

Recent Literature

BANDING and RECOVERY REPORTS

East African Bird Ringing Report 1972-1973, 1973-1974. G. C. Backhurst. 1974. Journal of the East African Natural History Society and National Museum No. 146:1-9.

Of Palearctic species ringed during this period (9 243 individuals of 53 species in 1972-73, 11 132 individuals of 52 species in 1973-4) the most frequently encountered were Little Stint 2 141 (72-3) and 2 009 (73-4), Barn Swallow 2 514 (72-3) and Yellow Wag-tail 1 887 (72-3) and 2 800 (73-4). The totals of Ethiopian birds ringed were 4 679 individuals of 328 species (72-3) and 2 981 individuals of 260 species (73-4). Of 110 039 birds ringed in East Africa to 30 June 1974, 72 has been recorded in foreign countries and 95 in East Africa (other than at ringing site).

Report on Bird-ringing for 1974. Robert Spencer and Robert Hudson. 1976. *Bird Study* 23, Special supplement.

A total of 422 974 juveniles and adults and 96 241 pulli were ringed in British Isles in 1974. Among the most frequently ringed were Barn Swallow (24 883), Greenfinch (32 290), Blackbird (33 673), and Blue Tit (55 437). The largest number ringed since the inception of the program in 1909 is 680 058 Blackbirds (out of 9 429 781 for all species). During 1974 11 882 birds were recovered, including 566 Starlings, 658 Greenfinches, 690 Mallards and 1 506 Blackbirds. A total of 241 960 have been recovered from 1909-74, with 27 340 Blackbirds and 24 319 Starlings the most frequent.

Ringverslag Van Het Vogeltrekstation No. 59 (1974). Bird Ringing in the Netherlands (in Dutch and English). 1975. *Limosa* 48:129-157.

A total of 186 699 birds were banded in the Netherlands in 1974 and 4 607 recoveries were made, including 838 banded in other countries. A breakdown of birds banded by age, species and country of recovery is presented. Maps constructed from banding data are compared for four species of Waterfowl. Details of retrievable information placed on punch cards are given.

Seventeenth Ringing Report for Southern Africa. C. J. Vernon. 1975. *Ostrich* 46:125-128.

For the year July 1973-June 1974 51 561 birds of 451 species were ringed. Spotted Turtle dove was the most frequently ringed (11.2% of total). Twenty-seven species with known ringed life of 10 years or more are given, with 21 years for the Sacred Ibis the longest. Of Australian interest are Wandering Albatross 12 years, Cattle Egret 16 years and Curlew Sandpiper 11 years.

ANALYTICAL STUDIES

Breeding Biology of the Golden Eagle in Southwestern Idaho. John J. Beecham and M. N. Kochert. 1975. *Wilson Bulletin* 87:506-513.

A total of 56 breeding pairs was studied at a density of one eyrie per 73 km². Nesting success ranged from 61 to 70%, with an average of 2.1 eggs per nest and 1.1 young fledged. Causes of nesting mortality are given and recoveries and dispersal of eaglets are discussed.

Breeding Biology of the Grey-faced Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera gouldi*. M. J. Imber. 1976. *Ibis* 118:51-64.

The reproductive season of this species in New Zealand occupies 9-10 months. Eggs are laid in late June or July. Incubation lasts about 55 days. Chicks leave the burrow after 120 days.

Egg-laying, Egg Size, and Success in Relation to Immature-Mature Plumage of Ring-billed Gulls. John P. Ryder. 1975. *Wilson Bulletin* 87:534-542.

Mature plumaged pairs nested earlier, had larger clutches and larger eggs and greater success than pairs with one or more immature plumaged birds.

Mortality of Reed Warblers in Jersey. R. Long. 1975. *Ringing and Migration* 1:28-32.

A total of 3 663 Reed Warblers *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* was ringed between 1951-70. Adults show a 44% annual mortality and 76% of juveniles fail to survive to their second summer. Birds 12 years old have been recaptured.

Movements of Starlings Banded in North-central Colorado, 1960-1974. W. C. Royall, Jr. and J. L. Guarino. 1976. *North American Bird Bander* 1:58-62.

A total of 26 079 Starlings was banded in north-central Colorado between December 1960 and July 1974. Recoveries of bands totalled 550 through July 1975, of which 450 were from within 80 km of the original point of release. Birds were recovered from an overall span of 2 200 km from Canada to Arizona. The application of the findings to control of large Starling congregations is discussed.

The Palearctic Wader Population of Langebaan Lagoon. J. S. Pringle and J. Cooper. 1975. *Ostrich* 46:213-218.

Monthly counts of waders were made over a two year period. Populations varied from 55 000 in summer to 10 500 in winter. Although 16 species were recorded, Curlew Sandpipers, Grey Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones, Knots and Sanderlings made up 95.7% of the birds. It is suggested that the majority of overwintering populations may be juveniles. The importance of the area as a wader habitat is stressed.

Results of the Four Corners Co-operative Band-tailed Pigeon investigation. C. E. Brown, D. E. Brown, J. C. Peterson and T. P. Zapatka, 1975. *Resource Publication*, US Fish and Wildlife Service 126.

A total of 25 730 *Columba fasciata* (including 2 878 young of the year) was banded from 1967-72. Distribution was closely related to pine and oak forests occurring between 1 575-3 355 m elevation. Useable recoveries totalled 556, indicating a survival rate of 64% in adults and 58% for immatures. Birds were sexed on plumage characters with 95% accuracy. Patterns of migration and the effects of hunting are detailed.

A Study of Breeding Lapwings in the New Forest, Hampshire 1971-74. Roger and Jean Jackson. 1975. *Ring and Migration* 1:18-27.

Average clutch size was 3.8 and 21 days were required for incubation. Chicks showed an average mass increase of 3.3 gm per day. Seventy-seven percent of young die before 30 days from hatching. Rainfall greatly affects chick mortality.

A Winter Population Study of the American Kestrel in Central Ohio. G. Scott Mills. 1975. *Wilson Bulletin* 87:241-247.

Birds were individually marked. A female:male ratio of 2:1 was observed for most of the study. Winter territoriality was exhibited. Low population numbers correlated with the severest weather, while numbers were considerably higher both before and after this period.

TECHNIQUES

California Condor Plumage and Molt as Field Study Aids. Stanford R. Wilbur. 1975. *California Fish and Game* 61:144-148.

A definite moulting season, contrary to earlier belief, was found from March through October. Condors attain adult plumage in five years, but too much variation occurs in developmental plumage to make ageing reliable. Neither characteristics of moult nor plumage appear consistent enough for ageing or identifying individual birds, except in a general way.

Catching and Ageing Dippers. Tony Parsons and Dave Reid. 1975. *Ring and Migration* 1:56.

Problems encountered and their solutions related to catching this diving species are related. Previously undescribed differences between juveniles and adults (colour of iris and floor of mouth) are given.

An Optical Scope for Examining Nest Contents of Tunnel-nesting Birds. Natalie J. Demong and Stephen T. Emlen. 1975. *Wilson Bulletin* 87:550-551.

A rather sophisticated device using several lenses and a battery, but providing resolution of fine detail (cracks in eggs, nestling feather tracts) is described. Two designs are presented.

Further Examination of the Wing Stripe of the Pine Siskin. Robert P. Yunick. 1976. *North American Bird Bander* 1:63-66.

Attempts to develop a method of sexing and ageing Pine Siskins *Spinus pinus* through the use of the width and brightness of the wing stripe are continued. These characters, in conjunction with others, allow some degree of determination to be made, but are not highly reliable.

A Device for Colour-Marking Nesting Birds. Lynn J. Moseley and Helmut C. Mueller. 1975. *Bird Banding* 46:341-342.

When trapping and banding resulted in a large proportion of nest desertion in Least Terns *Sterna albifrons*, a method of colour marking was devised which caused no noticeable modification in the birds' behaviour. Birds can be marked without being handled.

MISCELLANEOUS

Breeding of the Hadedah Ibis. B. H. Raseroka. 1975. *Ostrich* 46:208-212.

A total of 33 nests was observed during the study. Egg laying commenced in November and incubation lasted about four weeks. Survival rates are low. Courtship and other breeding behaviour are described.

Changes in Incubation and Weight in the Nesting House Martin. D. M. Bryant. 1975. *Ring and Migration* 1:33-36.

Females show a substantial weight change at the time of egg laying, while no consistent change is observed in the males. Brood patches in females remain defeathered from prior to laying until all young have fledged.

Fall Remix and Retrix Molt in the Cardinal. Jan G. Reese. 1975. *Bird Banding* 46:305-310.

Remiges and retrices are moulted simultaneously. Cardinals frequently fail to complete postjuvenile moult and will on occasion keep all juvenile flight feathers through the winter. Moulting sequences for primaries, secondaries and retrices are given.

Papers from Ringing Group Reports. C. J. R. Thorne, H. J. Harvey and A. K. Naylor. 1975. *Ring and Migration* 1:59-64.

Various Ringing Groups registered with the BTO produce papers and reports of their work on a periodic basis. Abstracts of 120 papers from 19 Ringing Groups are presented, covering such topics as sexing, migration, weights, moult, ageing and methodology.

Weights and Molt of Green Sandpiper in Britain. T. Kittle. 1975. *Ring and Migration* 1:52-55.

Weight increase for migration can occur during active moult, apparently during the latter stages.