

Junior Members' Corner

Bird Banding at Manobalai Public School

(Manobalai is a "small one-teacher school" where Miss Helena Doyle has conducted a small banding project with the aid of her pupils since October, 1959. This very interesting venture is briefly described by Miss Doyle on p. 61 of Vol. 1 (March, 1963) of *The Australian Bird Bander*, and a further note from some junior members of this group appears on p. 111 of the same volume (June, 1963). Latin names have been inserted in accordance with our usual practice.—**Editor.**)

Manobalai Public School is situated 19 miles north-west of Muswellbrook, in the upper region of the Hunter Valley, New South Wales.

At the school we have a bird table and bath with a bird-netting trap over the water. The birds can come and go as they please, but when we are not too busy with lessons, or in playtime, we catch and band them.

Some interesting retraps we have recorded at our school are:—

Eastern Shrike-tit (*Falcunculus frontatus*), band No. 030-15205*, was banded as an adult on 9.3.60 and was retrapped on 18.2.63 and again finally retrapped on 12.11.64. We think this Shrike-tit is the oldest known banded one and is a record. It was retrapped four years, eight months and three days after the original banding date.

An adult Noisy Miner (*Myzantha melanocephala*) with band No. 060-18064*, was banded on 6.7.60 and was retrapped on the following dates, 22.9.61, 3.4.64 and on 21.6.65 just fifteen days short of five years. This is the longest retrap time for any bird at our school.

Another interesting retrap was a White-plumed Honey-eater (*Meliphaga penicillata*), 020-14234 (adult) banded 13.10.60, retrapped 3.7.61 and again 12.8.65. It was in perfect condition and so was the band.

Some other minor dates of banding and retraps at our school are:—

Grey Shrike Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*) adult, banded 20.4.61, retrapped 2.11.63.

Peaceful Dove (*Geopelia placida*) adult, banded 27.11.62, retrapped 28.11.62, 19.3.64.

White-plumed Honey-eater (adult), banded 23.2.61, retrapped 9.3.61, 28.9.61, 27.3.62, 7.5.62.

Red-backed Parrot (*Psephotus haematonotus*), adult female, banded 16.10.59, retrapped 23.10.59, 19.10.61.

Black-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) (adult), banded 17.6.60, retrapped 23.6.60, 14.11.62.

We do not do much banding at all because of lessons, but we have found out a lot about the lives of birds. I knew when I caught the Noisy Miner on 21.6.65 that it had been banded a long time ago because the band was so dirty, but all of the retraps have had bands in good condition and the birds have been quite unharmed.

We have found out quite a lot about bird life and I sincerely hope we have contributed to the work of the C.S.I.R.O.

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* See *Recovery Round-Up*, Vol. 3, No. 4, p.77.

SECRETARY'S TRIBULATIONS

Following up a recovery report (found dead), the Secretary of the A.B.B.S. received this reply to a request for return of the band:

"My wife buried the bird and after I had dug up half of my garden trying to find same, I decided that you will have to do without the band!!"

Subscriptions are now overdue. Early remittance would be appreciated.