Recent Literature

The extracts in this section are selected from a wide range of Journals from various sources covering subjects considered to be of interest to members. It is regretted that copies of papers cited are unavailable through the Association.—Hon. Editor.

BANDING and RECOVERY REPORTS

Nineteenth Ringing Report for Southern Africa. 1977. C. J. Vernon. *Ostrich* 48: 106-109.

During the period July, 1975 to June 1976, 36 016 individuals of 419 species were banded and there were 1 390 recoveries. The most frequently banded species were Red-billed Quelea (4 589), Red Bishop, Yellow-billed Duck and Masked Weaver. Most frequently recovered species were Red-billed Weaver (203) and Yellow-billed Duck. The total birds banded is the lowest since 1964-65, this was due to studies being concentrated on fewer species.

Results of the Japanese Bird Banding Scheme (Feb. 1, 1976—Jan. 31, 1977). Bird Migration Research Centre, Yamashina Institute for Ornithology, Japan. (in Japanese).

During the time period 60 743 individuals of 200 species were banded. There were 373 recoveries and these are individually listed. Three Japanese-banded waders were recovered in Australia and a tern recovered in Papua New Guinea.

ANALYTICAL STUDIES

Radial Dispersal and Southward Migration of Wood Ducks Banded in Vermont. 1977. Paul A. Stewart. *Bird-Banding* 48: 333-336.

Wood Ducks *Aix sponsa* disperse radially from their breeding or hatching grounds to a southward migration. Of 1 403 birds selected for this study, most made short flights although one was recovered in Texas, a distance of 2 250 km. Others may overwinter north of their banding spot due to their initial dispersal movement.

Some Features of Breeding and Migration of Woodcock in Southwestern Quebec. 1977. Richard A. Wishart. *Bird-Banding* 48: 337-340.

Records since 1914 show an average arrival date by Woodcocks *Philohela minor* in Quebec of 30 March. Nesting began in late April, hatching after mid-May, courtship ceased by 10 June and young left the nest and joined the nocturnal roosting sites after 28 June. Departures for autumn migration occured between 9-13 October. Effects of severe weather conditions are discussed.

Seasonal Change in Intersexual Niche Differentiation of the Three-toed Woodpecker Picoides tridactylus. 1977. Olav Hogstad. *Ornis Scand.* 8: 101-111.

Seasonal differences in choice of species of foraging tree, foraging height and prefered section of tree were found between the sexes of this woodpecker suggesting that such separation is helpful in maximising use of resources.

Distribution and Numbers of Coastal Waders (Charadrii) in the Southwestern Cape, South Africa. Summer 1975-76. 1977. R. W. Summers, J. Cooper and J. S. Pringle. *Ostrich* 48: 85-97.

The study area consisted of 300 km of coastline in 49 sections and 44 coastal wetlands. Palaearctic waders of 13 species accounted for 86% of the 119 008 birds recorded, the most abundant being the Sanderling. The remaining waders were divided among seven resident species.

Further Studies of Wintering Crag Martins. 1977. N. Elkins and B. Etheridge. *Ringing and Migration* 1: 155-165.

Moult, population changes, weights, plumage and morphometric difference between adult and juvenile birds are presented for Crag Martins *Hirundo rupestris* wintering at Gibraltar.

Morphometric Studies of a Population of Blue and Great Tits. 1977. J. J. M. Flegg and C. J. Cox. *Ringing and Migration* 1: 135-140.

Wing lengths of both species of tits *Parus* are greater in males than females and in adults than first year birds of the same sex. In the breeding season, the weight of the female of both species increases 18-26% within two weeks prior to laying, and is maintained until just before hatching and returns to normal by fledging. During this period the male loses weight.

TECHNIQUES

Comparison of Trapping Methods for American Coots. 1977. Richard D. Crawford. *Bird-Banding* 48: 309-313.

Efficiency and limitations of five different trapping methods for American Coots *Fulica americana* are discussed. Some methods are more useful for breeding than non-breeding adults while others favour juveniles.

New and Modified Methods for Colour-marking Hummingbirds. William H. Baltosser. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49: 47-49.

Hummingbirds to be banded are held in a small tube, immobilising them until released. A coloured nylon tag can be safely glued on the back for colour marking and is lost when moulted. This is an alternative to spots of paint on the back which may be preened out or leg tags which may interfere with nesting birds mobility.

The Use of Mist-nets in Windy Weather. 1977. E. I. Gavrilov. *The Ring* 90-91: 97-98.

A method is described for fastening mist-nets for use in windy exposed locations.

MISCELLANEOUS

Sounds of Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses. Donald W. Sparling Jr. 1977. *Auk* 94: 256-269.

Spectrographic comparisons of noises produced by both species of albatrosses are made. These sounds range from mechanical bill clacking to a range of vocalizations. Differences were found between those calls used in courtship behaviour while those used in agonistic encounters were similar between species.

Observations on a captive Group of Apostle Birds. Richard M. Jakob. 1977. *Avicultural Magazine* 83: 77-85.

A small group of Apostlebirds was held in the Adelaide Zoo and observation made on these birds is presented including nest building, laying, incubation and rearing of the young. Interesting behaviour among the birds in that group as well as between Apostlebirds and other species in the cage are reported.

Age and Survival of Breeding Leach's Storm-petrels in Maine. 1977. Douglass H. Morse and Carl W. Buchheister. *Bird-Banding* 48: 341-349.

Over 1 500 birds were banded over a twenty year period. Breeding birds had an average annual survival rate of at least 79% and mean life expectancy of at least 4.2 years.

Mortality Rates for Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. 1977. Eric G. Bolen and Richard E. McCavnant. *Bird-Banding* 48: 350-353.

An annual mortality rate of 46-52% was calculated for Black-bellied Whistling Ducks *Dendrocygna autumnalis* with females having a slightly higher rate than males.

Field Identification of West Palearctic Gulls. P. J. Grant. 1978. *Brit. Birds* 71: 145-176.

This is the first of a five part series discussing identification problems of 23 species of gulls found in the region. Considerable emphasis is placed on the confusing immature plumage stages.

Further Definition of Great Snipe Characters. D. I. M. Wallace. 1977. *Brit. Birds* 70: 283-289.

Several field characters seperating the Great Snipe *Gallinago media* and the Common Snipe *G. gallinago* are documented with photographs. The best character is wing pattern, others of assistance being bill size and flight behaviour and action.

Breeding Behaviour and Food Habits of the Wattled Jacana. David R. Osborne and Godfrey R. Bourne, 1977. *Condor* 79: 98-105.

Territoriality, courtship, nest building, incubation and feeding are described for the Wattle Jacana *Jacana jacana*. Usual roles of the sexes are reversed with the male building the nest and incubating while the female defends the territory. The habitat of the nest site influences whether the female is monogamous on polyandrous.

Observations on the Breeding of the Pied Crow and Great Spotted Cuckoo in Northern Nigeria. 1977. P. J. Mundy and A. W. Cook *Ostrich* 48: 72-84.

The Pied Crow *Corvus albus* has an average clutch size of 4.8 eggs, an incubation period of 18.5 days and fledging period of 38 days. It is parasitised by the Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* which does not damage or remove the eggs of its host. The cuckoo chicks fledge in half the time of the crow, although having only half of the daily growth rate.

Observations on the Moult of the Tree Sparrow. 1977. Colin J. Bibby. *Ringing and Migration* 1: 148-157.

Autumn moult in Tree Sparrows *Passer montanus* in Britain starts between early July and early September. Primaries are replaced in about sixty days. Variation in rate of wing moult in juveniles is related to their gain of weight. First-brood young remain closer to their natal areas than do later bred offspring and are more likely to breed in the following year as they have finished moulting when breeding sites are selected.

Wing Moult in the Savi's Warbler. 1977. D. K. Thomas. *Ringing and Migration* 1: 125-130.

Some individuals of Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides* exhibit suspended moult and/or eccentric moult (wing moult begins at middle of primary tract). The functions of these two moulting strategies are discussed.

Wintering Snipe in Middlesex. 1977. M. Davies. *Ringing and Migration* 1: 173-177.

Little variation in bill and wing measurements was found among age classes of Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. No distinguishing characters were found between sexes. Changes in weight from a high in December to a low in February may be due to changes in available feeding periods.

The Care of Sick, Injured and Orphaned Native Birds and Animals. Jack Wheeler. 1977. Geelong Field Naturalists Club. 21 pp. Available from author, 72 James Street, Belmont, Vic. 3216. Copies are free but all costs are met by donations. Enclose 20c per copy for postage.

A short but very useful guide to caring for injured birds. Sections on general injuries and mishaps and feeding of specific groups of birds. Includes similar parts on other animals.

Effect of Logging on Songbird Populations in a Northern Hardwood Forest. William L. Webb, Donald F. Behrend, and Boonwang Saisorn. 1977. Wildlife Monographs No. 55. 35 pp.

A ten year study in hardwood forest was conducted in northern North America with plots ranging from 0-100% logging clearance. A fairly constant avifauna composition was found under all canopy composition although the number of species and diversity indices were higher in the more logged areas. Eleven species were unaffected by logging, eight increased due to opening up of the environment, and seven decreased, but no species were eliminated by logging.