

A couple of nights ago I set the trap with the usual mixture of bait -sweetened bread, raisins etc., and for good measure I threw in some fresh mincemeat in the hope that it might attract some form or other of raptore. The next morning I noticed one lid closed. I raced down to the trap with visions of anything from Boobook to Powerful Owl. On arriving at the trap, the contents, one full grown female Brush-tailed Possum with a half grown young one still on it's back. Needless to say a few scratches were collected getting them back to the nearest large tree.

"I have had quite a good success this past few months with Pied Currawongs, about a couple of hundred, should with a bit of luck get some recoveries."

MIST NET NEWS

S.J.Wilson, Canberra.

The standard mist net now being supplied to banders through the Central Bird-banding Association is considered to be the best on the market. However, there is no such thing as a perfect net and improvements are still being made.

A heavier shelf string will be included in future shipments of 20' x 9' and 30' x 9' nets as a few banders remarked on broken strings.

Another problem that is being overcome is the tendency to slight tearing at the ends, at the point where the vertical and horizontal strings meet. To overcome this the vertical thread will be inserted through the 2nd mesh from the end instead of through the end mesh. A heavier vertical outer thread was suggested but this cannot be done because of the method of manufacture.

A recent experiment by the British Trust for Ornithology is to "tether" the nets by means of a tie thread along the top of the net. This will have the effect, it is hoped, of preventing the moving of the slack to one end of the net in wind and should make it possible to net on windy days - days on which the mist netter is usually forced to pack up.

A small shipment of "tethered" nets is on the way from England in 30' x 9' and 40' x 9' sizes and banders who would like to try these should apply to the Association (2 Scott Street, Narrabundah, A.C.T.). These nets are a few shillings

dearer than normal, as follows :-

30' x 9'	£2 15	9	each.
40' x 9'	£3 12	9	each.

A REALLY FISHY STORY.

WANTED! Information regarding appropriate band size and method of banding mist-netted fish.

Page 14 of "The Bird Bander" No.2 spoke of the unusual catches we Wilsons have had in mist nets. On 16.12.62, while banding at Lake George we noticed some fish swimming very lazily on the surface in very shallow water, as though dying. Later in the day, while checking the nets I noticed something peculiar in the top shelf of a net 40 ft. from the water, and this turned out to be a live six inch carp!

During the following week thousands of fish were washed up, dead, on the shores of the lake. The fish we saw dying were probably affected by a disease which, according to newspaper reports, fisheries experts could not identify.

P.S. The fish in the net may be explained by the fact that there was a Kookaburra with wet feathers in the net eighteen inches away.

P.P.S. What would we have thought if the bird had escaped?

Denis Wilson, Narrabundah.A.C.T.

RECOVERY ROUND-UP.

Our star recovery in this issue is undoubtedly Doug Gibson's Wandering Albatross found at it's nest on Kerguelen in the Southern Indian Ocean 3½ years after being banded. Those of us with a special interest in albatrosses have for some time tipped that some of Doug's birds would be found among the breeding population at Kerguelen (the size of this population is quite unknown, except that from the size of the archipelago and other information it must certainly be large), if only someone could be persuaded to go and have a look. Now at last someone has.

Another striking recovery is Dom Serventy's Straw-necked Ibis, whose trans-continental journey confirms the no-