barred brown. No call was heard.' There could be no doubt that this was a Common Sandpiper.

On another visit on January 5, 1964, I found the Common Sandpiper, but not the tattlers, and again on February 5, when I was accompanied by J. R. Napier, we found all five birds and had close views of them. It was noticeable that as the weeks passed the brownish wash had spread and was almost uniform across the whole upper breast.

P. Bolger, who knew Common Sandpipers well in Britain, also saw the bird during January and was able to confirm my identification.—L. E. WALL, 63 Elphinstone Road, North Hobart, Tas.

Reviews

An Asian Bird-Banders Manual, edited by H. Elliott McClure and published by Migratory Animal Pathological Survey, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Box 6119, APO 323, U.S. Forces, Tokyo, 1964; 113 pp., 71 text-figs.

This informative well-illustrated manual, with its common-sense approach, has been prepared to aid the groups co-operating in the Migratory Animal Pathological Survey (MAPS), a unit of the U.S. Army Medical Corps operating (initially) in south-east Asia. In its compilation the editor has drawn on a number of sources—mainly North American but also the 'Australian Bird Bander'—for information on traps and techniques. The manual is 'for distribution to anyone interested in co-operating with a bird-banding project.'

The manual includes chapters on the use and care of mist nests; traps; banding kits; collection of specimens (including parasites, with drawings); record keeping; and an extraordinarily useful chapter, 'Trapping and Banding Idiosyncrasies'; this is a pithy guide, by orders and families, to all the tried and suggested methods for catching birds, and in many cases includes information on baits, nesting habits, and even warnings on the potential danger of handling some species. One example:

> Rallidae, Rails, Gallinules, and Coots. Most of the rails are secretive and skulkers and they are difficult to net or trap. Live-rat traps or small automatic traps baited with living grasshoppers or crickets will take them. Coots can be trapped in numbers in clover-leaf traps set in shallow water. The Malays make a bamboo flute with which they imitate the call of the water hen. This is used at night behind nets into which the attracted males will fly.

A 16-point statement (by Dr. Paul H. Fluck, President Eastern Bird-Banding Association, 1959), 'The Bander's Ethics', printed at the beginning of the manual, should be pasted in every bander's hat.

This reviewer has nothing but praise for a manual that will surely catalyze banding in Asia—and elsewhere; it is equal and good value for the novice and the professional.—W. B. HITCHCOCK.

Bird Migration in Malaya. Bird Report: 1963, compiled by Lord Medway and D. R. Wells. Malayan Nature Journal 18: 133-67, 1964.

The purpose of this short review is to draw the attention of Australian ornithologists interested in bird migration to the existence of this useful report—the second to be produced; the first covered the year 1962 and both are obtainable from the Hon. Secretary, Malayan Nature Society, P.O. Box 750, Kuala Lumpur, at $2.50 (Malaysian) each. The 1963 report contains news on current ornithological activity, a bird-banding report, details of several species new to the Malaysian bird list, observations on migrant raptors, waders and terns, and notes on the status, breeding, and movements of other selected species.—JOHN L. McKEAN.

Notes on two small collections of birds from New Guinea, by G. F. Mees: *Zoologische Verhandelingen* (Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden) no. 66, pp. 1-37, July 14, 1964. A systematic list (with taxonomic notes which are important for all workers on New Guinea birds) of 120 specimens collected in the Star Mountains by a Dutch expedition in 1959; and of 100 specimens collected in the Merauke district. There is a map and list of collecting stations.

Most of the birds obtained in the Star Mountains belong to widely distributed species and subspecies, but of two species that have well-differentiated eastern and western races—a Muscicapid, *Peneothello sigillatus*, and a Dicaeid, *Paramythia montium*—the birds from the Star Mountains belong to the eastern race. A new subspecies of another Dicaeid, *Rhamphocharis crassirostris*, is described.—W. B. HITCHCOCK.

Abnormal Plumage, by Noble Rollin. *Bird Research*, May 1964, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 1-44. This paper will be a valuable reference to those interested in abnormal plumage occurrence and causes. Abnormal plumage is usually assumed to be hereditary but a great deal of it is non-hereditary. Some of the known causes of non-hereditary abnormal plumage are artificial or un-natural feeding (with the resultant lack of natural or live animal food), humidity, injury, bi-coloration and age.—JOHN L. McKEAN.

Western Australian Bird Discoveries.—Important findings concerning Australian birds are reported in the *Western Australian Naturalist*, vol. 9, no. 4, May 1964. An article by Miss C. A. Nicholls ("Double-broodedness in the Silver Gull, *Larus novae-hollandiae*", pp. 73-77) offers a rational explanation of a problem—though not yet accounting for its underlying causes—which had long exercised the minds of naturalists. This is the phenomenon of a double-nesting season in some sea-birds in some areas. From birds kept in captivity Miss Nicholls has demonstrated that Silver Gulls in Western Australia are double-brooded, the interval between successive egg-layings being about three months. This phenomenon is not referred to in the detailed report of the Altona Survey Group (*Emu*, 63: 99), but Miss Nicholls draws attention to a long-overlooked observation by H. F. King (*Emu*, 12: 279) which first described double-broodedness in birds obtained at Port Lincoln in South Australia. This is the only species of gull which is double-brooded but the characteristic is unknown in eastern Australian or New Zealand birds. There is a suggestion, however, that it occurs in the South African population.

Dr. G. F. Mees, now at the Natural History Museum in Leiden, Holland, records two specimens of the Noisy Scrub-bird in that institution, one probably collected by John Gilbert in 1843 and the second probably by William Webb in the early 1880's.

A remarkable extension of breeding range of the Pelican is reported by D. L. Serventy and H. B. Shugg. Until lately the farthest south nesting station was in Shark Bay, where (as in all known colonies in Western Australia), the birds are winter breeders. In the season 1963-64 local naturalists were amazed to hear of nesting on islands in Peel Inlet, Mandurah (south of Perth) and the breeding season was in the spring and summer! Local evidence indicated that breeding first began at Mandurah in the season of 1962-63.

One of the highlights of the R.A.O.U. Congress in W.A. in 1963 was the discovery of a Kelp (or Dominican) Gull at Albany. Julian Ford ("The First Records of the Kelp Gull in South-Western Australia," pp. 86-89) describes this record in detail and adds particulars of an observation by himself of a bird near Jurien Bay, 125 miles north of Perth. The article is illustrated by a series of excellent diagnostic drawings by Miss C. A. Nicholls.

Another R.A.O.U. Congress discovery, the first occurrence of the Ruff in Western Australia (and the second for Australia) is described by Dean Fisher.—D. L. SERVENTY.