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AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION.

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Address:- Hon. Secretary A.S.F.
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AUSTRALIA.

CAVE SURVEY.

Bob Sexton, convenor of the Federation sub-committee on Cave Survey, has recently compiled an excellent booklet in Cave Survey Methods. This booklet is a description of those methods found useful in South Australia, rather than a complete review of the subject, but could well prove valuable to other societies. Included are copies of a number of the maps prepared by this group. Available from Cave Exploration Group of South Australia, c/- S.A.Museum, Adelaide, South Australia.

BAT BANDING

Issue No.3 of this newsletter contained a brief paper by E.Slater on a banding project in progress at Canberra. The following report covers the progress of this:-

A NOTE ON BAT BANDING.

A bat banding project has been carried out by the authors since March 1958. The project was initiated by Dr.G.M.Dunnet formerly of the Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O. on August 4th, 1957, after discussion with members of the Sydney Speleological Society. Since Dr. Dunnet's departure from Australia the project has been carried on by the authors as a weekend activity of the Canberra Speleological Society.

The project is a first step towards a more detailed study of the habits and biology of the Australian Microchiroptera. To date 1.589 cave dwelling bats of three species have been banded. These are the Bent-winged bat, Miniopterus schreibersii blepotis (Tomminck), 1.505; the Large-footed myotis, Myotis adversus macropus (Gould), 56; and the Eastern Horse-shoe bat, Rhinolophus megaphyllus (Gray), 28. In addition two Gould's Wattled bat, Chalinolobus gouldii (Gray), and one Lesser long-eared bat, Nyctophilus geoffroyi (Leach), have been banded. The former of these two species is a tree-dwelling bat and the latter is rarely found in caves.

Recoveries of banded bats made to date have given much information concerning movements by the Bent-winged bat. The long-distance movements made by this species indicate a probable large-scale seasonal migration. Bent-winged bats banded at Wee Jasper have been recovered as far north as the Cliefden Caves, near Cowra, and as far south as Gabo Island, off the north-east Victorian coast. These will be discussed in more detail in a paper to be published elsewhere.

Co-operation is requested in reporting any banded bats found. The number on the band is in two parts, a three figure band size number over a five figure serial number. These should be read very carefully to see that they are complete. It is asked that the bat then be released still wearing the band. The full number together with the date and site of recovery should then be sent to D.Purchase, Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., Box 109 City, Canberra, A.C.T. These reports will be gratefully acknowledged and information concerning the time and place of banding supplied. We would like to ask that care be taken to avoid causing unnecessary disturbance to bat colonies.

D.Purchase
P.M.Hiscox

Canberra Speleological Society.