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LITERATURE REVIEW

Compiled by D. Purchase, D. Murray and B. Baker.

This section is compiled from journals which are often not available to non-professional ornithologists in Australia. The following criteria are used to select papers for review:

- They relate to species which occur in Australia and its Territories;
- They provide details of techniques and equipment that may be of use in Australia;
- They provide details of studies that may be of general interest to Australian ornithologists.

Journals perused: *Ardea* 80; *Auk* 108, 109, 110; *Condor* 95; *L'Oiseau RFO* 61; *Marine Ornithology* 19; *North American Bander* 16; *Notornis* 38, 39; *Ostrich* 62; *Seabird* 15; *Wildlife Research* 20; *Wilson Bulletin* 104; *World Birdwatch* 13.

GENERAL INTEREST

Recent changes in Fair Isle seabird populations. Riddiford, N. (1993). *Seabird* 15: 60-67. (Summarizes counts of 32 years.)

Anomalous winter weather in 1984 and a seabird irruption along the coast of South Africa. Jury, M. R. (1991). *Marine Ornithology* 19: 85-89. (An irruption of Southern Ocean seabirds associated with an unusual weather pattern.)

Failure to detect blood parasite in seabirds from the Pitcairn Islands. Pierce, M. A. and Brooke, M. de L. (1993). *Seabird* 15: 72-74.

Possible risk of Lyme Disease from bites of ticks at seabird colonies. Duffy, D. C. (1991). *Marine Ornithology* 19: 116. (The causal spirochaete has apparently been isolated from *Ixodes uriae*: as no cases of infection of seabird workers.) *This tick is common on Heard and Macquarie Islands and on the islands to the south of New Zealand. Editor*

Comparison of the diet of breeding and non-breeding Cape Gannets *Morus capensis*. Berruti, A. (1991). *Ostrich* 62: 8-12. (Regurgitations obtained from breeding gannets were heavier and contained more prey than those from non-breeders. Therefore the mean energy content of the regurgitations was significantly greater.)

Long-range movement of a Cape Gannet *Morus capensis* in the southern Indian Ocean. Berteaux, D. (1991). *Marine Ornithology* 19: 134-135. (Fledgling banded in South Africa five years previously sited on empty nest, and in subsequent year on own nest in middle of breeding colony of Yellow-nosed Albatrosses on Amsterdam Island.)

Cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo* at cage fish farms in Argyll, western Scotland. Carrs, D. N. (1993). *Seabird* 15: 38-44 (Brids did not take fish but attacked them through the netting causing fatal wounds.)

Diving patterns and performance in male and female Blue-eyed Cormorants *Phalacrocorax atriceps* at South Georgia. Kato, A. et al. (1991). *Marine Ornithology* 19: 117-129. (The diving patterns of two males and one female were recorded with continuous-recording time-depth recorders for 10-13 days.)

Food supply and allocation of parental effort in Arctic Terns *Sterna paradisaea*. Uttley, J. D. (1992). *Ardea* 80: (The allocation of effort between sexes during breeding changed in response to environmental conditions.)

Effect of changes in food availability on reproductive effort in Arctic Terns *Sterna paradisaea*. Monaghan, P., Uttley, J. D. and Burns, M. D. (1992). *Ardea* 80: 71-81. (There was a significant positive relationship between the time to nest failure and adult weight at the time of hatching. It is suggested there is a critical body weight below which they abandon breeding.)

The effects of experience and age on the breeding performance of Western Gulls. Pyle, P., Spear, L. B., Sydeman, W. J. and Ainley, D. G. (1991). *Auk* 108: 25-33. (Both factors significantly enhanced breeding success.)

Subspecific status of Least Tern populations in Texas: North American implications. Thompson, B. C., Schmidt, M. E., Calhoun, S. W., Morizot, D. C. and Slack, R. D. (1992). *Wilson Bull.* 104: 244-262. (Demonstrates the need to be able to identify and clearly define endangered and nonendangered 'forms' of the same species.)

AUSTRALIAN SPECIES

Primary moult in Black-browed and Shy Mollymawks. Melville, D. S. (1991). *Notornis* 38: 51–59. (The primaries of 57 Black-browed Albatrosses and 72 Shy Albatrosses were examined. It was shown primary moult in both species takes more than one year to complete.)

Seabird Success. Anon. (1991). *World Birdwatch* 13: 5. (In 1990, over 3 000 Shy Albatrosses were killed, mostly by collision with a thin wire that is part of the equipment used on Soviet trawlers in subantarctic squid trawling and now considered obsolete. This was brought to the attention of the media in New Zealand and within 24 hours the Minister of Fisheries announced that trawlers with this equipment would no longer be registered to fish in New Zealand waters.)

Albatross mortality and associated bait loss in the Japanese longline fishery in the Southern Ocean. Brothers, N. (1991). *Biological Conservation* 55: 255–268. (Substantiates claims that serious declines in albatrosses are due to longline fishing and offers solutions to the problem.)

Foraging strategy of Wandering Albatrosses through the breeding season: a study using satellite telemetry. Weimerskirch, H., Salamolard, M., Sarrazin, F. and Jouventin, P. (1993). *Auk* 110: 325–342.

Variation in leg colour of Black-winged Petrels. Tennyson, A. J. D. and Taylor, G. A. (1991). *Notornis* 38: 59. (Most birds have native or pink legs but extremes were from pale flesh or almost white to pale blue.)

Stomach oil and the energy budget of Wilson's Storm-petrel nestlings. Obst, B. S. and Nagy, K. A. (1993). *Condor* 95: 792–805. (Wilson's Storm-Petrel adults meet the high energy demands of chicks with a high frequency of meal delivery and high energy density of meals. A comparison with Leach's Storm-Petrel suggests that the high energy demands of chicks have selected for a foraging strategy in adults that is expensive in terms of energy and time, and that Wilson's Storm-Petrel could not breed successfully in the Antarctic without the ability to produce stomach oils.)

[Breeding chronology of the White-faced Storm-Petrel *Pelagodroma marina* (Latham).] Mougin, J. -L., Jouannin, C. and Roux, F. (1991). *L'Oiseau RFO* 61: 237–253. (The breeding chronology on Selvagem Grande Island, off the coast of Morocco, is detailed and compared with that of locations elsewhere in the world. In French.)

[Closeness of nests and synchronization of the breeding cycle in the White-faced Storm-Petrel *Pelagodroma marina*.] Mougin, J. -L. and Mougin, M. -C. (1991). *L'Oiseau RFO* 61: 262–268. (The synchronization of the breeding cycle on Selvagem Grande Island is poor and is no better between near neighbours than it is between birds nesting further away. In French.)

Prey harvest of the Australasian Gannet (*Sula serrator*) in Tasmania. Brothers, N., Gales, R. and Pemberton, D. (1993). *Wildl. Res.* 20: 777–783.

Population and productivity trends of the Little Terns *Sterna albifrons* in Britain, 1969–89. Sears, J. and Avery, M. I. (1993). *Seabird* 15: 3–16. (Numbers have increased since 1969 and remained stable since late 70s; mean colony size 30 pairs; 0.56 (0.18–0.88) young per pair produced; problems of predation and maintenance of alternative sites discussed.)

The influence of turbidity on the foraging behaviour of Little Terns *Sterna albifrons* of the St Lucia mouth, Zululand, South Africa. Cyrus, D. P. (1991). *Marine Ornithology* 19: 103–108. (Terns changed their usual foraging behaviour to concentrate on seaward edge of plume of turbid water from rain.)

Prey selection and temporal variation in the diet of Subantarctic Skuas at Inaccessible Island, Tristan da Cunha. Ryan, P. G. and Moloney, C. L. (1991). *Ostrich* 62: 52–58. (More than 2 500 prey items were identified from regurgitated pellets collected at a roost of non-breeding skuas. Most prey items were birds (96.5%), primarily from five species of burrow-nesting procellariiforms.)

Egg predation by Black-backed Gull. Moon, G. J. H. (1993). *Notornis* 39: 92. (Seen carrying and later devouring what appeared to be the egg of a Double-banded Plover.)

TECHNIQUES AND ANALYSIS

Estimating absolute densities of flying seabirds using analyses of relative movement. Spear, L., Nur, N. and Ainley, D. G. (1992). *Auk* 109: 385–389. (A method for correcting counts of flying birds made during standard 300-m-hand-transect censuses to yield an estimate of absolute density.)

Some field techniques for ecological research on Emperor Penguins *Aptenodytes forsteri*. Robertson, G. R. (1991). *Marine Ornithology* 19: 91–101.

Identification of sex of Adélie Penguins from observations of incubating birds. Kerry, K. R., Clarke, J. R. and Elke, G. D. (1993). *Wildl. Res.* 20: 725–732. (The sex of penguins can be assigned with an accuracy of greater than 90 per cent by observing which member of the pair takes the first long incubation shift.)

An ethogram for the Yellow-eyed Penguin *Megadyptes antipodes*. Seddon, P. J. (1991). *Marine Ornithology* 19: 109–115. (Behaviours are described in terms of form and context.)

Chromosome analysis and sex identification of Yellow-eyed Penguin *Megadyptes antipodes*. Seddon, P. J. and Seddon, R. J. (1991). *Marine Ornithology* 19: 144–147. (Sex identification was successful.)

Diving Petrels on Green Island, Mercury Group, in November 1990. Thoresen, A. C. and Thomson, P. (1992). *Notornis* 39: 55–57. (An estimated 14 000 pairs were using the island. The method used for counting the birds is described.)

Problems with darvic colour-bands on Common Terns: band losses and foot injuries. Nisbet, I. C. T. (1991). *N. Amer. Bird Bander* 16: 61–63. (The problems are described as are the attempts to solve them. A method is described of heat-sealing butt-ended darvic bands with a battery-operated soldering iron.)