

Review

Birds of the North Solomons, by Don Hadden. Wau Ecology Institute, Handbook No. 8, 1981, 107 pp., 24 coloured plates and map. K6.00.

This is a neat and concise book on a somewhat neglected island group. The birds, although small in number are of interest to those people wishing to expand their knowledge on the diversity of Papuan species. A large number mentioned have not received much coverage by published information by past workers. Anyone knowing the problems of the early naturalists in these formerly inhospitable areas will appreciate this present work and its future value for assisting wildlife management programmes. However no mention is made as to the number of endemic forms occurring on the two islands, though this can be obtained from the text.

The book has been designed for both the intrepid birder and local naturalist/teacher wishing to extend their knowledge and impart this to their students. Because of this design there is a loss in attraction for the serious birder and the information is, in some instances, not much more than in Mayr's *Birds of the southwest Pacific*. Constant use of personal observations on "well known" species should have been avoided and in other instances the knowledge imparted would have been better placed within a bird journal, such as the *Papua New Guinea Bird Society Newsletter*.

Errors, a constant sorepoint of reviewers, have crept in through editing; these include the three different spellings of the word Night-heron (pp. 19, 26 & 27) and statements such as "It is over $\frac{1}{4}$ smaller . . ." should have been avoided. Reference to identification of local species by comparison with birds not occurring locally presents problems for the novice. A failure to describe breeding and non-breeding plumages will also cause problems. There are discrepancies in spelling e.g. colour and color, moult and molt, all of which occur through the text.

Notes on passerines hold interesting aspects of behaviour and nesting etc.; with a little effort the astute observer should be able to identify most birds by description and call. There appear to be more questions than answers in the book; the author points out that further information is required on the biology of many birds from the area. The addition of colour plates and description of a new (unnamed) species emphasises the paucity of information on the local areas.

While there are a few small errors in descriptions and identification, the acquisition of this book is recommended (as I would recommend all the handbooks from the Wau Institute).

N. W. Longmore,
Sydney, N.S.W.

Colour-dyed Waders

In August and September 1982, a team of nearly 60 people are participating in the Australasian Wader Studies Group North-west Australia Expedition. This month-long research expedition is to be centered in the Broome-Port Hedland area in northern Western Australia, where over 150 000 migratory waders spend the summer months. On this expedition, it is planned to cannon-net waders and colour-dye them on the underparts with Picric Acid. This is a bright yellow dye which fades to orange after a week or so, and lasts up to four months. People visiting coastal areas or areas where waders are present in Australia and New Zealand, are asked to watch for colour-dyed birds and report the details of any sightings to the addresses below. Date, place (latitude and longitude in full if possible), number of birds, size of flock and habitat should be noted. The colour dyeing will involve all species of waders caught.

The Secretary,
Australian Bird-banding Scheme,
CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research,
P.O. Box 84,
Lynham, 2602, A.C.T.
or
Australasian Wader Studies Group,
c/o Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union,
21 Gladstone Street,
Moonee Ponds, 3039, Victoria.

Brett A. Lane,
National Co-ordinator,
Australasian Wader Study Group.

New Members

BIDDER, T. J., Dee Why, N.S.W.
BOGAN, K., Dee Why, N.S.W.
CAPE, J. D., Caboolture, Qld.
CHIVAS, J., Pakenham, Vic.
COSTELLO, J. W., Mungindi, N.S.W.
CROMMELIN, A. A., McMahons Point, N.S.W.
DAVIS, W. E. Jnr., Foxboro, MA. USA.
DICKISON, H., Bentleigh, Vic.
DIGAN, R., Cook, A.C.T.
FISHER, M. R., Mt Gambier, S.A.
METCALFE, P. B., Armidale, N.S.W.
OLSEN, A. M., Newton, S.A.
OSBORNE, W. A., O'Connor, A.C.T.
PRICE, R., Templestowe, Vic.
SPEECHLEY, R. J., Tidal River, Vic.
STARKS, J., Mt Eliza, Vic.
STORR, Dr G., Perth, W.A.
TRELOR, Rev. R. J., Toowoomba, Qld.
WREN, J., Cairns, Qld.

Corrigendum

The following amendment should be made to Volume 6, Number 2, June 1982.
Page 44, Column 1, line 13.
thus 50% of the birds . . . should read; thus 95% of the birds . . .