

ALBATROSS BANDING AT MALABAR, 1963

S.G.Lane, Sydney, N.S.W.

Largely as a result of Clive Campion's efforts and thanks to the generosity of his friend Jim Simpson of Malabar in making his boat available, Sydney members of the N.S.W. Albatross Study Group have been very active for the past few weeks.

The boat, a 12 foot aluminium craft powered by a 10 h.p. motor, has proved to be the most suitable one yet used by the group. With a team of three, some very satisfying results have been achieved.

The birds favour cold windy weather and rough seas, conditions which are unfavourable for our operations. Few birds are present when the sea is calm with little or no wind.

A summary of the operations is set out below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Wandering Albatross</u>		<u>Giant Petrel</u>	
	<u>Diomedea exulans</u>		<u>Macronectes giganteus</u>	
	Banded	Retrapped	Banded	Retrapped
13.7.63	45	3	2	1
20.7.63	48	4	8	-
27.7.63	12	2	3	-
3.8.63	11	7	-	-
9.8.63	54	9	3	-
14.8.63	<u>30</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Totals:	200	31	17	2

An examination of the Albatross retraps reveals relatively small numbers of birds caught twice in the one season. Of the 231 birds caught, two only have been trapped a second time, while a third, retrapped at Bellambi, was caught six days later at Malabar.

	<u>Banded</u>	<u>Retrapped</u>
140-26005	Malabar 20.7.63	14.8.63
140-00686	" 2.7.60	3.8.63 and 14.8.63
140-02774	Bellambi 20.8.59	Bellambi 3.8.63 Malabar 9.8.63



Members of the Albatross Study Group in action off Malabar. Catherine Davis casts the net whilst John Disney (amidships) and Clive Campion (tiller) await results. Photo: M.D. Murray.

In addition, three birds were retrapped bearing British Museum Bands.

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|--------------------------|--------|---|
| 58.737
(Br. Museum) | (FIDS) | WANDERING ALBATROSS banded by
W.L.N. Tickell (USARP) on Bird Is.,
South Georgia (54°00'S. 38°05'W.)
on 5.12.1958.
Retrapped Malabar 13.7.63 |
| 501-6564
(Br. Museum) | | GIANT PETREL (White Phase) banded by
British Antarctic Survey on Signy Is.,
South Orkney (60°43'S. 45°36'W.) on
22.3.1963.
Retrapped Malabar 13.7.63. |
| 501-6993
(Br. Museum) | | GIANT PETREL banded by
British Antarctic Survey on Signy Is.,
on 31.3.63.
Retrapped Malabar 14.8.63. |

The following extract from the first letter received

from the Ringing Officer, British Museum, is of considerable interest.

"The British Antarctic Survey rings some 1000-1500 young Giant Petrels each year. Our pattern of recoveries differs markedly from those ringed on Macquarie Island. We have extremely few found in South America, but quite a lot in South Africa and the Indian Ocean; both are at variance with the Australian results. New South Wales is rather off-track for Giant Petrels ringed in British Antarctica; mostly ours are recovered in Western Australia."

In view of these remarks, and the comparatively few petrels caught, a third recovery is even more significant.

501-6994

'GIANT PETREL banded by British Antarctic Survey on Signy Is. South Orkney (60°43'S. 45°36'W.) on 31.3.63.
Caught by fisherman on 24.7.63 off Scotts Head, Macksville, N.S.W. (30°46'S. 153°01'E).

All four birds had been banded as nestlings. All were released alive with band.

BANDERS' LIBRARY.

Serventy, D.L., Farner, D.S., & Nicholls, C.A., 1962, "Trapping and Maintaining Shore Birds in Captivity." Bird-Banding, Vol.33, No.3, pp.123-130 (July).

We should like to draw attention to this paper, reprints of which were recently distributed to all registered banders by the Secretary of the A.B.B.S. For the benefit of associate and junior members, this paper gives a good account of the use of Holgerson type triangular funnel traps for catching waders at Pelican Point, Perth, by the authors. These traps were found to be ideal for catching small waders up to the size of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Erolia acuminata), but the entrance openings, 9 x 7 inches, were too small for Godwits. Early morning and forenoon were found the best catching times with still "heat wave" conditions. There is also an interesting report on keeping shore birds in captivity and their social behaviour. This is a valuable paper for banders interested in shore birds.