
Books

The Kookaburras' Song: Exploring Animal Behavior in Australia. John Alcock. 1988. University of Arizona Press, Tucson. 218 pp. Hardcover, \$19.95.

The thought of a trip through the Australian countryside has an appeal that strikes a cord in the majority of us. John Alcock includes us on a number of his outings made on several visits to Australia. He adds to our understanding of exotic animals and wild places by using these expeditions to give an introduction to some thoughts on animal behavior. In his selection of 27 short essays, he has included a variety of different native animals, including insects and, of course, birds to illustrate examples of pertinent conduct.

Although this book isn't primarily about birds or bird banding, it does examine various aspects of bird behavior in a number of species. Some of the species used to illustrate the topics examined include Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*), Red-tailed Black Cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus magnificus*), New Holland Honeyeaters (*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*), Northern Logrunners (*Orthonyx spaldingii*), Mallee Fowl (*Leipoa*

ocellata), Spotted Bowerbirds (*Chlamydera maculata*), Superb Lyrebirds (*Menuranovaehollandiae*), Cassowaries (*Casuaris casuaris*), Bell Miners (*Manorina melanophrys*), and Superb Blue Wrens (*Malurus cyaneus*)

The six themes developed are "On Adaptation," "Nuptial Puzzles," "Machismo and the Competitive Male," "Primitive or Degenerate?," "Life with Others," and "Adaptive Altruism." The text is tastefully illustrated with black and white drawings by Marilyn Stewart and there is a range map for each of the species discussed. A short suggested reading list is included.

For the most part, this book is quite enjoyable and well written. The concepts are developed in an easy-to-follow manner and the examples are appropriate. I don't have any difficulty suggesting this book to anyone interested in natural history and animal behavior, but I think it must be looked on as a very basic introduction to the concepts exemplified.

Peter J. Carson

Recent Literature

Banding Equipment and Techniques

The use of mist nets and radiotelemetry in the study of the Ground Parrot (*Pezoporus wallicus*) in Barren Grounds Nature Reserve, New South Wales. R. Jordan. 1988. *Corella* 12:18-21. -Barren Grounds Bird Observ., Box 3, Jamberco, N.S.W. 2533, Australia. -(Methods of capturing Ground Parrots with mist nets at night and during the day are described, along with a technique for attaching radio transmitters. Usefulness and problems with transmitters are evaluated. Zinc/air cell batteries were lighter, but less reliable, than mercury batteries.) MKM

A mobile holding cage for Silver Gulls. Shorebird Study Group. 1988. *Corella* 12:63. -c/o 'Stony,' Campanic, Tasmania 7026. -(A car trailer modified into four holding pens for gulls caught during cannon netting operations kept the birds off the ground. This eliminated a problem with soiled plumage and also allowed researchers to move captured birds into shaded areas during hot weather.) MKM

Survival of Ring-necked Pheasants with backpacks, necklaces and legbands. V. Marcstrom, R.E. Kenward and M. Karbom. 1989. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 53:808-810. -Inst. Terrestrial Ecol., Furzebrook Res. Stn., Wareham, Dorset BH20 5AS, U.K. -(Birds with backpacks were recovered less frequently than birds with necklaces or only legbands. Recovery rates were the same for the latter two groups.) RCT

The variability of biometric measurements. R.T. Barrett, M. Peters, R.W. Furnish and J. Durinck. 1989. *Ring. & Migr.* 10:13-16. -Tromso Mus., Univ. of Tromso, N-9000, Tromso, Norway. -(Variability among individuals in taking measurements may equal that reported between populations. Thus, measurements at each locality should be made by several observers.) RCT

Effects of plastic neck collars on the behavior and breeding performance of geese and their value for distant recognition of individuals. I.P. Johnson and R.M. Sibly. 1989. *Ring & Migr.* 10:58-62. -Dept. of Pure

and Applied Zool., Univ. of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading, U.K. -(Collars with a two-letter code could be read up to 500 m away, and 55% were present on Canada Geese two years after banding. Recommended for geese and swans.) RCT

Identification, Molts, Plumages, Weights and Measurements

Bird in the hand. Grey Butcherbird (*Cracticus torquatus*). W.E. Boles. 1987. *Corella* 11:124-126. -The Australian Mus., Sydney, Australia. -(Detailed descriptions of juvenile, first immature -one to two years, second immature -two to three years, and adult plumages, based on museum specimens.) MKM

Sex and age characters of the Rufous Songlark. D.I. Smedley and W.E. Boles. 1988. *Corella* 12:14-18. -25B Railway St., Baulkham Hills, NSW 2153, Australia. -(Detailed descriptions and measurements of various sex/age categories, based on museum skins and birds caught during banding efforts. Molt in this species is still not fully known, but some "tentative generalizations" on extent and timing of plumage change are offered.) MKM

Some notes on a Beach Thick-knee runner. D.J. Geering. 1988. *Corella* 12:22-24. -1/22 Fry St., Grafton, NSW 2460, Australia. -(Measurements and plumage descriptions of a known-aged banded chick at hatching and seven days thereafter, ranging from day 27 to day 84.) MKM

Bird in the hand. Rufous Songlark (*Cinclorhamphus mathewsi*). W.E. Boles and D.I. Smedley. 1988. *Corella* 12:25. -The Australian Mus., 6-8 College St., Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia. -(Brief Sex/age guide, based on more detailed paper by Smedley and Boles, abstracted above.) MKM

The morphology of the Brown Goshawk (*Accipiter fasciatus*). T. Aumann. 1988. *Corella* 12:33-42. -Lot 1, Hansens Creek Rd., Hoddles Creek, Vic. 3139, Australia. -(Numerous measurements and details of plumage and soft parts were taken on birds captured in Victoria and from museum specimens. Dimorphism indices are presented for measurements and differences documented according to age, sex, season, populations and subspecies.) MKM

Moult by the Galah *Cactua roseicapilla* in the wheatbelt of Western Australia. I. Rowley. 1988. *Corella* 12:109-112. -CSIRO, Div. of Wildl. and Ecol., LMB No. 4, P.O., Midland, W.A. 6056, Australia. -(Primary molt

starts with primary no. 6 and proceeds ascendently and descendently simultaneously, taking 155 to 185 days--longer in immatures than in adults. Molt pattern is similar to the few other parrots for which molt has been studied to date.) MKM

Methods and problems of sexing and ageing Australian waterfowl. R.T. Kingsford. 1988. *Corella* 12:120-121. -Natl. Parks and Wildl. Serv., Box 1967, Huntsville NSW 2220, Australia. -(Techniques and problems with use of intromittent phallus in sex determination and use of bursa of Fabricius and notch in tail feathers in age determination.) MKM

Acquisition of nuptial plumage in White-winged Fairywrens (*Malurus leucopterus*). S.C. Tidemann. 1989. *Corella* 13:15-17. -Conservation Commission of the North. Terr., Box 496, Palmerston, M.T. 0831, Australia. -(Banded males in New South Wales took up to three years to acquire full nuptial plumage. Timing depended somewhat on degree of dominance.) MKM

Identification of nestling egrets (*Egretta* sp. and *Ardeola ibis*). M. Maddock. 1989. *Corella* 13:24-26. -Faculty of Education, Univ. of Newcastle and Shortlands Wetlands Centre, New South Wales, Australia. -(A table details differences in various features of nestlings of four species, two of which (Cattle and Great Egrets) also nest in North America. Diagrams of the heads and photographs are included.) MKM

Sexing Red-throated Divers in Shetland. J.D. Okill, D.D. French and S. Wanless. 1989. *Ring. & Migr.* 10:26-30. -Heilinabritta, Tronda, Shetland ZE1 OXL, U.K. -(Sex of *Gavia stellata* can be determined by cluster analysis of weight and three measurements. Males are larger.) RCT

North American Banding Results

Saskatchewan spring bird migration -1982. J. Wedgwood. 1982. *Blue Jay* 40:197-202. -610 Leslic Ave., Saskatoon, Sask. S7H 2Z2. -(C.S. Houston's "low" banding total of 140 Great Horned Owls, compared with 400 in 1981, reflected an observed decline in this species.) MKM

Vancouver Island Brant 1989 -survey. N.K. Dawe and E.L. Nygren. 1989. *B.C. Nat.* 27(3):18-19. -Can. Wildl. Serv., R.R. 1, Site 142, C-14, Qualicum Beach, B.C. -(Observations of color-marked birds showed that most Brant wintering on Vancouver Island came from western

Alaska, but some were from northern Alaska and two from the Canadian Arctic. Lengths of stay of some individuals at a given area were determined, and some movements between study sites were documented.) MKM

Autumn use of Izembek Lagoon, Alaska by Brant from different breeding areas. A. Reed, R. Stehn and D. Ward. 1989. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 53:720-725. -U.S. Fish & Wildl. Serv., 1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99503. -(Adult Brant were radiomarked at five widely separated locations and 80% were found at Izembek.) RCT

Age-specific breeding rates of female interior Canada Geese. T.J. Moser and D.H. Rusch. 1989. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 53:734-740. -U.S. Fish & Wildl. Serv., Coop. Res. Unit 211 Russell Labs., 1630 Linden Dr., Madison, WI 53706. -(Geese were marked with neck collars or plastic leg bands. Data from 87 known-aged females were analyzed.) RCT

Movement and habitat use by Great Basin Canada Geese broods. L.E. Eberhardt, R.G. Anthony and W.H. Rickard. 1989. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 53:740-748. -Terrestrial Sciences Div., Pacific Northwest Lab., Box 999, Richland, WA 99352. -(Female geese with recently hatched broods were banded and radio-tagged to measure the area used to raise their broods. Seven of 41 tagged geese deserted their broods, and 12 lost their entire broods.) RCT

Mark-resight estimate of Canada Geese midwinter number. J.B. Hestbeck and R.A. Malecki. 1989. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 53:749-752. -U.S. Fish & Wildl. Serv., Patuxent Wildl. Res. Center, Laurel, MD 20708. -(28,849 geese were marked with yellow neckbands over three years.) RCT

Habitat use and home ranges of Black and Turkey Vultures. J.S. Coleman and J.D. Fraser. 1989. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 53:782-792. -Dept. Fish & Wildl. Sci., Virginia Polytechnic Inst., Blacksburg, VA 24061. -(Vultures were captured with rocket nets and in nest caves, marked with cattle ear tags attached to their patagia and 21 were radiotagged.) RCT

Home-range estimates of Red-tailed Hawks based on random and systematic relocations. D.E. Anderson and O.J. Rongstad. 1989. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 53:802-807. -Dept. Wildl. Ecol., Univ. Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706. -(Four hawks were radio-equipped and followed for 41 days in southeastern Colorado) RCT

Variations in age and sex ratios of wintering American Goldfinches trapped at baited stations. D.R.C. Prescott, A.L.A. Middleton and D.R. Lambie. 1989. *J. Field Ornithol.* 60:340-349. -Dept. Zool., Univ. of Guelph, Guelph, Ont. N1G 3W1. -(More males and immatures were banded than adult females.) RCT

Renesting by California Least Terns. B.W. Massey and J.M. Fancher. 1989. *J. Field Ornithol.* 60:350-357. -Dept. Biol., Calif. State Univ., Long Beach, CA 90840. -(Banded and color-banded terns were studied by intensive observation.) RCT

Structure of a wintering Dunlin population. G.M. Ruiz, P.G. Conners, S.F. Griffin and F.A. Pitelka. 1989. *Condor* 91:562-570. -Bodega Marine Lab., Box 247, Bodega Bay, CA 94923. -(Dunlin were mistnetted in a *Salicornia* marsh during evening high tides, measured and color banded.) RCT

Viability of salt marshes as nesting habitat for Common Terns in New York. C. Safina, D. Witting and K. Smith. 1989. *Condor* 91:571-584. -Natl. Audubon Soc., 306 South Bay Ave., Islip, NY 11751. -(Chicks were banded within one day of hatching, and weighed and measured every other day until fledging.) RCT

Forest characteristics related to Pileated Woodpecker territory size in Missouri. R.B. Renken and E.P. Wiggers. 1989. *Condor* 91:642-652. -School of Forestry, Fish. and Wildl., 112 Stephens Hall, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211. -(Pileated Woodpeckers captured at the nest cavity were fitted with backpack radio transmitters.) RCT

Insemination of Tennessee Warblers during spring migration. W.B. Quay. 1989. *Condor* 91:660-670. -Rt. 1, Box 327, New Bloomfield, MO. 65063 -(Warblers were mistnetted, banded and lavaged to determine the presence of sperm in males and females.) RCT

Foreign Banding Results

The diet of the Mountain Owlet-Nightjar (*Aegotheles albertsi*). M. Schultz. 1988. *Corella* 12:59-61. -167 South Beach Rd., Bittern, Vic. 3918, Australia. -(Coleoptera are the dominant prey, as determined from faeces collected at roosts and from birds in banding bags.) MKM

Seabird islands. Nos. 180-189. Each account by one or more of N.P. Brothers, R.D.W. Draffan, J.N. Dunlop, S.T. Garnett, E.F. Hall, R.W.H. Hindmarsh, R.E. Johnson,

K.R. Kerry, N.I. Klomp, P.W. Menkhorst, I.J. Skira, L.M. Smith, A.C. Williams and R.D. Wooller. 1988. *Corella* 12:69-99. -Address enquiries for issue to Australian Bird Study Assoc., Box A313, Sydney South, N.S.W. 2000, Australia. -(This fourteenth special seabird island issue of *Corella* covers one island each from Queensland and Victoria, four from Western Australia, and five from Tasmania. Banding on at least one island each included Little Penguin, Short-tailed Shearwater, White-faced Storm-Petrel, Australian Pelican, Pied Cormorant, Brown Booby, Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers, Silver Gull, Caspian, Common, Roscate, White-fronted, Black-naped, Bridled, Fairy, Crested and Little Crested Terns, and Common and Black Noddies. Recoveries and returns are also included.) MKM

Some aspects of the biology and conservation of the Thick-billed Grasswren *Amytornis textilli* in the Shark Bay area, Western Australia. M.G. Brooker. 1988. *Corella* 12:101-108. -CSIRO, Div. of Wildl. and Ecol., LMB No. 4, P.O. Midland, Western Australia 6056, Australia. -(Color-banding helped determine home range and density of this little-known species. Data on dimensions, molt and plumages are also included.) MKM

Selection of mates and sexual dimorphism by size in the Brown Falcon (*Falco berigora*). N.J. Mooney. 1988. *Corella* 12:124-126. -Wildl. Div., Dept. Lands, Parks and Wildl., Box 44A, Hobart, Tasmania 7001. -(Data on trapped birds and specimens indicate that wing chord is longer in females within any given pair, though overlap occurs between sexes.) MKM

Colour and first age of breeding in Cattle Egrets as determined from wing-tagged birds. M. Maddock. 1989. *Corella* 13:1-8. -Faculty of Education, Univ. of Newcastle and Shortland Wetlands Centre, N.S.W., Australia. -(Egrets at a breeding colony in New South Wales were classified into four color categories, ranging from white to a "full-"colored orange. Birds of all but full-colored were in their first year, but some first-year birds also acquired the full color of primarily older birds. Birds bred in all colors, with no relationship apparent between color and nesting success. Color was unrelated to sex.) MKM

Resightings and recoveries of banded seabirds at Heard Island, 1985-1988. E.J. Woehler. 1989. *Corella* 13:38-40. -Australia Antarctic Div., Dept. Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, Channel Hwy., Kingston, Tasmania 7050, Australia. -(Encounters in other subantarctic localities of birds banded on Heard Is. in the Indian Ocean and encounters at Heard Is. of birds

banded elsewhere include King Penguin, Wandering and Black-browed Albatrosses, Southern Giant-Petrel, Cape Petrel, and Great and South Polar Skuas. A 30+ -year-old Wandering Albatross and 19-year-old Black-browed Albatross are included.) MKM

Seabird islands, Nos. 190-196. Each account by one or more of J. Hicks, K. Hulsman, M.E. Jones, B.R. King, C.J. Limpus, A. Oldroyd, F. Savage and T.A. Walker. 1989. *Corella* 13:41-56. -address as above-(Includes recovery of Common Noddy and new bandings of Masked and Brown Bobbies, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, and Silver Gull.) MKM

Juvenile dispersal of Spanish Imperial Eagles. L.M. Gonzalez, B. Heredia, J.L. Gonzalez and J.C. Alonso. 1989. *J. Field Ornithol.* 60:369-379. -ICONA Servicio de Vida Silvestre, Gran Via San Francisco 35, Madrid 28005, Spain. -(Data were gathered from band recoveries, sightings of wing-tagged birds, and contacts with radio-tagged eagles.) RCT

Bayesian estimate of the number of Malachite Sunbirds feeding at an isolated and transient nectar resource. L.G. Underhill and M.W. Fraser. 1989. *J. Field Ornithol.* 60:382-387. -Percy Fitzpatrick Inst., Univ. of Cape Town, Rondebosch, South Africa. -(Capture-recapture data from a three-day period are used to illustrate a population estimation method, particularly useful for small populations.) RCT

Overwintering of Nearctic migrants in the Yucatan Peninsula. I: General pattern of occurrence. J.F. Lynch. 1989. *Condor* 91:515-544. -Smithsonian Environ. Res. Center, Box 28, Edgewood, MD 21037. -(Birds were mist-netted and color-banded at a number of sites.) RCT

Population structure, territoriality and overwinter survival of two migrant warbler species in Jamaica. R.T. Holmes, T.W. Sherry and L. Reitsma. 1989. *Condor* 91:545-561. -Dept. Biol. Sci., Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH 03755. -(American Redstarts and Black-throated Blue Warblers were netted, banded and color-banded using live and stuffed decoys and tape recordings to attract birds to the nets.) RCT

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl

RCT = Robert C. Twit

NOTE: We welcome Ronald A. Ryder to our abstracting contributors. He will abstract *Can. J. Zool.* New abstractors are still needed for *Bull. British Ornithol. Club*, *Ibis*

and *Living Bird Quarterly*. Several abstractors have not contributed abstracts for a considerable period and have not responded to enquiries as to whether or not they wish to continue their service to *NABB*. We thus assume that they are no longer able to participate and thank Noel J. Cutright, Lawrence R. DeWeese, Elmer J. Finck, Mike Kowalski and Paul E. Stake for their previous contributions. Robert C. Tweit has added some of the journals previously covered by them to his responsibilities: *Condor*, *Journ. Field Ornithol.*, and *Journ. Wildl. Manage.* Abstractors are needed for the following additional journals previously covered by them: *Auk*, *Birding*, *Bird Study*, *British Birds*, *Connecticut Warbler*, *Ecology*, *Jack-*

Pine Warbler, *Kansas Ornithol. Soc. Bull.*, *Kingbird*, *Loon*, *Passenger Pigeon*, *Science*, *Wildlife Monographs*, *Wildlife Soc. Bull.*, and *Wilson Bull.* In addition, exchange copies of *Ornis Fennica* and *Ring* are no longer received. Readers interested in abstracting any of these journals for *NABB* are invited to contact the Literature Editor at 218 First Ave., Toronto, Ontario M4M 1X4, Canada.

A full list of journals abstracted and their current abstractors will be listed in the next issue of *NABB*. The following journals, previously abstracted, no longer exist: *Alta. Bird Record*, *Ont. Field Biol.*, *Inland Bird Banding Newsletter*, and *Syesis*. -M.K.M.

News, Notes, Comments

Documentation of Winter Records of Swainson's Thrush in Ontario

Foy and Foy (1990) reported that a Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) which they banded in North Carolina on 12 November 1988 was questioned by the U.S. Bird Banding Lab. The bird in question was caught again in both December 1988 and January 1989. Since this species is found further north in Ontario until about 23 October with an extreme fall date of 11 November (James *et al.* 1976), a few late fall stragglers in the southern U.S. states might be expected, as a result of late hatching, injuries, or other factors. However, as the normal winter range of this thrush is in Central and South America (American Ornithologists' Union 1983), lingering into December and January is more unusual. Blom and Wilds (1984) considered all winter records of Swainson's Thrushes in North America as unlikely, as most lack substantiating details, and they knew of no specimen or photographic evidence.

An early March observation of a Swainson's Thrush in Toronto, Ontario in 1984 prompted me to review winter (December through March) records for that province (McNicholl 1985). Apart from my observation and the extreme early spring date of 23 March listed by James *et al.* (1976), I found no winter records outside December. However, I did find 11 or 12 December records (depending on whether sightings at two locations near Ottawa in 1984 involved one or two birds). All but two of these were sight records, and not all were properly documented, but at least four of these records were observations by some of Ontario's top birders, and two records were of birds observed for several days by Alan Wormington, the authority to whom most rarity reports

are sent for critical comment by the editors of *Ontario Birds*. In addition, detailed notes were taken by veteran thrush banders David Agro and David Shepherd of a Swainson's Thrush caught and banded at Long Point on 20 December 1984. Finally, a bird killed by striking a window at Kingsville on 2 December 1976 was identified as a Swainson's Thrush by R. Douglas McRae, who prepared the specimen for the collection of the National Museum of Canada (now Canadian Museum of Natural History). I have not conducted a thorough search of Ontario literature for records since 1984, but a Christmas bird count record of 16 December 1989 near Harrow is listed as being accompanied by "excellent details" and photographed (Pratt 1991).

These records do not detract from the importance of documenting out-of-season occurrences of any species, but do suggest that Swainson's Thrushes prevented for whatever reason from migrating can survive the earlier weeks of winter in at least the milder parts of North America.

Literature Cited

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. Check-list of North American Birds. Sixth edition. Allen Press, Lawrence, Kansas.
- Blom, R. and C. Wilds. 1984. The eighty-fourth Audubon Christmas bird count. Delaware, Maryland, D.C., Virginia. *American Birds* 38:410-411.
- Foy, D. and R. Foy. 1990. A case for credibility. *N. Am. Bird Bander* 15:149.