

small foster parents this instinct would be vital. Those lacking in it would die, those having it in the greatest degree would survive and pass on the instinct.

A great number, including most Australian species of cuckoo, have reached the stage in which the young cuckoo, about two days after it is hatched, works its body underneath either eggs or young birds, and throws them from the nest.

A Preliminary Note on the Banding of Swamp Harriers in Tasmania: The First Two Recoveries from Eastern Australia.—The route and destination of migrating Swamp Harriers from the Tasmanian region have long been a subject for speculation among bird observers. In January, 1957, one of us developed a successful live-trap for the species (Mollison, 'A Live-trap for Birds', *C.S.I.R.O. Wildl. Res.*, 2, 172-4, 1958), and commenced banding operations. Using this trap, and top-opening traps, the authors have subsequently combined to band Swamp Harriers and other raptorial birds, and have accumulated data on local re-traps, plumage, weights, and measurements, for later analysis. In this note we are able to record the first two recoveries of our banded harriers from outside Tasmania; the details are as follows:

Recovery 1. This bird was a white-rumped Swamp Harrier banded by B.C.M. on June 20, 1958, at Grimes Lagoon, Mona Vale—latitude 42.50, longitude 147.30. The Harrier was picked up dead (recently dead, but showing no signs of injury) on April 15, 1959, at Hovells Creek, near Geelong, Victoria—lat. 38.10, long. 144.20.

Recovery 2. A white-rumped Swamp Harrier banded by R.H.G. on October 10, 1958, at Antill Ponds—lat. 42.20, long. 147.30—was found dead (poisoned on carcase of domestic duck) on June 20, 1959, at Goodwood Island, near Chatsworth, N.S.W.—lat. 29.20, long. 153.10.

It is interesting to note that Recovery 1 was that of a bird (one of 3 or 4 on Grimes Lagoon at that time) overwintering in Tasmania in 1958, and shows that the Harriers remaining in Tasmania from May to August are not necessarily a separate 'resident' population, but migrate, as do the bulk of the Harrier population in autumn of each year.

After the 1959/60 banding season for harriers, we hope to give further details, embracing data accumulated in our banding research, but in this note confine ourselves to recording these interesting first recoveries.—B. C. MOLLISON, Hobart, Tas., and R. H. GREEN, Antill Ponds, Tas., 1/8/59.