

base of the cliff. The birds were then photographed, and banded with size 120 bands, after which they were restored to the nest, where they immediately settled down as if nothing had happened.

The whole operation took a total of 5 hours. During all this time the parent birds remained in attendance, made frequent swoops and dives at the nest, and uttered a high pitched chatter, which echoed loudly in the gorge. The actions, flight, cries and swift movements were quite unlike any other hawk species I have encountered.

Altogether the project was accomplished and watched by 17 people, including 4 ladies. Those present included H. T. Condon of the South Australian Museum, and Mrs. N. R. Daley, a well-known ornithologist. A film of the proceedings was made for the A.B.C., and subsequent publicity on television has aroused wide interest in the Australian Bird-Banding Scheme and has brought in a number of new helpers.

FIVE ISLANDS FORAY

B. S. Carter, Sydney

The Five Islands faunal reserve is, as the name suggests, a group of small islands, five in number, scattered off the approaches to Port Kembla on the south coast of New South Wales.

After an unexpected phone call and some hasty arrangements, the morning of the 3rd November saw Ron Mellor, John Edge and me, new chums to the Islands, up in the early hours and on our way with Harry Battam to rendezvous with Bill Lane, his son Trevor and John Disney, these latter two also being on their first visit. We headed for Thirroul and breakfast with Doug Gibson prior to meeting some of the members of the Illawarra Natural History Society at Red Point where a few trips in the Fauna Protection Panel's boat saw us safely on Island No.1.

The purpose of the trip was twofold. Apart from the Sydneysiders' banding operations the I.N.H.S. members began a survey of the sea-bird breeding populations, plant, animal and insect life and a geographic survey of the Islands. It is too early to give the results of these surveys but a note from

Allan Sefton discloses that there were over 17,000 Silver Gulls' nests on Islands 1 and 2.

The bird banding operations resulted in 2,477 birds being banded; details are given in the accompanying table, and it can be seen from this that we only scratched the surface of the gull population, according to Allan's figures.

Juniors, Trevor Lane and John Edge put in sterling performances, and John in particular should remember his first experience of banding for quite a while.

The following table, Table 1, shows the species found breeding on the islands, and the numbers banded in each case. It should be stated that penguins cannot be banded with the ordinary type of band, and that flipper banding should be done only in relation to special study projects, and only by those who are experienced in the use of flipper bands.

TABLE 1.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Banded</u>	
	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Young</u>
Little Penguin (<u>Eudyptula minor</u>)	-	-
Silver Gull (<u>Larus novae-hollandiae</u>)	-	1,541
Crested Tern (<u>Sterna bergii</u>)	9	855
Wedge-tailed Shearwater (<u>Puffinus pacificus</u>)	36	-
White-faced Storm Petrel (<u>Pelagodroma marina</u>)	36	-
<u>Totals</u>	81	2,396

No Short-tailed Shearwaters (Puffinus tenuirostris) were found nesting, although a few dead birds were found in the rookery and on the shores. (A great disappointment for Harry Battam as he had set his heart on banding one of this species). The other bird known to breed on the islands, the Sooty Oystercatcher (Haematopus unicolor) was observed feeding, but no evidence of nesting was apparent.

Sunday saw us up bright(?) and early and into the gulls and terns again, and as our bands ran out early we spent the time photographing the birds, until we were taken off the island.

In closing I should like to thank, firstly, Mrs. Gibson - on behalf of the Sydneysiders - for the most welcome and unexpected refreshments on Saturday morning, and secondly a special vote of thanks to Charlie Williams, our boatman who did a magnificent job with the boat and the "one lung" out-board motor.