

the papers and most of us managed to attend the sessions in our special fields. The duties of chairmanship were shared out and I was able to undertake one half-day chairing the session in which Dr. Westerskov presented his paper on the Royal Albatrosses at Campbell Island. The other direct New Zealand contribution was that of Dr. B. Stonehouse, who presented a short paper on the Adelie Penguins, Cape Royds, Antarctica.

There were a number of papers of outstanding interest to New Zealand ornithologists and it would be invidious to try and make a full selection. A notable study ably presented was that of Dr. Robert Carrick, of Canberra, on the Internal Regulation of a Population of White-backed Magpies.

New techniques in field experiment were reported by some of the contributors, e.g. an ingenious method of altering the colour of eyelids in some of the northern gulls with consequent radical effect on the behaviour patterns.

Sound recordings and analyses thereof were widely used and some excellent papers were forthcoming on this subject. Special committees, including an international group concerned with bird banding, met during the course of the Congress and the evening film sessions and lectures were of a high order. No less impressive were the visits to institutions in the area such as the Ornithological Laboratory at Sapsucker Woods. This fine reserve was in fact visited every morning at daybreak by parties of members who returned to the Congress for breakfast at 8 a.m. Other and more extensive excursions were equally popular.

Printed summaries of practically all the papers were available and it is expected that the full report of the Congress will be available within a much shorter time than is usual with these international fixtures. I should perhaps add that in the week preceding the Congress I was able to attend in New York City a meeting of the International Council for Bird Protection and was there accredited as national representative from New Zealand. To this I am afraid my only contribution was a short and hastily prepared summary of recent developments in New Zealand in respect of the organising of conservation authority and the work of the Wildlife Branch, Department of Internal Affairs, with rare and vanishing species.

— R. A. FALLA

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## **ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST FROM THE 10th AND 11th ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE BANDING COMMITTEE**

The tenth report deals with all birds banded and recovered between 1/4/59 and 31/3/60. A report on birds banded overseas and recovered in N.Z. is also included. The number of birds banded was 12,782, so that the grand total rose to more than 53,000. 81 species have now been banded in N.Z. Species banded for the first time were:— Silver-grey Fulmar, Spur-winged Plover, Antarctic Skua, S.I. Fantail, Redpoll and Rook.

The following are among the more noteworthy or significant recoveries:—

An adult White-capped Mollymawk banded off C. Campbell on 4/3/58 was caught off Port Nolloth, South Africa, on 3/5/59.

A Sooty Shearwater banded at Glasgow Island, Cook Strait, on 5/11/58 was caught in a fishing net off Hokkaido, Japan, on 20/5/59. 12 Gannets banded at C. Kidnappers (9) or White Island (3) as nestlings were recovered in Australia in their first or second year.

A Harrier banded at Tikokino was shot three years later near Invercargill.

Two Caspian Terns banded as nestlings at Palliser Spit in January were recovered in June of the same year in Manukau Harbour and at Gisborne.

After a gap of five years 5 White-fronted Terns were recovered in south-eastern Australia within a year of being banded as nestlings at Kaikoura (2), Miranda (2) and Crusoe Island (1).

Among the more valuable longevity records are:—

Two Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses banded as adults at Campbell Island on 25/2/47 and recaptured there breeding in December 1959, nearly thirteen years later. A White-fronted Tern, banded at L. Ellesmere as a nestling in January, 1954, and found dead in August, 1959, at Port Phillip Bay, Victoria, Australia.

Three Silvereyes banded as adults at Mahina Bay in winter 1954 and retrapped at the same place in winter 1959. All must have been over five years old.

Eight Giant Petrels banded at South Shetlands (1), South Orkneys (1), Macquarie (4), Nellie Island, near Wilkes Station (2) were found in N.Z., one first year bird having travelled 6000 miles in about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  months.

The most surprising recovery of a bird banded overseas was that of a Grey Teal, banded at Lara, Victoria, in May 1957, and shot almost exactly two years later at Lake Whangape in the lower Waikato.

The eleventh report deals with birds banded and recovered between 1/4/60 and 31/3/61. A third category of recovery, a 're-trap,' has been introduced. A special study of the dispersal of Red-billed Gulls by means of colour-banding was started at colonies on Kaikoura Peninsula, Lake Grassmere, The Brothers, Stephen Island, Nelson and Kapiti. The scheme is planned to continue for another three years.

The number of birds banded was 18,070, so that the grand total then stood at 71,414. The number of species banded in N.Z. has now risen to 93. Species banded for the first time were:— Broad-billed Prion, Antarctic Prion, Hutton's Shearwater, Grey-backed Storm Petrel, Northern Oystercatcher, Black Oystercatcher, Sooty Tern, Morepork, Kingfisher, Skylark, Brown Creeper. Tui.

The following are among the more noteworthy or significant recoveries:—

A young Royal Albatross banded at the nest on Campbell Island on 17/11/60 was taken only three months later on 19/1/61 off Valdivia, Chile, 5000 miles E.N.E. This is the third recovery of a N.Z.-banded Royal Albatross in South American waters.

Two Cape Pigeons banded at the Tory Channel Whaling Station one on 27/8/58, the other on 8/6/59, were re-taken evidently at their breeding station at Signey Island, South Orkneys, 6000 miles distant on 9/11/60 and 17/10/60 respectively.

A Sooty Shearwater banded as an adult on Stephen Island on 25/1/60 was taken on a fishing line off Hokkaido, Japan, on 19/5/60.

15 Gannets from Cape Kidnappers (10), Horuhoru (3), White Island (2), were taken in Australia within six months of being banded as nestlings. The farthest traveller was banded at the nest on Horuhoru on 21/1/61 and found dead at Surfers, South Australia, only a month later, 2000 miles W.

Further evidence of the northward autumn migration of Caspian Terns is provided by a young bird banded at Palliser Spit on 8/1/59 and found dead at Gisborne. But some north-bred Caspians may wander south, as is shown by one which was banded as a nestling in Kaipara on 9/1/55 and was found dead on 3/10/60, nearly six years later, at the Wairau rivermouth, 350 miles S.

Longevity records deserving of mention are:—

Six of the C. Kidnappers Gannets are known to have been carrying bands for nearly ten years.

A Harrier banded at Tikokino (H.B.) on 25/5/54 was found dead 135 miles W.N.W. on 22/8/60.

Three Giant Petrels, banded as nestlings at Signey Island, South Orkneys, reached N.Z. within a few months.

A Tasmanian Muttonbird ringed at Babel Island, Tasmania, on 24/3/59 and stranded near C. Kidnappers on 26/12/59, has already been mentioned (*Notornis* VIII, 260).

— R.B.S.



## REVIEWS

G. W. Leeper (editor). *The Evolution of Living Organisms* (Melbourne University Press, 1962; £A6/6/0).

In 1959 the Royal Society of Victoria celebrated a double centenary — the one of its own grant of royal title from Queen Victoria and the other of the publication of Darwin's *Origin of Species*. A symposium under the above title has now been published as a handsome book containing 36 articles by Australian and visiting biologists, the following being of special interest to ornithologists.

Ernest Mayr, official guest of the Society, gave the opening address — "Accident or Design, the paradox of evolution." Allen Keast, well-known to readers of the *Emu*, has a stimulating and comprehensive paper on "Vertebrate Speciation in Australia: Some comparisons between birds, marsupials, and reptiles," extending his conclusions on bird speciation dealt with fully in the *Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology* (1961). Professor B. J. Marples' "Observations on the History of Penguins" is a summary of his own and other work on the fossil penguins of New Zealand, Australia, Patagonia, and Seymour Island and includes discussion of loss of flight, and of the differences between the four subfamilies, of which one alone embraces all the living penguins.

— C.A.F.