

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

042-15610. Adult (2+) banded by VWSG at Werribee Sewerage Farm, Vic. (38°05'S, 144°31'E) on 29 Dec. 1999. Recaptured, released alive with band at Mai Po Marshes, Hong Kong (22°29'N, 114°19'E) on 28 Mar. 2002. 7 435 km NNW.

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus neglectus*

111-02552. Nestling banded by G. P. Clancy at Curlew Island, Woolli Wollli River, NSW on 29 Feb. 2000. Colour marking sighted in field (band No. inferred) twice at two locations:

- (1) On Comerong Island, Shoalhaven Heads, NSW by D. J. McKay on 3 Feb. 2002. 604 km SSW.
- (2) At Orient Point near Nowra, NSW by N. Bardsley, on 24 Feb. 2002. 609 km SSW.

(This is the longest movement recorded for the species.)

Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

100-82031. Adult (2+) banded by VWSG on Swan Island, Queensland, Vic. on 13 June 1981. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place on 2 Mar. 2002, over 20 years 8 months after banding.

Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*

071-37471. Nestling banded by J. G. K. Harris on Green Island, Tas. on 17 Dec. 1978. Recovered dead, tangled in fish farm net at Moonah, Tas. on 10 Jan. 2002, over 23 years after banding. 41 km N.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

041-41809. Nestling banded by K. H. Egan in sand dunes adjacent to Kingsford Smith Airport Runway, Sydney, NSW on 4 Jan. 1990. Colour marking sighted in field (band No. inferred) at Toorbul, Qld. on 2 Mar. 2002, over 12 years 1 month after banding. 787 km N.

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

024-25295. Adult (1+) male banded by A. J. Leishman at Mount Annan Botanic Gardens, Campbelltown, NSW on 29 Aug. 1993. Recaptured, released alive with band at different locations within gardens four times, the last occasion by F. Matter on 11 Nov. 2001, over 8 years 2 months after banding. 2 km S.

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

040-21184. Adult (2+) female banded by J. Dale at Mount Annan Botanic Gardens, Campbelltown, NSW on 17 Dec. 1995. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place by F. Matter on 30 June 2001, over 5 years 6 months after banding.

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

(a) 023-33910. Adult (1+) banded by A. J. Leishman at Mount Annan Botanic Gardens, Campbelltown, NSW on 24 July 1993. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place three times, the last occasion by F. Matter on 26 Apr. 2001, over 7 years 9 months after banding.

(b) 023-34046. Adult (1+) banded by A. J. Leishman at Mount Annan Botanic Gardens, Campbelltown, NSW on 17 Dec. 1994. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place six times, the last occasion by F. Matter on 30 June 2001, over 6 years 6 months after banding.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

062-23190. Adult (1+) female banded by J. Dale at Mount Annan Botanic Gardens, Campbelltown, NSW on 2 Oct. 1994. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place four times, the last occasion by F. Matter on 30 June 2001, over 6 years 8 months after banding.

The following correspondence was received by The Australian Bird and Bat Banding Schemes in respect to the recovery of Little Penguin Band No. 190-86611.

As a reader of *Waves* newsletter I would like to send you a little anecdote from a dredging job we did in May last year at Bunbury, Western Australia.

I am a professional Merchant Navy marine engineer and I well know that dredging can be a contentious issue, especially in new development work, but maintenance dredging will be around for a long time yet. If you saw the effects of urban pressure and what we were scooping out of scenic waterways such as Bunbury, you would have to reconsider.

The dredger we were using was the "Orwell" a split-hopper type dredge, whereby the entire ship's hull is constructed to split longitudinally, with big hinges at deck level holding the two halves together. When opened, the load is dropped asunder at the spoil ground.

A heavy drag head attached to the end of a long dredge-pipe, about 1 metre in diameter, is trawled along the seabed like a big vacuum cleaner. This head is suitably constructed to exclude the normal detritus of our modern society — bikes, shopping trolleys, lost crab pots, big rocks and even unwanted firearms — from entering and blocking the huge pump inside the ship. It's a most unpopular job for the crew if it does block! One night shift we noticed a small, slime-covered, swimming creature, obviously confused and distressed, making its way through the soup-like mud in the hopper. Having tried in vain to capture the animal, by now identified as a penguin, we decided that it would most likely be dropped out of the hopper at the next dump-run. However, this was not to be the case and sitting in the bottom of the near-empty hopper awaiting certain doom from the next evil-smelling downpour of rocks and mud and slush was our penguin! To make matters worse, it was attracted to this deluge obviously thinking this was the way to salvation, swimming furiously towards and into this maelstrom of mire.

Miraculously, the bird was still afloat and swimming once the hopper level had risen above the discharge head, emitting a 'huk-huk, huk-huk' call. By now other members of the crew had gathered at the hopper-side armed with makeshift rescue implements such as buckets on ropes, and brooms etc. but this wary survivor was staying well away from its new predators.

I was lying on a catwalk awaiting an opportunity to grab it as it swam past, it must have been pretty exhausted but it was still sharp. Eventually I called out 'huk-huk, huk-huk' and sure enough it immediately came swimming in my direction and with a well-timed lunge I caught the slippery squirming bird!

After a good wash-off under the deck hose, we could see in what fine condition these birds really are, a tight bundle of muscle enclosed in a tough hide. It must have been tough to survive its journey through the drag-head, through the pump impellor and dumping out into the hopper (at an alarming speed too I might add). But this wasn't its first brush with humans, for on one of its wings was a stainless steel tag with the numbers 19086611 and no other markings etc. of whoever the organization was who had tagged this bird. So maybe this could be passed on to say CSIRO or a like-minded organization.

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