

If the VC of males within a flock are the same, then mate recognition could be mistaken for flock recognition in playback experiments. This would need to be investigated further with playback experiments using VC's of different members of a flock, and members of different flocks. In migratory Silvereyes, the VC may be used for flock cohesion and other calls used for mate recognition. For example, the frequency range of the linear calls is a likely candidate in such recognition. Zann (1984) found such a situation in the distance call of the male Zebra Finch *Poephila guttata*, it possessing large inter-individual differences which facilitated the location of the male by its mate in the large flocks that form in the non-breeding season.

Further investigations of the pattern of VC use in migratory Silvereyes may be useful in providing a means of studying the patterns of migration of the male Silvereye in Australia by the recording and analysis of their VC.

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## BOOK REVIEW

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### Australian Grass Parakeets

S. Sindel and J. Gill. Singil Press, Austral, Australia. 192 pp. \$A45.00

This is the third in the planned series of six aviculture specialist books covering the Australian Psittaciformes. This volume covers the genus *Neophema*. The previous two dealt with lorikeets and cockatoos and were reviewed in *Corella* 11: 132 and 14: 78 respectively.

Stan Sindel and Jim Gill have drawn from their extraordinary 80-odd years combined avicultural experience to produce another magnificent volume. It follows the successful format of its predecessors with chapters which discuss the housing, diets and management of birds. The chapter on diseases was written by Jim, who not only obviously possesses vast knowledge of aviculture but is also widely acclaimed as one of the most knowledgeable avian vets in the country. A chapter is also devoted to each of the seven species. These species profiles provide information on such subjects as classification, earliest reports, range, habitat and field notes,

breeding in the wild, avicultural history, sexing, display, nesting requirements, incubation and development of the young and a lot of information on all known aviary mutations. The species accounts also include distribution maps and numerous colour photographs which illustrate mature birds, developing nestlings and various mutations.

In drawing from their immense personal experience and those of many other eminent aviculturists, the authors have produced another fine reference book which should be a 'must' for anyone who keeps or intends to keep and breed the species involved. Both of the earlier books in this series have become standard avicultural reference works and no doubt the new book will achieve the same high status. I am also sure, however, that the book will prove to be of considerable interest to those who simply seek to improve their knowledge, but do not keep aviary birds.

This is a limited edition book which is not available in bookshops. It can be purchased through aviculture societies or direct from the publisher Singil Press, P.O. Box 9, Austral, NSW 2171.

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