

Observations have shown that regardless of the time of the year some eucalypts and shrubs are always in flower and large numbers of "Yellow-tufts" are present throughout the year.

Forty-one individual Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters have been retrapped 51 times but so far no recoveries have been recorded away from the banding site.

Summary of Retraps

26 birds less than 3 month after banding
6 birds 3 to 6 months after banding
15 birds 6 to 12 months after banding
4 birds over 12 months after banding

All birds which have been retrapped more than 6 months after banding have been retrapped on a number of occasions and are probably permanent residents.

The colour of the iris, gape, bill and legs are recorded and measurements taken of wing span,

wing, tail and length of all birds banded to provide information for future analysis and to assist in determining age and sex.

It is hoped in the future to establish banding sites amongst the undergrowth both near the location as well as in other sections of the Nature Reserve. Daily weather conditions will then have less influence on the banding figures than at the exclusive water attraction.

References

- Ipsen, J. C. (1965), 'Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters in Bendigo District', *Aust. Bird Bander*, 3:7.
Wakefield, N. A. (1958), 'The Yellow-tufted Honeyeater with a Description of a New Sub-species'. *Emu*, 58: 163-198.

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Unusual plumage of Superb Blue Wrens

On 7 April 1967, I banded two male Blue Wrens (*Malurus cyaneus*) whose plumage differed from any which my sister and I have seen in the course of a study begun in 1956. Both birds appeared to be moulting from sub-adult plumage into adult eclipse plumage. They came to the garden in company with an adult female, a male in course of moult from blue plumage into fresh blue plumage, and two juveniles undergoing normal first moults. Both birds were banded and

colour-banded, but unfortunately neither has presented itself for further observation—a disappointment, as we would like to know the final colour of their bills and legs. Males in eclipse plumage are occasionally reported with brown bills and two such individuals were reported in the *Emu*, vol. 58, p. 323. These birds differed from the present two, as they had moulted out of normal blue plumage. The plumage detail of the two birds is set out in the following table.

Description

	Band No. 010-98993.	Band No. 010-98994.
Crown	New brown feathers growing.	New brown feathers growing.
Lores and Orbital Ring	Fairly dark chestnut.	Fairly dark chestnut.
Back	No pin-feathers seen.	Pin-feathers visible.
Wings	Flight feathers moulting.	Flight feathers moulting
Wing-coverts	Blue.	Blue haze.
Tail	Old feathers indistinct blue, as often seen in sub-adult male, new feathers bright deep blue, as seen in adult male.	Old feathers indistinct blue, as often seen in sub-adult male, new feathers bright deep blue, as seen in adult male.
	Bases of all feathers darker than is usual in sub-adult males.	Bases of all feathers darker than is usual in sub-adult males.
Bill	Dark chestnut-brown.	Brownish chestnut, not as dark as 010-98993.
Claws	Blackish-brown, midway between normal colours for adult male and adult female.	Blackish-brown, midway between normal colours for adult male and adult female.

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