

140-03231 banded Bellambi 28-8-59
140-03512 " Bellambi 29-7-61

The Giant Petrel was wearing an American Fish and Wildlife Service band, and I have since received official notification that it was banded on Bird Island, South Georgia (presumably as a nextling) on February 1, 1962. This is in keeping with what is already known about the movements of Giant Petrels in their first winter after leaving the nest.

BIRDS OF PREY IN MIST NETS.

Frank Stewart and John L. McKean, Melbourne.

During the time we have been using mist-nets as a technique for bird-banding, we have netted four birds of prey, viz: Boobook Owl (Ninox novaeseelandiae), Little Falcon (Falco longipennis), Brown Hawk (Falco berigora), and Collared Sparrow Hawk (Accipiter cirrocephalus).

Contrary to expectations these species did not provide the trouble we anticipated. All four lay quietly in the net on approach and we were able to extract the birds by firmly holding the legs, so that the talons could not strike at the remover, and lifting the bird out of the pocket. All but the Boobook Owl were caught in small mesh nets which probably made things easier.

Norman Favalaro at the Victorian Bird Banding Conference, December, 1961, mentioned that hawks were easier to handle if their eyes were covered. This was done with the aid of calico holding bags when handling the three hawks and proved successful. We are not volunteering this information as being new or original as falconers have been covering hawks' eyes for centuries. Calico holding bags (A. & N.Z. Bank silver coin bags) were used for holding the birds during weighing.

So don't worry about hawks in mist-nets; we believe you will not have any troubles, however, we have yet to mist-net a Wedge-tailed Eagle!