

In 1990/91 the situation worsened owing to sand removal, tidal inundation and continued pressure from human recreation on the sand stockpile area. Despite the erection of a protective barrier and warning signs, only two young were hatched, although none fledged. Fortunately, two young produced from one nest on the less disturbed Port Botany site fledged; both young were banded.

A reprieve came for the breeding Little Terns of Botany Bay in 1991/92. Nesting occurred on a small sand-spit (34°1'S, 151°9'E), severed from the mainland, near Towra Point at the southern end of Botany Bay. Nesting had been recorded from Towra Point in previous seasons but there was no information on how well the colony had done (Smith 1990).

We were late in detecting the colony in 1991/92. Breeding was well under way when R. Kingsford (pers. comm.) discovered approximately 15 adult pairs in breeding plumage and two downy young. On subsequent weekly visits to the colony we counted up to nine adults at a time in breeding plumage and estimated that from nine clutches 16 young fledged (eight of these were banded with metal bands; five received colour bands as well as their numbered ABBBS metal band). The number of young surviving per clutch probably over-estimates the true survival rate as no reliable figures were obtained on the total number of nests or eggs. Pairs are known to lay more than one clutch in a season, should there be an early failure (Smith 1990). Our estimate indicated that approximately 1.7 young per clutch had fledged. High survival rates have not been recorded in Botany Bay since 1980/81, when 0.41 young per clutch fledged (Larkins 1984).

There is hope that nesting by Little Terns at the southern end of Botany Bay will be permanent. Management of the habitat and colony by the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service will certainly be made easier by the semi-remote nature of the location, compared with previous sites.

No banded young have yet been retrapped, however one nesting bird bearing colour bands was sighted in 1990/91. This bird was banded by the Victorian Wader Study Group on 4 March 1989 at Spermwhale Head, Victoria.

We wish to thank David Priddel, Nick Carlile, Richard Jordan and others mentioned in the text for their help and observations.

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DIFFERENTIATING CRESTED AND LESSER CRESTED TERN CHICKS

Crested Terns *Sterna bergii* and Lesser Crested Terns *S. bengalensis* regularly breed together in mixed colonies where their breeding distributions overlap. I had often wondered what problems would be encountered in identifying the chicks of the two species for banding. Differences in published descriptions of the two species suggested that this should be possible, although direct comparisons between the species were not made.

Mathews and Iredale (p. 93) described downy Crested Tern nestlings as: 'dirty white above and below, the upper surface with a few brown speckles, but pattern not discernible. Iris pale brown; legs and feet brownish-white; bill white.' Harrison (1975) stated simply: 'down mottled and variable, silvery-grey to olive-green.' From my observations, downy Crested Tern nestlings are usually well speckled with black. The bill is dirty white or dull grey; it is also rather thick — a heavy type bill.

Campbell (p. 836), from an observation by J. Walker describing a Lesser Crested Tern runner just before flying, wrote: 'the young ones, in a

prettily spotted stage of plumage, were as large as their parents.' Harrison (1975), repeated by Cramp (1985), noted: 'down whitish-grey with black spots on crown and wings and black mottling tending to form streaks on back. Bill olive-yellow, legs orange-yellow. Iris dark brown.'

I recently had the opportunity of banding a Lesser Crested Tern chick a day or two old. I was unable to take detailed notes at the time because of the possibility of predation by Silver Gulls *Larus novaehollandiae*, and recorded the following notes after leaving the area: the chick was overall a creamy-grey coloured down with a rather thin, dull orange bill. Although the earlier authors did not draw attention to the sizes of the bills of either species, I found that the bill of the Lesser Crested Tern was noticeably thinner than those of Crested Tern chicks at the same age. Colour differences of the bills served as a further guide.

Shortly after banding the first chick, a second was caught, running with hundreds of Crested Tern chicks that ranged from a couple of days old to almost flying stage. This chick, probably a day older than the first one, was similar in plumage and bill details. It was easily identified among the speckled Crested Tern chicks of similar age.

I thank Walter Boles for his comments and suggestions on the original draft.

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Editorial comment: This note reveals a not uncommon problem where colonial birds nest in close proximity. Further information on the identification of chicks will be welcomed.

OBITUARY

ALLEN FREDERICK COOPER LASHMAR 1917-1993

Allen Lashmar, known affectionately to many as the father of ornithology on Kangaroo Island, died in Flinders medical Centre on Christmas Day 1993, after a protracted battle with a kidney condition that sadly kept him all but housebound for the last five years of his life. Even during those years he continued his interest in birds by working on papers and encouraging others involved in ornithological pursuits.

He had been banding birds since 1966 and up until his illness took hold he had banded some 7 730 birds of 77 species — which included 4 379 Grey-backed Silvereyes! During his lifetime he recorded 29 previously unrecorded species for the Island. He became an early member of the Australian Bird Study Association and contributed several articles to its journals.

In respect of Allen's contribution to ornithology he was awarded a Telecom Advance Australia Medal in 1986. Later, in 1989, Dr R. Schodde, involved in a taxonomical review of the various races of Western Whip-bird, named the Kangaroo Island sub-species *P. n. lashmari*. Then, as part of the National Parks Centenary celebrations in 1991, 100 past and living South Australians were recognized for their individual contribution to conservation in the State. Allen's name was deservedly on that Honour Roll.

Allen took an active interest in community affairs, standing for two terms as a Councillor for the local District Council. He was also a founding member of the Kangaroo Island National Parks and Wildlife Consultative Committee, serving until ill health forced his retirement in 1989. It was his short discussion paper to that committee in 1984, entitled 'The Hooded Plover, does it have a future?' that prompted our joint six-year study of that species, resulting in the capture and individual colour banding of 265 plovers — with around 2 500 recapture notes and another manuscript in preparation!

Allen lived to see the dedication of Lashmar Conservation Park at Antechamber Bay just days before his hospitalization. The park was part of the original Lashmar holding and it was Allen's wish, made several decades earlier, that it should never be cleared.

Between January 1938 and August 1950, Allen kept a running diary of his observations, but later all his observations, and those of others reported to him, were meticulously recorded on a card file system that now forms an invaluable record of the changing status of some species and a base record for many others on Kangaroo Island.

It is planned that these records will be duplicated electronically and used as the basis for bird records of note for the Island, with the originals being properly archived.

Allen's spirit lives on — in the distant flight of a sea eagle over a wild coast and in the infinite grace of an albatross offshore. . . .

Terry Dennis