

was unable to locate a suitable banding station. Twenty-five ducks were trapped and banded at Glengarry on the Greenough River and one bird which had previously been banded at Moora entered the trap. Enquiries and observations made in the Three Springs and Winchester areas led to the opinion that the poor winter had resulted in the early drying out of the smaller lakes and swamps. Mr. Traynor found that there were any number of birds on Yarra Yarra Lake, but owing to its extent trapping was impossible there.

Other inquiries indicated that ducks are still well scattered in the south and are not in any numbers at the Cape Riche, Wardering or Karrinyup banding stations. An encouraging report mentioned large numbers of duck at Lake Jasper south of Nannup, and observations by the Fauna Warden (Mr. F.A.L. Connell) during his wheatbelt inspections confirmed reports that Lake Mears (about 17 miles south of Quairading) should be successful as a banding station.

REMARKABLE RECOVERIES

A Little Crow

During September one of our most interesting band recoveries occurred when a band previously placed on a Little Crow was returned.

In order to ascertain which species of crow had been plaguing Kalgoorlie residents, Honorary Warden Paul Wood caught a bird and forwarded it to Perth by passenger train on June 1. It was identified as being an immature Little Crow (Corvus bennetti). A band was placed on the bird's leg by Technical Officer Traynor and it was released from the latter's home in North Perth on the evening of June 2. Mr. C.F. Brewster returned the band last month and informed us that he had recovered it from a crow on September 22 at a place 40 miles east of Narrogin between Harrismith and Tinkurra. As far as we are aware, this is the only crow to have been banded and the recovery of the band, besides being the first recorded movement of this species, also demonstrates the remarkable results which may be obtained by the use of banding techniques.

Giant Petrel

In recent years there has been considerable activity on the part of expeditions to the far south in banding Giant Petrels - a large seabird which is commonly seen off the Western Australian coast in the winter months. The bird is often called a Sooty Albatross because of its large size and dark colour. However, it can be easily distinguished from the true Sooty Albatross by its large pale-coloured beak, the beak in the Sooty Albatross being black.

Until the recent banding schemes, naturalists had no idea of the vast extent of the travels of these birds. The first example was of a bird which had been banded as a fledgeling by the Falkland Islands Dependencies' Survey in the South Orkney Islands off Graham Land south of South America, on March 20, 1948. It was caught by fishermen at Fremantle Harbour on July 10 the same year, the bird having made a lengthy circumpolar flight in less than four months. Since then, birds have been marked at Heard and Macquarie Islands by the expeditions of the Antarctic Division of the Department of External Affairs. One bird from Macquarie Island was picked up later at South Georgia and birds from Heard Island have been taken later off Durban, several in Western Australia, some in South Australia, others in New Zealand and others again off Chile and off the Argentine. Generally these birds have been shown to travel in a west to east direction in conformity with the direction of the prevailing winds and ocean currents. However, some birds have been shown to travel in other directions.

One of these has been recently reported in this State. On June 19 this year a Mr. Rennie, of Harvey, when fishing off the Bunbury jetty, caught a Giant Petrel which had a ring on it. Mr. Rennie copied out the number and set the bird free again. By a remarkable coincidence, the bird was caught again by Mr. Fullerton about a month later when fishing off Fremantle. This particular bird had been ringed at Macquarie Island in the autumn of this year.