

Banding of Feral Domestic Pigeons

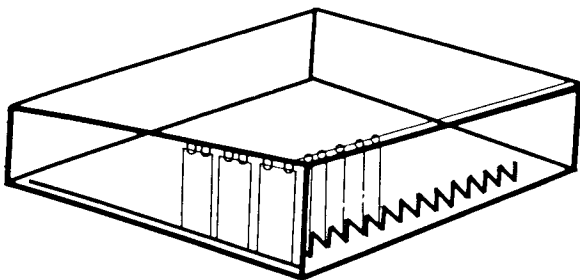


Figure One

BOB-WIRE TRAP

left plain stop-board

right saw-tooth stop-board

Excluding a few cases in which birds were retaken on the day after banding, 97 of the 893 birds banded during the winter of 1965 were retrapped some 117 times.

There were two cases of the retrapping of birds which were apparently associated during their winter stay. The best example is:

Band number	Age	Sex	Date banded	Dates retrapped	
011-13732	A	M	3.7.65	31.7.65	
011-13734	A	M	3.7.65	31.7.65	22.8.65
011-13735	J	M	3.7.65	31.7.65	22.8.65

The status of the Spinebill in the coastal heaths south of Forster, in mid-northern N.S.W., seems very different from that in the heaths around Kingscliff and Hastings Point. On holidays at Forster during October and November, 1964, eleven Spinebills were netted on five mornings. At this time of the year, Spinebills are quite absent from the apparently similar heaths near Hastings Point and Kingscliff.

References

- Lane, S. G., 1964. "Banding Eastern Spinebills", *Aust. Bird Bander*, 2:8-11.
- Wilson, S. J. 1964. "The Eastern Spinebill in the A.C.T.", *Aust. Bird Bander*, 2:100-106.

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Around urban areas of many parts of the world feral Domestic Pigeons (*Columba livia*) are a common nuisance bird. They foul buildings, factories, hangars, docks, railway yards, and grain elevators. At several airports, including those at Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, aircraft have struck and, in a few cases, have been damaged by pigeon flocks.

Practically nothing is known about the movement and distribution of feral pigeons in Australia. Members of the Australian Bird-banding Scheme can help to fill this hiatus in our knowledge about an economically important bird by banding feral pigeons with size 9 bands.

Care should be taken *not* to band domestic birds, or otherwise antagonise pigeon fanciers. It is known that feral flocks are augmented by escapees and lost birds from domestic flocks. Bird-banders should report the numbers of privately banded pigeons they handle or trap to the bird banding office on form WLS/B-BS/15, the Retrap Schedule, so that the owners may be traced and informed.

Pigeons can be caught in baited drop, funnel, and bob-wire traps. A drawing of a bob-wire trap is shown on figure one. Funnel and bob-wire traps function best when initially free-baited for a few days. The traps should contain both seed and water as bait. Pigeons in the trap help to bait others in. Traps should be placed in the shade during warm weather, and in sheltered positions during cold and windy weather. The usual care should be taken in checking the traps regularly.

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THANK YOU

The Committee wishes to thank all those members who responded so generously to the recent appeal for donations and new members. Whilst the response has been encouraging continued effort on the part of all members is requested.