

9th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BANDING COMMITTEE For the Year Ending 31st March, 1959

The full report of the Banding Committee, as read in part at the Annual General Meeting of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand in May, will, this year, be published as a separate publication and, it is hoped, will soon be available in print.

To keep members informed of the activities of the Society's banding scheme, it was decided to publish the following shortened report:

Twenty-eight of the 44 banding-permit holders were active this year and banded 8,448 birds of 47 species, which brings the grand total of birds banded in New Zealand up to 40,637. This year 560 recoveries and 818 repeats were reported. Some recoveries of particular interest are mentioned in detail.

Selected Recoveries

ROYAL ALBATROSS: One of the Royal Albatrosses (No. 15177) banded by Mr. F. Abernethy off Cape Campbell on 15/10/57, was reported (report dated 7/9/58) found exhausted and killed on a beach near Huoiocola; Dept. de Union, *Chile*.

LIGHT-MANTLED SOOTY ALBATROSS: No. 6A banded by Mr. J. H. Sorensen as an adult bird on a nest on Campbell Island on 2/12/42, was found nesting at the same place on 30/12/58, i.e. over 16 years after banding.

GIANT PETREL: No. 36539, banded as an adult bird, by Mr. C. Huntly at the Tory Channel Whaling Station on 17/7/58, was recovered on Macquarie Island on 21/8/58, i.e. approximately 1000 miles S.W. and only one month and four days after banding.

CAPE PIGEON: No. 38431, banded as an adult bird off Cape Campbell by Mr. F. Abernethy on 27/6/57, was recovered off Cape Malheureux, *Mauritius*, on 18/8/58.

and

No. 41239, banded as an adult bird at the Tory Channel Whaling Station by Mr. C. Huntly, on 19/7/58, was found breeding in December, 1958, on Paterson Island, Windmill Group, Wilkes Land, *Antarctica*.

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER: Three of our Flesh-footed Shearwaters, recovered this year, all banded by Mr. F. Abernethy off Cape Campbell in 1956, 1957 and 1958 respectively, were recovered in the Bay of Plenty and one on Muriwai Beach.

AUSTRALIAN GANNET: This year recoveries of Gannets were as follows:

Originally banded on Cape Kidnappers: 8 recoveries from Australia; 50 recoveries on nesting colony.

Originally banded at different places in the Hauraki Gulf: 10 recoveries from Australia; 5 recoveries from New Zealand; 47 recoveries on nesting colonies.

SOUTHERN BLACK-BACKED GULL: No. 22192, banded by Mr. J. C. Davenport on Rangitoto Island as a chick on 4/1/53, was found dead at Upper Hutt on 20/10/58.

No. 26181, banded as a chick on Kapiti Island on 31/12/57, was found dead at Ongaonga, Hawke's Bay on 17/5/58.

RED-BILLED GULL: Very interesting information was obtained this year about the early and wide dispersal of Red-billed Gulls from their nesting colony.

Recoveries from a large number of birds banded at Kaikoura Peninsula were reported from as far north as the Hutt Valley and from as far south as **Oamaru**.

CASPIAN TERN: A novel method of recovery was experienced by No. 30142, banded as a chick on South Kaipara Head on 30/12/55 by Mr. M. A. Waller. This bird was killed by an aeroplane above Whenuapai on 6/3/59.

Birds Banded Overseas and Recovered in New Zealand

GIANT PETREL: Eight Giant Petrels, all banded as chicks on Signy Island in the South Orkneys (some 6000 miles from New Zealand Atlantic Ocean) during February, March and April, 1958, were recovered in New Zealand between June and October, 1958.

CAPE PIGEON: One Cape Pigeon wearing the band "Vogelwarte Helgoland, Germania, No. 590753," was caught and released again on 5/8/58. This bird was banded as an adult in the Weddell Sea from a German Whaling ship on 7/1/1938.

This recovery is a particularly interesting one, not only because of the distance from where banded, but mainly because of the age of the bird, which wore the band for over 20 years.



CARD COMMITTEE REPORT

For the Year Ended 31st March, 1959

It is now four years since this Society began to produce Christmas Cards for its members and friends. Throughout this period the project has received considerable support and on behalf of my committee I wish to thank the Society's members, and the Forest and Bird Protection Society, for the interest which has been shown. Over the past year the Committee has had to face increased costs in the production of cards with the result that our net profit was not as high as in the previous year. It is pleasing to note, however, that the expenses incurred in making the sales remained approximately the same as in the previous year.

During the year we converted further of our stocks on hand into cash and it is hoped that this year, with your help, we will be able to further reduce the stocks of bookmarks and calendars which we are holding. As the result of the improved cash position we were able to repay the sum of £50 to the Society. A donation of £20 was paid with the approval of Council to the Forest and Bird Protection Society in appreciation of the help and support which that Society and its members have given this Committee.

It is fitting at this time to make acknowledgement to Mrs. Avis Acres, who painted the designs for last season's cards. The cards proved as popular as ever and we look forward to seeing the new paintings for the coming season. At the same time I wish to thank all helpers who handled the complete packaging of the cards; a very considerable task. Throughout the year I have had the help of Mr. Bull, Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Sibson and this help, which has been so freely given, has been greatly appreciated.

B. S. CHAMBERS. Convener