(b) 031-64624. Adult male banded by J. W. Hardy at Blue Gum Swamp Creek, Winmalee, NSW on 27 Apr. 80. Recaptured at banding place five times, the last occasion on 15 Apr. 87, over 7 years 11 months after banding.

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

(a) 031-41832. Banded by G. Logan at Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve near Mudgee, NSW on 22 Apr. 76. Recaptured at banding place twice, the second occasion by J. W. Hardy on 3 Oct. 87, over 11 years 5 months after banding.

(b) 031-49081. Adult banded by D. I. Smedley at Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve near Mudgee, NSW on 14 Apr. 79. Recaptured at banding place three times, the last occasion by J. Farrell on 3 Oct. 87, over 8 years 5 months after banding.

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

013-05736. Banded by A. E. Cam at Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve near Mudgee, NSW on 5 Apr. 80. Recaptured at banding place four times, the last occasion by A. K. Morris on 5 Oct. 86, 6 years 6 months after banding. (This is the oldest recorded for this species.)

Figbird *Sphecotheres viridis*

070-28267. Male banded by M. P. Hines at Stafford Heights, Brisbane, Qld on 25 Oct. 86. Found dead at Caloundra, Qld in Aug. 87. 67 km N.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Compiled by D. Purchase

This section is compiled from journals which are often not available to non-professional ornithologists in Australia. The following criteria are used to select papers for review:

- they relate to species which occur in Australia;
- they provide details of techniques that may be of use in Australia;
- they provide details of studies that may be of general interest to Australian ornithologists.

Journals perused: *Auk* 104(2), (4); *Bird Study* 33(2), 33(3), 34(2); *Bokmakierie* 39(3); *Brit. Birds* 80(6), 80(7), 80(8), 80(9), 80(10); 89(2) *Condor* 89(2); *Ibis* 129(2), (3); *J. Wildl. Man.* 51(2); *Living Bird* 6(4); *N. Am. Bird Bander* 11(3), 12(1), (3); *Notornis* 34(3); *Orn. Beob.* 84(4); *Ornis Fennica* 64(3); *Ostrich* 58(2); *Ring. & Migr.* 8(1); *Safring Newsl.* 16(1); *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 15(3), (4); *Wilson Bull.* 99(3).

AUSTRALIAN SPECIES

"Comments" The classification and nomenclature of the petrels. Bourne, W. R. P. (1987). *Ibis* 129: 404. (Comments on recent changes).

Feeding behaviour and other notes on 20 species of Procellariiformes at sea. Harper, P. C. (1987). *Notornis* 34: 169-192. (Between January 1965 and March 1967, 4 926 observations were made in the Southern Ocean.)

Did the 1982-1983 El Nino — Southern Oscillation affect seabirds in Alaska? Hatch, S.A. (1987). *Wilson Bull.* 99: 468-474. (Reports a widespread mortality of Short-tailed Shearwaters in Alaskan waters in August and September 1983.)

The filoplumes of the Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*. James, P. C. (1986). *Bird Study* 33: 117-120. (Although there were sexual, geographical, and age-related variations, filoplume counts were less useful than cloacal or vocal differences for sex identification.)

Response of adult Leach's Storm-Petrels to increased food demand at the nest. Ricklefs, R. E. (1987). *Auk* 104: 750-756. (Results suggest that food demand by chicks does not determine the average amount of food delivered daily by each parent.)

Zur Grossgefiedermauser junger Kormorane *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*. Winkler, R. (1987). *Orn. Beob.* 84: 317-323. (Wing and tail moult in 154 cormorants collected on Swiss lakes.) In German with English summary.

The Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* in Britain 1983. Ogilvie, M. A. (1986). *Bird Study* 33: 121-137. (Results of a national census).

An analysis of weight changes in the Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*. Bacon, P. J. and Coleman, A. E. (1986). *Bird Study* 33: 145-158. (An analysis of 1968 weighings from 957 individuals.)

Breeding success of Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* at Loch Leven National Nature Reserve. Clark, N. A., Varley, T. A., Evans, J. and Wright, G. A. (1987). *Bird Study* 34: 129-134. (Female Mallards were radio-tagged and survival of their ducklings studied.)

Mallard duck and ducklings "freezing" when approached. Bartlett, E. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 427-428. (Behaviour took place in small pond without vegetation.)

Activity budgets of Mallards and American Wigeon wintering in east-central Alabama. Turnbill, R. E. and Baldassarre, G. A. (1987). *Wilson Bull.* 99: 457-464. (Time spent in feeding, locomotion, resting, comfort, alert, courtship, agonistic, and out-of-sight during two winters.)

Are Mallards declining in North America? Johnson, D. H. and Shaffer, T. L. (1987). *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 15: 340-345. (A decline is suggested, but the cause is not addressed.)

Multiple paternity in a wild population of Mallards. Evarts, S. and Williams, C. J. (1987). *Auk* 104: 597-602. (Multiple paternity occurred in at least 17-25% of the clutches examined.)

Notes on the behaviour of a pair of Peregrine Falcons in the southwestern Cape. Jenkins, A. R. (1987). *Ostrich* 58: 86-88. (Activities in the vicinity of their nest cliff.)

Prey-capture techniques of Peregrine. Baker, N. E. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 424-425. (Three techniques described.)

The recent decline of the Corncrake *Crex crex* on the Isle of Canna. Swann, R. L. (1986). *Bird Study* 33: 201-205. (Decline may have resulted from higher mortality on migration.)

Observations of breeding behaviour of Spotless Crake *(Porzana tabuensis)* and Marsh Crake *(P. pusilla)* at Pukepuke Lagoon. Kaufmann, G. and Lavers, R. (1987). *Notornis* 34: 193-205. (A study centred around 11 Spotless Crake and two Marsh Crake nests.)

Factors related to breeding production of Brent Geese *Branta b. bernicla* and waders (Charadrii) on the Taimyr Peninsula. Summers, R. W. and Underhill, L. G. (1987). *Bird Study* 34: 161-171. (Cyclic changes in breeding success are consistent with the hypothesis that predators, such as Arctic Foxes, which usually eat lemmings, switch to birds in years when lemmings are scarce.)

Ringed Plovers 'playing skittles' with Little Stints. Iungius, N. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 331. (Aggression within a resting group of waders.)

Taxonomic status of 'Lesser Golden Plovers'. Knox, A. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 482-487. (Reviews evidence suggesting *dominica* and *fulva* are different species.)

Short-billed Dowitchers associate closely with Lesser Golden-Plovers. Byrkjedal, I. (1987). *Wilson Bull.* 99: 494-495. (While feeding, dowitchers may use plovers to provide vigilance.)

Why do curlews *Numenius* have decurved bills? Davidson, N. C., Townshend, D. J., Pienkowski, M. W. and Speakman, J. R. (1986). *Bird Study* 33: 61-69. (Decurvature is adapted to a technique of prey capture.)

Curlews' *Numenius* bills: some anatomical notes. Burton, P. J. K. (1986). *Bird Study* 33: 70. (Contains comments that extend the discussion in the previous paper.)

Little Whimbrel in Norfolk. Walker, R. J. and Gregory, J. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 494-497. (Observations of a rare visitor to Britain.)

Wood Sandpiper's reactions to passing raptors. Neill, W. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 426. (Lowered itself into the water.)

The habitat and activity of Common Sandpipers *Actitis hypoleucos* breeding by upland rivers. Yalden, D. W. (1986). *Bird Study* 33: 214-222. (The dependence of young birds on shingle habitat suggests that this may be the resource adults are defending by taking territories by rivers.)

Lesser Yellowlegs attempting to mate with Redshank. Garner, M. S. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 283. (Redshank appeared receptive and co-operative.)

Hudsonian Godwit in Devon. Wright, G. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 492-494. (Observations of a rare visitor to Britain.)

Little Stints defending territories on autumn migration. Gale, S. W. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 381. (Each feeding stint defended an area of about 0.5 m around itself.)

Feeding and nesting ecology of sympatric South Polar and Brown Skuas. Pietz, P. J. (1987). *Auk* 104: 617-627. (Dietary differences between species correlated with differences in ecology and behaviour.)

Pomarine Skuas in Britain and Ireland in autumn 1985. Fox, A. D. and Aspinall, S. J. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 404-421. (Abnormal numbers may have resulted from meteorological conditions.)

Identification of juvenile Pomarine Skua. Broome, A. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 426-427. (Colour photograph showing plumage characteristics.)

Identification of large terns. Gantlett, S. J. M. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 257-276. (Includes Caspian, Crested and Lesser Crested Terns.)

Are Common Terns successful at a man-made nesting site? Norman, D. (1987). *Ring & Migr.* 8: 7-10. (Fledging success on a man-made platform was marginally better than natural sites.)

Eider with Arctic Tern chick in bill. Ewins, P. J. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 330-331. (When approached the Eider dropped the chick.)

Diet of Swift Tern chicks in the Saldanha Bay region, South Africa. Walter, C. B., Cooper, J. and Suter, W. (1987). *Ostrich* 58: 49-53. (Swift Tern=Crested Tern) (During ten years, 1 311 food items of 25 identifiable species were collected from chick regurgitations.)

The Lesser Crested Tern in the Western Mediterranean and Europe. Brichetti, P. and Foschi, U. F. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 276-280. (Status, breeding, identification and migration.)

Brown Noddy vocal behaviour. Chardine, J. W. (1987). *Auk* 104: 790. (Brown Noddy=Common Noddy) (Criticism of the interpretation of data in papers by Riska, D. E. (*Auk* 103: 351-358; *Auk* 103: 359-369)).

Feral Rock Dove displaying and attempting to copulate the corpse of another. Slavid, E. R. and Taylor, J. E. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 497. (Whenever they recognize any "inability to resist" males in breeding condition may respond with copulation attempts.)

Red-crowned Parakeet on Burgess Island. Bellingham, M. (1987). *Notornis* 34: 234-236. (Feeding and nesting.)

The diet of the Barn Owl *Tyto alba* in southern Ireland, with reference to a recently introduced prey species — the Bank Vole *Clethrionomys glareolus*. Smal, C. M. (1987). *Bird Study* 34: 113-125. (Pellets containing 8 229 food items were analysed.)

Growth of nestling Barn Owls *Tyto alba* in central Mali. Wilson, R. T., Wilson, M. P. and Durkin, J. W. (1987). *Ibis* 129: 305-318. (Effects of time of hatching on growth of 276 nestlings.)

Evidence of cooperative nest excavation by the White-collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris* in Fiji. Beckon, W. N. (1987). *Ibis* 129: 391-392. (Five birds took turns excavating a hole.)

Welcome Swallows breeding near Te Anau. Morrison, K. (1987). *Notornis* 34: 192. (Extension of breeding distribution for a species first recorded breeding in New Zealand in 1958.)

Differences in sexual size dimorphism and body proportions between adult and subadult House Sparrows in North America. MacGillivray, W. B. and Johnston, R. F. (1987). *Auk* 104: 681-687. (Adult House Sparrows from 19 localities and subadults from 21 localities were examined.)

TECHNIQUES

Trapping Brown Teal: A comparison of methods. Dumbell, G. (1987). *Notornis* 34: 225-233. (Compares the efficiency of four trapping methods: cage trap; handnet; lilypad trap; and dog. A computer programme (Basic) that generates colour band combinations is appended.)

More rapid wear of bands on Common Goldeneye than on White-winged Scoter. DuWors, M. R., Kehoe, P. and Houston, C. S. (1987). *N. Amer. Bird Bander* 12: 97-98. (Compares weight loss of six bands from two sizes.)

On the constancy of annually repeated bird censuses. Palmgren, P. (1987). *Ornis Fennica* 64: 85-89. (Single-year censuses do not give a reliable picture of the species of an area.)

Morphometric correlates of age and breeding status in American Coots. Alisauskas, R. T. (1987). *Auk* 104: 640-646. (Statistical analyses of 13 measurements revealed differences in size and shape among 1, 2, and >3 year-old coots.)

Sexing monomorphic birds by vent measurements. Boersma, P. D. and Davies, E. M. (1987). *Auk* 104: 779-783. (Using two measurements, breeding Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, American Coots, and Magellanic Penguins could be sexed.)

A method for attaching transmitters to penguins. Heath, R. G. M. (1987). *J. Wildl. Manage.* 51: 399-401. (Could also be used for attaching distance meters and depth recorders.)

Influence of radio collars on survival of Sharp-tailed Grouse. Marks, J. S., and Marks, V. S. (1987). *J. Wildl. Man.* 51: 468-471. (Thirty-eight were colour-banded and fitted with radios and nine were colour-banded only. One year later, four of the nine non-radioed grouse were the only ones resighted.)

Polarizing filters fail to reduce light attraction in Newell's Shearwaters. Reed, J. R. (1987). *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 15: 596-598. (Manipulation of horizontally plane-polarized light to reduce the attractiveness of man-made lights proved ineffective.)

Validation of the stomach-flushing technique for obtaining stomach contents of penguins. Gales, R. P. (1987). *Ibis.* **129**: 335-343. (The method was effective on Little, Gentoo and Rockhopper Penguins.)

Carpal compression as a variable in taking wing chord measurements. Yunick, R. P. (1986). *N. Am. Bird Bander* 11: 78-83. (Compression of carpus caused by a rule with end stop shortened the recorded unflattened wing chord length.)

A self-tripping trap for use with colonial nesting birds. Frederick, P. C. (1986). *N. Am. Bird Bander* 11: 94-95. (Describes a trap used for trapping adult nesting White Ibis.)

A hanging cylinder funnel trap. Bacon, B. R. (1987). *N. Am. Bird Bander* 12: 46-47. (This trap could have wide application in Australia.)

The zap net: an elastic-propelled variation of the cannon net. Underhill, L. G. and Underhill, G. D. (1987). *Safring News* 16: 21-24. (Net up to 5 m × 3 m (possibly larger) may substitute for a cannon net.)

The "snapshot" count for estimating densities of flying seabirds during boat transects: a cautionary comment. Gaston, A. J., Collins, B. L. and Diamond, A. W. (1987). *Auk* 104: 336-338. (Examples of bias.)

On measuring bird habitat: influence of observer variability and sample size. Block, W. M., With, K. A. and Morrison, M. L. (1987). *Condor* 89: 241-251. (Estimates differed for 31 of 49 variables.)

OBITUARY

Arnold Robert McGill, O.A.M., F.R.Z.S., F.R.A.O.U., died on 29 July, 1988, in his 84th year. He was a very distinguished amateur ornithologist and his death has created a substantial gap in Australian ornithological circles. Ever ready to help anyone in their ornithological pursuits he continually went out of his way to assist others in improving their knowledge and ability. He willingly, and with obvious enthusiasm, gave talks on birds and his birding experiences right to the last. Many people became really interested in birds after hearing a talk on the subject by Arnold McGill.

His excellent knowledge and incredible memory for detail made him an expert in avian systematics and taxonomy on a world scale and he was recognized as such. I will always remember, with amazement, during some of our early field trips together, the efforts of a mutual friend to test his knowledge. He would ask Arnold the scientific name of some unusual European bird species and, if not immediately, then within a few minutes, he would receive the correct answer.

The first time I met Arnold, over 40 years ago, he befriended me; apart from our mutual love of birds we had a lot in common and became firm friends, remaining so until he died. My wife and I were expecting to have him visit us again this spring as he always so enjoyed his visits here. We made innumerable field trips together during holidays, often to remote places in New South Wales. Very memorable ones were with such friends as Keith Hindwood, Ern Hoskin, John Hobbs, Michael Sharland, and Chris Humphries. When I proposed a banding study on Wedge-tailed Shearwaters in 1956 it was Arnold McGill and Keith Hindwood whom I asked to show me how to band these birds with the "wrap-around" bands then in use. Both had "served their apprenticeship" with Dom Serventy on Fisher Island in the Furneaux Group, Tasmania. They taught and indoctrinated me in the same correct method and attitude to banding as they had learnt from Dom Serventy.

Keenly interested in banding, Arnold always enjoyed getting out with banders. He wrote in *Corella* about this involvement following his visit to the USA in 1976 when he attended two important banding projects in Arizona. He frequently said that he would have loved to become a bander but was already fully commited to other ornithological involvements when banding commenced in Australia.