

# PRELIMINARY REPORT ON BIRD BANDING IN NEW ZEALAND 1973 - 74

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During the year ended 31 March 1974, a total of 29,466 birds were banded while 4,814 recoveries and 3,465 repeats received during the year were added to the records of the New Zealand Banding Scheme. Five new species have been recorded for the first time. The early banding records of Dr L. E. Richdale for the Northern Royal Albatross which go back to 1937 have been included to show a complete record for this species not recorded in previous reports.

Details of the numbers per species banded and recovered are shown in Table 1 while a selection of interesting age and distance recoveries is shown in Table 2.

This year marked an important milestone in the history of the scheme with recoveries now exceeding the 100,000 mark. During the preparation of this report an item in the BTO News 1974 No. 67 recorded some remarks concerning the oldest authenticated age for a wild banded bird. This was reported to be a German Oystercatcher which reached the age of 34 years.

Included in Table 2 below are records of two Northern Royal Albatrosses, one banded as an adult in 1937 and recovered in 1973 at nearly 36 years old, and another banded as a chick in 1941 which in 1973 was just over 32 years old. Both birds were recovered again on 1 December 1974 during the preparation of this report. R-15113 had then reached a banded age of 37y-0m-17d, and as it was banded as a breeding adult would have been at least 46+ years old. R-15148 was banded as a chick which had hatched on 29 January 1941, and would thus have reached an actual age of 33y-10m-2d. Both of these birds form part of a breeding study continued since the start of the project by Dr Richdale in 1937.

I continue to be indebted to banding operators for their co-operation and to my assistants Mrs J. Llewellyn, G. Hatzakortzian and his replacements Mrs J. Braddick, Mrs S. Mathers and Mrs E. Perks for their painstaking work; the Government Engineering Computer Centre for the use of their facilities, and my other colleagues in the Wildlife Service for their assistance.

TABLE ONE

Number Banded : New Birds Only  
 Recoveries : Birds Recovered At Least Once  
 Repeat : Extra Recoveries For Birds  
 Recovered Once

( ) Provisional Total Only

+ = New Species 1973-1974

BANDING AND RECOVERY TOTALS

Page 1 SPECIES NAME	NUMBER Banded			RECOVERIES			REPEAT RECOVERIES		
	PREVIOUS	1973-74	TOTAL	PREVIOUS	1973-74	TOTAL	PREVIOUS	1973-74	TOTAL
North Island Kiwi	30	11	41	12	7	19	-	-	-
Little Spotted Kiwi	0	4	4	-	2	2	-	-	-
Yellow-eyed Penguin	17	145	162	1	3	4	-	-	-
North Blue Penguin	1,300	32	1,332	631	25	656	2,480	62	2,542
South Blue Penguin	270	106	376	23	35	58	3	5	8
White-Flipped Penguin	1,581	472	2,053	135	62	197	26	53	79
Rock Hopper Penguin	1	0	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Fiordland (NZ) Crested Penguin	306	6	312	18	2	20	1	-	1
Wandering Albatross	1,734	1	1,735	70	19	89	88	7	95
North Royal Albatross	0	1,232	1,232	-	87	87	-	853	853
South Royal Albatross	19,161	21	19,182	2,218	43	2,261	1,558	17	1,575
Black-Browed Mollmawk	10,042	1,452	11,494	593	6	599	42	-	42
Grey-Headed Mollmawk	3,089	643	3,732	510	1	511	141	-	141
Bullers Mollmawk	1,486	273	1,759	271	-	271	102	-	102
Giant Petrel	959	24	983	183	-	183	91	-	91
Cape Pigeon	6,788	1	6,789	520	1	521	36	-	36
Grey-faced Petrel	13,241	0	13,241	279	1	280	52	-	52
Pycroft's Petrel	215	1	216	21	-	21	42	-	42
Cooks Petrel	54	0	54	-	1	1	-	-	-
Blue Petrel	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Broad-billed Prion	551	102	653	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fairy Prion	33,076	1,478	34,554	1,230	69	1,299	105	6	111
Black Petrel	79	23	102	7	20	27	-	-	-
Westland Black Petrel	414	63	477	9	10	19	-	-	-
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	308	2	310	-	-	-	-	-	-

Page 2 SPECIES NAME	NUMBER Banded			RECOVERIES			REPEAT RECOVERIES		
	PREVIOUS	1973-74	TOTAL	PREVIOUS	1973-74	TOTAL	PREVIOUS	1973-74	TOTAL
Bullers Shearwater	627	182	809	1	18	19	-	-	-
Sooty Shearwater	3,725	16	3,741	281	27	308	21	5	26
Huttons Shearwater	350	296	646	3	-	3	-	-	-
Norfolk Island Little Shearwater +	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nth Island Little Shearwater	284	3	287	1	1	2	-	-	-
White-faced Storm Petrel	4,523	116	4,639	401	64	465	101	33	134
Diving Petrel	6,460	5	6,465	688	-	688	373	-	373
White-tailed Tropic Bird	9	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Australian Gannet	12,403	10	12,413	2,030	19	2,049	3,430	41	3,471
Pied Shag	129	0	129	35	-	35	7	1	8
Spotted Shag	113	3	116	6	-	6	-	-	-
Reef (Blue) Heron	15	2	17	3	-	3	-	-	-
Black Swan	(26,915)	1,090	(28,005)	(6,064)	153	(6,217)	(2)	4	(6)
Canada Goose	(25,143)	1,291	(24,434)	(2,958)	180	(13,138)	(8,687)	638	(9,325)
Paradise Duck	(18,856)	2,905	(21,761)	(3,331)	768	(4,099)	(261)	94	(355)
Mallard	(56,594)	3,921	(60,515)	(11,811)	1,287	(13,098)	(1,943)	323	(2,266)
Hybrid Mallard (Cross)	(1,520)	44	(1,564)	(401)	25	(426)	(30)	3	(33)
Grey Duck	(31,152)	711	(31,863)	(9,612)	214	(9,826)	(266)	7	(273)
Grey Teal	(959)	195	(1,154)	(168)	8	(176)	(51)	7	(58)
Brown Teal	75	15	90	6	4	10	-	2	2
N.Z. Shoveler	(371)	231	(602)	(42)	33	(75)	(3)	-	(3)
N.Z. Scaup	5	4	9	3	-	3	-	-	-
Australasian Harrier	1,371	95	1,467	355	40	395	158	7	165
Chukor	362	79	441	1	-	1	-	-	-
Partridge	(12,760)	613	(13,373)	(1,038)	97	(1,135)	(7)	9	(16)

Page 5 SPECIES NAME	NUMBER Banded			RECOVERIES			REPEAT RECOVERIES		
	PREVIOUS	1973-74	TOTAL	PREVIOUS	1973-74	TOTAL	PREVIOUS	1973-74	TOTAL
Californian Quail	12,138	0	12,138	3,295	7	3,302	1,999	1	2,000
Pheasant	(45,595)	2,288	(47,883)	(3,992)	222	(4,214)	(8)	-	(8)
North Island Weka	2,672	68	2,740	116	1	117	53	-	53
Western Weka	144	4	148	9	-	9	-	-	-
Stewart Island Weka +	0	21	21	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pukeko	954	54	1,005	90	20	110	5	6	11
Notornis	108	65	173	56	13	69	165	-	165
Stk Island Pied Oystercatcher	737	1	738	175	15	190	112	24	136
Variable Oystercatcher	125	4	129	63	3	66	93	6	99
Black Oystercatcher	101	0	101	8	5	13	10	-	10
Spur-winged Plover	524	0	524	169	-	169	437	1	438
N.Z. Dotterel	49	7	56	13	4	17	38	5	43
Banded Dotterel	423	3	426	4	-	4	4	-	4
Pied Stilt	288	1	289	9	-	9	-	-	-
Southern Skua	533	5	538	65	1	66	22	-	22
Antarctic Skua	2,044	86	2,130	835	4	839	732	21	753
Stkn Black-backed Gull	55,550	746	56,296	3,899	235	4,134	134	2	136
Red-billed Gull	41,242	1,758	43,000	12,052	66	12,118	12,463	207	12,670
Black-billed Gull	27,967	86	28,053	2,001	48	2,049	1,355	3	1,358
Black-fronted Tern	697	9	706	48	-	48	30	-	30
Caspian Tern	2,327	389	2,716	104	6	110	-	-	-
Fairy Tern	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-fronted Tern	15,878	814	16,692	515	2	517	10	-	10
Sooty Tern	14,584	2	14,586	144	-	144	-	-	-
Kea	1,036	0	1,036	641	1	642	3,140	-	3,140
N.Z. Red-crowned Parakeet	15	1	16	-	-	-	-	-	-

Page 4 SPECIES NAME	NUMBER Banded			RECOVERIES			REPEAT RECOVERIES		
	PREVIOUS	1973-74	TOTAL	PREVIOUS	1973-74	TOTAL	PREVIOUS	1973-74	TOTAL
Shining Cuckoo	27	1	28	4	-	4	-	-	-
Morepork	26	0	26	9	-	9	29	4	33
North Island Rifleman	33	0	33	16	-	16	38	2	40
South Island Rifleman	221	56	277	33	22	55	4	14	18
New Zealand Pipit	39	2	41	5	-	5	-	-	-
Hedge Sparrow	1,377	17	1,394	333	2	335	579	1	580
Brown-Creeper	23	2	25	2	-	2	-	-	-
Grey Warbler	278	2	280	30	4	34	51	-	51
North Island Fantail	160	0	160	34	3	37	68	-	68
South Island Fantail	149	2	151	1	-	1	-	-	-
Pied Tit	104	0	104	29	1	30	57	5	62
South Island Robin	342	381	723	64	154	218	-	234	234
Black Robin	13	8	21	-	14	14	-	11	11
Stewart Island Robin	1	6	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Song Thrush	2,166	12	2,178	266	3	269	133	1	134
Blackbird	4,362	27	4,389	1,091	19	1,110	1,400	22	1,422
Silvereye	31,797	1,773	33,570	4,336	439	4,775	6,878	646	7,524
Bellbird	1,004	10	1,014	91	19	110	87	14	101
Tui	326	1	327	37	3	40	10	6	16
Yellow Hammer	485	66	551	102	1	103	66	-	66
Chaffinch	1,266	48	1,314	230	6	236	404	5	409
Greenfinch	3,264	162	3,426	531	8	539	918	2	920
Goldfinch	1,661	17	1,678	62	-	62	15	-	15
Redpoll	4,881	1	4,882	1,103	-	1,103	3,002	-	3,002
House Sparrow	19,192	489	19,681	1,884	18	1,902	717	2	719
Starling	4,729	1,953	6,682	311	91	402	56	39	75

SPECIES NAME	NUMBER BANNED		RECOVERIES			REPEAT RECOVERIES		
	PREVIOUS	1973-74	TOTAL	PREVIOUS	1973-74	TOTAL	PREVIOUS	1973-74
Indian Myna	1,328	64	1,392	297	10	307	125	3
North Island Saddleback	246	29	275	50	-	50	17	-
South Island Saddleback	158	0	158	13	1	14	-	-
White-backed Magpie	51	2	53	13	1	14	23	1
Rook	957	0	957	260	1	261	102	-
83 species not banded or recovered in 1973/74	10,162	-	10,162	538	-	538	107	-
PROVISIONAL TOTALS:	613,985	29,466	643,451	96,040	4,814	100,854	55,783	3,465
								59,248

TABLE ONE PROVISIONAL SUMMARY

Species Banded 1973-74	107	Total Species Banded	190
Species Recovered 1973-74	76	Total Species Recovered	139
Species with more than 10,000 banded	20	Species with more than 1,000 Recovered	18

PERCENTAGE RECOVERED

Game Species	23.67
Non-Game Species	11.23
All Species	15.67

A SELECTION OF INTERESTING RECOVERIES RECEIVED 1973-74									
PAGE 1									
SPECIES	BAND	BANDING		BANDING		RECOVERY		AGE	DISTANCE
		HOW RECOVERED	AGE AT BANDING	HOW RECOVERED	AGE AT BANDING	LOCALITY, HOW AND DATE	LOCALITY, HOW AND DATE		
Southern Blue Penguin	P-4072	Taiaroa Head	A. 6.11.74	Taiaroa Head	V. 20. 1.74	V.H.D. 2- 2-14			
White-Flipped Penguin	P-5167	Motunau Is.	P. 7. 1.74	Lawyers Head	X. 9. 2.74	0- 1- 2			231 SSW
Wandering Albatross	R-29234	Adams Is.	A. 22. 1.64	Adams Is.	✓. 23. 1.73	9- 0- 1			
Southern Royal Albatross	R-5934	Campbell Is.	P. 46.10.65	Off Concepcion (Chile)	V. 27. 4.73	7- 6-10			5332 SE
" "	R-8680	Campbell Is.	P. 17. 5.66	E of Bicheno (Tasmania)	V. - . 9.73	7- 3- 2			1220 WNW
" "	R-25250	Campbell Is.	P. 27.10.72	off Concepcion (Chile)	X. 21.12.72	0- 1-24			5308 SE
Northern Royal Albatross	R-15173	Taiaroa Head	A. 13.11.37	Taiaroa Head	✓. 20. 9.73	35-10- 6			
" "	R-15127	Taiaroa Head	A. 20. 2.70	Sisters Is., Chathams	V. 20.11.73	3- 8-27			642 E
" "	R-15148	Taiaroa Head	P. - . 8.44	Taiaroa Head	✓. 5.10.73	32- 1- 2			
Black-browed Mollumawk	M-24793	Campbell Is.	P. 21. 3.70	New Hebrides	X. - . - .73	2- 2- 2			2413 N
" "	M-26777	Campbell Is.	P. 31. 3.72	At sea (S. of West Australia)	X. 6.11.73	1- 7- 6			2695 W
Giant Petrel	Ø-12373	Campbell Is.	P. 5. 1.72	Quequen (Argentina)	V. 18. 2.73	1- 1-14			5535 SE
Cape Pigeon	27504	off Castlepoint	U. 9. 8.56	Mernoo Bank	X. 10. 8.70	14- 0- 8			192 SSW
Fairy Prion	D-110556	Motunau Is.	A. 23.10.63	Motunau Is.	V. 28.10.73	10- 0- 5			
Bullers Shearwater	Z- 563	Poor Knights Is.	A. 3.12.64	Poor Knights Is.	V. 5. 1.73	8- 1- 2			
North Is. Little Shearwater	X- 9/2	Penguin Is.	A. 4.11.67	Penguin Is.	V. 21. 8.73	5- 9-16			
White-faced Storm Petrel	C- 4043	Motunau Is.	A. 20.10.63	Motunau Is.	V. 29.10.73	11- 0- 9			
Australian Gannet	M-22375	Cape Kidnappers	P. 3. 1.64	Furneux Grp., Bass Strt.	X. 15. 7.73	4- 6-10			1550 W

Page 2	Banded		Banded		AGE	DISTANCE
SPECIES	BAND	LOCALITY, AGE AND DATE	LOCALITY, HOW AND DATE			
Black Swan	80698	L. Ellesmere J. 22 1.56	L. Ellesmere X. 15. 7.72	16- 5-22		
" "	19-12274	L. Ellesmere J. 15. 1.65	L. Rerewhakaitu X. 23. 5.73	8- 4- 6	<u>433 NNE</u>	
Paradise Duck	13-10269	Blackmount, Southland P. 19.12.72	Berwick X. 5. 5.73	0- 4-15	<u>113 E</u>	
" "	13-13868	Tarndale, Nelson A. 16. 1.73	Lewis Pass X. 8. 5.73	0- 3-23	<u>232 E</u>	
Grey Teal	2- 4324	L. Wahi J. 5. 2.71	Manawatu R. X. 20. 5.73	2- 3-13	<u>207 S</u>	
" "	17-41571	L. Wahi J. 14. 2.68	Te Kauwhata X. 14. 3.72	4- 0-29	<u>11 N</u>	
Grey Duck	17-13959	L. Whangape A. 27. 2.62	Tirau X. 5. 5.73	11- 2- 6	<u>50 SE</u>	
N.Z. Shoveler	Z-13462	Oreti Beach Loc. J. 18.12.72	Hoods Landing, Waikato X. 6. 5.73	0- 4-17	<u>705 NNE</u>	
S. Is Pied Oystercatcher	K- 3206	Christchurch J. 9. 5.67	Hutt R. X. 30. 5.73	6- 0-21	<u>195 NE</u>	
N.Z. Dotterel	24269	Karaka P. 7.12.61	Karaka S. 12. 1.74	12- 1- 5		
Black Stilt	E-55657	Ohau River P. 26.11.67	Ahuriri R. S. 25.10.72	4-10-29	<u>20 SW</u>	
Southern Skua	M-31633	Enderby Is. A. 17. 1.63	Enderby Is. V. 5. 1.73	9-11-18		
Antarctic Skua	L- 6291	C. Royds P. 22. 1.65	Pointe Geologie S. 22.11.73	8- 9-29	<u>803 N</u>	
Black-backed Gull	S- 6046	Baring Head P. 27.12.60	Petone X. 23. 1.74	13- 0-26	<u>11 N</u>	
Red-billed Gull	E-71179	Kaikoura P. 22.11.59	Redcliffs S. 26. 3.74	14- 4- 2	<u>95 SSW</u>	
Caspian Tern	H-18234	S. Mangawhai Hd. P. 24.11.69	Waihou R. X. 10. 5.73	3- 5-14	<u>72 NW</u>	
Morepork	H-17506	Orongorongo A. 28.11.68	Orongorongo S. 11.12.73	3- 9-26		
S. Is Rifleman	A-19960	Ross Crk, Dunedin P. 24.11.68	Ross Crk V. 19. 1.74	5- 1-25		
Grey Warbler	A-35197	Orongorongo U. 3. 3.70	Orongorongo V. 12. 7.72	2- 4- 9		
Song Thrush	C-12141	Whataroa N. J. 14.12.66	Whataroa W. X. 3. 4.73	6- 3-19	<u>14 SW</u>	
Tui	D-63144	Orongorongo A. 31. 1.69	Orongorongo V. 3.11.24	3-11-24		
House Sparrow	E-14957	Milford U. 19. 1.66	Milford Loc X. 16.10.73	7- 4-20		
Starling	D-57832	Milford A. 10.12.67	Milford X. -.12.73	6- 0- ?		
Myna	E-39862	Havelock North A. 27.4 .66	Havelock North X. 22.11.73	7- 6-26		

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BIRD BANDING 1973-74

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