

these with acetone, and while it dries we enter particulars of the bird's plumage in our field book. We measure the length of the tarsus and then we weigh the bird. For this we use a small wooden holding cage. It has two drop doors which are held shut with elastic loops over a screw on top of the box. We place the bird into the box through one door, then suspend it on a hanging balance for weighing. We allow the bird to fly free by opening both doors. The whole procedure takes about 10 minutes.

Results

From June 12 until the end of September, 1965, we banded 160 Satin Bower-birds, including 2 mature blue males, and 3 males showing patches of blue feathers. 36 birds have been retrapped, many several times, and 80% of those banded

have been resighted at our food trays, most returning regularly until all went walk-about for the summer. The dispersal occurred early this year, between September 24 and September 30. So far all bands have been in perfect order when birds have been retrapped. Before dispersal we had many reports of banded birds at food trays or at berry trees from people as far as 6 miles down the mountains to ten miles west, as well as from locations adjoining gullies or parks about the district.

One bird has been recovered dead approximately 1 mile away, and one bird was captured in a fowl yard about 4 miles away. This bird was released unharmed.

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EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS

Short-tailed Shearwater Banding Progress

We are particularly glad to be able to publish the following letter, as apart from a few sporadic recoveries, nothing has been published for some years about the banding results of the detailed research programme which Dr. D. L. Serventy has conducted on the Short-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*) in the Bass Strait for the past 18 years. It is a reply from Dr. Serventy to an enquiry about a Shearwater recovered in Botany Bay last November (see "Recovery Round-up", p. 17):

"I am very pleased to respond to your letter of January 4 and to give you some information on the interesting recovery of *Puffinus tenuirostris* at Botany Bay. The circumstances are as follows:

"The bird, No. 16122, was ringed with a Tasmanian Fauna Board band by me at Little Green Island in the Furneaux Group on March 17, 1952, as a fledgling. It was found dead on November 19, 1965, at Botany Bay, New South Wales. He reported that the bird was quite fresh and in very good condition and did not appear to be injured in any way. Apparently it was exhausted in the heavy south-east gale winds that were experienced the previous night. The winds reached a maximum of 70 miles per hour. This bird was 13 years and 8 months at the time of death.

"However, we have a fair number of recoveries of older birds. I started ringing Mutton-birds on Fisher Island in Nov., 1947, and of 70 breeding birds ringed at that time 11 were found breeding there last month, i.e. 15.7% after 18 years.

"The Botany Bay bird is unusual in that the majority of the beach mortalities on the East Australian coast in the spring and early summer are birds in their first year. Thus of a grand total of 99 ringed birds found dead in the Tasman Sea area between 1951-52 and 1964-65, 43 of them were first year birds.

"An extensive marking programme on this species has, in recent years, been considerably accelerated by the co-operation of the Victorian banders. Since we started using monel bands in 1950 a grand total of 53,687 birds have been marked up to the 1965 season. Of these 40,690 were marked as fledglings and 12,997 as adults. Out of the total of 40,690 fledglings the Victorians have marked 23,237 birds. Most of the banding takes place in Victorian and Tasmanian rookeries but the entire breeding range of the species from New South Wales to South Australia has been tackled.

"I am very interested to hear of the recovery of the *Puffinus pacificus* (see Recovery Round-up, p. 17) which was marked as a fledgling in March, 1958. This bird was approaching 8 years of age when found but if this species behaved similarly to *Puffinus tenuirostris* it is probable that it had started breeding earlier. The age at first breeding of female *Puffinus tenuirostris* varies between 5-7 years and the mean commencing age is 5.3 years. Males started breeding, on the average, a year later (or older)."