

New South Wales Albatross Study Group 1970 Season

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Details of the 1969 albatross banding off the coast of New South Wales were given in vol. 7, no. 4, pages 81-83. The results of the 1970 season are briefly outlined in the following notes. The total number of Wandering Albatrosses *Diomedea exulans* banded by the N.S.W. Albatross Study Group is now 2,833 (Bellambi Austinmer, 1,639 and Malabar 1,194).

Six hundred and eighty-four Wandering Albatrosses were caught during the season. This figure includes 190 retrapped from previous seasons' banding, and nine recoveries of birds banded elsewhere. One White-capped Albatross *D. cauta* and 99 Giant Petrels (97 *Macronectes giganteus* and two *M. halli*) were also caught.

The excellent result was mainly due to the increased number of outings at Austinmer where the catching rate of nearly 37 birds per outing was greater than the 31 per outing in 1969. At Malabar birds were less numerous than during the previous year and this caused a drop in the catching rate from 25 to 17 per outing. (All birds caught during an outing are included in the catching rate calculations).

Weather conditions would have varied little between the two places on the same day; other factors being about equal, the following figures of albatrosses caught are a guide to the number present at each location.

Date	Austinmer	Malabar
28.6.70	9	10
11.7.70	22	1
25.7.70	88	17
15.8.70	60	8
12.9.70	83	13

Table 1 summarises the results for comparison with the 1969 season.

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TABLE 1
Summary of birds caught

	Wandering Albatross			Giant Petrel		
	Malabar	Austinmer	Total	Malabar	Austinmer	Total
Banded	130	355	485	84	3	87
Retrapped (individuals from previous seasons)	44	150	190 ⁽¹⁾			
Recoveries (originally banded elsewhere)	3	6	9	12		12 ⁽²⁾
Total individuals caught	177	511	684 ⁽¹⁾	96	3	99 ⁽²⁾
Outings	17	14	31			

⁽¹⁾ Four birds retrapped at both places included once.

⁽²⁾ Includes two *M. halli* banded on Macquarie Island.