mist-netters, so that this could be utilised by those desirous of taking up mist-netting and secondly to find out what standards should be observed on such problems as length of time nets should be left unattended, netting during the breeding season and so on. Owing to shortage of time a thorough summary and discussion of the subject was not possible.

In closing the conference, Mr. Wheeler thanked the speakers, all those who had helped to make the gathering such a success, country members for the efforts they had made to be present, and in particular the Fisheries and Wildlife Department for again making their library available for the conference. Finally he invited members to attend the R.A.O.U. outing at Yellingbo on the morrow.

David Noonan,
Roy Wheeler.

BANDING EASTERN SPINEBILLS

S.G.Lane, Lane Cove, N.S.W.

Until I commenced banding with mist nets, I was completely unaware of the extent of the population of Eastern Spinebills (Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris) even in the area of my home.

During a particular day, one or two of these birds could be seen or heard feeding in the garden or, with their characteristic swift flight, moving between feeding plants. From casual observation it was assumed that these birds constituted a small resident population, the same birds returning regularly throughout the day to the same place.

After more than four years banding in one area at North Ryde (Sydney), N.S.W., it is prudent to examine the results, as these may assist others commencing similar methodical activities.

The Spinebill is not easily attracted to traps and I have never caught one in this fashion. It is, however, a bird easily caught by mist nets correctly sited in suitable places.

The banding area at North Ryde is approximately 300 yards long by 50 yards wide. It consists of a mixture of coastal heath and open forest, part sandstone and part shale vegitation bordered by a large row of exotic Coral Trees (Erythrina sp.).

The area is generally in the natural state with partial clearing along the access road. Various banksia species form the main attraction to these birds particularly during autumn and early winter while the Coral Trees provide additional food in the late winter and early Spring.

I first began banding in this locality in May, 1959, concentrating on Silvereyes. The time spent and the number of visits in any period varies with the circumstances, both my own (availability) and the bird population. At times when Silvereyes are moving through, it is necessary to band as often as my spare time will permit and this regularly involves some hours of one or both days most weekends for three to four months. At other times (during late spring and early summer), it is advisable to net no more frequently than once a month. Nearly 250 visits have been made in just over four years. In 1962, fifty-one visits were made for a total of 126 netting hours, and the number of nets in use during each visit varied from one to six.

The Spinebill is considered to be a resident or sedentary species but what constitutes its area of activity?

Banding figures: In order to relate juveniles to banding figures, the approximate annual periods have been taken to commence from 1st July (with the exception of 1959), as breeding usually takes place during the spring, summer and sometimes early autumn months.

Banding Period:	Total Number Banded	Number of Juveniles Banded.	Percentage of Juveniles Banded.
May 59 to June 60	23	3	13
July 60 to June 61	31	10	32
July 61 to June 62	59	2	3
July 62 to June 63	64	20	31
July 63 to Dec. 63	17	3	17
TOTAL:	194	38	19

Birds retrapped:

27	birds	have	been	retrapped	once
12	"	"	"	"	twice
8	"	"	"	"	three times
2	"	"	"	"	four times
2	"	"	"	"	five times

51 individuals retrapped = approximately 26% of birds banded.

Of these retraps:

7 birds have been retrapped more than 12 months after banding
3 " " " " " " 18 " " "
3 " " " " " " 24 " " "
2 " " " " " " 36 " " "

and the remainder were retrapped less than 12 months after banding.

My oldest recovery of this species to date was a bird banded not at North Ryde but at Lane Cove (010-06604) on 23.9.59, adult female, retrapped on 13.9.62 at banding place and subsequently found dead on 10.12.63 about half a mile from banding place (band returned to C.S.I.R.O.) putting the age of this bird at over 50 months.

Only six of the juveniles (approximately 17%) have been retrapped in the banding area but these provide significant information.

Band Number:	Date Banded:	Retrapped:
010-05159	1.1.63	26.1.63(J) 12.5.63(A.F.) 25.5.63(A.F.)
010-05175	26.1.63	13.4.63(A.M.) 4.5.63 (A.M.)
010-41811	3.2.63	9.11.63(A.F.)
✱ 010-41869	12.5.63	15.6.63(A.M.)
+ 010-41887	2.6.63	30.6.63(A.F.)
010-41904	15.6.63	23.6.63

✱ recorded as juvenile, changing into adult plumage when banded (?F.)
+ " " " " " " " "

Note: (A.F.) = Adult female: (A.M.) = Adult Male.

From this brief information it seems that juveniles attain adult plumage within a few months (010-05159 and 010-05175 are examples).

Recoveries: Three recoveries have been obtained away from the banding locations (see Vol.1.No.7, p.179 and Vol.2.No.1, p.25).

010-05126 Banded as juvenile at Lane Cove on 18.11.62. Recovered (killed by cat) at French's Forest on 3.9.63 (9½ months later), 5 miles N.N.E.

010-05164 Banded as juvenile at North Ryde on 13.1.62. Recovered (in mist net) by D. Nicholls at Rocky Creek, East Gordon, on 14.9.63 and again

on 21.9.63 (20 months later), 2.9 miles N.E.

The two retrappings occurred about 200 yards apart.

010-58446 Banded as juvenile at Lane Cove on 22.11.63. Recovered (in mist net) by author at North Ryde on 31.12.63 (still in juvenile plumage) 2 miles N.E.

It is worth noting that, so far, the only recoveries away from the banding location have been birds banded as juveniles.

Summary: Banding has revealed that Eastern Spinebills are in greater numbers in any one location than casual observation indicates, and at the close of the breeding season there is a large "drifting" population of juveniles, some of which may move quite a distance from their natal area. The farthest distance so far is five miles but is this the maximum? What is the extent of the adults feeding movement during breeding and how far do they roam outside of the breeding season? These and other questions remain to be answered by further banding studies.

EVENING MIST-NETTING

J. Liddy, Kingscliff N.S.W.
9. Feb. '64

Early to bed and early to rise is an occupational way of life forced upon the bander who regularly uses mist nets, as normally nets should be fully erected by sunrise at latest. It was thus a pleasant surprise to find that White-cheeked Honeyeaters (Meliornis niger) are more effectively netted in the late evening than in the morning when feeding on flowering Banksia in coastal heath. One area near Cabarita has now been netted three times during an evening and following morning, twice in conjunction with Harry Battam. On each occasion relatively better catches were made during the evening, considering the restricted evening time available and the more adverse wind and sun conditions. On the night of 5/6 February I was able to net on a patch of flowering Banksia 4 miles north of Woodburn, and confirmed Cabarita experience. Thirty-nine birds were netted between 5 and 7 p.m., during which time the nets were also erected, as against 20 for the following morning until 7.30 a.m. This patch of heath straddles the Pacific Highway and good netting spots are available quite close to the highway. The Banksia seemed to be just starting to flower and should attract Honeyeaters in numbers at least