

LITERATURE REVIEW

Compiled by D. Purchase.

This section is compiled mainly from articles which appear in overseas journals. The following criteria are used to select papers for review:

- the article relates to species which occur in the Australian region;
- the article provides details of techniques which may be of use in Australian studies;
- the article provides details which may stimulate similar studies in Australia.

Journals perused: *Aust. J. Ecol.* 12(1); *Aust. J. Zool.* 34(2), 35(1); *Bird Study* 34(1); *British Birds* 80(1), 80(2), 80(3), 80(4), 80(5); *Condor* 89(1), 89(2); *J. Field Ornithol.* 58(1); *Ontario Bird Banding* 18; *Ostrich* 57(4), 58(1); *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 15(1), 15(2); *Wilson Bull.* 99(1).

ANALYTICAL STUDIES

Causes of nestling losses in the Cattle Egret *Ardeola ibis* in eastern Australia with special reference to the pathogenicity of the tick *Argas (Persicargas) robertsi* to nestlings. McKilligan, N. (1987). *Aust. J. Ecol.* 12: 9-16. (A 3-year study at a colony of 3 500 nests.)

Recoveries of banded Ospreys in the West Indies. Santana, C. E. and Temple, S. A. (1987). *J. Field Ornithol.* 58: 26-30. (The recovery of 109 banded in eastern continental North America suggests an autumn migration.)

Breeding ecology and conservation of the Black Petrel (*Procellaria parkinsoni*). Imber, M. J. (1987) *Notornis* 34: 19-39. (A detailed study over 13 years before and after elimination of cats.)

Homing ability of the House Sparrow. Waddington, D. C. and Cockrem, J. F. (1987). *Notornis* 34: 57-58. (Movements of up to 5.7 km returning to capture site.)

Plastic pellets in New Zealand storm-killed Prions (*Pachyptila* spp.) 1958-1977. Harper, P. C. and Fowler, J. A. (1987). *Notornis* 34: 65-70. (Of 1 979 birds examined, 300 (15.1%) contained plastic pellets.)

An analysis of the mortality and survival of Hartlaub's Gull. Underhill, L. G. and Underhill, G. D. (1986). *Ostrich* 57: 216-223. (Analyses data from the recovery of banded birds.)

Population, biometrics and movements of the Sanderling *Calidris alba* in southern Africa. Summers, R. W., Underhill, L. G. and Whitelaw, D. A. (1987). *Ostrich* 58: 24-39. (Contains a lot of information.)

"In my Opinion . . ." The need for experiments to understand population dynamics of American Black Ducks. Anderson, D. R., Burnham, K. P., Nichols, J. D. and Conroy, M. J. (1987). *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 15: 282-284. (Proposal to assess effect of hunting mortality on annual survival rates.)

Effect of changes in regional forest abundance on the decline and recovery of a forest bird community. Askins, R. A. and Philbrick, M. J. (1987). *Wilson Bull.* 99: 7-21. (It is suggested that populations of many species are part of a larger, regional population, and are not self-sufficient in small reserves. Thus, deforestation in the vicinity of a reserve may cause populations of these species to decline and even result in their extirpation.)

Estimating relative abundance of forest birds: simple versus adjusted counts. Raphael, M. G. (1987). *Wilson Bull.* 99: 125-131. (Counts from 136 plots were analysed in three ways and the results compared.)

TECHNIQUES

A tunnel for hidden access to blinds at high latitude seabird colonies. Cairns, D. K., Bredin, K. A. and Birt, V. L. (1987). *J. Field Ornithol.* 58: 69-72. (Made from wooden supports connected by ropes and covered with light waterproof material.)

An improved radio transmitter harness with a weak link to prevent snagging. Karl, B. J. and Clout, M. N. (1987). *J. Field Ornithol.* 58: 73-77. (Allows a bird to free itself from a harness snagged on a branch etc.)

A new census method for penguins tested on Jackass Penguins *Spheniscus demersus*. Randall, R. M., Randall, B. M., Cooper, J. and Frost P. G. H. (1986). *Ostrich* 57: 211-215. (Counting moulting birds to estimate population size.)

A portable swim-in trap for waterfowl. Spitzkeit, J. W., Nawrot, J. R. and Klimstra, W. B. (1987). *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 15: 189-191. (Captured up to 15 Canada Geese at one time.)

A new Bluebird nesting structure for highway rights-of-way. Peterson, R. P. (1987). *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 15: 200-204. (Built by boring cavities into the top of fence posts.)

Excluding Starlings from a slot-entrance Bluebird nest box. McComb, W. C., Davis, W. H. and Allaire, P. N. (1987). *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 15: 204-207. (A slot width of 3 cm excluded Starlings.)

Reinforced artificial aeries for Prairie Falcons. Mayer, P. M. and Allen, G. T. (1987). *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 15: 207-209. (Replace natural cyries lost through erosion or human disturbance.)

An inexpensive device for recording animal behavior. Ely, C. R. (1987). *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 15: 264-265. (Utilizes a hand-held printing calculator to record up to 10 activities.)

MISCELLANEOUS

The structure of the gastrointestinal tracts of honeyeaters and other small birds in relation to their diets. Richardson, K. C. and Wooller, R. D. (1986). *Aust. J. Zool.* 34: 119-124. (Differences described in gut morphology between honeyeaters and insectivorous birds of similar body size.)

A photographic study of seabird attendance at Moray Firth colonies outside the breeding season. Mudge, G. P., Aspinall, S. J. and Crooke, C. H. (1987). *Bird Study* 34: 28-36. (Utilized time-lapse photography.)

Spinning rate of Grey Phalarope. Senior, R. J. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 18. (Observed at 57 revolutions per minute while feeding.)

Uncharacteristic song flight of Greenfinch. Jepson, P. R. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 19. (While singing, maintained height with rapid wingbeats for approximately 30 seconds.)

Blackbird eating puffball flesh. Radford, A. P. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 19. (Eating flesh of *Vascellum pratense* squashed by lawn-mower.)

Manx Shearwaters resembling Little Shearwaters. Lansdown, P. and Rees, G. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 112. (During body moult some Manx Shearwaters may exhibit characters similar to Little Shearwaters.)

Nest-help and possible polygyny by Peregrines. Walker, D. G. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 113. (Male and two females at one eyrie.)

Piracy by Great Black-backed Gull on Great Crested Grebe. Boardman, P. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 114-115. (Gull takes large fish which Grebe had difficulty swallowing.)

"Letters" Molluscs in diet of the Song Thrush. Hartley, P. H. T. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 119-120. (Discusses the transportation to "anvils" of three snail species.)

"Letters" Molluscs in diet of the Song Thrush. Miens, H. K. (1987). *Brit. Birds* 80: 120-121. (The land snail *Monacha cantiana* in diet.)

On the composition of bird eggs. Sotherland, P. R. and Rahn, H. (1987). *Condor* 89: 48-65. (A general review of published data for 127 species.)

Extra adults at the nest in Barn Swallows. Medvin, M. M., Beecher, M. D. and Andelman, S. J. (1987). *Condor* 89: 179-182. (Extra adults seen at 12 out of 13 nests.)

First occurrence of Bar-tailed Godwit in South America and status of the Marbled Godwit in northeastern Venezuela. Mercier, F., McNeil, R. and Rodriguez, S. J. R. (1987). *J. Field Ornithol.* 58: 78-80. (Photographed at Chacopata Lagoon in north-east Venezuela.)

Australian Brown Quail in Tongariro National Park. Ogle, C. C. (1987). *Notornis* 34: 40. (A record from an area of New Zealand where they have not previously been reported.)

A colony of the Little Shag and the Pied Shag in which the plumage forms of the Little Shag freely interbreed. Taylor, M. J. (1987). *Notornis* 34: 41-50. (An 8-year study of Little Shags (= Little Pied Cormorant) and Pied Shags (= Pied Cormorants) near Auckland, New Zealand.)

Genetics of polymorphism in the Little Shag. Dowding, J. E. and Taylor, M. J. (1987). *Notornis* 34: 51-57. (A genetic model is presented to explain plumage polymorphism in the Little Shag (= Little Pied Cormorant).)

Birds from a Te Kuiti garden. Guest, R. and Guest, G. (1987). *Notornis* 34: 59-64. (Monthly records during 5.5 years from a .16 ha garden in New Zealand.)

The Chestnut-breasted Shelduck in New Zealand 1983-1986. Heather, B. D. (1987). *Notornis* 34: 71-77. (Details of about 140 records.)

Painted Snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis*) at Lake Ellesmere. Harrison, K. C. and Mulligan S. (1987). *Notornis* 34: 78-79. (A rare visitor to New Zealand.)

Light-mantled Sooty Albatross at Lake Manapouri. Morrison, K., Morrison, J., Wright, C. and Cooper, W. J. (1987). *Notornis* 34: 79-80. (Seen only occasionally in inshore waters of New Zealand.)

More Laishleyana: Red Wattlebird and White-faced Heron. Sibson, R. B. (1987). *Notornis* 34: 81-83. (Early New Zealand records based on paintings in the 1860's by Richard Laishley.)

An Arctic Skua taking passerines at sea. Lewis, M. J. (1987). *Notornis* 34: 83-84. (Two observations about 3 km offshore of Wollongong, NSW.)

Unexpected reaction of Bar-tailed Godwits to a rain squall. Widgey, D. E. (1987). *Notornis* 34: 84. (Bills held skywards during a 10 minute rain squall.)

Squid beaks regurgitated by Greyheaded and Yellow-nosed Albatrosses, *Diomedea chrysostoma* and *D. chlororhynchos* at the Prince Edward Islands. Brooke, M. de L. and Klages, N. (1986). *Ostrich* 57: 203-206. (Predominantly from the Antarctic species, *Kondakovia longimana* and *Moroteuthis knipovitchi*.)

Postfledging behaviour of American Kestrels in southwestern Quebec. Lett, D. W. and Bird, D. W. (1987). *Wilson Bull.* 99: 77-82. (Human hair dye used to mark fledglings.)

Effect of snow cover on Starling activity and foraging patterns. Maccarone, A. D. (1987). *Wilson Bull.* 99: 94-97. (The number of foraging flocks using human-generated food increased.)

Foraging, scavenging, and other behaviour of swallows on the ground. Hobson, K. A. and Sealy, S. G. (1987). *Wilson Bull.* 99: 111-116. (Includes Barn Swallow.)