

Higgins 1990). Shortage of food, interference from man, or natural disturbance such as floods, have destroyed entire colonies. Therefore the successful fledging of up to 90 000 chicks was a phenomenal success.

This study indicates that fledging success from the early stages of the Lake Eyre pelican colony was much greater than for later-hatched birds. Starvation was probably the major cause of death and some chicks were apparently orphaned by adult birds leaving the lake. This may be the reason for the predominance of large chicks among the dead. A similar scenario was noticed when only 227 young from 4 500 Pied Cormorant eggs survived when food supplies diminished for a colony breeding at Shag Island, Port Broughton, in 1966 (Waterman, unpubl. data).

Banding was a useful method of determining survival of later-hatched chicks, but the number of live recoveries subsequent to this study, and hence the value of the banding programme, was diminished because only the less successful later stages of the colony were banded. In contrast, only 17 dead chicks from a total of 1 900 banded pelicans were recorded from the Coorong in 1985 when the first chicks to hatch were banded (Waterman, unpubl. data). Therefore, in order to maximize the success of a banding operation in pelicans, and probably most other colonial birds, the first chicks to hatch should be targeted for banding.

The benefits of banding the early chicks must be balanced against the disruptive influence on other parts of the colony. If the first chicks in the Lake Eyre South colony had been banded it is possible that thousands of unhatched eggs and naked young may have been exposed to the hot

summer sun and a high mortality rate may have resulted. Therefore, particularly with large compact colonies with different aged young, a compromise must be struck between optimal time for banding and minimum impact on the colony.

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CORRIGENDA — Corella 16(3)

Birds killed on a primary road in southern New South Wales, B. J. Lepschi.

p. 75 — Methods, lines 9 and 10; 'May 1990' to read 'March 1990'.

p. 75 — insert: 'Figure 1, Study area showing survey route.'

p. 77 — insert: 'Figure 2, Cumulative distribution and numbers of birds found dead along survey route during 1988 and 1990. Shading represents total roadkills less mortalities of Australian Magpie.'

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