
The S. G. (Bill) Lane Memorial Issue
1922 ~ 2000



Mist Netting, North Ryde, April 1978



Shearwater banding, Nepean Island, Norfolk Island, December 1978

Selwin George (Bill) Lane

Bill Lane joined the RAOU in 1947 and held a number of positions including being a Member of the Council, Vice-President from 1967 to 1969 and Chairman of the combined RAOU and NSW RZS Ornithological section from 1962 to 1964. He was elected as a Fellow of the RAOU in May 1983 and was awarded the John Hobbs Medal in 1995.

Bill's initial introduction to banding and seabirds was in 1956 when he assisted in the survey of breeding seabirds on Lion Island, NSW. Banding was carried out by Keith Hindwood and Arnold McGill, both lifelong friends and co-workers of Bill. This survey set Bill on his path to studying and documenting seabirds and seabird islands.

In 1958 Bill became an authorised bird bander (Authority no. A84) and organised the Sydney Group of Albatross banders. He was appointed the New South Wales Regional Organiser for the Australian Bird Banding Scheme in 1961 and carried out this task until 1997. During this time he trained 50 or more ornithologists to become banders in banding techniques. Communication and training were among Bill's many special skills. One could be certain that any training Bill oversaw would be of the highest standard. Trainees were expected to meet Bill's exacting standards in all aspects of banding, recording and field research. There are many ornithologists active in the field today as a result of Bill's encouragement and training. During his 50-year banding career he banded in excess of 60 000 birds of some 440 species.

Early co-operative banding studies initiated by Bill included the Silvereye project and the Wedge-tailed Shearwater study. Both of these studies produced valuable results which enabled the migration patterns of these two species to be better understood.

During his ornithological career he wrote and published in excess of 170 papers, articles, and notes in a wide variety of journals, including *Emu*, *The Australian Bird Bander*, *Corella*, *Australian Birds* and *The Australian Bird Watcher*.

This issue of *Corella* is dedicated to the memory of Bill Lane in recognition of his contribution to the ABSA and his research into Australian avian fauna.