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TWENTY-EIGHT YEAR OLD GALAH

On 25 September 2001, a wing-tagged Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla* was taken by a member of the public to the Wattle Grove Veterinary Clinic as it was unable to fly.

Veterinarian Tim Oldfield examined the bird and X-rayed the damaged wing. He found that the wound had been caused by fighting or an accident; he emphasised that there was no damage at or near the site of attachment of the wing-tags. The bird was euthanased after Tim had talked to me, since the bone had become infected.

Galah 200-05239 was captured at the CSIRO Wildlife Laboratory at Helena Valley as a brown-eyed juvenile (= in first year) on 28 June 1974. It was subsequently reported to me as an adult male seen several times around Helena Valley before moving up the Darling escarpment to Kalamunda and Gooseberry Hill, from where it was reported on October 16 1990, February 17 1997 and July 19 1999. It had moved a distance of c. 5 kilometres and 200 metres in altitude. However, it was recovered back in Helena Valley, when it was estimated to be 28 years old.

The photograph (Fig 1) shows that the stainless steel band has lasted extremely well and shows no sign of wear. The tags which were red anodised aluminium discs (see Rowley and Saunders 1980, Corella **4**, 1-7) have also worn very well and were still quite legible, 27 years after placement.



Figure 1. Photograph of stainless steel band 200-05239 and red anodised aluminium wing tags removed after 27 years on a Galah banded as a juvenile in June 1974 at Helena Valley, Western Australia.

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