

banded on 11.6.63 and retrapped on 9.8.63, 25.8.63 and 5.4.64 (six birds appeared in April before the main movement commenced), and also on 3.10.64, a few days after it had mated with the local male.

This bird may have been of the local population, paired previously with another which had met with a similar fate as the original mate of the local male, or it may have been a wandering bird up until the time it paired with the local bird. At the time of writing, this pair has a nest containing two heavily incubated eggs, built on top of the nest from where the original hen was taken.

Whether or not the moving birds keep to their respective groups or not, I haven't been able to determine as yet. Only once, to date, have two birds, banded on the same day been retrapped on the same day (16 months after banding). On another occasion, two birds banded on the same day were retrapped two days apart, four months later. The former case may be one of a local mated pair, being of the low percentage of birds banded in 1963 and retrapped in 1964.

Young birds reared in the banding area and subsequently banded and colour banded, have not been seen again after leaving the area, usually at approximately 65 to 80 days of age. Apparently they never return to the area of origin—a fact which could point to the possibility of the moving flocks being young birds.

The Crested Pigeon is a very interesting species and one which would warrant concentration by any bander. Of course, it is much too soon to draw conclusions from the limited data already gained from two seasons of banding, but with continued banding, more things may unfold and others will, no doubt be more defined.

—Lloyd Nielsen, Jandowae, Queensland.

References:

Lord, E. A. R. (1956), "The Birds of the Murphy's Creek District, Southern Queensland". *Emu*, 56:100-128.

Footnote: Could any bander give me a few clues as to trapping quail (and designs of traps suitable for birds of this group)? Any suggestions would be very much appreciated.

Constancy in Flocks of Thornbills

While working with me at my normal banding area at Lee's Creek Road in the Brindabella Ranges on November 3, 1962, Jack Hood banded the only group of Striated Thornbills (*Acanthiza lineata*) netted that day. The five birds of the group were banded with numbers 010-11917 to 11921 inclusive.

None of these birds was handled again until January 2, 1965, when, at the same place, twelve Striated Thornbills were taken in one of the nets. As the birds were taken out we were astounded to realise that we had taken all five of the 1962 birds referred to. Three juvenile birds were in the group also.

It is rather remarkable that all of these five birds should still be alive 26 months after banding. It is even more remarkable that they should still be together as part of a flock so much later, particularly as this is not a rare species in the Ranges.

The strangeness of the occurrence is further emphasised by the fact that between the two dates a further twenty-two Striated Thornbills were banded and six of the species were retrapped in thirteen visits. Striated Thornbills were netted on nine of these visits. As this is a bird of the forest canopy, it is probable that only a small

proportion of the resident birds has been banded.

Among the local species of Thornbills, it is not unusual to net two or three birds which have been taken together on earlier occasions. It has been noticed particularly with this species, with the Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*), with the Brown Thornbill (*Acanthiza pusilla*), and the Buff-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza reguloides*) (unpublished data). This is our most spectacular retrapping of this nature.

I would appreciate details from other banders of Thornbills which were banded together and retrapped together on subsequent occasions.

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Notice to all Members

Banders are licenced by C.S.I.R.O. and State fauna authorities to trap, band and release birds in connection with the Australian Bird Banding Scheme.

All members are requested to be on the lookout for illegal trappers. The possibility must be considered that some of these may endeavour to cover their clandestine operations under the guise of banding.