

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

The 1977 Inland Bird-Banding Report. R. J. Christman. 1978. *Inland Bird Banding News* 50: 96-103.

The 107 banders supplying data for 1977, banded 78 171 birds of 286 species, the most numerous being the American Goldfinch (7 234), Slate-coloured Junco (6 488) and Purple Finch (5 394). The total was considerably less than reported the previous year, largely due to a decrease in individuals supplying information. One person banded 8 304 birds of 104 species.

New Zealand Dotterel Banding Report Number One. H. R. McKenzie. 1978. *Notornis* 25: 186-194.

Of 86 New Zealand Dotterels *Charadrius obscurus* banded between 1950 and 1977, some were found to be relatively sedentary while others showed considerable movement within a limited range. The oldest known individual is over 26 years. A female was recorded breeding in its first year.

Annual Report of Western Bird Banding Association 1977. 1978. *North American Bird Bander* 3: 76-87. **Commentary on the 1977 Annual Report.** Douglas B. Hay. 1978. *North American Bird Bander* 3: 87-88.

During 1977, 149 335 individual of 444 species were banded in the western United States west of Colorado, inclusive, including Hawaii and Alaska. Although the number of species is an 11% increase over the ten year average, the total number of individuals is a decrease of 22% for the same period. Most frequently banded species were Mallard (24 926), Pintail (11 518) and Canadian Goose (10 057). Ducks and geese made up 41% of the total birds banded. The most frequently banded passerine was the White-crowned Sparrow (4 649).

ANALYTICAL STUDIES

Feeding Territories and Breeding Success of South Polar Skuas. Fritz Trillmich. 1978. *Auk* 95: 23-33.

A study of South Polar Skuas *Stercorarius maccormicki* in and around a penguin colony found two types of feeding territories. Pairs of skuas breeding within the penguin colony could subsist solely on a penguin diet and territories were defended. Those on the periphery defended only nesting territories and shared a general feeding area with other pairs of skuas which was not defended.

Habitat Structure and Productivity in Red-tailed Hawks. James Howell, Bonita Smith, John B. Holt, Jr and David R. Osborne. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49: 162-171.

Banding records were used to determine high and low productivity sites of the Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*. Habitat structure of each site was also determined. High productivity sites had twice as much fallow pasture and less than half as much crop pasture and woodlot. This is one of the first studies relating banding to productivity and habitat structure.

Breeding Ecology of the Merlin in Northumberland. I. Newton, E. R. Meek and B. Little. 1978. *Brit. Birds* 71: 376-398.

During this fifteen year study, 182 nests of the Merlin *Falco columbarius* were observed. An improvement in nesting success corresponded to a reduction in the use of organochlorine pesticides. Comparisons of success are made among nests in different habitats, nests sites and altitudes. Diet, behaviour and movements are discussed.

Recent Increase of Blackcaps at Bird Observatories. Derek R. Langslow. 1978. *Brit. Birds* 71: 345-354.

Records of the Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* at observatories in the British Isles during 1970-76 were compared with similar observations during 1948-66. Marked increases were noticed, possibly due to weather conditions, a rise in total population numbers and/or changes in the habits of the species.

The Relationship of Breeding Schedule and Clutch Size to Food Supply in the Rufous-sided Towhee. Jon S. Greenlaw. 1978. *Condor* 80: 24-33.

A comparison of breeding of the Rufous-sided Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* in mesic and xeric habitats showed the clutch size at the start of the breeding season was larger in the mesic site. This was directly correlated with the significantly larger biomass of invertebrate litter fauna.

Impact of Human Visitations on Avian Nesting Success. Jonathon Bart. 1977. *Living Bird* 16: 187-192.

Information on over 30 000 nests of five species was obtained from the North American Nest Record Card Programme to determine "how much does visiting a nest affect its chance of being destroyed by predators?" i.e. predators led to the nest by the observer. Without taking observer-induced predation into account, nesting success can be underestimated.

TECHNIQUES

Use of Computer Methods to Reduce Error in Colour Banding Studies of Long-Lived Birds. Janet C. Ollason. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49: 101-107.

A method of improving the accuracy of data obtained from studies using colour banded birds by utilizing a simple computer programme is described. It is illustrated with data from a long term study of the Northern Fulmar.

Habituation of Adult Eastern Bluebird to Nest-box Trap. Benedict C. Pinkowski. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49: 125-129.

Shutter traps were attached to the nest-boxes of Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis* after the young had hatched. Females were more likely to enter the trap than males and usually did so first.

Sex and Age Determination in the Clay-coloured Sparrow. R. W. Knapton. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49: 152-156.

Behavioural differences, and during the breeding season, reproductive condition can be used to determine sex in Clay-coloured Sparrows *Spizella pusilla*. Wing chord length and colour of superciliary stripe are also helpful. Following post-juvenile moult, breast colour differentiates immatures from adults.

Criteria for Aging Cassin's Anklets. David A. Manual. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49: 157-161.

Banded Cassin's Auklets *Ptychoramphus aleuticus* of known age were examined for age-related variation. Adults (three years and older) may be separated from subadults (two years and younger) by eye colour, plumage condition and length of the gular pouch.

MISCELLANEOUS

Age-related Differences in Ruddy Turnstone Foraging and Aggressive Behavior. Sarah Grove. 1978. *Auk* 95: 95-103.

Adult Ruddy Turnstones *Arenaria interpres* had a higher success rate in their foraging than did juvenile birds. Adults were also dominant over young birds in aggressive encounters.

Dispersal of Herring Gulls from the Witless bay Sea Bird Sanctuary, Newfoundland. William Threfall. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49: 116-124.

During 1966-72, 12 785 Herring Gulls *Larus argentatus* were banded as part of the study. Details of recoveries, movement and age related differences are given.

Rough-legged Buzzard in Britain in 1973/74 and 1974/75. R. E. Scott. 1978. *Brit. Birds* 71: 325-338.

Large influxes of the Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus* in Britain occurred in 1973-74 and 1974-75. The patterns of arrival and distribution during these periods are discussed. During an 'average' year, only one or two individuals winter in Britain; during the 1974-75 winter 90-95 birds were recorded.

Competition Between Cattle Egrets and Native North American Herons, Egrets and Ibises, Joanna Burger, 1978. *Condor* 80: 15-23.

The Cattle Egret *Ardeola ibis*, a recent invader to North America, was observed in a mixed colony of herons and ibises. It was more aggressive than other species and won more interspecific conflicts. It was able to maintain a larger protected area around its nest and claimed a disproportionately large number of available nests from previous years. This species also had the highest breeding success.

The Breeding Ecology of Sea Birds on Monito Island, Puerto Rico. Cameron B. Kepler. 1978. *Condor* 80: 72-87.

The comparative ecologies of seven species of sea birds breeding on Monito Island are compared. Timing of nesting, choice of site, habitat and development of young are described for each species.

Coition, Nesting and Postfledging Behavior of Williamson's Sapsucker in Colorado. Allen B. Crockett and Paula L. Hansley. 1977. *Living Bird* 16: 7-19.

The sequence of activities from initial establishment of breeding territory to the breakup of the family groups after fledging in Williamson's Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus thyroideus* was studied for four years. This study involved 80 colour marked birds. Details of behavior for both young and adults are given.

Breeding Ecology of the Wilson's Warbler in the High Sierra Nevada, California. Robert M. Stewart, R. Phillip Henderson and Kate Darling. 1977. *Living Bird* 16: 83-102.

The breeding ecology of the Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla* is compared for populations in two widely different environmental conditions (montane versus coastal). Differences in reliability of climatic conditions are reflected in variations in breeding strategies between populations.

Reproductive Behavior of the Noisy Miner, a Communally Breeding Honeyeater. Douglas D. Dow. 1977. *Living Bird* 16: 163-185.

Roles of males and females in the reproductive efforts of the Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala* are described and discussed. Only females incubated and brooded the young. More than one male fed young at each nest.

The Cattle Egret in New Zealand in 1977. B. D. Heather. 1978. *Notornis* 25: 218-234.

The Cattle Egret *Ardeola ibis* was first found in New Zealand in 1963. A census in 1977 found approximately 300 birds. Notes on plumage, habits and distribution within New Zealand are included.

Corrigendum

The following amendments should be made to Vol. 2 No. 5, December 1978.

Page 89, Column 1,

List of animals killed . . .

Last line; 1 mammal every 35 km should read 31 km.

Page 89, Column 2,

Lines 8 to 19 should be amended as follows;

The results . . . 30 kilometres. Magpies were the commonest animal found dead, being 36% of the total killed in spring. However, the autumn count of dead magpies was only 19% of the total at that time. When both surveys were combined magpies were 45% of the birds killed. Vestjens found for the whole of his survey magpies were 37% of the birds killed. While . . . autumn. However, in the autumn there were more mammal predators and scavengers killed. Perhaps . . . animals.