

Superb Fairy-Wren *Malurus cyaneus*

014-31839. Adult male banded by B. Foreman at Heathfield, near Adelaide, SA on 31 July 82. "Killed by cat" at Stirling, near Adelaide, SA on 22 Nov. 83. 3 km NE.

Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostris*

012-98758. Banded by P. A. White at Iluka, NSW on 27 Dec. 76. Recaptured at banding place four times, the last occasion by D. Geering on 24 Dec. 83, over 6 years 11 months after banding.

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*

012-89634. Banded by H. J. de S. Disney at Iluka, NSW on 9 Feb. 76. Recaptured at banding place by D. Geering on 11 Dec. 83, over 7 years 10 months after banding. (This is the oldest recorded for this species.)

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

061-13903. Immature banded by H. Recher and G. Pyke at Brisbane Waters National Park, near Woy Woy, NSW on 12 Oct. 82. Found dead at Ettalong Beach, NSW on 2 Nov. 83. 5 km NE.

White-plumed Honeyeater*Lichenostomus penicillatus*

022-36339. Juvenile banded by J. A. McNamara at Hilton, SA on 31 Jan. 81. Found dead at Cumberland Park near Adelaide, SA on 6 Nov. 83. 4 km SE.

New Holland Honeyeater*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

(a) 031-78384. Adult banded by T. J. Bradley at Hale Conservation Park, SA on 21 Aug. 83. Recovered at Valley View, near Adelaide, SA on 10 Oct. 83. 25 km SW.

(b) 031-93402. Immature banded by N. Forde at Kuitpo, SA on 27 Jan. 78. Found dead at Reynella, SA on 14 Sept. 83, over 5 years 8 months after banding. 27 km NW.

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

013-43147. Adult banded by G. Pyke near Patonga, NSW on 7 June 83. Found dead at Mangrove Mountain, NSW on 9 Oct. 83. 30 km N.

Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*

013-61095. Banded by S. G. Lane at North Ryde, NSW on 28 June 75. Found dead at Lane Cove, NSW on 4 Jan. 84, over 8 years 6 months after banding. 3 km ESE.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

061-13724. Adult banded by M. H. Waterman near Mallala, SA on 15 July 78. Found dead near Port Gawler, SA on 11 Sept. 83, over 5 years 2 months after banding. 10 km S.

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

(a) 060-51091. Adult male banded by P. D. Strong at Iluka, NSW on 30 Sept. 66. Recaptured at banding place twice, the second occasion by D. Geering on 24 Dec. 83, over 17 years 2 months after banding. (This is the oldest recorded for this species.)

(b) 061-06171. Banded by W. P. Barden at Blackbutt Reserve, near Newcastle, NSW on 23 Nov. 80. Found dead near banding place on 24 Oct. 83.

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

050-80138. Adult banded by A. E. Cam at Gilgal, near Mudgee, NSW on 10 Sept. 81. Recaptured at Mungahorn Gap Nature Reserve, near Mudgee, NSW by G. D. Bell on 3 Oct. 83. 9 km SE. (This is the longest recorded movement for this species.)

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

090-63920. Immature male banded by R. Carrick at Gungahlin, ACT on 1 June 65. Found dead near Hall, ACT on 9 Sept. 83, over 18 years 3 months after banding. 15 km NNW.

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

090-67550. Immature banded by B. Baker at Hughes, ACT on 26 June 71. Found dead near Galong, NSW on 20 June 83, over 11 years 11 months after banding. 96 km NNW. (This is the oldest recorded for this species.)

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*

100-00190. Immature banded by P. Congreve at Eyre Bird Observatory, WA on 26 Dec. 82. Found dead (decomposed) at Cocklebidy, WA on 12 Sept. 83. 30 km NW.

DATA EXCHANGE

Material in 'Data Exchange' will, in some cases, be of a preliminary and possible of an unconfirmed nature and is included to assist workers in the field and also for trial and/or comment by others. All correspondence in respect to material published in this section should be directed, in the first instance, to the quoted author.

It is recommended that material from 'Data Exchange' be referenced as, e.g.:

Lane, S. G. (1983), 'Weights and Measurements — Eastern Spinebill', *In* Data Exchange, *Corella* 7: 22.

Hon. Editor.

PLUMAGE

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

The following preliminary data were obtained while observing Little Eagles at their nests since spring-summer 1980-81 at Armidale, N.S.W. (30°30'S., 151°40'E.). They are presented here because they add to, or are at variance with, the current literature.

Among light phase pairs, females had more extensive pale rufous smudging and heavier streaks on the underparts than their paler-breasted mates. No dark phase pairs were seen (dark birds had light phase mates),

but breeding males were again somewhat lighter on the underparts than females. Adults of both phases were similar on the upperwings and mantle (not different as is sometimes stated).

Six light phase juveniles (progeny of light x light parents) were all a rich rufous on the head and underparts and less streaked than the adults. They were also darker brown on the wings and mantle, with deeper fawn (rather than greyish), less contrasting upperwing coverts. No dark phase juveniles were seen, but from museum specimens it appears that they are a darker, less streaked chestnut brown on the head and underparts than adults, with similarly darker wings and mantle and less contrasting wing coverts. A post-moult light phase bird with a rufous, unstreaked head and otherwise adult appearance may have been in an intermediate plumage stage.

Nestlings had pale yellow cere and toes, which faded to whitish at or soon after fledging. Museum specimens indicate that some juveniles retain a yellow gape into at least their first autumn.

The above data suggest that: 1) Little Eagles of either phase become lighter in colour with age; 2) adult males are lighter on the underparts than adult females of the same phase; 3) first year birds should be identifiable by their rufous (light phase) or chestnut (dark phase) head and underparts, lack of heavy streaking about the head, dark wings and mantle, and any yellow remaining in the soft parts. Further work is required on age differences in plumage, particularly on the time taken to reach adult plumage, and details of any intermediate plumage stages. Thanks are due to staff of The Australian Museum for access to specimens.

S.J.S.D.

WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS

Little Eagle *Hieraetus morphnoides*

Adults and juveniles combined

		Range	Mean	SD	n
Wingspan (mm)	♂	1 142-1 170	1 151	13.0	4
	♀	1 248-1 322	1 282	32.2	6
Weight (g)	♂	578-655	608	29.1	5
	♀	880-1250	1 070	152.1	5

Wingspans were obtained from The Australian Museum (3♂, 2♀) and the Australian Bird-Banding Scheme (1♂, 4♀). Weights were obtained from the Armidale Region, N.S.W. (3♀ : 880g, 1 020g, 1 250g), The Australian Museum (1♂ : 594g, 2♀ : 1 000g, 1 199g), Queensland Museum (1♂ : 578g), and the Australian Bird-Banding Scheme (3♂ : 600g, 613g, 655g). These data suggest that the sexes should be separable in the hand on wingspan and weight, because of the apparent lack of overlap in these dimensions. Comparison with the unpublished data of others indicates that the Armidale weights represent the extremes of variation yet recorded for females. Thanks are due to W. Boles and W. Longmore (Aust. Mus.), G. Czechura (Qld. Mus.) and D. Purchase (ABBS) for access to specimens and supplying data.

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What are Your Preferred Numbers?

A source of error in measurement can be due to the bander having preferred numbers. This may be particularly relevant to measurements such as wing span which depend to a large extent on the cooperation of the bird.

To illustrate this, the final digit recorded for 300 wing span measurements from White-plumed Honey-eaters *Leichenostomus penicillatus*, made by a single bander have been examined. For the 300 wing span measurements, range 227-272 mm, the final digit of each measurement was put into one of ten cells from 0 to 9. On this scheme 227 would have been a 7 and 272 would have been a 2. The results for the 10 cells are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
30	30	50	17	20	43	23	32	31	24

It would be expected that there should be approximately an equal number of measurements in each cell, in this case 30. The results show otherwise. A chi-square test was carried to see if the observed value of each cell differed significantly from the expected value of 30.

The chi-square value obtained from this test (30.93) is very much greater than the critical value at $P = 05$ with 9 degrees of freedom (16.92) indicating that the observed values are significantly different from the expected numbers. Unfortunately, there are no statistical tests to determine exactly which digits are the culprits, i.e. which are preferred and which are avoided.

An examination of Table 1 indicates that this bander may prefer to end his wing span measurements with 2 or 5 at the expense of 3 or 4. This could be due to several factors associated with this measurement, such as the "little bit more" syndrome.

Banders should be aware of this possible source of error and check their own results.

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New Members

ANTRAM, F. B. S., Manly, N.S.W.
BARKER, K., Casterton, Vic.
BURKING, R. C., Rossmoyne, W.A.
BYWATER, J., Jabiru, N.T.
FORDE, N., Valley View, S.A.
HARMER, R. F., Port Macquarie, N.S.W.
HILL, J. W. A., West Germany.
McINTOSH, D., Petrie, Qld.
MARTIN, J., Ingleburn, N.S.W.
PASTORELLI, J., Punchbowl, N.S.W.
RISTOW, G., Richardson, A.C.T.
SHIELDS, J. M., Beecroft, N.S.W.
SMITH, M., Aitkenvale, Qld.