

RECOVERY ROUND-UP

This section is prepared with the co-operation of the Secretary, Australian Bird and Bat Banding Schemes, Australian Nature Conservation Agency. The recoveries are only a selection of the thousands received each year; they are not a complete list and should not be analysed in full or part without prior consent of the banders concerned. Longevity and distance records refer to the ABBBS unless otherwise stated. The distance is the shortest distance in kilometres along the direct line joining the place of banding and recovery; the compass direction refers to the same direct line. (There is no implication regarding the distance flown or the route followed by the bird). Where available ABBBS age codes have been included in the banding data.

Recovery or longevity items may be submitted directly to me whereupon their merits for inclusion will be considered.

Hon. Editor

The following abbreviations appear in this issue:

AWGS — Australian Wader Study Group.

PSG — Penguin Study Group.

VWSG — Victorian Wader Study Group.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

111-10625. Imature (1) banded by the Taronga Zoo Rehabilitation Programme and released at Manly Vale, NSW on 22 Aug. 2000. Recovered dead at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, NSW on 6 May 2002. 10 km SSW.

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*

(a) 190-22579. Adult (1+) male banded by PSG on Phillip Island, Vic. on 5 Dec. 1984. Recovered injured, later died at Altona Beach, Vic. on 4 May 2002, over 17 years 4 months after banding. 77 km NNW.

(b) 190-24459. Adult (1+) male banded by the PSG on the northern shore of Phillip Island, Vic. on 4 Sep. 1985. Recovered sick at Point Leo, Vic. on 6 Feb. 2002, over 16 years 5 months after banding. 14 km N.

(Bird will stay in Melbourne Zoo Collection as it is geriatric and blind in one eye due to a cataract.)

(c) 190-24747. Adult (2+) banded by H. Battam on Big Island No. 1, Five Islands, Port Kembla, NSW on 1 Dec. 1985. Recovered dead at Lake Munmorah, south of Newcastle, NSW on 18 Mar. 2002, over 16 years 3 months after banding. 152 km NNE.

(d) 190-86611. Adult (1+) male banded by PSG on Phillip Island, Vic. on 4 Apr. 1995. Recaptured seven times at banding place up until 1996. Recaptured, released alive with band during dredging operations off Bunbury, WA on 15 July 2001, over 6 years 3 months after banding. 2 707 km E.

(See story at end of Recovery Round-up.)

Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

131-34191. Nestling banded by The Antarctic Division on Dewar Island, near Casey Station, Antarctica (66°14'S, 110°10'E) on 24 Jan. 1978. Recovered dead at banding place by J. A. van Franeker on 26 Dec. 1998, over 20 years 11 months after banding.

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*

(a) 140-33136. Adult (1+) banded by D. Gibson at sea off Bellambi, NSW (34°22'S, 150°56'E) on 9 Aug. 1975. Recaptured, released alive with band by D. Briggs on Bird Island, South Georgia, Atlantic Ocean (54°01'S, 38°03'W) on 13 Feb. 2000, over 24 years 6 months after banding. 10 147 km S.

(b) 140-39229. Adult (1+) banded by D. Gibson at sea off Austinmer, NSW (34°18'S, 150°58'E) on 31 July 1971. Recaptured, released alive with band by D. Briggs on Bird Island, South Georgia, Atlantic Ocean (54°01'S, 38°03'W) on 13 Feb. 2000, over 28 years 6 months after banding. 10 154 km S.

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophrys*

(a) CF15985*. Adult (1+) banded on the Kerguelen Islands, Indian Ocean (49°15'S, 69°30'E) on 1 Nov. 1986. Recovered dead on Portland Beach, Vic. (38°21'S, 141°35'E) in Mar. 2002. 5 684 km E.

(b) CF39042*. Nestling banded on the Kerguelen Islands, Indian Ocean (49°15'S, 69°30'E) on 26 Mar. 2001. Recovered dead at Frenchmans Bay, Albany, WA (35°04'S, 117°56'E) on 2 Nov. 2001. 4 207 km E.

* French Banding Scheme band.

Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta*

(a) 140-42241. Nestling banded by R. H. Green on Albatross Island, Tas. on 1 Feb. 1973. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place by R. P. Gales on 1 Nov. 2001, over 28 years 9 months after banding. (Bird was rebanded with band No. 132-07414.)

(This is the oldest recorded for the species.)

(b) 280-00462. Nestling banded by N. P. Brothers on the Mewstone, Tas. on 15 Mar. 1982. Recovered dead at Bridgewater Bay near Portland, Vic. on 18 Jan. 2002, over 19 years 10 months after banding. 726 km NNW.

Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda*

200-14529. Nestling banded by A. H. Burbidge at Sugarloaf Rock Nature Reserve, WA (33°33'S, 115°00'E) on 6 Jan. 1998. Recaptured, released alive with band by G. Rocamora on Reunion Island, Indian Ocean (21°06'S, 55°36'E) on 14 Sep. 2001. 5 948 km W.

(This is the longest movement recorded for the species.)

Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator*

(a) 131-65046. Nestling banded by C. G. Cooper on Lawrence Rocks State Faunal Reserve, Portland, Vic. on 23 Dec. 1985. Recovered dead at The Basin, Killarney, Vic. on 15 Jan. 2002, over 16 years after banding. 60 km E.

(b) 131-76789. Nestling banded by C. G. Cooper on Lawrence Rocks State Faunal Reserve, Portland, Vic. on 6 Feb. 1992. Recovered dead 3 km W from Lake Monibeong Beach Access, Vic. on 2 May 2002, over 10 years 2 months after banding. 56 km WNW.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

131-32405. Nestling banded by D. A. Saunders on Rottne Island, WA on 10 Oct. 1982. Recovered dead at Mary Cove, Rottne Island, WA on 24 Apr. 2002, over 19 years 6 months after banding. 204 km S.

(This is the oldest recorded for the species.)

Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

091-04340. Adult (2+) banded by VWSG on Swan Island, Queenscliff, Vic. on 18 Oct. 1981. Recaptured, released alive with band near banding place on 19 Nov. 2000, over 19 years 1 month after banding. 4 km NNW.

(This is the oldest recorded for the species.)

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*

062-15927. Immature (1) banded by AWGS at Beaches Crab Creek Road, Roebuck Bay, Broome, WA (18°00'S, 122°22'E) on 26 July 1998. Recaptured, released alive with band at Tatu River Estuary, Changhua County, Taiwan (24°10'34"N, 120°27'32"E) on 23 Apr. 2002. 4 692 km N.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

3C77053. Adult (2) banded at Takamatsu Town, Kahoku-Gun, Japan (36°46'N, 136°43'E) on 25 Sep. 2001. Recaptured, released alive carrying 2 or more bands by VWSG at Sandy Point, Shallow Inlet, Vic. (38°51'S, 146°09'E) on 16 Feb. 2002. 8 462 km S.

(This is the first foreign banded Sanderling recaptured in Australia.)

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

042-15610. Adult (2+) banded by VWSG at Werribee Sewerage Farm, Vic. (38°05'S, 144°31'E) on 29 Dec. 1999. Recaptured, released alive with band at Mai Po Marshes, Hong Kong (22°29'N, 114°19'E) on 28 Mar. 2002. 7 435 km NNW.

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus neglectus*

111-02552. Nestling banded by G. P. Clancy at Curlew Island, Woolli River, NSW on 29 Feb. 2000. Colour marking sighted in field (band No. inferred) twice at two locations:

- (1) On Comerong Island, Shoalhaven Heads, NSW by D. J. McKay on 3 Feb. 2002. 604 km SSW.
- (2) At Orient Point near Nowra, NSW by N. Bardsley, on 24 Feb. 2002. 609 km SSW.

(This is the longest movement recorded for the species.)

Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

100-82031. Adult (2+) banded by VWSG on Swan Island, Queenscliff, Vic. on 13 June 1981. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place on 2 Mar. 2002, over 20 years 8 months after banding.

Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*

071-37471. Nestling banded by J. G. K. Harris on Green Island, Tas. on 17 Dec. 1978. Recovered dead, tangled in fish farm net at Moonah, Tas. on 10 Jan. 2002, over 23 years after banding. 41 km N.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

041-41809. Nestling banded by K. H. Egan in sand dunes adjacent to Kingsford Smith Airport Runway, Sydney, NSW on 4 Jan. 1990. Colour marking sighted in field (band No. inferred) at Toorbul, Qld. on 2 Mar. 2002, over 12 years 1 month after banding. 787 km N.

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

024-25295. Adult (1+) male banded by A. J. Leishman at Mount Annan Botanic Gardens, Campbelltown, NSW on 29 Aug. 1993. Recaptured, released alive with band at different locations within gardens four times, the last occasion by F. Matter on 11 Nov. 2001, over 8 years 2 months after banding. 2 km S.

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

040-21184. Adult (2+) female banded by J. Dale at Mount Annan Botanic Gardens, Campbelltown, NSW on 17 Dec. 1995. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place by F. Matter on 30 June 2001, over 5 years 6 months after banding.

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

(a) 023-33910. Adult (1+) banded by A. J. Leishman at Mount Annan Botanic Gardens, Campbelltown, NSW on 24 July 1993. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place three times, the last occasion by F. Matter on 26 Apr. 2001, over 7 years 9 months after banding.

(b) 023-34046. Adult (1+) banded by A. J. Leishman at Mount Annan Botanic Gardens, Campbelltown, NSW on 17 Dec. 1994. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place six times, the last occasion by F. Matter on 30 June 2001, over 6 years 6 months after banding.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

062-23190. Adult (1+) female banded by J. Dale at Mount Annan Botanic Gardens, Campbelltown, NSW on 2 Oct. 1994. Recaptured, released alive with band at banding place four times, the last occasion by F. Matter on 30 June 2001, over 6 years 8 months after banding.

The following correspondence was received by The Australian Bird and Bat Banding Schemes in respect to the recovery of Little Penguin Band No. 190-86611.

As a reader of *Waves* newsletter I would like to send you a little anecdote from a dredging job we did in May last year at Bunbury, Western Australia.

I am a professional Merchant Navy marine engineer and I well know that dredging can be a contentious issue, especially in new development work, but maintenance dredging will be around for a long time yet. If you saw the effects of urban pressure and what we were scooping out of scenic waterways such as Bunbury, you would have to reconsider.

The dredger we were using was the "Orwell" a split-hopper type dredge, whereby the entire ship's hull is constructed to split longitudinally, with big hinges at deck level holding the two halves together. When opened, the load is dropped asunder at the spoil ground.

A heavy drag head attached to the end of a long dredge-pipe, about 1 metre in diameter, is trawled along the seabed like a big vacuum cleaner. This head is suitably constructed to exclude the normal detritus of our modern society — bikes, shopping trolleys; lost crab pots, big rocks and even unwanted firearms — from entering and blocking the huge pump inside the ship. It's a most unpopular job for the crew if it does block! One night shift we noticed a small, slime-covered, swimming creature, obviously confused and distressed, making its way through the soup-like mud in the hopper. Having tried in vain to capture the animal, by now identified as a penguin, we decided that it would most likely be dropped out of the hopper at the next dump-run. However, this was not to be the case and sitting in the bottom of the near-empty hopper awaiting certain doom from the next evil-smelling downpour of rocks and mud and slush was our penguin! To make matters worse, it was attracted to this deluge obviously thinking this was the way to salvation, swimming furiously towards and into this maelstrom of mire.

Miraculously, the bird was still afloat and swimming once the hopper level had risen above the discharge head, emitting a 'huk-huk, huk-huk' call. By now other members of the crew had gathered at the hopper-side armed with makeshift rescue implements such as buckets on ropes, and brooms etc. but this wary survivor was staying well away from its new predators.

I was lying on a catwalk awaiting an opportunity to grab it as it swam past, it must have been pretty exhausted but it was still sharp. Eventually I called out 'huk-huk, huk-huk' and sure enough it immediately came swimming in my direction and with a well-timed lunge I caught the slippery squirming bird!

After a good wash-off under the deck hose, we could see in what fine condition these birds really are, a tight bundle of muscle enclosed in a tough hide. It must have been tough to survive its journey through the drag-head, through the pump impellor and dumping out into the hopper (at an alarming speed too I might add). But this wasn't its first brush with humans, for on one of its wings was a stainless steel tag with the numbers 19086611 and no other markings etc. of whoever the organization was who had tagged this bird. So maybe this could be passed on to say CSIRO or a like-minded organization.

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