

REPORT OF SYDNEY MEETING

On Saturday, May 11, 1963, a Meeting was held by the Association at the Australian Museum, College Street, Sydney, as announced in our last issue. Over fifty people were present to see a wide range of colour slides depicting numerous types of traps and trapping methods. The slides were kindly loaned by Jack Hood and Warren Hitchcock. A number of traps were also displayed.

Two films were screened. The first was a re-showing of the colour film "Mutton Birds of Bass Strait" and the second, entitled "High over the Borders", was a most interesting black and white film dealing with migration, conservation and banding in America.

At the conclusion of these films Ron Mellor screened colour film taken by him showing some of the bird life in the Macquarie Marshes, New South Wales.

Our thanks are extended to Fred Hersey for providing and operating the Fauna Panel's projector and to Jack Doyle who arranged for the loan of the films.

BANDING RUFIOUS SONGLARKS

On February 7, 1963, a Rufous Songlark's (Cinclorhamphus mathewsi) nest was found in some very thick grass in the playground. There were three funny little almost black chicks in it. They seemed to be about two or three days old. We expect one of our parents to cut the grass the next day, so we marked an area round the nest and asked him to leave it. He did this for us. We watched the young birds growing and on February 13th we helped Miss Doyle band them with band numbers 030-15226, -15227, -15228. We noticed that they were three different sizes, so they must have hatched on three different days. The mother bird was always about watching us and calling with soft clicking notes to the babies. We noticed that the father bird was not about when we were there. The mother used to come with food. On the 18th we had our last look at them. They had grown into fat speckly nestlings. We did not touch them for fear they would leave the nest too soon. The next morning, as all our fathers were coming for a working bee to clean up the playground, we went to look at the nest as soon as we arrived. There was no sign of the nestlings, but the mother was about with food. She often flew into the patch of grass round the nest so we guessed they were hidden there. She is still, on the 20th, carrying food and calling, but we cannot

locate the babies.

A special request is made to all banders to watch out for our young Songlarks as we very much want to know where they go in the winter months. To date we have banded 10 adult Rufous Songlarks as well as these three.

We should also like to record that on February 18, 1963, we trapped three Eastern Shrike-tits (Falcunculus frontatus) and were interested to find one had been banded by us as an adult as long ago as March 9th, 1960. This shows these birds must live for some years and stay about the same area. We have banded 7 Eastern Shrike-tits so far. We wear gloves to handle them!

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Junior Banders, Manobalai Public School, New South Wales.

REVIEW

12th. Annual Report of the Banding Committee
Ornithological Society of New Zealand (Inc.) for the year
ending 31st March, 1962.

(Compiled by F.C.Kinsky, Banding Convener)

Copies obtainable from the Publications Officer, O.S.N.Z.
P.O.Box 45, Clevedon, New Zealand, at 5/-(N.Z.).

Fifty active New Zealand banders ringed a total of 22,973 birds of 71 species. Sea-birds, as usual, received the greatest attention. The following species provided top banding figures: Royal Albatross 778, Cape Petrel 566, Broad-billed Prion 500, Fairy Prion 1,047, Great-winged Petrel 895, White-faced Storm Petrel 957, Diving Petrel 728, Australian Gannet 693, Dominican Gull 3,491, Silver Gull 3,679, Black-billed Gull 1,612, White-fronted Tern 1,826, Sooty Tern 1,000, Silvereye 562, Greenfinch 420, Lesser Red Poll 834, and House Sparrow 1,133.

Recoveries of interest include a Royal Albatross breeding on Campbell Island where banded as a breeding adult 19 years previously. A Black-browed Albatross and a Giant Petrel banded off New Zealand were both retrapped on Macquarie Island. Movements of 1,300 and 500 miles were recorded respectively for Grey-headed and White-capped Albatrosses. 52 Cape Petrels were retrapped at intervals of up to 4 years after date of banding at Tory Channel Whaling Station. Cape Petrels banded at sea off New Zealand were also retrapped at South Orkneys (5 birds) and Adelie Land (1 bird). Seven Australian Gannets were recovered in Australia. Movements of up to 450 miles were recorded with Swamp Harriers. As to be expected, the Gulls -