

# Recent Literature

## BANDING and RECOVERY REPORTS

**Report of the N2 Department of Internal Affairs, 31 March 1980.** Annual Report to the New Zealand House of Representatives 1980.

### "Banding Recoveries"

A staff shortage throughout the year has made it most difficult to maintain an adequate service in the banding office. An interesting aspect of band recoveries has been an increasing number of both live and dead recoveries of birds more than 20 years old. Species to have achieved this now include Royal Albatross, White-fronted Tern, Gannet, Red-billed Gull, Canada Goose, Black Swan and New Zealand Dotterel. New Zealand retains the distinction of having the oldest living wild bird in the world — a female Royal Albatross banded as at least a 10 year old adult in 1937 (making it now over 54 years old) which returns every breeding season to Taiaroa Heads".

**Results of the Japanese Bird-banding Scheme April 1, 1973-Jan 31, 1980.** 1980 Bird Migration Research Centre, Yamashina Institute of Ornithology. (In Japanese with English species names).

For the period 1 April 1979-31 Jan. 1980, 64 001 individuals of 207 species were banded. This is generally similar to the 1978-79 figures of 68 392 individuals of 207 species banded. Eight species accounted for over 2 000 individuals each, including the Rustic Bunting (15 892), Pintail (3 306) and the House Swallow (3 062). Total recoveries for the period were 5 634 individuals at banding place and 633 away from banding place. Most frequent recoveries were Streaked Shearwater (1 747 overall), Pintail (879 overall, 589 in 1978-79) and White Wagtail (378 overall, 129 in 1978-79). Birds banded in Japan have been recovered in Australia and vice versa (e.g. two Latham's Snipe banded in Japan recovered in Victoria, Australia.) Most interchange of banding and recoveries is with the U.S.S.R.

## ANALYTICAL STUDIES

**Observations on Development, Nesting Chronology, and Clutch and Brood Size in the Australian Kestrel, *Falco cenchroides* (Aves: Falconidae).** 1980. Penny Olsen and Jerry Olsen *Aust. Wildl. Res.* 7: 247-255.

The nesting chronology of three captive and two wild pairs of Australian Kestrels and the development of nine captive-bred and five wild-bred nestlings are presented. Clutch and brood sizes and dates when eggs and young were found in nests, collected from a number of sources, are discussed. Breeding biology was similar to that of other species of kestrel. Wing length of nestlings gave the best estimate of age up to about 6 weeks, and the pulling of rectrix was found to give have potential as a method of sexing nestlings and first-year birds.

## TECHNIQUE

**The Use of Simple Measurements to Determine the Age of Silver Gull Eggs.** 1980. R. D. Wooler and J. N. Dunlop. *Aust. Wildl. Res.* 7: 113-115.

The fresh weight of Silver Gull eggs closely relate to the volume, which is calculable from the length and breadth. Since eggs lose weight at a constant rate during incubation, the density (weight/volume) indicates the

duration of incubation. Accuracy of the method is  $\pm 2$  days in 217 of 250 tests. A curve of egg density is provided.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Organochlorine Residues in Wing of Ducks in Eastern Australia.** 1980. Penny Olsen, H. R. Swift. *Aust. Wildl. Res.* 7: 139-147.

Wings of 12 species of waterfowl from 12 sites in south-eastern Australia contained organochlorine pesticides, DDT being the predominant residue. DDT ranged from 0.03 to 316.10 ppm in individual Pacific Black Duck, *Anas platyrhynchos* and from 0.02 to 15.10 ppm in pooled wings from each species.

**Food and Movement of the Short-billed White-tailed Black Cockatoo.** 1980. D. A. ... *Aust. Wildl. Res.* 7: 257-269.

Food eaten by the short-billed form of the White-tailed Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus funereus* was studied in two areas in which it breeds: ... Creek, an area with large tracts of uncleared and Manmanning, an area of extensive cleared little native vegetation remaining. In both areas birds relied on native vegetation, particularly of the Proteaceae, for food. Movements during the breeding season are related to availability of

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## Request for Information

A Crested Tern with a coloured ribbon around its neck was recently observed around Kieta Harbour, Bougainville Island, New Guinea. If anyone knows who has a coloured ribbon to mark Crested Terns, it would be appreciated if they could contact:

The Australian Bird-banding Society  
Division of Wildlife  
P.O. Box 11  
Lyneham, A.C.T.

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## New Members

- BRITT, Ms K. A., Scullin, A.C.T.
- BROADHURST, Miss L. M., Bay of Islands, New Zealand.
- JONES, D. N., Armidale, N.S.W.
- LENTFER, Ms C. J., Jones Island, N.S.W.