

Fuscous Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fuscus*

022-06049. Adult male banded by A. J. Leishman near Appin, NSW on 31 Aug. 74. Recaptured at banding place twice, the second occasion by M. Paul on 5 Sept. 81, over 7 years 6 months after banding.

Common Mynah *Acridotheres tristis*

070-62844. Adult banded by M. A. Johnson at West Pymble, NSW on 16 June 74. Found dead at Turramurra, NSW on 26 July 81, over 7 years 1 month after banding, 5 km NNW. (This is the oldest recorded for this species.)

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

(a) 060-14889. Immature male banded by D. I. Smedley at Iluka, NSW on 18 Nov. 75. Recaptured at banding place by A. J. Leishman on 12 May 82, over 6 years 6 months after banding.

(b) 061-09264. Banded by D. I. Smedley at Iluka, NSW on 20 Sept. 76. Recaptured (adult female) at banding place by A. J. Leishman on 12 May 82, over 5 years 7 months after banding.

Australian Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

061-12830. Immature banded by G. Logan at Lake Munmorah, NSW on 8 Mar. 82. Found dead at Gorokan, NSW on 5 May 82. 8 km SW.

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*

100-10525. Juvenile banded by G. D. Thomas near Finley, NSW on 27 May 80. Found dead at Berrigan, NSW in Mar. 81. 40 km ESE.

Little Raven *Corvus mellori*

100-82195. Nestling banded by J. Klapste at Werribee, Vic. on 7 Sept. 80. Found dead at "Nokera Downs", Winchelsea, Vic. on 26 Apr. 81. 78 km WSW.

Review

Markierungsmethoden für Vögel (Methods of Marking Birds): Hans Bub and Hans Oelke, die neue Brehm-Bücherei, Wittenberg Lutherstadt, 1980. 152 pages, 98 drawings and black and white plates, 1 colour plate, bibliography at the end of each chapter, index. Written in German.

Because of the increase in the methods of marking birds and the difficulty of finding the relevant reports, the authors of this book have sought to give a total survey of marking procedures to date. Their research includes material from German, French, British, American, Canadian Australian and other sources.

Chapter headings include the history and beginnings of the scientific marking of birds; metal bands — their uses, limitations, dangers; the many different types are discussed, e.g. numbered, plain, coloured, fluorescent, combined with plasticine; coloured PVC bands, coloured celluloid bands without information; use of dyes; methods of marking the legs, wings, head, bill, neck and back; using feathers by cutting a pattern or by transplanting foreign feathers; radiotelemetry.

Where appropriate, each chapter includes extensive information on the alphabetical and numerical combinations used in certain programmes. Advantages, disadvantages, dangers and success rates are discussed with respect to species, habitat and proposed study. In the chapter on dyes, information is listed under the following headings: species, dye, method of dyeing, durability and by whom used. The uses, suitability and technical aspects of radiotelemetry are discussed in depth.

Even those who do not read German will find the extensive bibliographies particularly useful, those who can follow the text will find it a mine of well-organised information of inestimable value to all whose ornithological activities involve banding or marking birds.

Ann Lindsey, Narraween, N.S.W.

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.

Hawks in Focus. A Study of Australia's Birds of Prey, by Jack and Lindsay Cupper, 1981, Jaclin Enterprises Pty Ltd, Mildura. 208 pp. including 26 maps and over 300 colour illustrations. Approximately 22 x 30 cm. Price \$A29.50 (on bulk orders to members of ornithological societies).

At last a book is available which illustrates every Australian member of the Falconiformes with photographs taken at the nest and records first-hand biological data obtained in the process. For too long much of the literature has repeated old, incomplete data. This book improves on the situation to a pleasing extent. The aim of the authors was to share with bird watchers and the public the beauty of our birds of prey in the wild. They have achieved their aim admirably, and have also added much to our knowledge of these birds. They set out to emulate Peter Steyn's classic *Eagle Days* (Purnell, London) and anyone comparing both books would agree that they have succeeded remarkably well.

Adults of each species are illustrated with several portraits which can only be described as masterpieces, and which are tributes to the authors' patience and skill with a camera. Flight and/or landing shots, nests and eggs, and downy and fledging young are also shown. Photographic coverage is not uniform; some species (predictably rare species such as the Grey Falcon) receive many pages of outstanding pictures, while others receive disappointingly few. However for most there is a good series on both sexes. The photos of some, such as the Red Goshawk, are very useful for field identification since current field guides do not do them justice.

The text is divided into chapters on each species, with extra ones on interesting occurrences: rearing of kestrel chicks by Black-breasted Buzzards, and interbreeding of Brown and Grey (White) Goshawks. A chapter on equipment describes photographic methods in detail, and provides useful information for other aspiring photographers.

The authors mix an entertaining account of events surrounding the taking of their photographs with descriptions of the behaviour of the birds and their young. Incubation and/or fledging periods are given for most species but some appear to be estimates only. Data are given on the frequency of different clutch sizes in many species.

Unfortunately most of the food data are not quantified, but are still valuable and in some cases challenging to previously-held views. Of particular interest are the diets of the Square-tailed Kite (nestling birds only); and the Brown Goshawk (mostly rabbits) and Collared Sparrowhawk (small passerines only) where they breed together. Also of note is the large number of species found to feed mainly on rabbits.

Some other interesting points are that the Black-shouldered Kite and Spotted Harrier are breeding migrants to the Mildura district; the Square-tailed Kite, assumed to be nomadic, seems to be resident as a breeding adult, and may be absent from the arid Centre; the Black-breasted Buzzard may occasionally be polyandrous, like the New World Harris's Hawk and Galapagos Hawk. Data on fledging periods and juvenile plumages of the Square-tailed Kite and the Black-breasted Buzzard support the view that they are closely related and that the former has little in common with the Black Kite.

There are a few minor quibbles with the text. Repetition of literature data and distribution maps available elsewhere seems unnecessary, especially since the authors criticise other recent works for this, and current maps will be superseded by publication of the Atlas. Space thus saved could have been used for additional photos of less well represented species. A few typing or spelling errors are scattered through the text. Repeated reference to "tail primaries" is a little annoying. There is a notable error; having seen the unpublished slide, courtesy of the authors, the dark phase Brown Falcon stated to have hatched five chicks (p.93) was actually a Black Falcon. However these minor faults detract little from an otherwise outstanding book. The production of the book, a wholly Australian effort, is of a high standard and is a credit to the printer and publishers.

This remarkable work is excellent value for money. It is highly recommended to anyone interested in birds and is a must for raptor enthusiasts. Raptor biologists will find much of value in it and many indications of the wide scope for future research.

S. J. S. Debus, Armidale, N.S.W.

Obituary

Dr Harold James Frith, A.O., F.A.A., F.T.S., died suddenly at his home in Lismore on 28 June 1982. For 20 years, he was Chief of the CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research. He retired from that position in 1981 after suffering a serious heart attack and moved to Lismore in January 1982.

While Chief of the CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research, Dr Frith made a major contribution to the development of scientifically-based policies for the management of fauna in Australia. He also helped the Division to achieve world ranking among organizations of its kind. Dr Frith had a particular interest in the Australian Bird-banding Scheme and did much to ensure the development of the Scheme as a research facility of major importance to Australian science.

Dr Frith leaves his wife, a son and two married daughters.

New Members

CANNON, Dr C. E., Indooroopilly, Qld.
 CONGREVE, P., Cocklebidy, W.A.
 DUNNET, Dr G. M., Scotland.
 FIDDLER, R., Alice Springs, N.T.
 KRISTO, F. L., Ashcroft, N.S.W.
 MANUEL, S., Wye, N.S.W.
 PAYTON, G. R., Bunbury, W.A.
 RICHARDS, W., Kambalda, W.A.
 SUMMERS, G., Port Campbell, Vic.
 VERMEULEN, R., Kurrajong Hill, N.S.W.
 WADE, R. M., West Pennant Hills, N.S.W.