

are partly defined by the fact that males are not defending any resource valuable to the female other than themselves (or at least their genes). It also forms “exploded” leks where the displaying males may be separated by up to 1–2 kilometres, which may be the explanation for the displaying male’s far-carrying call (as we know, one of the most notable things about lyrebirds, which also form exploded leks, is the loud calls of displaying males). (Incidentally, I don’t think the reader needs to be told twice, on p. 60 and again on p. 61, that exploded leks may only be detectable if the distribution of the displaying males is mapped over a large scale.) The book suggests that the breeding system of bustards may grade from “classical” leks to “exploded” leks and in some parts of the species range may even be monogamous; such variability may be an adaptation to the variable climate throughout the species’ range.

As with the mating system, so the movement patterns of Bustards change across the species’ range. In some areas birds are more-or-less sedentary, others may undergo regular migration, while birds in more climatically variable parts of the range may be idiosyncratic or nomadic in their movements. The author describes two methods he used in his studies to shed light on bustard movements: mail surveys of landholders and satellite tracking of marked birds. Both have a role to play with this and no doubt other species, especially as the size of the Bustard allows the attachment of a transmitter powered by a solar panel so that an individual’s whereabouts can be followed for up to several years.

The Australian Bustard seems to cope poorly with the presence of Europeans, hence its range contraction in the last two hundred years. It is therefore apt that the conservation of the species is given a chapter of its own. The author seems equivocal about the future of the species and suggests that the conservation of this and other dispersive fauna presents a problem not yet solved.

He floats the idea of mobile (in time and space) conservation zones being brought into play to protect the species under varying conditions. I get the impression that much more work is required in this area.

An index is present, which has not been the case for all of this book’s predecessors in the same Series, but is perfunctory. “Irruptive movements”, a subheading in the text, is not in the index, but is present under “movements”; contrarily, the subheading “movements in relation to fire”, is indexed under “fire” but not under “movements”. “Display”, an important aspect of the Bustard’s routine, and prominent in the book, is not indexed at all.

Regrettably, the book has its share of those irritating glitches that should not be as difficult to iron out before publication as their numbers would suggest. As an example of what I would interpret as a lack of care in presentation, there are misspellings, such as “occasionally”, which appears on page 89; these things are even highlighted by the software, as was this one when I keyed it in and insisted on the wrong spelling instead of the correction supplied by the machine. Do this author and this publisher not stoop to such aids? It is also worth mentioning that some of the prose here is, shall we say, clumsy, and I would have thought might have attracted the attention of an editor, if such a thing exists anymore.

Nevertheless, and in spite of my complaints, I came away knowing more than I did previously about the Australian Bustard which is, as the author says, a lordly icon of the Australian outback.

Andrew Ley
Birds Australia
(Northern NSW) Group
Armidale

RECOVERY ROUND-UP

This section is prepared with the co-operation of the Secretary, Australian Bird and Bat Banding Schemes, Australian Nature Conservation Agency. The recoveries are only a selection of the thousands received each year; they are not a complete list and should not be analysed in full or part without prior consent of the banders concerned. Longevity and distance records refer to the ABBBS unless otherwise stated. The distance is the shortest distance in kilometres along the direct line joining the place of banding and recovery; the compass direction refers to the same direct line. (There is no implication regarding the distance flown or the route followed by the bird). Where available ABBBS age codes have been included in the banding data.

Recovery or longevity items may be submitted directly to me whereupon their merits for inclusion will be considered.

Hon. Editor

The following abbreviations appear in this issue:

ABBBS – Australian Bird and Bat Banding Schemes

Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta*

280-06818. Nestling banded by N.P. Brothers on Albatross Island, Tas. on 27 March 1985. Recovered dead, at Joanna Beach, Great Ocean Road, Vic. on 23 March 2010, over 24 years, 11 months after banding.

(Band returned to Banding Office)

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

290-08632. Nestling banded by G.P. Clancy at Gilletts Ridge, NSW on 12 Dec. 2007. Readable band/flag sighted in field, number on standard band inferred at:

- (1) Micalo Island, Yamba, NSW on 19 Aug. 2009. 29 km NE.
- (2) Moleville Creek, west of Grafton, NSW on 27 May 2010. 22 km WNW.

(The bird was also banded with band no. 290-08626.)

Eastern Osprey *Pandion cristatus*

(a) 280-12669. plus Colour Bands: Right, Red. Left, White/Green. Nestling banded by G.P. Clancy south of the Broadwater, Clarence River, NSW on 21 Oct. 1999. Colour marking sighted in field, band number inferred at Brown Rocks, Goodwid Island, NSW by P. Kenway on 10 April 2010 and again on 28 June 2010, over 10 years 8 months after banding. 17 km NE.

(b) 280-15009. plus Colour Bands: Right, Green. Left, Green/Black. Nestling banded by G.P. Clancy on a yacht moored in Iluka Bay, NSW on 26 Aug. 2005. Colour marking sighted in field, band number inferred at:

(1) East Ballina, NSW on 9 July 2008. 66 km N.

(2) Kingsford Smith Oval, Ballina, NSW on 9 May 2010. 65 km N.

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

K0-03968. Immature (1) banded at Broome Bird Observatory, Broome, WA on 22 Dec. 2000. Recaptured, released alive with band at Minyirr Coastal Park, South Margin, Broome, WA by J. Lewis on 24 July 2005, over 4 years 7 month after banding. 19 km WSW.

(This is the oldest and longest movement recorded for the species.)

Rainbow Pitta *Pitta iris*

050-27797. Adult (1+) banded by J. Kikkawa at Kemp Airstrip, Darwin, NT on 25 July 1979. Recaptured, released alive with band at Workshop Jungle, Humptydoo, Darwin, NT on 17 Jan. 1984, over 4 years 5 months after banding. 13 km SW.

(This is the oldest and longest movement recorded for the species.)

Noisy Scrub-bird *Atrichornis clamosus*

051-47059. Adult (2+) male banded by A.V. Danks at Two People Bay Nature Reserve, WA on the 24 Sept. 1997. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place by S.J. Cromer on 19 July 2005, over 7 years 9 months after banding.

(This is the oldest recorded for the species.)

Red-backed Fairy-wren *Malurus melanocephalus*

018-02774. Adult (1+) banded by J.O. Karubian at Atherton Tablelands, Qld on 27 April 1997. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place on 21 Nov. 2004, over 7 years 6 months after banding

(This is the oldest recorded for the species.)

Variagated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti*

017-59869. Nestling banded by S.G. Pruett-Jones at Brookfield Conservation Park, SA on 16 Nov. 1995. Recapture, released alive with band at banding place on 3 Nov. 2006, over 10 years 11 months after banding

(This is the oldest recorded for the species.)

Eastern Bristlebird *Dasyornis brachypterus*

051-46509. Adult (1+) banded at Barren Grounds Bird Observatory, near Kiama, NSW on 14 March 1990. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place on 11 Jan. 1995, over 4 years 9 months after banding.

(This is the oldest recorded for the species.)

Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis*

024-29347. Immature (1) male banded by K.A. Fisher at Mount Lewis near Jullaten, Qld. on 30 March 1991. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place by S.E. Williams on 13 Oct. 2006, over 15 years 6 months after banding.

(This is the oldest recorded for the species.)

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

024-57912. Immature (1) banded by G. Fry at Poulton Park, Hurstville, NSW on, 2 Jan. 1994. Recaptured, released alive with bands twice, the last occasion on 16 Oct. 2009, over 15 years, 9 months after banding.

(The bird was also banded with ABBBS band no. 026-11017.)

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Calamanthus pyrrhopygius*

023-91368. Adult (1+) banded by G.H. Pyke at Brisbane Water National Park, NSW on 21 Feb. 1990. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place on 23 Feb. 1994, 4 years after banding.

(This is the oldest recorded for the species.)

Redthroat *Pyrrholaemus brunneus*

024-08774. Adult (1+) male by banded M.G. Brooker at Woolgorong, WA on 30 March 1991. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place on 26 Aug. 1998, over 7 years, 4 months after banding.

(This is the oldest recorded for the species.)

Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*

017-21997. Adult (1+) banded by T.G.D. Shannon at Yanchep National Park, WA on 17 May 1994. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place by R.T. Horwood on 12 Sep. 1999, over 5 years, 3 months after banding.

(This is the oldest recorded for the species.)

Dusky Gerygone *Gerygone tenebrosa*

017-68220. Adult (2+) banded by Broome Bird Observatory at Crab Creek, 3 km east of Observatory, Broome WA on 15 Dec. 1995. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place on 3 Aug. 2006, over 10 years, 7 months after banding.

(This is the oldest recorded for the species.)

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

017-52051. Adult (1+) banded by G.J. Goodreid at Nannup, WA on 28 April 1996. Recovered dead at near banding place by a member of the public on 2 June 2009, over 13 years 1 month after banding.

(This is the oldest recorded for the species.)

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*

015-83695. Adult (1+) banded by H.A. Ford at Imbota Nature Reserve, SE of Armidale, NSW on 9 Nov. 1993. Recaptured, released alive with new band at banding place by B.G. Chaffey on 18 May 2003, over 9 years, 6 months after banding

(Band replaced with ABBBS band no. 018-95511.)

(This is the oldest recorded for the species.)