

AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

No. 3.

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Bat Research.

The Federation has now set up a sub-committee to undertake the organization and direction of work in this field in Australia. Head of this committee is Jack Mahoney, Dept. of Geology, Sydney University, Sydney, N.S.W.

As an appendix to this newsheet, we print a brief paper by Edrich Slater of the Canberra Speleological Society, describing some preliminary banding experiments carried out by this society with the co-operation of C.S.I.R.O. officers. This gives full details of their work, and is published here in view of its importance to all interested in research.

Requests for data and material.

Dr. F. H. Drummond, Dept. of Zoology, University of Melbourne. Interested in cave Crustacea and seeks specimens of these, especially Koonunga. (Syncaridae)

Dr. R. Jeannel, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 45 bis, Rue de Buffon, Paris V, France. Seeks cave specimens of beetles of the family Carabidae.

A. L. Hill, Box 485D, G.P.O., Adelaide, S.A. Seeks references in literature or other data on guano occurrences in caves - mining, analysis, formation, etc.

Appendix: A Banding Scheme for Bats.

A BANDING SCHEME FOR BATS

E. SLATER.

Canberra Speleological Soc.

An initial study of the Microchiroptera occurring in caves has been made jointly by members of the Canberra Speleological Society, the C.S.I.R.O. Wildlife Survey Section and the Australian National University.

The caves examined during the period of June 57 to October 57 were those of the Cheitmore - Wyanbene area, Wee Jasper and Narrangullen, all within 60-70 miles radius of Canberra, A.C.T.

Three species of little bats have been observed and of these, two species have been banded.

The families, genera and species are as follows:

HORSESHOE BATS

<u>Fam.</u>	Rhinolophidae
	Rhinophyllotis megaphyllus, Gray, 1834.
	(Eastern Horseshoe Bat)



SIMPLE-NOSED BATS

<u>Fam.</u>	Vespertilionidae
<u>Genus</u>	Miniopterus, Bonaparte, 1837. (Bent-winged Bats)
	M. blepotis, Temminck, 1837.
<u>Genus</u>	Myotis, Kaup, 1829. (Simple Bats)
	M. macropus, Gould, 1856. (Large-footed Myotis)

A large number of M. blepotis and M. macropus have been banded using standard bird bands and records as to the locality, sex, pregnancy etc. made. The bands, placed on the anterior margin of the wing, were, originally taped with "Scotch-lite" enabling banded specimens to be observed by spotlight, however, it is found almost invariably that the "Scotch-lite" is chewed off. No trauma resulted where banding was carefully carried out.

A number of recoveries of bats were made in the caves in which they were banded. In addition sightings were made in Narrangullen Cave of bats banded at Wee Jasper. This movement of 12 miles is thought to be the first recorded cave-bat movement in Australia.

Various types of collecting apparatus have been devised and tried in the course of the project, some without and some with success depending upon the situation within a cave.

In colonies of M. Macropus pregnant females were observed and subsequently off spring. Thus in one species the parturition period has been established. Other reports have come to hand concerning the breeding of M. blepotis.

This is the first systematic banding scheme to be initiated in Australia and it is proposed to continue a planned program of bat-banding in the areas referred to.

If such a scheme is to be successful it must be on an Australia-wide basis and uniform throughout. At the same time it is to be pointed out that before any banding is carried out the state fauna authorities must be referred to and permission obtained to band bats. In N.S.W. the 'little bats' are protected mammals and any interference with or destruction can lead to prosecution.

In the event of any speleologist recovering a live or finding a dead banded bat, the band number (or the band if from dead specimen), should be sent immediately to the Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O. Canberra, A.C.T. together with such particulars as locality, date, species and sex where possible, together with the finder's name and address. At a later date this arrangement may be altered and all societies will be informed.

Co-operation in this regard will help to make such a scheme a success and it is hoped that eventually much valuable data will be collected concerning the life history and habits of our cave dwelling bats. We are indebted in particular to Dr. George Dunnet now of the University of Aberdeen, who gave much valuable time and advice in initiating this project, prior to his departure from Australia.