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EDITORIAL

In this issue, three papers are concerned with the handling of data derived from measurements. These have been stimulated by a paper of G. H. Pyke and D. P. Armstrong which appeared in *Corella* 1993, 17: 43–46. The papers are a commentary on their paper by D. I. Rogers and K. G. Rogers, G. H. Pyke's reply and an account of the statistical approach advocated by K. G. Rogers.

I should like to thank these authors for the effort they have put into their papers, which have enabled us to bring to members an explanation of the methods and a discussion on the pros and cons of the various approaches.

How members apply them to their studies is determined by their reasons for taking measurements and what they wish to achieve. Should, for example, it be just to sex the birds in their study population in which there may be clear bimodal difference, a simple histogram may well suffice. Should the differences be less clear or they are comparing populations then a more detailed statistical approach may be required. All approaches are valid, the choice is much a matter of common sense. Ken Rogers has kindly given the Association a copy of his computer programs

so that we may be able to assist members seeking advice as to which approach is most appropriate. This will enable us to fulfil the aim of the Association — to encourage the study of Australian birds.

Another component of encouraging members is to assist them in publishing their data in a trustworthy manner. As I am stepping down as Chief Editor, I should like to thank my assistant editors and the many referees who have assisted us over the years. It has always been our policy to help members and it should be recorded just how much effort is made in giving them assistance. This is not solely editorial or redrafting figures but conceptive, constructive guidance and suggestions, and even checking of museum specimens where there is a taxonomic component. I also wish to thank those of you who have risen to the challenge because you have shown that, with a little humility and will, all of you can make excellent contributions, whether they be short or long. I can assure you that, when you express your gratitude, we feel that our considerable efforts on your behalf have been worthwhile.

M. D. Murray

HONOURS

We have been remiss in not bringing to the attention of our members the following award to one of our staunch members, to whom we extend an apology. In 1990, Max Waterman received an award in the Order of Australia.

Max's banding efforts are legendary and have become the basis of several studies. In the years to come, when various analyses are published, the full value of his efforts will become apparent to all. Ornithology in Australia was indeed fortunate that, shortly after CSIRO created the Australian Bird Banding Scheme, someone with such dedication and energy resided in South Australia.

M. D. Murray