

TECHNIQUES

Estimating Breeding Season Bird Densities from Transect Counts. John T. Emlen. 1977. *Auk* 94: 455-468.

A method is proposed by which the number of birds recorded along a transect path can be used to estimate absolute density of birds in an area by using an index derived simultaneously for the site. The width of the transects are set for each species at the distance at which one detection (sightings, calls) starts to decline. Problems encountered, such as estimating distances, determining the index, choosing a rate of progress, etc. are discussed and the method illustrated with an example.

A Simple Technique for Analysing Bird Transect Counts. Martha Hatch Balph, L. Charles Stoddart, and David F. Balph. 1977. *Auk* 94: 606-607.

A simple method for transect counts in which lateral distances from the transect line are divided into intervals and the birds observed are placed into the appropriate interval in which they are recorded. Data are used to maximise the estimate of each species' density.

Toe-Banding of Common Loon Chicks. Judith W. McIntyre. 1977. *Bird-Banding* 48: 272.

Toe-banding was initiated for Common Loons *Gavia immer* because bands for adults proved too large for the easily caught chicks. Since loons do little walking, only small amounts of band wear occur and this method is recommended for other birds of similar locomotory habits grebes, frigatebirds, etc.

Wing Marker for American Woodcock. Ralph O. Morganweck and William H. Marshall. 1977. *Bird-Banding* 48: 224-227.

A method of using plastic wing markers for sex and age recognition of American Woodcock *Philohela minoris* is described. No loss of markers or damage to birds was recorded.

Artificial Nest Burrows for Burrowing Owls. Charles T. Collins and Ross E. Landry. 1977. *N.A. Bird Bander* 2: 151-154.

Burrowing Owls *Athene cunicularia* can dig their own nest burrows but more often utilize those excavated by other animals. They readily nested in artificial burrows constructed on wooden tunnels and nest chambers. Problems encountered and their solutions are discussed.

Eye Colour Changes in the Dark-Eyed Junco and White-Throated Sparrow. Robert P. Yunik. 1977. *N.A. Bird Bander* 2: 155-156.

Both species of finches exhibit eye colour changes, during their first year making this character useful in determining age.

MISCELLANEOUS

Aspects of the Biology of the Japanese Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*. H. J. Frith, F. H. J. Crome, and B. K. Brown. 1977. *Aust. J. Ecol.* 2: 341-368.

A detailed work presenting data on distribution patterns, timing route of migration, sex and age ratios, moult, and food of the Japanese Snipe in Australia. A comparison of habitat requirements in Australia and its breeding grounds in Japan are made. Its population in Australia is not secure due to habitat alteration.

Resource Partitioning and Competition in Honeyeaters of the Genus *Meliphaga*. H. A. Ford and D. C. Paton. 1976. *Aust. J. Ecol.* 1: 281-287.

A study of six species of *Meliphaga* (s. l.) honeyeaters showed them to differ in various important aspects of their ecology allowing sympatry in their range. Those with similar feeding habits differ in habitat while the others which sometimes share habitat with other species, differ in feeding ecology.

Variation in Waterbird Numbers at Four Swamps on the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales. S. V. Briggs. 1977. *Aust. Wildl. Res.* 4: 301-309.

Patterns of variation of waterbird populations from monthly counts are given and are explained in terms of rainfall patterns and habits of individual species.

Behaviour of Ruddy Duck Broods in Utah. David E. Joynel. 1977. *Auk*. 94: 343-349.

Methods of communication between hen Ruddy Ducks *Oxyura jamaicensis* and brood are reported. Females defend the brood through visual displays and actual aggression. Males accompany the hen and brood through mate attraction rather than through a paternal relationship with the young.

Breeding Biology of Five Species of Herons in Coastal Florida. George R. Maxwell II, and Herbert W. Kale II. 1977. *Auk* 94: 689-700.

Nest site choice, nest building, egg laying, incubation, and hatching are described and compared for five species of North American herons occurring together on a small mangrove island. One species discussed, the Cattle Egret, occurs in Australia.

Plumage and Molt in Shorebirds Summering at Enewetak Atoll. Oscar W. Johnson. 1977. *Auk* 94: 222-230.

Five species of shorebirds were studied at Enewetak Atoll, Marshall Islands during early July. Aspects and patterns of their moult and plumage in these Pacific islands are reported. Most birds appeared to be first year.

The Skuas of the North American Pacific Coast. Pierre Devillers. 1977. *Auk* 94: 417-429.

The South Polar Skua *Catharcta maccormicki* is concluded to be the only large skua to occur along the North American Pacific coast. Its colour phases, juvenile plumage and annual cycle are discussed. Most birds visiting the Pacific coast are immatures. Evidence suggests a migratory path in the North Pacific takes a clockwise loop.

Colour-marked Terns

I have received a report that six terns with green wings were sighted on Lizard Island, Queensland (90 km NNE of Cooktown) on 5 and 6 August 1977. The species of tern was not specified.

Does anyone know who may be marking terns in this way?

Robert Draffan, P.O. Box 217, Thursday Island, Qld. 4875