

RECOVERY ROUND-UP

Recent recoveries of special interest, not discussed elsewhere in this issue :

1. Wedge-tailed Shearwater (Puffinus pacificus), 160-00419,
Banded as adult by F.K.Hersey at Lion Island, N.S.W. on
22 December, 1957.
Recovered off Sydney Heads, N.S.W. by W.J.Hawkins - "taken
while trolling for fish" - on 21 October, 1962, 20 miles
from banding place, and 58 months later.
2. Black Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo), 130-14431
Banded as nestling by N.J.Favaloro at Lake Pamamaroo, N.S.W.
on 29 October, 1961.
Recovered at Pomoota, S.A. by H. Duell - "Caught in trap" -
about 22 September, 1962, and band returned; 265 miles S.W.
from banding place.
3. Silver Gull (Larus novae-hollandiae), 080-12338.
Banded as nestling by J.D.Gibson at Five Islands, N.S.W.
on 3 November, 1956.
Recovered by E.G.Henbren, while fishing, at Sharncliffe,
Queensland, 500 miles N.N.E. from banding place. Band
removed and bird released. At 68 months, this is the oldest
Silver Gull recovered to date, and it is also an interesting
long distance recovery, though not a record.
4. Spur-winged Plover (Lobibyx novae-hollandiae):
(a) 080-32567 Banded as chick by D.Macdonald at Devonport,
Tas. on 21 September, 1958.
Found dead in a trap by S.B.Barne at Meander, Tas. about
1 August, 1962, 35 miles away and 47 months later.
(b) 080-69928 Banded as a chick by P.A.Allan at Pascoe Vale,
Vic., on 2 October, 1960.
Recovered at Eildon Weir, Vic. on 24 August, 1962, 93 miles away
and 22 months later. Band returned through Victorian fisher-
ies and Wildlife Department.
5. White-faced Heron (Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae), 100-23110
Banded as chick by N.J.Favaloro at Merbein, Vic., on
9 November, 1961.
Recovered by D. Berry - "caught in a trap" - at Purnong, S.A.
about 25 August, 1962, 145 miles W.S.W.
6. White Egret (Egretta alba) 110-30137
Banded as non-flying young by P.A.Disher at Gunbower Island,
Vic., on the River Murray, on 19 January, 1961.
Recovered by R.Nowland early in October, 1962 at Kiangi on the
Oktedi River, New Guinea (lat. 5° 40' S, long. 141° 00' E)
2080 miles from banding place.

7. Magpie Goose (Anseranas semipalmata), 130-06271
Banded by H.J. Frith on 9 December, 1957, at Litchfield Creek, N.T.
Recovered by J. Parry on 17 August, 1962, 60 miles W of Daly River police station; 56 months later and 280 miles S.S.E. of banding place.
8. Whistling Kite (Haliastur sphenurus), 110-02455
Banded by N.J. Favaloro at Lake Pamamaroo, N.S.W. on 30 September, 1961.
Recovered (shot) by E.H. Child at Rotamah Island, Gippsland lakes, Vic. on 18 July, 1962, 495 miles S.E. from banding place.
9. Eastern Silvereye (Zosterops lateralis):
(a) 010-20892 Banded by Miss G. Bowker at Port Fairy, Vic. on 6 August, 1960.
Retrapped by C. Austin at Willaroo, Vic. on 27 June, 1962, 64 miles N.N.W.
(b) 010-36546 Banded by N.W. Burnett, at South Grafton, N.S.W. on 9 June, 1962.
Recovered (found dead) by R. Pullen at Canberra on 23 September, 1962, 455 miles S.S.W. and 3½ months later.
(c) 010-45214 Banded by E. Wheeler at Terry Hills, Sydney, on 4 June, 1962.
Retrapped by J.D. Gibson at Thirroul, N.S.W. on 30 September, 1962, 47 miles S.S.W.
10. House Sparrow (Passer domesticus), 030-05966
Banded by W.B. Hitchcock at Canberra on 15 December, 1958.
Found dead, ½ mile from point of banding on 16 September, 1962, 45 months later.

Comment: The foregoing list of recent recovery highlights is also a commentary on the progress of bird banding in Australia. P.A. Dishor's White Egret from New Guinea is a spectacular recovery in anyone's language, and is likely to remain an outstanding recovery record for this species. Several other recoveries record long journeys too, though it should be remembered that what may be an exceptionally long journey for one species may be routine dispersal in another. Others which record the longest journey to date for some species, or the longest interval between banding and recovery, are indications of the youthfulness of the A.B.-B.S. rather than of the capacities of the species concerned. Five years appears no great age for a Shearwater, and the fact that 160-00419 is the "oldest" recovery to date is chiefly a reflection of the fact that five years ago the total number of birds and species banded in Australia was still comparatively small. Similar comments may apply to 4(a) and 4(b), the oldest recovery and the longest journey, respectively, so far recorded for the Spur-winged

Plover. Of course the fact that many of these "records" will soon be eclipsed does not detract from their value, as the essence of banding schemes is the accumulation of a large body of data from which a composite picture of the natural history of individual species can be built up. We note three interesting additions to the list of "distance" Silvereye recoveries; plumage details in these cases are not yet available. Congratulations to Norm Favaloro who has scored three very interesting recoveries in this list, a fitting reward for his energy and enthusiasm.

REPORT OF FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

The Bird Banders Association of Australia became a reality on 1st December, 1962 at a meeting in the Hallstrom Theatre in the Australian Museum, College Street, Sydney.

Business conducted at this meeting fell under the following headings :

President's Report: The President presented his report on the affairs of the Association. (see p.42).

Constitution: The constitution of the Association was read and unanimously accepted by those present.

Election of Officers: Office Bearers for the ensuing twelve months were elected; these are as follows:

President	S. G. Lane
Vice President	C. B. Campion
Hon. Editor	Dr. A. M. Gwynn
Hon. Asst. Editor	H. J. DeS. Disney
Hon. Secretary	B. S. Carter
Hon. Treasurer	R. G. Lonnon

Appointment of Auditor: Mr. G. T. Bush was appointed Auditor for the ensuing twelve months.

Treasurer's Report: The financial position was outlined (see p.4 and subscriptions for the next year were fixed by the meeting: Subscriptions are as follows:
Full Member 21 Associate Member 12/6 Junior Member 7/6.

General Business: Items covered under this heading included a suggestion regarding a membership drive along the lines of "Do you know anyone interested in birds, etc." the committee will be acting on this in the near future.