

**Wintering Behavior of Common Loons.** Judith W. McIntyre, 1977. *Auk* 95: 396-403.

Wintering Common Loons *Gavia immer* in Virginia defended individual feeding territories during the day, but formed rafts at night. A daily feeding pattern was evident.

**The Coot and the Moorhen.** Jon Fieldsa, 1977. Av-media Biological Monographs 56 pp. Copenhagen.

One of a series of teaching aids, this booklet concentrates on two European species and their natural history. Feeding, breeding behaviour, territoriality and other aspects of these birds' biology is explained and illustrated with photographs and diagrams. The information is well presented and profusely illustrated.

**Nesting Behaviour of the Gull-billed Tern.** Harold F. Sears, 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49: 1-16.

Adult Gull-billed Terns *Gelochelidon nilotica* exhibit many aspects of nesting behaviour which aid in protection of the nest and young from predators. Other behavioural traits help in maximising the chances of successful breeding.

**The Relationship of Habitat Quality to Group Size in Hall's Babbler (*Pomatostomus halli*).** Jerram L. Brown and Russell P. Balda, 1977. *Condor* 79: 312-320.

The size of a flock of Hall's Babblers is positively correlated with both the amount of herbaceous cover and amount of tree cover in the territory. Because of this relationship between flocks' productivity and habitat quality, the authors question the contribution of helpers to breeding success.

**The Camden Haven Wildlife Refuge Study—An Interim Report.** David Milledge, 1978. Dick Smith Electronics Pty. Ltd.

This interim report discusses aims and methods of the project. Several methods of surveying birds are used in the study and a list of birds from the refuge area is given.

**The Changing Seabird Populations of the North Atlantic.** Abstracts of Papers Presented at Conference at Aberdeen University, 26-28 March 1977. 1978 *Ibis* 120: 101-136.

Abstracts of 44 papers given during the conference are presented in three sections—Human Influences, Surveys and Population Ecology. Particular attention is given to effects on birds of pollution and fishing, and various methods of surveying populations. Summaries of each general subject are included.

**Communal Activities among White-winged Choughs *Corcorax melanorhamphus*.** Ian Rowley, 1978. *Ibis* 120: 178-197.

White-winged Choughs form groups of 2-20 birds, usually 4-8 held together by the presence of the oldest male. Young birds tend to remain with the group, all members of which help to build the nests, incubate, guard and feed the chicks. Occasionally two females may lay in the same nest. Choughs also roost, forage and carry out other daily activities as a group.

**Breeding of Antarctic Terns at the Snares Islands, New Zealand.** P. M. Sagar, 1978. *Notornis* 25: 59-70.

Eggs were laid during two periods—late October-early November, and late November with usually one

egg, occasionally two, being laid. The incubation period lasted 24 days and was performed by both parents, as was feeding of the young. Fledging was completed between 27 and 32 days.

**The Reef Heron (*Egretta sacra*) in New Zealand.** A. T. Edgar, 1978. *Notornis* 25: 25-58.

Plumage and field characters, habitat and breeding behaviour are presented, followed by locality records of this species in New Zealand. The status of the Reef Heron in the country is affected by man, but it is not yet a rare bird.

**Seabirds Found Dead in New Zealand in 1976.** David E. Crockett, 1977. *Notornis* 24: 239-245.

During the year, 2 228 dead seabirds of 39 species were found over 1 137 kilometres patrolled. Unusually severe weather was correlated with localised wrecks of Fairy Penguins, Fairy Prions and Sooty Shearwaters.

**Observations and Notes on the Bat Hawk *Machaerhamphus alcinus* in Papua.** B. W. Finch, 1978. Papua New Guinea Bird Society Newsletter, No. 146: 8-12.

Observations on the Bat Hawk, a species poorly known in Australasia, are presented, primarily on various phases of what is assumed to be pre-breeding display. Voice and differences in plumage are discussed.

**Agricultural Impact of a Winter Population of Blackbirds and Starlings.** Richard A. Dolbeer, Paul P. Woronecki, Allen R. Stickle, Jr, and Stephen B. White, 1978. *Wilson Bulletin* 90: 31-44.

A study of 11 million blackbirds and Starlings in winter roost found large differences in the feeding habits and subsequent impact on agriculture. The native blackbirds feed primarily on waste corn in harvested fields. The greatest negative impact was by Starlings, a relatively minor component species, which fed on sprouting wheat.

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## Recovery Data

Items for Recovery Round-up are obtained from:

1. Secretary, Aust. Bird-banding Scheme.
2. Individual banders.
3. Miscellaneous sources.

The Secretary of the ABBS kindly provides most of the data involving recoveries away from the banding place and these constitute the largest part of Recovery Round-up. However, for a number of reasons, longevity information is not readily available from this source. Most longevity items included in Recovery Round-up are forwarded by a few banders in response to previous requests.

Banders are asked to forward to me details of longevity items which they consider may be suitable for inclusion in this section. As a guide in deciding suitability, items for the particular species should be checked in recent issues. If in doubt send the details anyway.

Hon. Editor.

**Population Models for Common Terns in Massachusetts.** I. C. T. Nisbet. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49: 50-58.

During a study of Common Terns *Sterna hirundo*, 83 banded birds were recovered. The survival rate between fledging and age of four was 7-13%. Despite a constant level of recruitment, the population studied is declining (8-10% per year) due to an increase in adult mortality (9-17%).

**Ringling Studies of Goosanders in Northumberland.** E. R. Meak and B. Little. 1977. *Brit. Birds* 70: 273-283.

Patterns of movement are analysed for 43 recoveries of 247 Goosanders *Mergus merganser* banded in Northumberland. Young birds disperse in an area between north and west-south-west of the hatching areas and appear to return to this area in summer.

**The Breeding Cycle of the Westland Black Petrel (*Procellaria westlandica*).** Allan J. Baker and J. D. Coleman. 1977. *Notornis* 24: 211-231.

Adults in New Zealand arrive at colonies in late March and egg laying begins in early May. Hatching in mid-July is followed by an incubation period of 57-65 days. Chicks are brooded for two weeks and spend the remainder of their fledging period (120 days) alone except when fed by the parents.

**Waders of the Manukau Harbour and Firth of Thames.** C. R. Veitch. 1978. *Notornis* 25: 1-24.

Twice yearly censuses during the period 1960-75 are summarised. Trends in population numbers are shown and influences on the changes discussed and detailed accounts of migratory species are given.

**Adult Survival Rate of the Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*** Sven G. Nilsson. 1977. *Ornis Scand.* 8: 193-195.

A study of recoveries of banded birds indicated an adult survival rate of 89%. To maintain a stable population at this mortality the adults must raise an average of 0.4-0.5 young per pair.

**Fluctuations and Density of Suburban Populations of the Blackbird *Turdus merula*.** Johnny Karlsson and Hans Kallander. 1977. *Ornis Scand.* 8: 139-144.

A census of the Blackbird population in a southern Swedish suburb over eight breeding seasons found that the number of territories varied from 50 to 79, with a mean density for the study of 2.4 territories per hectare. The number of territories was lower following severe winters rather than mild ones. Density of Blackbirds also varied in relation to habitat, particularly the presence of tall shrub cover.

**Population Parameters for the Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*.** T. R. Birkhead and P. J. Hudson. 1977. *Ornis Scand.* 8: 145-154.

The survival rate of adult Common Guillemot was 91.5% and breeding success was 0.7 young per pair. Guillemots could breed in their fourth year, but usually did not until the fifth year. At these rates there must be a 24% survival rate of birds reaching breeding age to maintain a stable population.

**Breeding Behavior of the Louisiana Heron.** James A. Rodgers, Jr. 1978. *Wilson Bulletin* 90: 45-59.

The male Louisiana Heron *Hydranassa tricolor* establishes a display area and constructs the foundation of a nest, which he initially defends against other herons of both sexes. A persistent female is eventually accepted as a mate. The average clutch was three eggs. Both sexes incubate and feed the young. There was a nestling mortality rate of 23.4%.

**Reproductive Success and Foraging Behavior of the Osprey at Sachorse Key, Florida.** Robert C. Szaro. 1978. *Wilson Bulletin* 90: 112-118.

A study of 15 Osprey *Pandion haliaeetus* nests showed an average of 0.73 young per nesting female, less than that required to maintain a stable population. Fishing technique is at least partially learned and young birds were less successful than adults.

## TECHNIQUES

**Distinguishing Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teals.** D. I. M. Wallace and M. A. Ogilvie. 1978. *Brit. Birds* 70: 290-294.

Females, immatures and eclipsed males of both species are very similar, but field characters of bill, eye colour, head pattern and plumage tone can be used to differentiate them.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Black Skimmer Breeding Ecology and Behaviour.** R. Michael Erwin. 1977. *Auk* 94: 709-717.

Black Skimmers *Rynchops niger* arrive at their colonies in late April-early May. A four-egg clutch is the most common. Although hatching success is high (80%), fledging success is only 0.4 young per pair, with first hatched nestlings the most successful. Incubation is performed by both parents.

**Breeding Biology of Five Species of Herons in Coastal Florida.** George R. Maxwell II and Herbert W. Kale II. 1977. *Auk* 94: 689-700.

The breeding biology of five species of herons, two of which, Great Egret *Egretta alba* and Cattle Egret *Ardeola ibis*, are found in Australia, were studied on a small mangrove island. Differences among species in nest placement, timing of egg laying, incubation and hatching and nestling success rate are compared for all species. Most nest failures resulted when accidentally destroyed by pelicans during landing.

**Territorial Behaviour and Courtship of the Male Three-wattled Bellbird.** Barbara K. Snow. 1977. *Auk* 94: 623-645.

The results of a study of the Three-wattled Bellbird *Procnia tricarunculata* in Costa Rica are presented, including information on calls, displays, feeding behaviour and daily rhythm. Interactions between territorial males and another individual usually consist of the male chasing off the other bird by calling loudly in its ear, regardless of sex or age of the visitor.

**Long-billed Honeyeater** *Melilestes mearnsianus*

050-16264. Banded by L. W. Filewood at Three Mile Plot, near Karema, PNG on 27 Sept. 70. Retrapped at banding place 12 times, the last occasion by H. L. Bell on 19 Dec. 77, over 7 years 2 months after banding. (This is the oldest recorded for this species).

**Tawny-breasted Honeyeater***Xanthotis flaviventris*

050-16288. Banded by L. W. Filewood at Three Mile Plot, near Karema, PNG on 1 Nov. 70. Retrapped at banding place twice, the last occasion by H. L. Bell on 19 Dec. 76, over 7 years 1 month after banding.

**Yellow-tufted Honeyeater***Lichenostomus melanops*

(a) 031-23160. Immature banded by A. K. Morris at Mungahorn Gap, near Mudgee, NSW on 20 Apr. 67. Retrapped at banding place 12 times, the last occasion by G. R. Cam on 25 Mar. 78, over 10 years 11 months after banding.

(b) 031-23167. Adult banded by A. K. Morris at Mungahorn Gap, near Mudgee, NSW on 20 Apr. 67. Retrapped at banding place six times, the last occasion by G. R. Cam on 26 Mar. 78, over 10 years 11 months after banding.

**White-plumed Honeyeater***Lichenostomus penicillatus*

021-99439. Adult banded by J. B. Paton at Beaumont, SA on 7 Nov. 71. Found dead near banding place on 15 July 78, over 6 years 8 months after banding.

**New Holland Honeyeater***Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

031-41585. Immature banded by J. B. Paton near Scott Conservation Park, SA on 6 Nov. 77. Found dead at Cape Jervis, SA on 13 June 78. 65 km WSW.

**Grey-bellied Longbill** *Toxorhamphus iliolophus*

021-37429. Banded by L. W. Filewood at Three Mile Plot, near Karema, PNG on 16 July 72. Retrapped at banding place four times, the last occasion by H. L. Bell on 18 Dec. 77, over 5 years 5 months after banding.

**Black Berrypecker** *Melanocharis nigra*

020-32605. Female banded by L. W. Filewood at Three Mile Plot, near Karema, PNG on 23 May 71. Retrapped at banding place eight times, the last occasion by H. L. Bell on 18 Dec. 77, over 6 years 6 months after banding. (This is the oldest recorded for this species).

**Silvereye** *Zosterops lateralis*

013-81200. Adult banded by C. R. Jenkins at The Coorong, SA on 24 Feb. 78. Recovered at Burrungule, near Mount Gambier, SA on 28 May 78. 209 km SSE.

**Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus*

061-06487. Banded by G. P. Clancy at South Grafton, NSW on 21 Apr. 78. Found injured (died later) at Coffs Harbour, NSW on 25 June 78. 70 km SSE. (This is the longest movement recorded for this species).

**Pied Currawong** *Strepera graculina*

091-01675. Immature banded by B. Baker at Hughes, ACT on 19 Sept. 73. Recovered at Yass, NSW. (Finder's letter received 13 June 78—no other details). 54 km NNW.

## Recent Literature

*The extracts in this section are selected from a wide range of Journals from various sources covering subjects considered to be of interest to members. It is regretted that copies of papers cited are unavailable through the Association.*—Hon. Editor.

### ANALYTICAL STUDIES

**Effects of Tide Cycles on Habitat Selection and Habitat Partitioning by Migrating Shorebirds.** Joanna Burger, Marshall A. Howe, D. Caldwell Hahn and Julia Chase. 1977. *Auk* 94: 743-758.

Three intertidal habitats were studied to observe how different species partitioned feeding grounds. Differences were found in habitat preference, preference for wetness of feeding grounds and timing of feeding activities. Temporal patterns of usage varied among habitats.

**Analysis of a Resident Flock of Starlings.** Hannah B. Suthers. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49: 35-46.

The population density of a resident flock of Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* was determined by the number of available nesting hollows. Young birds migrated leaving vacancies to be filled by emigrating adults. Methods of determining sex and age are discussed.

**Movement and Migration Patterns of Red-winged Blackbirds, a Continental Overview.** Richard A. Dolbeer. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49: 17-34.

Data from 50 years banding of Red-winged Blackbirds *Agelaius phoeniceus* (11 000 recoveries from 700 000 individuals) was analysed for patterns of movement. Although different breeding populations mix during winter, birds usually return to within 50 km of their previous breeding areas. Long-distance migration did not occur until after the autumn moult was completed.