

# Australian Field Ornithology

## Guidelines for Authors

Australian Field Ornithology welcomes original manuscripts and short notes on ornithology from the Australasian region (including Australia and its Territories, as well as Wallacea, New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia), particularly those reporting data derived from observing birds in the field.

Manuscripts are considered on the understanding that they are not simultaneously being offered elsewhere. Manuscripts are peer reviewed by two referees.

### Manuscripts

The text should be submitted in a Microsoft Word document. Authors should consult recent issues of *Australian Field Ornithology* for correct conventions to be followed, particularly on style, layout and capitalisation in titles, subheadings and references. Manuscripts should be submitted as email attachments to the relevant Editor (see website <https://birdlife.org.au/education-publications/publications/australian-field-ornithology>) with the subject line 'AFO submission'. Full contact details of the corresponding author must be supplied. Authors are encouraged to include their ORCID (<https://orcid.org/>) if they have one. Authors are strongly encouraged to suggest at least two appropriate referees for their manuscript.

*Australian Field Ornithology* suggests the use of the BirdLife Australia Working List of Australian Birds (<https://birdlife.org.au/conservation/science/taxonomy>) as the default taxonomy for Australian bird species, unless a clear case is made to use a different taxonomy. For species found only extralimally, IOC World Bird List (<https://www.worldbirdnames.org/new/>) names are used, although it would be useful to include alternative names in brackets when relevant. For Australian species, common names follow the BirdLife Australia Working List of Australian Birds.

**Title:** concise and informative, not more than about ten words, including scientific names as appropriate. Explicitly indicates the content.

**Abstract:** a concise, informative statement up to 5% of the length of the main text, for example the aim, locality and date of the study, the methods used, the major results obtained, and the main conclusions. A condensation of essential content, up to about 200 words depending on the length of the main text.

**Introduction:** gives the background to the paper, for instance it may mention previous related work (what is known or not known; cite references) and state the aim of the present study and/or the purpose of the paper. Normally, two or three paragraphs should suffice.

**Study area and methods (if appropriate):** presents relevant locality details (including latitude/longitude), habitat, climate, dates, and procedures used. Methods describe what was done, how and when. May include aspects studied, definitions of terms, any

assumptions made. Should include sufficient detail to enable others to repeat the procedure, unless described in detail elsewhere (cite references).

**Results (if appropriate):** summarises what the study found. May be divided into sections (subheadings) dealing with different aspects; may include tables and figures (these should be self-explanatory with concise, informative titles); presents the facts and any generalisations drawn from these. (Does not comment on or attempt to explain results—leave this for the Discussion).

**Discussion:** draws conclusions, interprets results, compares results with related work. May consider and comment on alternative explanations, suggest further work. In shorter papers, Results and Discussion may be combined.

Acknowledgements: briefly list help received during the study, manuscript preparation, any permission granted, funding, etc.

**References:** In the text, references should be cited chronologically by the author and date. All references in the text must be listed alphabetically at the end of the paper. Names of two authors are linked by an '&', and, in manuscripts with more than two authors, the first author is followed by '*et al.*' in the text. Papers that have not been published or are not 'in press' cannot be cited in the reference list, but can be cited as 'unpublished data' or 'pers. comm.' in the text. Reference to personal communications in the text should include initials. Legislation should be referred to in the manuscript, not in the reference list. Authors should consult a recent issue of *Australian Field Ornithology* for the style to be used when citing references. Titles of periodicals must be given in full. References should be in the following format:

Clarke, R.H., Carter, M. & Swann, G. (2009). Asian Brown Flycatchers *Muscicapa dauurica* on Ashmore Reef: First records for Australia. *Australian Field Ornithology* **26**, 123–131.

Beehler, B.M., Pratt, T.K. & Zimmerman, D.A. (1986). *Birds of New Guinea*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, USA.

Kavanagh, R.P. (2002). Comparative diets of the Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*), Sooty Owl (*Tyto tenebricosa*) and Masked Owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae*) in south-eastern Australia. In: Newton, I., Kavanagh, R., Olsen J. & Taylor, I. (Eds). *Ecology and Conservation of Owls*, pp. 175–201. CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.

Higgins, P.J., Peter, J.M. & Cowling, S.J. (Eds) (2006). *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand & Antarctic Birds, Volume 7: Boatbill to Starlings*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Maurer, G. (2007). Ecology and evolution of the Pheasant Coucal, *Centropus phasianinus*. PhD thesis. Australian National University, Canberra.

Bureau of Meteorology (2007). Monthly rainfall for Melbourne. Bureau of Meteorology, Canberra. Available online: [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au) (retrieved 3 December 2007).

**Tables, Figures and Images:** Tables and figures should be placed after the text and must be accompanied by a title and caption. In the final editing process, authors will be requested to send through figures as separate files. Figures should ideally be sent as JPEG or TIFF files and be at least 300 dpi resolution, or for maps generated through geospatial programs as EPS files. The proportions of tables, figures and images should fit within all or part of a single page, or in exceptional cases a double page. Allow for reduction (e.g. legibility of lettering or numbering) to fit to a page or part thereof of the journal.

**Appendices and Supplementary material:** Tables containing information not critical to the article but useful for replication or future research can be included as Appendices. Larger datasets relevant to the study but not suitable for inclusion in the main article or as Appendices could be supplied for inclusion as electronic supplementary material. Editors will determine the relevance and suitability of material proposed as Appendices or electronic supplementary material.

**Abbreviations:** Dr, Mr, Mt (Mount) etc. are not followed by a full stop if they are contractions (i.e. last letter of the word is part of the abbreviation). Names of states, e.g. Queensland, are not abbreviated except parenthetically (NSW, Qld). Compass bearings are not abbreviated in text (north, south-west) except in co-ordinates (30°30'S, 152°30'E). Metric measurements: SI units are used; km, cm etc. are separated by a space from the preceding numeral, and are not followed by a full stop (2 km, 3 m). Dates: written as 1 January 2012 in the text, but may be abbreviated (e.g. 1.1.12) in tables. Time: the 24-hour clock is used (0800 h, 1700 h); use standard time in preference to daylight saving (summer) time. Numbers: in text, numbers one to nine are spelt out unless measuring a quantity with units (2 km); otherwise numerals may be used. Numbers of five figures or more should be separated by a comma, e.g. 10,000. Spell out numbers at the start of a sentence, e.g. 'One hundred...' Page numbers are written 1–2 not 1 - 2 (use en-dash not hyphen). Scientific names: given in title and abstract (if appropriate), and in text after first mention of the English name of a species. Thereafter use only English names unless the argument (e.g. taxonomic or subspecific identity) demands otherwise. Quotes: double quotation marks are used for direct quotes and a page number from the reference for where the quote is sources is required.

**Copy edit:** revised manuscripts, as accepted by the editors, will be subject to a final copy edit, and any queries, by the assistant editor in consultation with the author(s) and applicable editor. This process aims to avoid any but essential corrections at proof stage. Proofs: authors are requested to carefully check the proof for errors. Changes other than essential corrections are not permitted at this stage, on the understanding that all other matters are finalised at copy edit. A PDF file of the final article will be sent to the corresponding author once published and that author is encouraged to share this file with colleagues, on social media and file sharing sites such as ResearchGate (<https://www.researchgate.net/>).