species (among those of which more than 1,000 birds have been banded) where the number of recoveries exceeds the number banded. These species (Little Penguin, Spotted Turtle-dove and Black-backed Magpie) are of course birds which are or have been under intensive study and which are either sedentary or resort regularly to one place.

Table 2 of the Report gives full data for 205 recoveries (in 77 species) reported during the year, selected by the author presumably on the grounds of their particular interest. These include a number of foreign recoveries, mainly of seabirds. Most of the spectacular long-distance recoveries within Australia are of non-passerines. In most cases, the author has annotated the various recoveries, so that their significance can be better appreciated. There are five maps showing the dispersal of particular species.

Table 3, which appears for the first time, is entitled "Longest elapsed time between banding and recovery for selected species up to 30 June 1970". This table deals with one bird from each of 28 non-passerine species and 24 passerine species. In each case, the table gives the band number, the degree of maturity at banding, whether the bird was recovered alive or dead, a reference to the report in this series where full data are published and the elapsed time between banding and recovery.

In every case the elapsed time is more than six years; for two of the passerines and for 17 of the non-passerines, it is more than 10 years. The author comments "It is of interest to note in particular the longevity records for some of the passerines. The increasing number of records of passerines living long

periods indicates that they are not isolated instances and suggests that the known lifetime of many species will be extended during the next few years".

The Report also describes the launching of a "Moult Inquiry" under the auspices of the Bird-banding Scheme in December 1969. Cards are issued to banders, who record details of the state of moult of an individual bird on a card and return it to the Banding Office. The Office will make the cards available for study by interested persons, on the understanding that those who have collected the data have a prior claim to it.

Some account is also given of two co-operative projects in which groups of amateur banders have been engaged for some years. The New South Wales Albatross Study Group has banded well over 2,000 Wandering Albatrosses off the coast of New South Wales (71 of which have subsequently been recovered on sub-antarctic islands) and has recovered 24 birds banded elsewhere. Members of the Victorian Ornithological Research Group have been working on the Flame Robin, an altitudinal migrant--banding mostly in the wintering areas of the species. So far, none has been recovered away from its banding place but information on other aspects of the life of this bird is accumulating.

Australian banders will to some extent be already familiar with aspects of these studies, accounts of which have been published from time to time in *The Aust. Bird Bander* and in other journals. It seems entirely appropriate, however, for a summary of such work to be given in an official Report of the Bird-banding Scheme.

A number of innovations have been mentioned in this review, but the format of the Report is much as before: it continues a very useful series which repays careful study by any ornithologist.

PETER BALMFORD, East Ivanhoe, Vic.

The Birds of Port Moresby and District, by R. D. Mackay. Thomas Nelson, 1970. Coloured frontispiece, 2 maps, 16 b. & w. photographs, 74 pp., \$4.95.

This little book is well put together and will be a 'must' for anyone interested in birds, visiting or staying in Port Moresby, Papua.

As stated in the introduction the book is a list of species recorded up to November 1968, in the areas which can be easily visited by car from Port Moresby. The area concerned is clearly defined and shown on the location map. The birds are numbered in systematic order (following Mayr's *List of New Guinea Birds*, 1941) from 1 to 367; the number listed is more than half the species recorded for all New Guinea including West Irian. The scientific names generally follow the *Handbook of New Guinea Birds* by Rind & Gilliard, 1967. Besides stating where each species has been seen, it also points out similarities with like species or those with a similar call.

It is interesting to note that the Rainbow and Black-capped Lory are considered beneficial in coconut

plantations as predators of insect pests and as dispersal agents of the coconut pollen.

H. J. de S. DISNEY, Berowra, N.S.W.

Index to Current Ornithological Research, compiled and edited by D. D. Dow for the Field Investigation Committee of the RAOU: Melbourne, 1971. Price \$1.75 (Available from the Secretary, RAOU, Box 5236 BB, Melbourne, Vic. 3001).

The number of persons (192) listed in this Index is surprising, that about half of them could be called "professionals" is staggering, and reflects the growing number of university departments with interests in ornithology. Research at all levels has clearly increased greatly in the last 10 years, and is gathering momentum. Particularly informative are the sections on Research Projects in which the research workers have described their attitudes and objects, and their approach to the problems being investigated. These comments and the various Appendices make this a useful Index, and it is to be hoped that it will be revised and published regularly in the future.

All persons engaged on ornithological research should respond to the next request for information from the Editor.

M. D. MURRAY, Pymble, N.S.W.

Notice of Meeting

The **Tenth Annual General Meeting** of The Bird Banders' Association of Australia will be held at *Gungahlin*, headquarters of the Division of Wildlife Research, CSIRO, Canberra, A.C.T. at 1.30 p.m. on Saturday, 22 January, 1972. Dr H. J. Frith, Chief of the Division, will open the meeting.

The agenda will include—

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

A Scientific Meeting will follow the Annual Meeting. The speakers will be

Mr J. L. McKean—"Band wear with some passerines".

Mr G. M. Horey—"An analysis of banding data on Yellow-faced Honeyeaters".

Mr J. D. Gibson—"The N.S.W. albatross study".

All visitors and friends will be welcome and those attending are assured of an interesting and informative afternoon.

Hindwood Memorial Fund

Already there has been a good response to the K. A. Hindwood Memorial Fund but a lot more support is needed if a worthwhile result is to be achieved.

The form of the Memorial will depend mainly on the amount of money donated. The organising committee favour a Bird Studies Centre where bird students, particularly amateurs, could have access to a scientific library, record material and similar facilities. With enough support this idea could become a reality and grow along similar lines to overseas institutions of this kind.

Another suggestion is to establish a local wetland sanctuary owned by ornithologists—a dream of Keith Hindwood's—which could be developed along the lines of Peter Scott's sanctuary at Slimbridge. But any memorial of a worthwhile nature will require substantial support from all his friends and associates.

The Trustees of The Australian Museum have willingly consented to set up this Memorial Fund and this has enabled donations to be tax deductible. The Fund Committee comprises

- Dr F. H. Talbot (Chairman)
- Mr V. Serventy (Secretary/Convenor)
- Mr G. Dibley
- Mr H. J. de S. Disney
- Mr S. G. Lane
- Mr A. R. McGill
- Dr D. L. Serventy

If you have not already done so, please forward your contribution now to

The Keith Hindwood Memorial Fund,
c/- The Australian Museum,
College Street, Sydney, 2000.

Remittances should be made payable to *Australian Museum Keith Hindwood Memorial Fund*. **Donations are tax deductible** and will be receipted.