

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.

J. LIDDY, RIVERSIDE. TASMANIA

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

should investigate their home localities for patches of fennel; the figures quoted above indicate what can be done. I had hoped to net this area over a period of several years; however we will be leaving Tasmania soon.

Editor's Note: So now we know! We have been wondering how John Liddy has been scoring at such a rate more or less single handed. This "injection" of banded Silvereyes into the Tasmanian population must, we feel, be reflected in the number of birds wearing Tasmanian bands among the migrants visiting the east coast as far as Sydney and farther north. (Query: how much farther north?) So we urge all banders in the Eastern States interested in trapping Silvereyes to redouble their efforts in the coming months, and hope for a good crop of recoveries to tell us more about the movements of the real Tasmanians.

Canberra banders have also been busy, with a total of over 1,000 Silvereyes banded in the first five months of this year, major contributions being Steve Wilson (661), Ken Simpson (180), Bill Belton (99) and John McKean (81).

SPECIAL NOTICES

1963 EXPEDITION TO LORD HOWE ISLAND:

John McKean and five other banders are off to Lord Howe Island again - this time in September - to work on the Brown-headed Petrel (Pterodroma melanopus) and other species. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact John at C.S.I.R.O. Division of Wildlife Research, P.O.Box 109, City, Canberra, A.C.T.

BAND NUMBERS:

Banders are reminded of the necessity for careful reading and checking of bands on retrapped birds particularly the smaller sizes. Due to the recent shortage of size 1 (010) bands, some Silvereyes were banded (with approval) with size 2 (020) bands, so watch carefully both the three-figure as well as the five-figure group on the bands to avoid disappointment due to wrong numbers.
