

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.

TWO NEW SANCTUARIES

In the "Government Gazette" of July 8, 1955, a new sanctuary for fauna was gazetted. It comprises islands and rocks between Penguin Island and Cape Peron in Shoalwater Bay, about 16 miles south of Fremantle. Numbered 24204, this reserve is the first to be vested in the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee of Western Australia, who thereby have been granted complete control of it. The area is an important breeding ground for many sea birds and is the northernmost nesting site of the fairy penguin.

Following representations from this Department, the Under Secretary for Lands has agreed to reserve 15556 being made a sanctuary for fauna. This reserve embraces the whole of Thompson Lake (south-east of Fremantle) and also a good slice of surrounding land. Originally reserved for drainage purposes, it has sheltered a wealth of fauna. As many as 78 species of birds have been recorded there as recently as last

year, and brush wallabies and grey kangaroos are known to exist there.

The credit for the initial representations to have these two areas gazetted as sanctuaries, goes to one of our most active honorary wardens, Mr. W.C. Ford, of Hamilton Hill.