

Tasmanian Type Silvereyes in New South Wales

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Tasmanian type Silvereyes *Zosterops lateralis tasmanica* are distinguishable by the rufous flanks and a grey or white throat sometimes with a little yellow usually near the chin. Plumage differences for these and other silvereye types occurring in south-eastern Australia have been given previously (Lane 1962, 1966).

Normally Tasmanian type Silvereyes arrive in the Sydney district in May and depart in September each year. I know of only one record between November and March. Mr J. E. Walsh informed me that he had caught about 50 silvereyes at La Perouse near the entrance to Botany Bay shortly after daylight on 22 February 1964. These birds were netted as they sought cover in a hedgeline. Walsh stated that the birds seemed somewhat exhausted. From his description given to me the same day, most were apparently Tas-

manian type birds. In that season I recorded the first Tasmanian type Silvereyes on 30 May, later than in most other years.

My own earliest arrival date recorded for the Sydney district is 24 April and the latest departure date 8 October. I have only two records for October and usually the majority of the Tasmanian type Silvereyes have departed by mid September.

The percentage of Tasmanian type Silvereyes among winter flocks near Sydney varies rather considerably. Of 716 silvereyes caught near Mount Keira at the southern fringe of the Sydney district on 6 May 1967 and 218 on 7 May 1967, the percentages were:

Type	6 May 1967	7 May 1967
Tasmanian	75.9	41.6
Sydney	2.5	3.7
Others	21.6	54.7

The average percentage of Tasmanian type birds banded during seven winters at North Ryde (Sydney) was 61 per cent. On some days the figure exceeded 80 per cent while in August 1959, 85 per cent were Tasmanian type birds. Table 1 shows the numbers banded at North Ryde in the months of May to September from 1959 to 1965, with the percentages of Tasmanian type birds which are included in the numbers banded.

In June, July and August 1965, I banded 288 silvereyes at Lane Cove of which 181 (63%) were Tasmanian type birds. During May only four local type silvereyes were caught while none was caught in September.

just able to fly. Traps set to catch the female were ignored and the young were encouraged by their parents to move further off. The banded birds were seen in the vicinity for a few weeks but no attempt was made to raise a second brood.

The maximum period from early nest building until the young left the nest was 42 days. The periods for laying/incubating and hatching to fledging are within the range given by Courtney and Marchant (1971).

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Reference

Courtney, J. and Marchant, S. (1971), 'Breeding Details of Some Common Birds in South-eastern Australia', *Emu* 71: 121-133.

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TABLE 1

The number of silvereyes banded at North Ryde in the months May to September from 1959 to 1965.

Year	May		June		July		August		September		Total	
	Number Banded	Tas. Type	Number Banded	Tas. Type	Number Banded	Tas. Type	Number Banded	Tas. Type	Number Banded	Tas. Type	Number Banded	Tas. Type
1959	18	7	32	17	54	37	143	121	--	--	247	74%
1960	34	6	93	46	87	70	125	77	—	—	339	59%
1961	27	12	35	18	9	6	35	14	118	45	224	42%
1962	37	21	9	5	20	6	63	44	108	76	237	64%
1963	37	21	35	16	26	18	87	58	275	144	460	56%
1964	10	1	41	25	68	37	198	148	48	12	365	61%
1965	--	--	--	--	117	86	177	139	11	4	305	75%
Total	163	68	245	127	381	260	828	601	560	281	2177	61%

Both North Ryde and Lane Cove banding sites are within the silvereye migration path but Swanson (1968) has recorded a vastly different situation at Five Dock, some five kilometres south of Lane Cove. There in July, August and September 1965, she caught 189 silvereyes including only three Tasmanian type birds.

At Grafton, N.S.W., Mr P. D. Strong (pers. comm.) banded 553 silvereyes from 29 May to 21 August 1965, including over 30 per cent (167) Tasmanian type birds; the daily figures varied from 17 per cent (21 out of 122) on 29 May to 38 per cent (47 out of 123) on 3 July. At Minnie Water on the coast some 50 kilometres from Grafton, he banded over 900 silvereyes from 29 May to 19 September 1965. Of these, over 22 per cent were Tasmanian type, but most of the Tasmanian type birds had departed before September. The figure to the end of August was about 34 per cent. I visited Minnie Water on 6 and 7 September 1966 and banded 101 silvereyes of which 11 per cent were Tasmanian type birds.

Liddy (1966) said that about 5 per cent of the silvereyes netted during the winter at Kingscliff, N.S.W., were Tasmanian type, while a little further north at Wellington Point on Moreton Bay, Queensland, Mr J. S. Robertson (pers. comm.) only occasionally catches a Tasmanian type bird.

Summary

The volume of winter silvereye movement along the coastal belt of eastern Australia is very variable; large numbers are present in some years and very few in others. However, the figures given here are considered a guide to the pattern of movement by Tasmanian type Silvereyes. Usually a rather substantial percentage occurs in the Sydney area; the percentage reduces northward to the Queensland border and a small percentage is found among the winter flocks in south-eastern Queensland.

References

- Lane, S. G. (1962), 'Notes on Recoveries of Tasmanian Type Silvereyes in Sydney', *Bird Bander* 1: 11.
 Lane, S. G. (1966), 'The Co-operative Silvereye Project', *Aust. Bird Bander* 4: 73-75.
 Liddy, J. (1966), 'A Summary of Silvereye Banding', *Aust. Bird Bander* 4: 71-73.
 Swanson, N. M. (1968), 'Suburban Silvereyes', *Aust. Bird Bander* 6: 5-7.

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