

## **Publication of Passerine ageing and sexing Guide as OSNZ Occasional Series publication.**

Determining the age and sex of birds being banded is vital to demographic studies. Currently in Aotearoa there is no single guide covering the terrestrial birds likely to be caught during mist netting projects. With researchers having to rely on overseas guides, or gleaning information from other publications (i.e. HANZAB) for native and endemic species. Over the past decade, I have been working on a guide, similar to European and North America guides for our birds; this has been a long gestation period, with earlier drafts being much improved following feedback from other banders. Thank you to you all!

With Birds NZ developing their Occasional Publication series, it was obvious that this guide fitted perfectly with this publication method. As such the PAF approved a grant to cover the page layout cost for the Society's approved designer. The final publication of the Passerine ageing and sexing Guide will ensure all bird banders in Aotearoa can use it to help them accurately determine the age and gender of terrestrial birds. This will improve the quality of data collected from bird banding studies in this country and therefore improve the science which stems from this.

Mike Bell, 21 July 2025