

period of the closely-related Whitehead is recorded by Wilkinson as 17 days on Kapiti. Since Yellowheads and Whiteheads have been placed by some taxonomists among the *paridae*, it is perhaps worth noting that the incubation period of the Great Tit (*Parus major*), a bird of about the same size, is normally only 13-14 days.—Ed.)



### RINGED TASMANIAN MUTTON-BIRD RECOVERED IN NEW ZEALAND

Though the ringing programme on the Tasmanian Mutton-bird or Short-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*) has been carried on since 1947, and there have been 13 recoveries of marked birds outside the breeding area, ranging from the New South Wales coast (4 recoveries) to the North Pacific (9 recoveries), there have been none so far from New Zealand. However, there are numerous records of the species as a transit migrant in New Zealand waters, and young birds, some still with down adhering to the feathers, are not infrequently washed ashore on the western coasts in May.

The first recovery of a marked bird has now been reported by Mr. Reg. Williams of Napier, president of the Hawke's Bay Naturalists' Club. Mr. Williams, who is honorary warden of the Cape Kidnappers Gannet Sanctuary, found the bird at Cape Kidnappers, Hawke's Bay, on December 26, 1959, it being in a decomposed condition. This bird, bearing ring No. 29450, had been ringed by me as a fledgling in its burrow at Babel Island, near Flinders Island, Tasmania, on March 24, 1959, and hence was almost a year old.

Immature birds do not make a landfall on their nesting islands until they are three years of age, and they are seen there only between mid-January and mid-March (Serventy, "The banding programme on *Puffinus tenuirostris*," *C.S.I.R.O. Wildl. Res.* 2 (1), 1957: 51). Sufficient recoveries of marked birds have been made, however, which suggest that a portion at least of the younger age-groups share in the north-south migration of the older birds. Thus 29450 was returning from its first visit to the North Pacific when it perished in the Hawke's Bay area. It is of interest to record that another fledgling bird of its age group, No. 29752, ringed at the same time on the same island only a few chains distant, was recovered on July 20, 1959, on a Japanese fishing boat in the North Pacific at Lat. 45° 39' N., Long. 155° 40' E. Surviving members of this age group will not come ashore at their home islands until January, 1962.

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### RARE BIRDS AT FAREWELL SPIT

#### (a) *Tree Martins*

While I was working on the lighthouse at Farewell Spit on the afternoon of 14/1/60, McKiddee called my attention to two small birds which were flying around the pine tree next to the tower. My first impression was that they were swallows, but on closer observation I saw that their tails were not deeply forked, as I expected. The forehead