

on 10 to 15 burrows extending over approximately 200 yards of bank and then to patrol the area. As birds are observed in the nets they are removed, banded and released. Where a second bird is known or anticipated to be in the burrow the net is replaced.

So far no recoveries have resulted away from the banding site and this is not unexpected with so few birds banded (I have only banded 31 Rainbow Birds). However, five of these have been recovered at the banding site in the following season.

Details of the recoveries are set out below:

<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Sex.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>At.</u>
040-			
05203	F	B 7.11.58	Wallacia, N.S.W.
		R 29.11.59	" "
06806	F	B 30.10.60	Broke, "
		R 22.10.61	" "
* 06807	M	B 30.10.60	Broke "
		R 22.10.61	" "
06808	F	B 30.10.60	Broke, "
		R 21.10.61	" "
* 06809	F	B 30.10.60	Broke. "
		R 22.10.61	" "

* Breeding pair on each occasion.

BANDING AT MANOBALAI PUBLIC SCHOOL

Miss H.A.Doyle, Muswellbrook. N.S.W.

Manobalai is a small one-teacher school and of course the pupils are not registered banders, but the teacher is and some of the pupils are keen junior members of the Bird Banders Association. It is far more exciting than ordinary lessons!

We commenced operations in October, 1959, and so far have banded 45 species, but our total is only equal to a good day's work for the experts! Our best species is the White-plumed Honeyeater (Meliphaga penicillata) of which we have banded 71 and had several retraps. For a while the Red-backed Parrots (Psephotus haematonotus) and Peaceful Doves (Geopelia striata) were easily caught, but they are extremely cautious now and we don't often get one to band.

We depend almost entirely on two wire traps over water

dishes. The traps are only set occasionally, as lessons must not be interrupted, and the birds come and go freely at most times.

We have had a total of 46 retraps to date, most of them being White-plumed Honeyeaters, the most interesting being the following birds:

020-14226	banded	23.3.60	retrapped	9.3.62	
14235	"	13.10.60	"	28.9.61, 27.3.62	
14246	"	23.2.61	"	9.3.61, 28.9.61, 27.3.62	7.5.62
14247	"	23.2.61	"	27.3.62	

Of the Red-backed Parrots, only two have been retrapped:

060-18011	(adult female)	banded	16.10.59	retrapped	23.10.59
					19.10.61
18082	(adult male)	"	20.4.61	"	30.10.61

A Black-backed Magpie (Gymnorhina tibicen), 090-45603, banded as an adult on 17.6.60 has been retrapped on 23.6.60 and 14.11.62.

We have had several really exciting thrills. One was when we caught our one and only Mistletoe-bird (Dicaeum hirundinaceum). On another occasion we trapped a family of Regent Honeyeaters (Zanthoniza phrygia). This is the only time we have ever recorded them in our district and they soon passed on. Last autumn Yellow-faced (Meliphaga chrysops), Fuscous (M. fusca) and White-naped (Melithreptus punatus) Honeyeaters came in dozens for two days during a gale, but departed as soon as the weather changed. We didn't catch as many as we would have liked, owing to the limited time at our disposal.

Like fishing, it is the ones that get away that make the yarns worthwhile though!

MEETING IN SYDNEY. A meeting open to all members of the Association and their friends will be held on Saturday, May 11th, 1963 at 2 p.m. in the Hallstrom Theatre, the Australian Museum, College Street, Sydney. There will be a lecture on trapping and banding techniques, illustrated by slides and other gear, and it is hoped that a film will be shown, the subject yet to be decided. Further information may be obtained nearer the time from the Secretary or any other member of the Committee.
