

several we were pleased to find that they were quite docile and easily handled.

Ray Lonnon was still able to study the Storm Petrels after he had bedded down for the night - they apparently decided that he was a welcome addition to the landscape and as each bird in the area emerged from its burrow it walked along Ray's body and launched itself into flight from his head. Ray reports that this Storm Petrel activity ceased about 1 a.m.

We awoke at 4.15 a.m. on Sunday, just as the last Shearwaters were leaving the island. The gear was soon packed and it didn't seem long before Peter Amour arrived in his boat to pick us up. On the trip back to Bateman's Bay we compared notes and found that 221 birds had been banded by the party.

The total was made up as follows:

White-faced Storm Petrel	189
Short-tailed Shearwater	26
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	6

BIRD-BANDING IN TOOLOOM SCRUB, NORTHERN N.S.W.

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During the period 5th to 14th December, 1962, John Disney, the Curator of Birds at the Australian Museum, Sydney, and I were engaged in a study of birds of the Tooloom Scrub. Our plan of work was mainly concerned with observations of the considerable avifauna of this area but limited banding was envisaged and as far as possible completed; mist-netting and consequent banding was attempted on three days. In addition, some birds were caught in bat nets, while two Buff-breasted Pittas (Pitta versicolor) were trapped in spring-door traps.

The area comprises a ridge some 20 miles long with its axis running N.E. to S.W. from the Macpherson Ranges region; the height of this ridge averages 2,100 ft. but reaches 3,500 ft. as a maximum. The vegetation on the steep N.W. slope and the lower S.E. slope consists of dry sclerophyll while the upper and middle areas of the S.E. slope are covered in rain forest. Two days of observations showed that the best netting areas would occur in the transition region at the top of the ridge between the sclerophyll and rain forest. Results confirmed this conclusion.

Because of the density of vegetation, the siting of nets was only possible along the few paths which existed. Rather than set up nets singly, two walls comprising 140 ft. and 100 ft. respectively of 9 ft. netting were established along two arms of a Y-shaped intersection, one wall in each arm. One wall produced consistent and good results while the other was only partially successful. In retrospect it seems that better results might have been produced if the latter wall had been broken up and nets set up individually at intervals along that same arm.

The following is a summary of the results of mist netting.

Rufous Fantail (<u>Rhipidura rufifrons</u>)	2	
Black-faced Flycatcher (<u>Monarcha melanopsis</u>)	3	
Northern Yellow Robin (<u>Eopsaltria chrysorrhoa</u>)	3	
Golden Whistler (<u>Pachycephala pectoralis</u>)	2	(1.M.1.F.)
Striated Thornbill (<u>Acanthiza lineata</u>)	3	
Brown Thornbill (<u>A. pusilla</u>)	2	
White-browed Scrub-wren (<u>Sericornis frontalis</u>)	3	
Grey-backed Silvereye (<u>Zosterops lateralis</u>)	3	("Sydney" type birds but slightly smaller and brighter.)
Eastern Spinebill (<u>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</u>)	4	
Lewin Honeyeater (<u>Meliphaga lewinii</u>)	4	
Yellow-faced Honeyeater (<u>M. chrysops</u>)	2	
Red-browed Finch (<u>Aegintha temporalis</u>)	10	
Satin Bower-bird (<u>Ptilonorhynchus violaceus</u>)	1	(Possibly juv. M.)
Regent Bower-Bird (<u>Sericulus chrysocephalus</u>)	1	(either F. or juv.M.)

All Sylviidae handled were in an advanced state of moult.

The most notable captures were achieved quite fortuitously. A line of spring-door traps baited with raw meat was set by the mammal study group led by Basil Marlow, Curator of Mammals at the Australian Museum; this line was laid in dense rain forest. On the morning of December 11th inspection of two traps showed that each contained a Noisy or Buff-breasted Pitta. A third bird of this species was trapped in a break-back trap on the same day, and using this individual, band size 050 was found to be correct. The possibilities of trapping ground birds using this spring-door trap method seem considerable; however, they should be investigated under the close supervision of an organisation such as the Australian Bird Banding Association and thereafter only used by experienced banders.

Since colours of soft parts in collections of skins fade rapidly, John Disney made full use of the opportunity to take

notes on these colours before each bird was released. These notes have formed a useful addition to information available at the Australian Museum; there appears to be very little on this facet of bird study in this establishment. Perhaps this deficiency could be rectified with the help of banders throughout the country.

In conclusion, it is felt that the results of these banding activities were satisfactory; the quantitative results did not come up to expectations, however the qualitative results more than atoned for this. In many ways it was a pity that more time could not be spared for trapping and banding.

SILVEREYES, FENNEL, AND CARROT APHIDS.

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Fennel (Foeniculum vulgare) is an introduced perennial weed. It generally grows to about 5 to 7 feet high and has a marked tendency to grow in lines along earthy banks.

The Carrot Aphid (Cavariella aegopodii) migrates to willows in autumn, breeds and overwinters as an egg. After the spring emergence they migrate to such plants as carrots, parsley and fennel. From February to late April they become numerous under the flowering umbels of fennel and Silvereyes (Zosterops lateralis) persistently feed on them. By luck, there is a rather extensive patch of fennel on a disused block of about 20 acres between Freeland Crescent (where I live) and the Trevallyn Power Station tail race. The block also contains several acres of blackberries which are an important item of diet of Silvereyes in autumn.

In 1962 I became aware of the concentration of the Silvereyes on the fennel, and in late February and March I netted and banded some 478 on 23 mornings, using one 40 ft. small-mesh mist net plus a couple of larger mesh nets. These latter are not much use for Silvereyes.

During this autumn I concentrated on Silvereyes, basically to build up a substantial population of birds banded in Tasmania for possible retrapping by mainland banders. On 48 mornings between February 10 and April 25, I banded a total of 1,398 Silvereyes, using four 40 ft. and one 60 ft. nets. Eleven of the 478 birds banded a year ago and one of 16 birds banded in May, 1961, were also retrapped.

Because of the marked liking of the Silvereyes for the aphids on fennel, banders interested in netting Silvereyes