Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

090-23763. Banded by A. Marsland at Bogong, Vic. on 30 Apr. 77. Recaptured (band returned) at Mudgegonga, Vic. on 5 May 79. 48 km NW.

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

060-29211. Adult female banded by G. P. Clancy at Tumbi Umbi, near Tuggerah, NSW on 1 Oct. 72. Recaptured at banding place three times, the last occasion by P. A. White on 22 Apr. 78, 7 years 6 months after banding.

Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

080-80749. Immature banded by G. P. Clancy at Tumbi Umbi, near Tuggerah, NSW on 6 Jan. 73. Recaptured at banding place 15 times, the last occasion by P. A. White on 27 Aug. 78, 5 years 7 months after banding.

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

070-42907. Adult male banded by H. J. de S. Disney at Broke, NSW on 10 Sept. 71. Recaptured at banding place three times, the last occasion by J. St G. D. Rawlins on 16 Apr. 79, over 7 years 7 months after banding. (This is the oldest recorded for the species).

Colour Banding of Eastern Reef Egret

I am colour banding Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra* (formerly the Reef Heron) in the Capricorn Islands off Gladstone, Queensland.

Colour banks are placed either on the right tibia (two bands on right upper leg bone) or both tibiae (two bands on left upper leg bone and one band on right upper leg bone). A numbered metal band is placed on the tarsus of either leg (lower leg bone).

Any of the following information about sightings would be appreciated:

date;
location;
the colour of the leg bands reading from top to bottom where two are on the one leg;
which leg the bands are on.

Some of these bands are faded and their colour is difficult to determine but even the date and location of a bird wearing coloured plastic bands would be useful.

Please forward details to:

Rob Elvish, Zoology Department,
University of Queensland,
St. Lucia, Qld, 4067

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 REPORT

Report on Bird-Ringing for 1976. 1978. Robert Spencer and Robert Hudson. *Ringing and Migration* 1: 189-252.

In Great Britain during 1976, 669 975 individuals of 330 species were banded; 13 080 birds of 283 species were recovered. There were 1 103 recoveries of 95 species outside the country. An annotated list of species is presented.

Results of the Japanese Bird-Banding Scheme April 1, 1973 - Jan. 31, 1978. 1978. Bird Migration Research Centre, Yamashina Institute for Ornithology. (In Japanese with English species names).

For the period 1 April 1973 - 31 January 1978, 321 746 individuals of 279 species were banded. Seven species accounted for over 2 000 individuals each, the highest being the Rustic Bunting (14 878). Annual totals are presented and are generally similar to those for 1977-78 (68 392 birds of 207 species). Total recoveries for the period are 1 489 (360 in 1977-78). The most frequently recovered were the Pintail (589 overall, 154 in 1977-78) and Pied Wagtail (129 overall, 24 in 1977-78). Birds banded in Australia have been recovered in Japan and vice versa. Most interchange of banding and recoveries is with the U.S.S.R.

ANALYTICAL STUDIES

Behavioural Ecology of lonnbergi Skuas in Relation to Environment on the Chatham Islands, New Zealand. 1978. E. C. Young. *N.Z. Journal of Zoology* 5: 401-416.

A population of *lonnbergi* skuas was studied in order to compare its behavioural ecology with other skuas and assess the effect of the environment on the breeding biology. Many aspects of the biology differ from other populations in trends broadly related to latitude or are related to special features of the environment.

The Distribution and Numbers of New Zealand (Falco novaeseelandiae). 1978. N. C. Fox. *Notornis* 25: 317-331.

The distribution of the New Zealand Falcon was ascertained from field studies and other sources. The known and possible breeding distribution on each island is summarised. An estimate of 3 000 - 4 500 existing pairs is made.

Breeding Biology of the Starling Sturnus vulgaris in Western Finland. 1978. Erkki Korpimaki. *Ornis Fennica* 55: 93-104.

Records were obtained from 239 nests during 1966-67. The clutch size ranged from 2-8, with a mean of 5.1. Clutch declined as the breeding season progressed Incubation took 12 days and the nestling period 20 days. The mean nestling success was 3.6 young per nest. A decline in the starling population has been noted since the study started.

An Ocean Mass Migration of Land Birds. 1978. Timothy C. Williams and Janet M. Williams. *Scientific American* 239: 138-145.

Southerly migration of songbirds and small shore birds was studied in an area from North America through the Caribbean to South America, with the aid of radar and visual observations. Both shore stations and ships were used to obtain observations. A correlation between migratory activities and weather patterns is demonstrated with the aid of weather satellite photographs. Birds were found to migrate at altitudes of between 1 000 - 6 000 metres.

TECHNIQUES

A Method for Aging Female Yellow-headed Blackbirds. 1978. Richard D. Crawford and William L. Hohman. *Bird-Banding* 49: 201-207.

Second-year female Yellow-headed Blackbirds *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* can be distinguished from older birds by the amount of yellow on the throat and breast region. Several measurements are useful in conjunction with plumage characters, but are not completely reliable by themselves.

Age Determination of Blue Jays. 1978. Warren A. Lamb, Alice H. Kelley and Steven M. Cohen. *Bird-Banding* 49: 215-217.

Mouth pigmentation and patterns on wing feathers can be used to age Blue Jays *Cyanocitta cristata.* A key for aging these birds is presented based on 92 known-age individuals.

Sexing Ring-billed Gulls Externally. 1978. John R. Ryder. *Bird-Banding* 49: 218-222.

Using the length of bill from the gape and the bill depth at the angle of the gonys, Ring-billed Gulls *Larus delawarensis* can be sexed with 95-98% accuracy. A discriminant function is employed which is easily used with a pocket calculator.

A Comparison of Three Methods of Estimating Winter Bird Populations. 1978. Richard Brewer. *Bird-Banding* 49: 252-261.

Estimation of bird populations in the non-breeding season presents difficulties. Data from annual Christmas Bird Counts since 1948 are analysed and compared with a day-long census method and a home-range determination method. The Bird Counts are a useful technique in population estimation. Home-range determination is time consuming and doubtfully accurate.

Inadequacies in the Design of Purple Martin Houses. 1978. Charles R. Brown. *Bird-Banding* 49: 321-325.

The Purple Martin *Progne subis* is a common North American species which nests primarily in man-made birdhouses. The author discusses several aspects of the design of these houses, which he feels are inadequate for the needs of the birds and offers suggestions for improvement.

A Radio Transmitter Attachment for Small Passerine Birds. 1978. Arb Raim. *Bird-Banding* 49: 326-332.

A small radio transmitter for use on small passerines is described. It has little effect on behaviour, is quickly accepted by the bird and remains attached up to 24 days.

Radar Tracking of Experimentally Released Migrant Birds. 1978. Natalie J. Demong and Stephen T. Emlen. *Bird-Banding* 49: 342-359.

A free-flying migratory bird is sent aloft in a release box attached to a weather balloon. At a predetermined altitude it is released. Birds can be released in the meterological and temporal conditions chosen. Experimental manipulation can occur prior to release. This allows the effects and reactions to specific stimuli to be ascertained and their bearing on migration recorded. Findings using this method are discussed.

Foot Survey Versus Owl Calling Surveys; A Comparative Study of Two Great Horned Owl Censusing Techniques. Mark Andrew Springer. 1978. *Inland Bird Banding News* 50: 83-92.

Two methods of censusing Great Horned Owls *Bubo virginianus* were compared. Surveys on foot although requiring more time, recorded higher densities with greater accuracy. Calling accurately measured the number of males, but additional visual work was necessary to gauge female populations. It is recommended that the two methods be used to supplement each other during such surveys.

Hanging a Dho-gaza. 1978. Bruce Phillips. *Inland Bird Banding News* 50: 211-217.

The dho-gaza is a netting device used primarily with birds of prey. Materials and methods of making and "hanging" the net are given and illustrated.

A Portable Tray Feeder for Field Use. 1978. Robert M. Ruhe. *Inland Bird Banding News* 50: 227-229.

Feeding trays are often used to attract birds to areas in which banding is taking place. A removable tray which is easily placed on the side of the tree without causing damage is described.

The Effect of Observer Variability on Bird Census Results Obtained by a Territory Mapping Technique. 1978. Anders Eneman, Bengt Sjöstrand and Sören Svensson. *Ornis Scand.* 9: 31-39.

Different ornithologists carried out 10 visits to a study plot with about 50 territorial male birds of several species. The plot and period of time was the same for all observers and was repeated for two seasons. The coefficient of variation was 10% and 14% for the two seasons and decreased with additional samples. It is concluded that the territory mapping technique is comparable between observers if no other variations are added.

The Effects of Tape Lures on Storm Petrels. Tony Maunwood. 1978. *Ringers Bulletin* 5: 33-34.

A comparison of previously banded and new Storm Petrels *Hydrobates pelagicus* captured during playing of taped calls, demonstrated considerable difference in the responses. Numbers of retrapped birds caught were virtually the same whether or not the tape was played. New birds, however, were captured in greatly increased numbers while the calls were played.

Making your Ringing More Useful. Ringing and Migration Committee, British Trust for Ornithology, 1978. *Ringers Bulletin* 5: 35-37.

Following examination of patterns of banding in Britain, the committee has offered several suggestions about various aspects of banding and additional areas in which information could be usefully gathered.

Hints of Ageing and Sexing Throughout the Year. Bob Spencer and Chris Mead. 1978. *Ringers' Bulletin* 5: 38-42.

Use of cloacal protrubences and brood patches for sexing birds during the breeding season is briefly discussed. A calendar of when various aging and sexing techniques can be reliably used for eight species is given.

MISCELLANEOUS

Gyrfalcons Nesting Behavior from Hatching to Fledging. M. Alan Jenkins. 1978. *Auk* 95: 122-127.

The post-hatching behaviour of two pairs of Gyrfalcons *Falco rusticolus* was observed and different components quantified. The varying roles of each sex are described.

Plumages of the Least Tern. 1978. Barbara W. Massey and Jonathan L. Atwood. *Bird-Banding* 49: 360-371.

Descriptions and field identification of the plumage phases from juvenile through to adult of the Least Tern (Little Tern in Australia) *Sterna albifrons* are given. Birds have been observed breeding at two years. No breeding has been recorded in sub-adult plumaged birds.

The Status of the Black Sparrowhawk in Transvaal. 1978. Warwick Tarboton, Mark Lewis and Alan Kemp. *Bokmakierie* 30: 56-59.

A considerable increase in population numbers of the Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucos* has been observed. This has been due to an increase of potential nesting sites in planted eucalypts and other exotics and an increase in doves, a major food source. Nesting success was 1.5 - 1.8 young fledged per pair per annum.

Seasonal Differences in Bird Counts in Forests near Reefton, South Island, New Zealand. 1978. D. G. Dawson, P. J. Dilks, P. D. Gaze, J. G. R. McBurney and P. R. Wilson. *Notornis* 25: 257-278.

In order to determine habitat preferences and factors affecting numbers of birds counted, four forest areas were censused every second month for a year. Seasonal changes were observed for most species. Differences in population sizes between areas and seasons were large compared with those between individual observers. Seasonal changes in habitat preferences were noted for some species.

Seabird Observations Between New Zealand and Fiji. 1978. T. G. Lovegrove. *Notornis* 25: 291-298.

An annotated list of seabirds observed during a return trip from New Zealand to Fiji is given. Field characteristics of Pterodroma petrels and storm-petrels are illustrated.

Status of the Pied Tit (Petroica macrocephala toitoi) in the Waitakers Range, Auckland. Interim Report. 1978. Jean F. Skinner. *Notornis* 25: 299-302.

The Pied Tit remains territorial throughout the year. The distribution of this species is closely related to distribution of vegetation and it is absent from areas which have been burnt for farming. The study located 117 territories averaging about 2.5 hectares.

Some Recent Observations on Seabirds Breeding in Fiji. 1978. M. K. Tarburton. *Notornis* 25: 303-316.

Various islands in the Fijian group were visited from 1974 to 1976. Twelve species of seabirds were found nesting. Distribution within islands, banding data and details of nesting are given.

Behaviour of Woodland Kingfishers in Ghana. 1978. P. W. Greig-Smith. *Ostrich* 49: 67-75.

Non-social, social and breeding behaviour were studied in the Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis* during the breeding season. A variety of postures were evident during non-social activities such as feeding and nesting. Breeding territories were defended by vocal and visual displays and attacks on intruders. Courtship displays and timing of breeding activities are described.

Moult Seasons of some Anatidae in the Western Transvaal. 1978. W. R. J. Dean. *Ostrich* 49: 76-84.

Moult and breeding seasons were studied for eight species of waterfowl. Duration of flightlessness is related to the size of the bird, being longer for large and longer-winged species.

Review

Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds by William T. Cooper. Text by Joseph M. Forshaw and William T. Cooper. Collins, Sydney, 1977. 304 pp (including index), 62 plates, many text drawings. Price $100.

This eagerly-awaited volume is in large format which all Cooper enthusiasts will treasure and enjoy. The price is perhaps not too inconsistent with modern values, although one might have expected a larger edition.

The large format size 280 x 404 mm, is fully justified to accommodate the brilliant colour-plates of these fascinating and unique birds. The paintings are twice described on the jacket-advertisement as 'magnificent'. What else can one call them? Some of the subjects I think, are more successful in one way or another in attitude, colour, composition and detail but the best are very good indeed and I find that foregrounds such as that in the *Parotia lawesi* study are highly evocative for us old New Guinea hands, exquisite, and as accurate in detail as the plumage and the always-difficult feet. All recognised species, most females if different and one or two distinctive subspecies are illustrated. Hybrids, a feature of the group, are not.

The accompanying text also benefits from the large page size. It is spacious and clean, enlivened by many black and white sketches, mostly from life, of birds, bowers and interesting details; these are often delightfully complementary to the painted portraits and the main text. The written word is necessarily colourless by contrast but had the difficult task of following so soon an exhaustive textbook in Gilliard's *Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds.*

Forshaw has done a creditable job of avoiding repetion by providing much of the information in a