

EDITORIAL

There have been several sustained banding studies at selected sites since the commencement of the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme, and it is hoped that further reports from some will appear in *Corella* over the coming years. The most recent contributions have been those of John Farrell and Jeff Hardy on their studies in the Blue Mountains, NSW (*Corella* 17: 33–40), and in this issue Steve Wilson (p. 65) reports studies over 20 years on White-browed Scrub-wrens in the Brindabella Range, ACT. Such sustained efforts have revealed a major difference between the ecology of passerines in Australia and those of the Northern Hemisphere. In Australia they generally live longer, and Wilson reports that a bird lived over 14 years. An examination of Recovery Round-up will reveal other examples. This difference in longevity and survival rate makes sustained studies of Australian species at selected sites desirable and necessitates that they continue longer than elsewhere. Also, the intensity of the study must cope with the influences of irregular rainfall of breeding success and the destruction of habitats by bush fires. This raises problems of sampling methods, some of which Wilson

discusses. These are real problems which are now recognized and can be accommodated if appropriate methods are adopted at the beginning of the study. Any members contemplating such studies should seek guidance from the Association on both methods and on the awesome task of handling data.

It should also be remembered that within the study are often observations of immense intrinsic interest and of great value, particularly should the identity of the bird be known because they have been banded with colour or readable bands. Such observations stand on their own and can be simply recorded in a short note, as have been those of Joan Sandbrink and Doug Robinson on the Southern Whiteface (p. 88). Their note gives yet another example of a feature of passerine ecology in Australia — communal breeding. There must be many other interesting notes that could be published in *Corella*. Our ignorance is still great.

A printing problem caused a faulty reproduction of figures in the 'Bird in the Hand' on the Blue-faced Honeyeater published in *Corella* 18(1). The article has been republished in this issue.

M. D. Murray (Hon. Editor)

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:

NZWSG — New Zealand Wader Study Group.

QWSG — Queensland Wader Study Group.

VWSG — Victorian Wader Study Group.

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

170–16958. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman on North Pelican Island, The Coorong, SA on 17 Apr. 93. Recovered dead near Rosewood, Qld on 22 July 93. 1 5-12 km ENE.

Cattle Egret *Ardeola ibis*

(a) 100–71005. Nestling banded by S. G. Lane at Boambee near Coffs Harbour, NSW on 2 Jan. 93. Colour marking sighted in field (band number inferred) at:

- (1) Scotsdale, Tas. from 1 July to 31 July 93, first sighting 5 months 29 days after banding. 1 302 km SSW.
- (2) at banding site on 4 Dec. 93, 11 months 2 days after banding.

(b) 100–71420. Nestling banded by D. J. Geering at Lawrence near Grafton, NSW on 3 Dec. 88. Colour marking sighted in field (band number inferred) at:

- (1) Wyec, NSW during July and Aug. 90 (exact date not reported) 436 km S.
- (2) Junction Hill breeding colony, near banding site, on 5 Dec. 90.
- (3) Wyec, NSW on 7 Apr. 91, 436 km S.
- (4) Wyec, NSW on 5 Apr. 92, 436 km S.
- (5) Wyec, NSW on 3 July 93, 436 km S.
- (6) at banding site on 3 Dec. 93, 5 years after banding.

(c) 100–74153. Nestling banded by M. N. Maddock at Seaham, near Raymond Terrace, NSW on 11 Jan. 93. Colour marking sighted in field (band number inferred) at:

- (1) Wauchope, NSW on 15 Mar. 93, 2 months 4 days after banding. 163 km N.
- (2) Bomaderry, NSW on 23 Apr. 93, 3 months 12 days after banding. 424 km S.

Great Egret *Egretta alba*

(a) 110–19345. Nestling banded by M. N. Maddock at Shortland, NSW on 9 Feb. 93. Colour marking sighted in field (band number inferred) at Armidale, NSW from 1 June to 17 June 93 265 km N.

(b) 110–19360. Nestling banded by M. N. Maddock at Shortland, NSW on 16 Feb. 93. Colour marking sighted in field (band number inferred) at Merriwa, NSW on 22 June 93, 150 km NW.

(c) 110–19363. Nestling banded by M. N. Maddock at Shortland, NSW on 18 Feb. 93. Colour marking sighted in field (band number inferred) at Berry, NSW on 19 May 93, 230 km S.