

SHORT NOTES

BANDED FAIRY PRION — FIRST OVERSEAS RECOVERY

Since Bird Banding in New Zealand was officially organised in 1951 by the Ornithological Society, some 12,500 Fairy Prions (*Pachyptila turtur*) have been banded up to 31st December, 1967.

The first recorded banding of Fairy Prions seems to have been by Dr. P. C. Bull in October 1940, when 20 bands made from a cigarette tin were applied at the Poor Knights Islands.

On 1/12/67 the banded leg only of a Fairy Prion banded D-28026 was recovered by Robert Dyball, lighthouse-keeper, at the feeding-place of a Peregrine Falcon (*F. peregrinus*) on a cliff ledge facing the eyrie, at Montagu Island 36° 16'S 150° 12'E, 180 miles South of Sydney. This bird was banded by B. D. Bell as an adult on 7/9/66 at Stephens Island, Cook Strait.

Mr. Bell has been banding at Stephens Island since 1958 and apart from two recoveries in the Cook Strait area and one from 90 mile Beach, 380 miles NNW, 5% of the birds have been retrapped at the banding locality. This is the first overseas recovery and raises the question whether this occurrence indicates a regular pattern of migration or casual vagrancy.

— C. J. R. ROBERTSON

Banding Officer



SANDERLINGS IN THE BAY OF PLENTY

For some years Hamish Lyall and I have been visiting the old Kaikuna streambed, west of Maketu, where several species of waders may often be seen. On 2/12/67 we went to the widest part of the streambed, as this appeared to hold the main concentration. While we were counting and checking Knots (*C. canutus*) and Godwits (*L. lapponica*), a sandpiper rose and flew up the lagoon in the direction of the car-park. We followed in order to check its identity. When we had set up telescopes, there appeared in my field of view several small waders and I exclaimed "That's funny. There are some Wrybills." The five birds I was watching, at first sight appeared very similar to Wrybills (*A. frontalis*) which are known to be winter visitors here. However, it was soon apparent that they were not Wrybills, though they looked and behaved rather like them, as they walked briskly along prodding the mud. Bill and legs were black; forehead and underparts were white; crown and upperparts were pale grey; and there were faint brown streaks on the back. I made a quick sketch.

On returning home we consulted various books on waders and were puzzled about the apparent lack of the black shoulder patch. But according to the Handbook of British Birds this is not necessarily noticeable. We then studied the plate in Thorburn's "Birds of Britain"; and there was not the slightest doubt in our minds that we had seen five Sanderlings (*C. alba*).

— RAYMOND JACKSON