

1963 EXPEDITION TO LORD HOWE ISLAND.

John McKean has forwarded the following details of birds banded by the party who recently visited Lord Howe Island. (A Notice about this expedition appeared on p.110 of our issue of June, 1963):

1	Woodhen (<u>Tricholimnas sylvestris</u>)
4,224	Fleshy-footed Shearwaters (<u>Puffinus carneipes</u>)
2	Little Shearwaters (<u>P. assimilis</u>)
50	Wedge-tailed Shearwaters (<u>P. pacificus</u>)
34	Brown-headed Petrels (<u>Pterodroma melanopus</u>)
479	Sooty Terns (<u>Sterna fuscata</u>)
103	Masked Gannets (<u>Sula dactylatra</u>)

The large scale banding of the Shearwaters was made possible by a generous grant from the M.A.Ingram Trust to cover the cost of the monel metal bands.

NOW IT'S FLEAS!

Dr. G. M. Dunnett, University of Aberdeen, has sent a request asking for fleas parasitic on sea-birds. The fleas of these birds are almost restricted to the nests or young nestlings and are very rarely found on the flying birds themselves. Generally speaking these fleas are not very active and appear as small, usually dark brown to black narrow insects moving among the debris in the nest lining. The easiest way to find them is to take a handful of the nest material and leave it on a clean sheet of paper or cloth, when the fleas will be seen crawling among the material or even jumping very short distances. As far as is known the species on these birds do not bite man, so collectors will not be exposed to any great hazard!

Specimens should be placed in small tubes with 80% alcohol or methylated spirits. The label, written in india ink or pencil, is best placed in the tube, and should indicate the host, locality and date, and collectors name and address. They should be sent direct to Dr. Dunnet or to Mr. J. H. Calaby, Division of Wildlife Research, C.S.I.R.O. Canberra. All specimens forwarded in this manner will eventually be lodged in the Australian National Insect Collection.