

Recent Literature

ANALYTICAL STUDIES

Flock Size, Composition, and Behaviour in a Population of Bushtits (*Psaltiparus minimus*). Stephen Ervin. 1977. *Bird-Banding* 48: 97-109.

A flock of Bushtits occupies a general territory. During the breeding season, breeding individuals maintain territories within that of the flock. In the non-breeding season, flocks are reformed incorporating the young of the year. Flock composition and size remain fairly constant from year to year.

Breeding, Mortality and Movements of Kingfishers. Robert Morgan and David Glue. 1977. *Bird Study* 24: 15-24.

European Kingfishers *Alcedo atthis* have two, occasionally three, broods a year with a mean size of 6.3 eggs per clutch. The annual mortality rate is high, an average of 76%, road kills being the most frequent cause of death. A large majority of the British population are recovered within 9 km of their original banding site, although movements of 250 km have been recorded.

Feeding Ecology of the Short-eared Owl in Britain and Ireland. David E. Glue. 1977. *Bird Study* 24: 70-78.

Of 4 120 vertebrate prey items found in pellets, at nests or observed being taken by Short-eared Owls *Asio flammeus*, 90% were small and medium mammals of 18 species. Some birds and invertebrates were also taken.

A Study of an Expanding Sand Martin Colony. John Harwood and Jeffery Harrison. 1977. *Bird Study* 24: 47-53.

A seven-year banding study of Sand Martins *Riparia riparia* in an area set aside and designed to encourage its utilization by birdlife found that the growth of the colony was due to immigration of young birds attracted to the improved conditions. This immigration helps maintain population numbers in response to a 60% mortality in adults and 80% in first-year birds.

Trapping Season and Body Size in the Cuckoos. D. C. Seel. 1977. *Bird Study* 24: 114-118.

Wing-length and body weight were measured for captured Cuckoos *Cuculus canorus*. Males older than one year had larger measurements than similar aged females and first-year birds. First-year birds showed no increase in weight prior to migration.

Breeding and Postnuptial Molt of the Red-vented Bulbul in Western Samoa. André A. Dhont. 1977. *Condor* 79: 257-260.

Comparisons are made between duration of molt in Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cager* introduced into Samoa and non-introduced bulbuls. Sequences of molt are given. Sexes can be separated on wing length.

Nesting and Other Habits of the Bolivian Blackbird (*Oreospiza boliviana*). Gordon H. Orians, Lynn Erckmann, and John C. Schultz. 1977. *Condor* 79: 250-256.

Previously unreported observations on social organization, nests and eggs, foraging methods and behaviour, including vocalizations and postures, are presented for this little known species.

Factors Affecting the Age of First Breeding of the Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). R. D. Wooller and J. C. Coulson. 1977. *Ibis* 119: 339-349.

This species first breeds at 3 to 8 years, usually 4 to 5 years of age. Within the colony, those males obtaining nesting sites near the centre breed at an earlier age than those at the periphery. The younger the age of initial breeding the greater number of young produced counterbalancing the higher mortality rate of the parents. Intermittent breeding (failing to breed the year following that of successful breeding) was observed most often (60%) in birds that had bred for the first time.

Breeding Biology of House Sparrows in North Mississippi. James N. Sappington. 1977. *Wilson Bulletin* 89: 300-309.

A two-year study of House Sparrows *Passer domesticus* found a 1:1 ratio of sex of breeding birds in the colony, higher nest site fidelity in male birds, mean clutch size of 4.2 eggs and a mean fledging rate of 2.8 young per nest. Helpers were observed at 63% of the nests and accounted for 12% of the feeding.

The Breeding Biology of the Oahu 'Elepaio. Sheila Conant. 1977. *Wilson Bulletin* 89: 193-210.

The Hawaiian flycatcher 'Elepaio *Chasiempis sandwichensis* is related to the Australian monarch flycatchers. Observations on the breeding behaviour, as well as diet, vocalizations, and movements are given.

Breeding Displays of the Louisiana Heron. James A. Rogers, Jr. 1977. *Wilson Bulletin* 89: 266-285.

Displays of the Louisiana Heron *Hydranassa tricolor* are described and illustrated and their role in the reproductive cycle of this species is discussed.

TECHNIQUES

Sex and Age Determination of Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*). Allan R. Phillips. 1977. *Bird-Banding* 48: 110-117.

Traditional methods of aging and sexing this species were found to be unreliable. The problem is compounded by the considerable size variation among races. New criteria for determining the age and sex are presented.

MISCELLANEOUS

Effects of Age, Sex, and Breeding Success on Nest Site Fidelity of Gray Catbirds. J. A. Darley, D. M. Scott, and N. K. Taylor. 1977. *Bird-Banding* 48: 145-151.

Of the three variables considered, sex had the greatest influence on site fidelity of Gray Catbirds *Dumetella carolinensis*, males returning more often than females to their former territories. Success of breeding was also a contributing factor with a higher proportion of successful breeders returning to the building site than unsuccessful ones. Age did not appear to be an influencing factor.

Migratory Movements and Mortality Rate of Turkey Vultures. Paul A. Stewart. 1977. *Bird-Banding* 48: 122-124.

Of 131 recoveries of Turkey Vultures *Cathartes aura* in North America the longest distance travelled was 3 300 km. The average annual mortality rate was 21.5% and the oldest living bird recovered was 16 years old.

Movements of Saskatchewan-banded California Gulls. C. Stuart Houston. 1977. *Bird-Banding* 48: 158-161.

California Gulls *Larus californicus* fledged in Saskatchewan, Canada, migrate along the west coast of the United States. Unlike many other species which breed in Saskatchewan, the gulls do not proceed across the continental states directly to the wintering grounds, instead they move almost due west to the coast and then follow southward. In addition to birds actually recovered or found dead, considerable information was gained by telescope observations of colour banded birds.

The Migration of the Pied Flycatcher From and Through Britain. P. Hope Jones, C. J. Mead and R. F. Durman. 1977. *Bird Study* 24: 2-14.

Pied Flycatchers *Ficedula hypoleuca* from British and continental populations stop over in Portugal and Spain prior to making their crossing of North Africa. This area serves as an important pre-migration fattening area.

The Distance at which Sitting Birds can be seen at Sea. T. J. Dixon. 1977. *Ibis* 119: 372-375.

The distance at which sitting birds can be seen with the naked eye is dependent on the angle of the wave front to the direction of the ship's passage, amount of cloud cover, size and colour of the bird and height of observer above sea level.

Migrant Shorebirds in the Seychelles. Christopher J. Feare and Jeremy High. 1977. *Ibis* 119: 323-338.

Over 35 species of shorebirds were recorded over a period of two years in the Seychelles. The largest number are present during the northern winter, but some numbers remain in summer. Most birds are probably immatures from the central and eastern Palaearctic realm. Patterns of seasonal variation in population composition are discussed.

Migration of the Northwestern European Population of the Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*, as shown by Ringing. D. C. Seel. 1977. *Ibis* 119: 309-322.

Data from 280 recoveries are analyzed in terms of time of banding, time of recovery, and age of bird at banding. Older birds leave Europe in autumn before young birds, but the latter return earlier in spring. Speed of movement on migration usually ranges from 20-70 km a day but may exceed 100 km per day.

The Timing of Breeding by the Zebra Finch *Taenopygia castanotis* at Mileura, Western Australia. S. J. J. F. Davies. 1977. *Ibis* 119: 369-372.

The initiation of breeding is related to temperature, rainfall and availability of food. The usual conclusion that breeding is directly dependent on rainfall is not adequate to explain all observations.

Nesting Behaviour of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Lawrence Kilham. 1977. *Wilson Bulletin* 119: 310-324.

Excavation of the nest-hole and its maintenance are primarily performed by the male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius*. Both parents share incubation, brooding and feeding of the young.

Observations on the Red-necked Grebe Nesting in Michigan. Michael L. Chamberlin. 1977. *Wilson Bulletin* 89: 33-46.

An observed pair of Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* laid three eggs, incubation being performed by both parents. Chicks hatched around 26 days and were brooded under the wings of the parents. Number of feedings increased each week for the first three weeks.

Weather Influences on Nocturnal Bird Mortality at a North Dakota Tower. Michael Avery, Paul F. Springer, and J. Frank Cassel. 1977. *Wilson Bulletin* 89: 291-299.

The most frequently killed species were rails, parulid warblers, and finches. Cloud cover and wind direction played significant roles in large bird kills, but the importance of these factors varied among families.

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