

more than a mile or so from the point of ringing, and the only really distant one was two years later. Future returns may throw more light on this subject, but there are many other problems, some of them already being attacked by members as shown by the foregoing reports, which may be studied by those interested in trapping and ringing their local White-eyes.

NOTES ON THE LIFE HISTORY OF THE SILVER-EYE BASED ON COLOUR BANDING.

By C. A. FLEMING (Emu XLII, pp. 193-217).

This is apparently the first published study of an Australasian passeriform in which banding has been extensively used. It is an account of two incomplete years' observations, and the writer's caution that his main object in publishing so prematurely was to stimulate further work, should be taken seriously. Critical readers may find a few loose ends, but the work is a substantial beginning on a subject which anyone with a garden can continue.

The following tentative conclusions are reached:—

1. In a dense garden avifauna the Silver-eye, with three to five pairs per acre, is only less abundant than the Sparrow.
2. There is no evidence of true migration. Large winter flocks are formed by the gathering together of the breeding population of the district.
3. The same territory and the same nesting-tree are not infrequently used by the same pair of birds in successive seasons.
4. Territorial behaviour and related song are complex and need further study.
5. In Auckland the first eggs are laid during the first half of October. The time of the first laying may depend on the temperature. There are two, and maybe three, broods per season. A third nest may carry the breeding season into March.
6. Periods between mating and building, laying, hatching, and flight of young are given, together with some data on reproductive success and infant mortality.

All the points made in this detailed and painstaking paper need testing in other years and other districts. It is to be hoped that members will take Mr Fleming at his word when he modestly invites them to use this paper as a target for their criticism (the reviewer would prefer to say "as a foundation to build on"). In many ways, with its admirable photographs, charts, and diagrams, Mr Fleming's paper is a model of what a bird study should be.

Owing to war-time paper shortage there are insufficient reprints available for unrestricted distribution. A limited number of copies of the paper have been presented to the Society, and members who do not receive the "Emu," and who are undertaking banding work, may apply to the secretary for them, enclosing stamps for postage.

R. B. S.

MAGPIES.—Please send all notes immediately to Mr McCaskill, Training College, Christchurch.