

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST FROM THE 14th ANNUAL REPORT ON BANDING

This report is concerned with banding activities during the year ending 31/3/64. Seventy-seven species were banded and nine new species were added to the N.Z. list of banded birds. They were:—

Black-winged Petrel, Black Shag, Campbell Island Shag, Common Noddy, Red-crowned Parakeet, Little Owl, S.I. Tomtit, Pipit and N.I. Saddleback. One hundred and twenty-three species totalling 143,240 birds have now been banded within the national scheme.

The three species of gull account for 41% of the total numbers banded and 50% of those recovered.

Valuable evidence on longevity and the strength of the homing instinct is now beginning to accumulate. A Lightmantled Sooty Albatross, banded on Campbell Island as a young bird in 1943, was caught and released there in 1963. Two Giant Petrels, banded at Heard Island were recovered eleven years later at the same place. A Cape Pigeon ringed at Tory Channel was captured at a whaling vessel, 5200 miles E.S.E. in the South Atlantic nearly five years later. Two adult Sooty Shearwaters ringed at Pipinui Pt. in December 1956 were recovered there in December 1963. Two Gannets at Cape Kidnappers were at least 13 years old and, having bred for some years, were still going strong. A Southern Skua banded as an adult on Campbell Island was recaptured there nearly six years later.

The spectacular crossing of the South Pacific by young Royal Albatrosses is becoming familiar news. Two more have now been found in Chile within a year of ringing; and two others on the Argentine coast in their second year.

Many more young Gannets from Cape Kidnappers, White Island, Bush Island and Horuhoru have been found on the coasts of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, many within a few months of banding.

There is further confirmation of the northward movement of young Caspian Terns from and across Cook Strait to Auckland and Northland. From New South Wales comes another record of a White-fronted Tern in its first year.

Among the birds banded overseas and recovered in New Zealand a Little Eget is particularly noteworthy. It was banded near Balranald, N.S.W., on 15/12/62 and found dead — a victim of the shooting season? — on 9/5/63 near Oamaru.

Twelve Giant Petrels recovered in New Zealand between Ninety Mile Beach and Stewart Island had come from South Georgia, Heard Island, Fremantle and Macquarie Island.

The report concludes with a list of corrigenda to the 13th annual banding report.

— R.B.S.