

IMPORTANT BAND RECOVERED

An aluminium band inscribed "ANARE AUSTRALIA 2209" was handed in to departmental officers at Houtman's Abrolhos by Mr. Reg. Thomson, a crayfisherman, last July. Mr. Thomson had taken the band from a dead bird washed up on North Island on July 11. With the details of its recovery, it was forwarded to the Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., who passed it on to the Antarctic Division, Department of External Affairs in Melbourne. The director, Mr. P.G. Law, has now advised that the band was placed on a giant petrel, Macronectes giganteus, on February 14, 1954, on West Cape, Heard Island. This band was the first of the giant petrel bands recovered during a bird's second year of flying, and the record was therefore a particularly valuable one. Birds of the same species, ringed on the same day, have been recovered from Possession Island (South-West Africa), Calbuco and Valparaiso (Chile), Tahiti (Society Islands), Portland (Victoria) and Auckland (N.Z.). Mr. Law added that the extraordinary migration of the giant petrel was unsuspected until the present ringing programme was started. He says there is still much to learn about the full extent and nature of its wanderings, and consequently his Division is very interested to hear of recoveries.