

seen eating large road kills in places like Tasmania? If Brown Falcons breed in any month why does none of the breeding data collected by the researchers bear this out? It certainly is not true that only female Australian Kestrels have a barred tail or that Brown Falcons lack the bloom on the feathers that bird killing species have. It is less evident in breeding (moulting) or poorly kept captive Brown Falcons but is very much in evidence in healthy birds after the moult.

These comments are in no way meant to denigrate the book or the power of Dr Hollands as an observer. There is much for all of us to learn from the book. Since the Cuppers wrote a superficially similar book using the same towers and many of the same nests as Dr Hollands, a comparison is in order. In short, Dr Hollands spent much more time observing and has collated far more information than did the Cuppers. He has certainly seen more kills made by more species of wild raptors than anyone I know and his descriptions are magnificent. The Cuppers were very taken with the excitement of the challenge and this takes up much of their writing; Dr Hollands' is consumed by the magic of the birds. I would hope that no-one who has the Cuppers' book ignores Dr Hollands' book because they assume them to cover similar ground. They do not, and Dr Hollands goes into far more depth and captures the essence of each species as no-one before him has done. This is a fine book indeed and if I quibble, it is only because I wish some of these authors would pay more attention to the existing literature. They would be surprised at how much is already written down about Australian raptors. Hopefully this will be done for their second editions.

Jerry Olsen. Sutton. N.S.W.

**Bird Banding** by Elliott McClure, 1984. Pacific Grove, CA. The Boxwood Press. Pp x and 341, 7maps, numerous b & w pl and copious line drawings. \$US15.00 (\$Au19.50)\*

In 1964, Dr Elliott McClure published *An Asian Bird-Banders Manual* to help new banders in South-east Asia with the techniques of handling, trapping, collection of parasites, recording and similar topics. An updated version was produced in 1966. A number of banders in Australia benefited from the information contained in these manuals.

During the period of his association with the Migratory Animal Pathological Survey (MAPS) in Asia, Elliott McClure made a number of visits to this country and participated in field work with many Australian banders. I am sure that all of them benefited greatly from the association. His enthusiasm, dedication to banding and his love of birds was very evident to all who met him.

Following his retirement some 15 years ago he was asked by many of his bander friends in the USA to revise the Asian Manual for the benefit of others. The present book is the result and the author has had a wealth of banding experience to make him well qualified to write on this subject. He has personally banded more than 60 000 birds of over 500 species.

The 13 chapters cover a wide range of subjects. Following the Preface, there is a page titled "A Bird

Bander's Ethics", adapted from those set out by Dr Paul H. Fluck, President, Eastern Bird-Banding Association, 1959. While written specifically for banders in the USA, most are also valid for banders in this country. The chapter heading follow: Introduction, Geological Background of Migration Routes, The Bird and the Bander, The Bird and its Banding Idiosyncrasies, Traps and Trapping, Snares, Nets and Netting, Banding Nestlings, Bats, Equipment for Banders, Field Equipment, Activities Other than Simple Banding, and The Art of Keeping Records. There is a Bibliography covering more than four pages with 110 references, and an index.

Any bander in this country would benefit in some way from reading this book and many could readily improve their expertise as banders. There is a wealth of banding experience behind the information contained throughout the book. Elliott McClure's love of birds and the need for care in their trapping and handling is evident. Some banders in this country have, at times, been less than careful with their methods and handling of birds with resultant casualties. All should benefit for reading the relevant sections, particularly the chapter "The Bird and the Bander" and appropriate sections of "The Bird and its Banding Idiosyncrasies".

Any bander interested in particular trapping techniques will find that the chapters "Traps & Trapping", "Snares" and "Nets & Netting" provide many useful hints or ideas.

There are some items of detail concerning methods and handling with which I would disagree but these are really personal preferences; they are quite minor in relation to the value contained for improving banders' skills and techniques. The book is a "must" for all existing banders. Also, I would like to see every new bander obtain a copy as a prerequisite to being given a banding authority. The cost to the bander (\$US15.00; \$Au19.50) is small in relation to the potential for improved banding standards and the need for every bander to continually aim at improving his/her techniques and skills.

S. G. Lane. Moonee, N.S.W.

\* Available from Australian Bird Study Association, Secretary Mist Net Service.

## New Members

ALLAN, D., Lyncham, A.C.T.  
 BEAUMONT, P., Old Noarlunga, S.A.  
 BLACKWELL, G. A., Wentworth Falls, N.S.W.  
 BORNMAN, A., Denmark, W.A.  
 BRIDGES, L., Armidale, N.S.W.  
 CLARIDGE, G. F., Hermit Park, Qld.  
 DUNKERLEY, G. M., Armidale, N.S.W.  
 METCALFE, P. B., Armidale, N.S.W.  
 PLATT, L. D., Gol Gol, N.S.W.  
 SINCLAIR, E. & P., Indooroopilly, Qld.  
 SIWY, G., Elwood, Vic.  
 TAPLIN, A., Townsville, Qld.  
 TINGAY, A., Stoneville, W.A.  
 TUCKER, J. R., Port Pirie, S.A.  
 WALKER, T. A., Rockhampton, Qld.  
 WILLOUGHBY, L., Yellingbo, Vic.  
 WOOD, V. J. Dalby, Qld.