

RINGING OPERATIONS.

SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1951.

Compiled by J. M. Cunningham, Masterton.

The following statistical summary shows the number of birds reported ringed and recovered under the Society's scheme from its inception (the first bird ringed was a silvereye on February 27, 1950) to March 31, 1951, the end of the society's year. It includes a number of birds of various species outside the normal scope of the scheme, ringed by special permission of the Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs, and also some birds ringed with other than the society's rings, but details of which have been provided by the operators. No distinction is made in either case. The totals "all operators", by incorporating the totals published in Notornis, Volume 4, No. 4, thus include details of all ringing of which details are on the society's files. In order to make the information available as soon as possible, details are given of all recoveries made at the time of going to press. This number is, therefore, greater than the number shown in the summary, which is up to March 31 only.

BIRDS RINGED.

Operators.	Where Ringed.	All Operators to 31/3/51		Individual Operators 1950-51	
		Ringed.	Recovered.	Ringed.	Recov.
	ALBATROSS—Light-mantled Sooty	23	9		
	ALBATROSS—Royal	374	12		
	ALBATROSS—Wandering	30	1		
R. A. Falla	—Antipodes Island			10	
	BLACKBIRD	73	6		
R. H. D. Stidolph	—Masterton			4	
	CHAFFINCH	4			
	DOTTEREL—Banded	15			
J. M. Cunningham	—Wairarapa			3	
R. H. D. Stidolph	—Wairarapa			8	
	DOTTEREL—New Zealand	3	1		
H. R. McKenzie	—Mataitai, Clevedon			3	1
	DUCK—Grey	1			
	DUCK—Paradise	4			
J. M. Cunningham	—Lord Howe Island			2	
	FANTAIL—Pied	19	3		
	GANNET	169	2		
P. A. S. Stein, Horu Horu				27	
F. H. Robertson & K. A. Wodzicki,	Cape Kidnappers			142	2
	GODWIT—Bar-tailed	1			
	GREENFINCH	10			
	GULL—Black-backed	52	1		
J. M. Cunningham	—Palliser Spit			40	1
L. Gurr	—Nelson			1	
	GULL—Black-billed	336			
E. W. Dawson,	Ashley River, Canterbury			304	
	GULL—Red-billed	214	6		
R. A. Falla	—Day's Bay			1	
L. Gurr	—Nelson			106	
J. H. Sutherland,	The Brothers Island, Cook Strait			29	
	HARRIER	12	1		
J. S. Watson	—Hawke's Bay			12	1
	HEDGE SPARROW	17			
R. H. D. Stidolph	—Masterton			3	
	KOKAKO—Blue-wattled	3			
H. R. McKenzie	—Moumoukai			3	
	MAGPIE—White-backed	1	1		
	PETREL—Giant	1			
	PETREL—Grey-faced	1			

BIRDS RINGED.—Continued

Operators.	Where Ringed.	All Operators to 31/3/51		Individual Operators 1950-51	
		Ringed.	Recovered.	Ringed.	Recov.
	PHEASANT	710	197		
	PRION—Fairy	20			
	PUKEKO	2			
J. M. Cunningham—Wairarapa	QUAIL—Californian	22		2	
G. R. Williams	SILVEREYE	4302	156	22	
J. M. Cunningham—Masterton	SKUA—Southern	6		1	
	SPARROW—House	7			
	STARLING	30			
	TERN—Caspian	6			
	TERN—White-fronted	265	2		
L. Gurr—Nelson				94	1
J. H. Sutherland, The Brothers				30	
	THRUSH—Song	38	4		
	WARBLER—Grey	16	1		
	Numbers Ringed, 1950/51			837	6
	Numbers Ringed to 31/3/50 (published Notornis, Vol. 4, No. 4)			5950	397
		6787	403	6787	403

RECOVERIES.

NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL (*Pluviorhynchus obscurus*).

5902, colour-ringed as a chick aged 29 days at Mataitai, Clevedon, on 26/12/50, was seen at Karaka, Manakau Harbour, 6/2/51 and several dates up to 7/4/51.

5901, ringed one day earlier, was from the same nest as 5902, and was seen where ringed 5/4/51. The third chick from the clutch was not seen after the age of 46 days.

GANNET (*Sula serrator*).

15258, ringed as a chick 15/1/51 at Cape Kidnappers was recovered at Harrington Beach, 150 miles north of Sydney, Australia, 20/3/51, after heavy gales.

15275, ringed similarly, was found dead on Port Macquarie Beach, 190 miles north of Sydney, Australia, 22/3/51.

15291, ringed similarly, was recovered at Paekakariki Beach, 12/4/51, exhausted by gales. There were traces of oil on the feathers and the bird died.

15262, ringed similarly on 24/2/51 was found sick and died, at Kereta, Thames coast, 22/4/51.

BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*).

14124 was ringed on Palliser Spit, Wairarapa, as a fledgling, 1/1/51, and was found dead near the colony 12/3/51.

BLACK-BILLED GULL (*Larus bulleri*).

10287 was ringed as a chick 3/12/50 in the Ashley River, was found dead, partly eaten, in the Manawatu River, 8/5/51.

RED-BILLED GULL (*Larus novaehollandiae*).

9342 was ringed as a fledgling, 14/1/51 at Boulder Bank, Nelson. It was recovered 1/3/51 exhausted after a storm, presumably near Nelson, and released later without the ring.

9501 ringed similarly, 6/2/51, was found dead in Nelson 10/5/51.

9611 was ringed as a chick at The Brothers Island, Cook Strait, 3/1/51. It was found fouled in ropes on the deck of a boat in Tory Channel, 31/3/51, and was apparently released without the ring.

HARRIER (*Circus approximans*).

13102 was ringed in the nest, 3/1/51, at Hynish, Tikokino, Hawke's Bay. It was trapped less than a mile away, 10/6/51.

13107 ringed 19/3/51 as a yearling at Hynish, was found dead within a mile, 11/6/51.

13106 also ringed as a yearling at Hynish, 18/3/51, was recovered in a rabbit trap within four miles, 18/4/51.

13103 ringed at Hynish, 3/1/51, fully fledged, was recovered in a rabbit trap not far away, 24/2/51.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*Sterna striata*).

5926, ringed as a fledgling at Boulder Bank, Nelson, 14/1/51, was found dead on the beach near Onekaka, 76 miles north-west, 3/3/51.

GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*).

16804 was ringed at Heard Island, 6/3/51, by members of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition, who are using O.S.N.Z. rings. The probable age of the bird when ringed was 2½ months, and it began flying in the middle of April. The bird took the bait of a hand-line from a fishing vessel about 200 miles south-west of Durban, South Africa, on 9/8/51. The hook was removed, ring number noted and the bird released without injury. The incident was reported by Mr. J. R. Malin, hon. secretary of the Natal Bird Club (branch of the South African Ornithological Society), Box 937, Durban. The recovery point is about 2400 miles from where ringed.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

Reprinting of Cyclostyled Issues.—The response of members who are prepared to buy these issues if published shows that there is a very general demand for them. However, not enough money has yet been promised to make the republication an economic proposition to the Society. All members who would buy a copy (probably priced at 10/-) or make a donation towards the cost are asked to advise the hon. secretary immediately if they have not already done so. Requests are often received for original copies of the cyclostyled issues. If any members have copies they no longer require, they are invited to inform the hon. secretary of the price they are prepared to sell them at.

Nest Records.—Members are urged to obtain a supply of cards for the present nesting season from Mr. J. King, whose address is now c/o Box 448, Masterton, and to fill in as many as possible.

Ringling Scheme.—Members intending to ring this season are urged to get their supply of rings early. A few pairs of pliers, suitable for closing rings are available from J. M. Cunningham. The size required should be stated, and the price is 12/6. Members finding birds washed up on beaches are asked to look for possible rings on the legs, as many seabirds have been ringed in the last year. Banded dotterel, New Zealand dotterel, pied and black stilts, red and black-billed gulls are being colour ringed this season, and a close watch should be kept for these, care being taken to note the colours, and on which legs the rings are on.

Beach Patrol.—A new investigation has been launched, in which all members having the opportunity of searching beaches for birds washed up after storms can take part. A Beach Patrol Card is available to give a list of species found, and a Specimen Record Card should be completed, giving details of every specimen found, whether preserved or not. Cards are obtainable from the organiser, J. M. Cunningham.

Society's Activities.—With this issue is enclosed a pamphlet setting out the objects and activities of the Society. Members will see that there are many ways in which they can help, and extra copies may be had from the hon. secretary for passing on to prospective members.