

War will help to carbon-date me and go to show that at least part of my activities belong to that golden era when it was not a crime to rob nests and to rear the chicks as pets. There was the time when I had to show Guthrie-Smith my collection of live Brown Duck to convince him how plentiful they still were from Waipu northwards, where they were being called "Black Teal" and the occasion when I accompanied Edgar Stead to Waipu in order to convince him, too. I also set Stead on the road to breed hybrid Kakariki." — Ed.]



ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST FROM THE 13th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEW ZEALAND BIRD BANDING SCHEME

On 1/4/62 the Dominion Museum, Wellington, assumed full responsibility for the Banding Scheme, which the O.S.N.Z. had initiated in 1946. As the scheme expanded, annual reports were issued. For the sake of continuity the present report is called the thirteenth. It covers 32 pages.

During the year ending 31/3/63, 80 species were banded including the following species not banded before with N.Z. rings:— Fulmar Prion, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Black Petrel, Cook's Petrel, Gould Petrel, Red-tailed Tropic Bird, Stewart Island Shag, White-faced Heron, Australian Bittern, Antarctic Tern, Yellow-breasted Tit, South Island Robin, Cirl Bunting. The total of species now banded within the N.Z. scheme stands at 114. More details of a Gould Petrel which visited the Brothers Islands, would have been welcome.

The transit of the South Pacific by young Royal Albatrosses is further confirmed by three recoveries from Chile. Two White-capped Mollymawks were reported in South Africa, one more than five years after being banded off Cape Campbell. Six Cape Pigeons banded in Cook Strait were recovered more than six years later from widely scattered localities; and another ringed in August in the Tory Channel whaling station had travelled to Laurie Island, South Orkneys, within two months. Did it return to its breeding station by the E.S.E. or the W.S.W. route, 6000 miles either way? Two Giant Petrels banded as nestlings at Signey Island, South Orkneys, reached New Zealand within six months.

The usual crop of immature Gannets from the Australian coast between Queensland and South Australia is reported.

If we may leave the oceanic wanderers for a moment to mention a very much earth-bound species, remarkable perseverance in homing was shown by a young Weka which tramped 80 miles from Puketapu (H.B.) back to Manutuke (P.B.).

The pattern of gull and tern movements is slowly becoming clearer. While some young Black-backed and Red-billed Gulls wander southwards in their first autumn, there is a marked tendency for Black-billed Gulls to move northwards. Further evidence is provided for the northward movement of young Caspian Terns. Two more White-fronted Terns have been found in New South Wales at the end of their first year.

— R.B.S.