

(see Bird Bander, Vol.1. No.5,p.93), and though most were put on a good number of years ago, it is not possible to exclude the possibility that this could have been one of their birds.

G. K. Meldrum has also used pink leg bands in Tasmania. All the same, there is a tantalising possibility (in spite of the season of the year), that this could have been a Victorian bird. For the record, the Secretary of the Australian Bird Banding Scheme has informed us that the following Victorian banders have been using red band on L.leg, metal band on R. : J.McKean and F.Stewart; T.Pescott (Geelong District); A.Reid (Mornington Peninsula).

Banders are reminded that, for reasons which should be obvious, colour banding may be undertaken only with the approval of the Secretary of the A.B.B.S. Colour banding is an important adjunct for specific studies, and for this very reason it is vital that there should be central control over colour-banding projects.

TWO INTERNATIONAL RECOVERIES.

Notification has been received from the United States Department of the Interior regarding details of two beach washed banded birds found on the north coast of Tasmania.

On September 17, 1962, a decaying Black-browed Albatross (Diomedea melanophris) was found on the beach at Badger Head. It carried a U.S.A.R.P. band, No.568-08979. On October 20, 1962, the dessicated remains of a Giant Petrel (Macronectes giganteus) with U.S.A.R.P. band No.568-01172 was found on the beach at Pipers Heads.

These bands, together with the bird remains were brought to the Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston by the finders, Mr. Burge and Mr. Franklin. Details were sent to the return address and the remains were added to the Museum's reference collections.

We were later advised that both birds were banded on Bird Island, South Georgia, (lat 54°.30' S., long. 37°W.) The Black-browed Albatross on February 18, 1962, and the Giant Petrel on February 2, 1962. It is interesting to note that these two birds, banded on the same island almost at the same time, had flown half way round the world to be recovered within twenty miles of each other and, judging from the condition of the remains, both having died at approximately the same time.

Information was not forthcoming as to the age of the birds when banded, but it is assumed that they were banded as chicks.

R.H.Green, Launceston, Tasmania.
January 30 '64.

TOE NAIL COLOURATION IN SOME SHEARWATERS.

A number of Australian offshore islands are known to carry mixed breeding populations of up to three Shearwater species. Three species, Puffinus griseus, P. tenuirostris and P. pacificus can be extremely difficult to identify in the fledgling stage. Bird banders and other workers have had to take measurements of culmen, tarsal length and width, and weight in order to distinguish the species.

On Montague Island, New South Wales, during April, 1963, I noticed that P. pacificus, both fledglings and adults, had toe nails of a white or pink-white shade. P. griseus and P. tenuirostris differed, having nails of a grey black colour. P. carneipes, examined on Lord Howe Island, had brown-pink toe nails.

Totals of 350 P. pacificus, 1350 P. tenuirostris, 2200 P. carneipes and 11 P. griseus have been examined for toe-nail colouration. The writer considers that more P. pacificus should be examined, particularly from Western Australia and Queensland, and hopes that banders will check further on this.

John L. McKean, Canberra, A.C.T.

A USEFUL HOLDING BAG - AMENDMENT.

Since the publication of Vol.1.No.7, a helpful addition has been made to the holding bag described on p.173 of that issue. This consists of fixing two rust-proof wire rings, one in each end of the bag; this causes it to keep better shape when containing birds. It still retains the general characteristics outlined previously.

S.G.Lane, Lane Cove.
