

Blue-faced Honeyeater Banding Summary

F. J. ALEXANDER

In a period of over three years from 1966 to 1969, 28 Blue-faced Honeyeaters *Entomyzon cyanotis* were banded* mainly with the intention of associating facial skin colour and age.

The results were rather unsuccessful, as many young birds which could have yielded valuable data were not retrapped often enough. This was partly because the banding took place at two widely separated locations; first at Westwood and then at Drillham following my transfer there in 1968.

Three distinctly different colour types on the facial skin were apparent.

Fledgling—yellow-grey
Juvenile—olive-green
Adult—blue

The yellow-grey face and the green face each seem to be retained for at least six months, but as expected there were many intermediate stages among the birds trapped. Just how old are the birds at the various colour stages? The answer is not yet clear.

In Table 1 the upper facial skin has been divided from the lower facial skin by a "line" almost horizontal at eye level. This "line" was for convenience of recording, as the upper and lower face colours gradually blend. The table gives upper face, lower face and gape colours for four birds at date of banding and at dates of subsequent recaptures. In the case of colour combinations, such as yellow-green or green-yellow, the first mentioned predominates.

Presuming that the birds listed in the table were nestlings in spring of one year, they had not achieved full adult face colour in twelve months, although the last three listed showed some sign of blue. It would be a fair assumption that they achieve their full adult face colour (two

blues) and the blue-tinged gape only after two years.

Other Information

Of the 28 birds banded, 16 were adults and 12 were juveniles. The average length of the 28 birds banded was 286 mm, ranging from 262 mm to 320 mm. All birds were caught in a four-cell drop-lid trap using bread crusts as bait.

Possible Movement

Observation records indicated that Blue-faced Honeyeaters were present at Westwood throughout the year. However, 10 of the 19 birds banded there were never retrapped and four were retrapped once only.

The birds trapped in 1968 included none of the individuals apparently "resident" in 1966. The birds trapped in 1967 included only two out of nine originally banded in 1966. This may indicate a population change through nomadic tendencies, or in some cases death, with new "resident" birds taking over each 12 to 18 months.

Further banding studies may provide answers to the queries and also add to our knowledge of these birds.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Mr D. Purchase, Secretary Australian Bird-banding Scheme, and Mr S. G. Lane for assistance during the preparation of these notes.

F. J. Alexander,
State School,
Killarney, Qld.

*Bands used were provided by the Australian Bird-banding Scheme, Division of Wildlife Research, CSIRO.

TABLE 1

Face and gape colours of four birds at date of banding and subsequent recapture dates

Band Number	Date	Upper Face	Lower face	Gape
070-93147	23.6.67	Dark Grey	Dark Grey	Yellow
	27.9.67	Yellow-green	Dark Grey	Yellow
	24.10.67	Yellow-green	Dark Grey	Yellow
	30.4.68	Olive	Dark Grey	Yellow
070-93150	15.9.67	Yellow-grey	Dark Grey	Yellow
	27.9.67	Yellow-grey	Green	Yellow
	23.10.67	Green	Light blue	Yellow
070-93169	22.3.69	Yellow-grey	Grey-green	Yellow
	2.7.69	Yellow-green	Grey-green	Yellow
	13.7.69	Yellow-green	Grey-blue to Light blue	Yellow
070-93191	15.9.69	Yellow-green	Light blue	Yellow
	20.10.69	Green-yellow	Light blue	Yellow

New Members

- BLOEMHOFF, B. J., 10 Roscoe Court, Noble Park, Vic.
 BOLES, W. C/- Australian Museum, College Street, Sydney, N.S.W.
 CAMERON, Mrs D., 10 Sevenoaks Street, Balwyn, Vic.
 EVANS, O. R., P.O. Box 305, Norfolk Island,
 FELL, P. J., 31 Gillard Street, Burwood, Vic.
 JARMAN, Dr P. J., School of Natural Resources, University of New England, Armidale, N.S.W.
 KEAST, Dr D., CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research, Clayton Road, Helena Valley, W.A.
 LEWIS, C. R., 10 Albion Place, Engadine, N.S.W.
 McNAMARA, J. A., 153 Burrigge Road, Hilton, S.A.
 MAHONEY, M., Vaughan College, Marsfield, N.S.W.
 NICOLL, Miss E., Tannery Cottage, Lady Well Lane, Alresford, Hampshire, U.K.
 PAUL, M. C., 39 Grimson Crescent, Liverpool, N.S.W.
 PENHALLURICK, J. M., Liberal Studies, Canberra C.A.E., P.O. Box 1, Belconnen, A.C.T.
 READ, Miss A. Y., 150 Salisbury Road, Camperdown, N.S.W.
 ROBERTS, D. G., 24 McFarlane Road, Mooroopna, Vic.
 ROHAN-JONES, W. G., 9 Edward Parade, Wentworth Falls, N.S.W.
 SHURCLIFF, Ms K. S., Geography Department, University of Adelaide, S.A.
 SMITH, R. K., 6/314 Great North Road, Abbotsford, N.S.W.
 WATERHOUSE, D., 115 Gordon Avenue, Hamilton South, N.S.W.
 WILLIS, A., 2 Lancaster Road, Blacktown, N.S.W.
 WYKES, B., 16/37 Callander Road, Noble Park, Vic.

Nomenclature and Classification

As a change of format and title are contemplated for this Journal for 1977, and as it is proposed to publish an Index for Volumes (1-14) to the end of 1976, the existing policy covering nomenclature and classification will remain unchanged this year.

The *Checklist of the Birds of Australia* Part 1 (RAOU 1975) is followed for Non-passerines; for Passerines, *The Official Checklist of the Birds of Australia* (Second Edition, 1926) and subsequent amendments is followed generally.

Any decision regarding the use of the *Interim List of Australian Songbirds*, Passerines (Schodde 1975) will be advised in due course.

Hon. Editor

Subscriptions

Subscriptions fall due on 1 January. If you have not already renewed your subscription for 1976, please do so promptly to ensure continuity of receipt of your copy of the Journal.