

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.
