

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; lily pad 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 x 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 committed to other ornithological involvements when banding commenced in Australia.

He was one of the original associate members of the Bird Banders Association of Australia (at that time only licensed banders were members). Over the years he most willingly helped the Association and its successor the Australian Bird Study Association in many ways. He helped with editing material, checking the annual indices of volumes, commenting on papers submitted and various similar tasks. Always prepared to help, he wrote reviews of publications for most volumes of *The Australian Bird Bander*.

Finally, I am a better person for having known Arnold McGill and having shared his friendship for so many years.

S.G.L.

He enjoyed travelling, which gave him an insight into the urgency of emerging problems of conservation, and during his last few years he planned the establishment of scholarships for black South African students to study this subject at the University of Aberdeen.

Throughout all these ventures Robert was helped by his wife, Chriss, who was his very able field assistant, his eyes (he was colour blind and Chriss played an unwritten vital role in reading colour-bands), his listener, his critic, his companion, and in latter years, his nurse when he was not well. They were a couple full of kindness and of great generosity, whose house was open to many. Chriss died suddenly in Capetown early this year and Robert never really recovered from the shock; fortunately his own death was equally sudden while he slept in his chair. Those of us whose lives have been enriched by knowing the Carricks shall never forget them.

M.D.M.

OBITUARY

Dr Robert Carrick died suddenly on August 17 at Rogart, Sutherland, Scotland. After graduating from Glasgow University he obtained his Ph.D. at Edinburgh and for a short period he was a member of the staff of Leeds University, a period interrupted by World War II when he saw service in Italy, Burma and India. In 1948 he joined the Department of Zoology, University of Aberdeen, where he was able to commence seriously his interests in ornithology, applying his imaginative and critical abilities to a field study of the European Starling. His study of the Northern Fulmar on Eyehallow, Orkney, was continued by his student, Professor George Dunnet, and is one of the longest continuous studies of a seabird. From Aberdeen, Robert Carrick joined the CSIRO Wildlife Section in Canberra, where he founded the Australian Bird-Banding Scheme and became a great friend of this Association. One of the initial co-operative projects of the Scheme was the banding of the Silver Gulls in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia, and his encouragement stimulated the banding study of the Wandering Albatross off the New South Wales coast. His own study was initially the feeding behaviour of ibises. Then he commenced his classic study of the Black-backed Magpie, in which he set the standards of meticulous field work for which he became renowned. Another interest was Antarctic Biology, a field in which he again set standards with his studies of the Royal Penguin, Wandering Albatross and Southern Elephant Seals at Macquarie Island. However, these were not his sole interests and many students and colleagues were encouraged to study other fauna of this environment. In addition, he played a major role in the drafting and obtaining acceptance of the Agreed Measures for the Protection of the Antarctic Fauna and Flora. He also played an advisory role in the initial creation of national parks in Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales. On leaving Canberra he moved to the Mawson Institute, University of Adelaide, where he continued his Antarctic interests, and developed another detailed study of the Silver Gull, again advancing the state of the art of field studies. His main interest was population regulation and the role of territories and influence of available food; this theme may be seen running through all his papers, usually with refreshing insight.

New Members

DAVIES, G. B., Alice Springs, N.T.
 DUNN, A. M., Bundoorra, Vic.
 EGAN, K., Belmore, NSW
 GRIFFIN, R. O., Colac, Vic.
 HEAP, C., Byford, W.A.
 NATT, Mrs V. A., Kingston, S.A.
 PARNABY, H. E., Kensington, NSW
 PATERSON, I. B., Lane Cove, NSW
 PUTT, T., Brighton, Vic.
 SMITH, R. J., Gateshead, NSW
 SUTTON, P. H., Forster, Vic.