
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 and its Territories;
- They provide details of techniques and equipment that may be of use in Australia;
- They provide details of studies that may be of general interest to Australian ornithologists.

Journals perused: *Ardea* 77(2); *Auk* 107(2); *Notornis* 37(2); *Ostrich* 61(1 and 2); *Safring* 19(1 and 2); *Wilson Bull.* 102(3).

PAPERS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Immediate impact of the "Exxon Valdez" oil spill on marine birds. Piatt, J. F., Lensink, C. J., Butler, W., Kendziorek, M. and Nysewander, D. R. (1990). *Auk* 107: 387-397. (On 24 March, 1989, the Exxon Valdez spilled 260 000 barrels of crude oil in Prince William Sound, Alaska. Oil eventually drifted over 30 000 km² of coastal and offshore waters occupied by approximately one million marine birds. More than 30 000 dead birds of 90 species were retrieved from polluted areas by 1 August 1989. This report provides details of the movement and distribution of the oil, bird populations now at risk, and the number and species composition of dead birds retrieved from the affected area. It is speculated that the total kill from the oil spill was from 100 000 to 300 000 birds.)

AUSTRALIAN SPECIES

Seasonal abundance and marine habitats of *Procellaria fulmarina* and gadfly petrels off central New South Wales. Wood, K. A. (1990). *Notornis* 37: 81-105. (Between April 1985 and March 1987 transects were made each month from shore to well beyond the continental shelf (a total of 23 transects reaching an average distance 66 km from shore). The results of standardized censuses of 12 (probably 13) species during these transects are documented and discussed.)

Behaviour of *Pterodroma petrels* in response to "war-whoops". Tennyson, A. J. D. and Taylor, G. A. (1990). *Notornis* 37: 121-128. (Individuals of *Pterodroma macroptera*, *P. cervicalis*, *P. pycrofti* and *P. nigripennis* were attracted by human "war-whoop" calls. It is suggested that the birds were mainly unpaired and associated these calls with sexual advertisement.)

Response of Cook's and Black Petrels to artificial sounds. Scofield, P. (1990). *Notornis* 37: 129-130. (Cook's Petrels were attracted to "war-whoops" but not as strongly as other *Pterodroma* spp. Black Petrels did not respond to "war-whoops" but were attracted to sound of running generator.)

The status of Cook's Petrel on Great Barrier Island. Scofield, P. (1990). *Notornis* 37: 130. (Only four burrows were found in the Mount Hobson area during the 1987-1988 and 1988-1989 breeding seasons. The level of activity seems unchanged since 1966.)

***Stercorarius longicaudus* and *S. parasiticus* in southern Brazil.** Vooren, C. M. and Chiaradia, A. (1989). *Ardea* 77: 233-235. (From May 1982 to December 1986, 40 censuses of birds were undertaken along 60 km of sandy beach south of Rio Grande. Skuas were present from September to May and six were collected. Measurements and other morphological information of these six birds are provided. On 28 December, 1984, 18 live and 12 dead birds were found along 18 km of beach, and it is suggested that this was the result of starvation.)

Age-related intraspecific kleptoparasitism and foraging success of Kelp Gulls *Larus dominicanus*. Hockey, P. A. R., Ryan, P. G. and Bosman, A. L. (1989). *Ardea* 77: 205-210. (At Las Cruces beach, Chile, Kelp Gulls preyed almost exclusively on Sand Mussels. As hunting and handling success increased with age, the incidence of kleptoparasitism decreased, although for all ages the rewards of kleptoparasitism were greater than those of hunting.)

Foraging habitat partitioning in Roseate and Common Terns. Safina, C. (1990). *Auk* 107: 351-358. (A study of sympatrically breeding Roseate and Common Terns showed there were differences in foraging strategies between the two species.)

Distribution, population size and conservation of the Swift Tern *Sterna bergii* in southern Africa. Cooper, J., Crawford, R. J. M., Suter, W. and Williams, A. J. (1990). *Ostrich* 61: 56-65. (A summary of the status of the Swift Tern (=Crested Tern) in southern Africa. The information was gathered from a variety of sources. Recommendations are made to further improve the conservation status of the species.)

TECHNIQUES AND ANALYSES

Ringling of Herring Gulls *Larus argentatus* and Greater Black-backed Gulls *Larus marinus* on Copenhagen dump. Fritze, E. (1990). *Safring* 19: 48-49 (reprinted from *The Ring* 86-87/1976). (The author dug a hole in a heap of garbage sufficiently large to lie in on his back. A plastic bag with holes for the eyes and mouth was then pulled over his head, and garbage was put over his legs and body in a manner which left his hands free. The birds were caught by hand, banded and released without the author moving from his position. With the use of bait (bread) up to 50 Herring Gulls were banded an hour.)

Effects of human disturbance on breeding Least and Crested Auklets at St Lawrence Island, Alaska. Piatt, J. F., Roberts, B. D., Lidster, W. W., Wells, J. L. and Hatch, S. A. (1990). *Auk* 107: 342-350. (The effects of disturbance by research workers and the influence this has on the results of studies is a matter of concern for us all. In this study Least Auklets had a higher breeding success on control plots (50-66%) than on disturbed plots (36%).)

Monitoring Galapagos Penguins and Flightless Cormorants in the Galapagos Islands. Rosenberg, D. K., Valle, C. A., Coulter, M. C. and Harcourt, S. A. (1990). *Wilson Bull.* 102: 525-532. (For species with restricted ranges, monitoring of the total population would be facilitated (and made cheaper) if areas could be identified from which counts could be used to predict the total number that would be counted from a census of the species' entire range. This study demonstrates the feasibility of doing this.)