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

Northern Mallard Anas platyrhynchos
275798*. Juvenile female banded at Pipiroa, Hauraki, New Zealand (37°15’S 175°30’E) on 8 Jan. 2010. Recovered dead at Broken Head, south of Byron Bay, NSW (28°042’S 153°036’E) by S. Ivanac on 1 Nov. 2012. 2245 km WNW.

*New Zealand Banding Scheme band

Black-browed Albatross Thalassarche melanophris
CF40477*. Nestling banded on Kerguelen Islands, Terres Australes et Antarctiques, France (49°21’S 70°13’E) on 27 March 2005. Band number read in field, (breeding with one egg) at Petrel Peak, Macquarie Island, Tas. (54°45’S 158°46’E) by J.B. Cleeland on 7 Nov. 2012, over 7 years, 7 months after banding. 5671 km SE.

*French Banding Scheme band

Australasian Gannet Morus serrator

Peregrine Falcon Falco peregrinus
270-08398 plus Readable Band : Green E9. Nestling female banded by V.G. Harley at Freestone Creek, Vic. on 10 Nov. 1998. Recovered stunned on Churchill Island, Vic. by T. Heywood and J. Evans. Found sitting on ground on top of Australian White Ibis, was taken to Philip Island Nature Park Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre where it was held overnight. The bird was fully recovered in the morning and was released at the site of capture, over 13 years 9 months after banding. 175 km WSW.

Kelp Gull Larus dominicanus
111-08648. Nestling banded by W.C. Wakefield on Green Island, D’Entrecasteaux Channel. Tas. on 27 Dec. 1990. Recovered sick or injured at Clarencemont, Tas, was rehabilitated and released alive with band on 4 Oct. 2012, over 21 years 9 months after banding. 46 km N.

Tooth-billed Bowerbird Scenopoeetes dentirostris
071-52106. Adult (1+) banded by S.G. Lane at Paluma State Forest (now National Park), Paluma, Qld. on 30 Nov. 1990. Recaptured, released alive with band near banding place by C. Panayi on 7 Dec. 2012, over 22 years after banding

(This is the oldest recorded for the species.)

This Little Tern was banded as a chick at Towra Point National Park, New South Wales by Geoff Ross for the NSW NPWS Seabird Project on 18 December 1996. A single site and year cohort blue flag was placed on its left leg and an ABBBS metal band on its right leg.

On 4 January 2000 I trapped it whilst on a nest at Lake Wollumboola, Culburra, New South Wales (~110 kms south) and placed a pale blue flag over the blue flag and a red flag over the metal band (an individual colour combination). I recorded it again at Lake Wollumboola on 11 November 2000 and again on 4 November 2001.

In 2002 it headed towards warmer climes and was seen by Jill Denning at Bribie Island, Queensland (~1000 kms north) on 29 March of that year.

I then re-sighted this tern over the next seven years, back again on the south coast of New South Wales, where it moved between Shoalhaven Heads, Culburra and Lake Conjola:

2 November 2002 – Shoalhaven Heads – its sex was determined as a male from watching its courtship display
11 January 2003 – Lake Wollumboola, Culburra
9 January 2004 – Shoalhaven Heads
23 December 2007 – Lake Wollumboola, Culburra
28 December 2008 – Lake Wollumboola, Culburra (on nest)
20 December 2009 – Lake Conjola

The last recorded sighting was on 16 November 2012 at Tuross Lake by John Cornish who was able to photograph it while performing its courtship display (see below) – verifying its sex as a male.

This much-travelled Little Tern recently celebrated its sixteenth birthday.

Photo: John Cornish

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