

Species Name Scientific Name	Autumn 84	Spring 84	Autumn 85	Spring 85	Autumn 86	Spring 86	Autumn 87	Spring 87
Eastern Spinebill <i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>		.....F	A.....	.....F	.BC.EF	.....F	..C....	.....E
Spotted Pardalote <i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>		.....F	..C...F	.B...F	ABC...F	.B...F	.B...E	.B...EF
Striated Pardalote <i>P. striatus</i>	.....E	..C.E	.....E	.B...E	.B.....	..C.EF	.B.....	.B...E
Silvereye <i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	.B.D.F	A..D.F	A.C....	.....D	A.....	.B.DEF	.....DE	.....D
European Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		A.....						
Red-browed Firetail <i>Emblema temporalis</i>	.....F	.....F	A.....				.....F	
Common Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		A.....			A.....	..D..		
Olive-backed Oriole <i>Oriolus sagittatus</i>	.....E	.....E						
Australian Magpie-lark <i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>	..C....							
Dusky Woodswallow <i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>								.B.....
Australian Magpie <i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	ABC.E	A.C....	A.C.E	.BC.E	A.C.E	A.C.E	A...E	..C.E
Pied Currawong <i>Strepera graculina</i>	.B...EF			.B...EF	A.C....	.BC....	.....E	.BC.EF
Grey Currawong <i>S. versicolor</i>	.B.....	ABC...F	A...E		A...F	..C...A	.....	AB...F
Raven sp. <i>Corvus sp.</i>	..C....	A.CDE	..C....	ABC.E		.BC.E	A...E	ABCDEF

BOOK REVIEW

Whistling Wings.

H. Elliott McClure, 1991. The Boxwood Press, Pacific Grove, California.
Paperback, 99 pp., b/w chap. illus., 5 b/w plates, 215 × 140 mm, US\$9.95.

The title refers to one of the diagnostic features of the Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*, native to North America and similar to, though less robust, than the introduced Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*.

For many years, I have sympathized with Dr McClure as he has tried to translate his vast array of field notes into published books, books that would attract and lead the uninformed public into an understanding of the diversity of nature and thence to a recognition of the need for conservation.

Dr McClure writes from a wealth of experience covering 50 years of observing doves in North America and Asia and from studies of 5 000 Mourning Dove nestlings. Those of us who have been lucky enough to accompany him in the field will remember his inexhaustible energy, unflagging from well before dawn until after the entry of field notes at night.

This book reflects his meticulous attention to detail as he tells the story of Mourning Doves, not in dry scientific fashion but with obvious love of the birds. He skilfully weaves full details of their life history into the correct ecological setting throughout all seasons, following one pair mated for five years and, after the death of the female, the subsequent fate of the male shot on his seventeenth migration to Mexico.

He deplores the annual slaughter of 40 million doves and tells the story of the extraordinary survival of one dove despite the loss of all its bill and tongue to a shotgun blast.

He warns that a decline already shows in dove populations and recalls the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon, once in vast numbers.

Dr McClure identifies individuals by name rather than band number, which makes reading easy, although at one place he gives two band numbers, no doubt an oversight when translating numbers to names. Most of the names are those given to doves by Indians. He assumes the birds' ability to communicate by sound and posture by translating it into anthropomorphic terms, thus saving long and tedious explanations. Most of the time I found this quite acceptable, though there were times when I could not do so (the italics are mine): 'Interrupting his breakfast irritated Zee . . .'; 'He felt like crying out but was afraid to'; 'How could this be?' thought Zee, 'no dove would want to risk the dangers on the soil when hazards in trees are bad enough! The stranger was surly about it . . .' But this is not a major fault and points to the great difficulty in conveying to a wide audience a complex story in simple language.

The repetition of breeding dates within seasons and years would be more of interest to the ornithologist than to the general reader but it has been included, I imagine, to show changes from year to year and the devotion to breeding shown by the species.

An appendix explains nomenclature, of value to the proposed readership which is likely to have little ornithological background. This is not to say that the initiated are precluded. Anyone interested in the life histories of any taxa must gain from reading this easily digested book, with its pleasant b/w drawings adorning the chapter headings.

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