## A NEW METHOD FOR AGEING SOME SPECIES OF MELIPHAGIDAE

## JAMIE S. MATTHEW

Birds Australia, C/- CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology, P.O. Box 284, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory 2601

Received: 12 April 1999

A new method for distinguishing certain species of honeyeaters and chats in first immature plumage is presented. This makes use of the difference between juveniles and adults in the shape of the longest feather of the alula. First immatures with the juvenile longest feather of the alula retained can be distinguished from adults on the basis of this difference in shape.