

GIANT PETRELS
(Macronectes giganteus)

Date Found	Place	F.I.D.S. Band No.	Date Released from Fremantle	A.N.A.R.E. Band No.	Remarks
9/6/57	Mandurah	52432	-	-	Found dead. Report received from Mr. L. Glauert of West Australian Museum.
15/6/57	Swanbourne	-	23/6/57	-	Anterior tendon of left tarsus severed but otherwise healthy.
22/6/57	Kwinana	-	28/6/57	10291	Banded 26/6/57 by D.L. Serventy.
23/6/57	Mandurah	52491	-	-	Partly decomposed. Reported by Mr. L. Glauert.
24/6/57	Quinn's Rocks	52109	-	-	Found dead.
24/6/57	Trigg Is.	52512	28/6/57	-	-
24/6/57	City Beach	-	28/6/57	10292	Banded 26/6/57 by D.L. Serventy.
24/6/57	Cottesloe	-	28/6/57	10293	Banded 26/6/57 by D.L. Serventy. This bird in white phase.
29/6/57	Cottesloe	52602	-	-	Leg with feathers only found. Report received from Mr. L. Glauert.

STORM DRIVEN BIRDS *

The sustained storms experienced during June resulted in quite a number of giant petrels being reported on the South-West coast. Four banded birds that had died from exhaustion were picked up, and in addition two banded birds were found in a weakened condition. Four petrels without bands were also reported to the Department, and were picked up by departmental officers.

The first of the unbanded birds, which had been injured, was taken to a veterinary officer and then cared for by Inspector A.J. Bateman at Fremantle, while the other three were looked after by Fauna Warden S.W. Bowler, who also cared for the two live banded birds. Inspector Bateman released his bird from Fremantle on June 23. The others were also released at Fremantle on June 28, two days after Dr. D.L. Serventy had placed A.N.A.R.E. bands on the three not previously banded. All the birds appeared to be in their first or second year, and those which were banded on arrival were carrying Falkland Island Dependency Service bands. These had probably been placed on them in the region of Grahamsland, south of South America, in Antarctica. Details of the recovery of all the birds have been forwarded to the British Museum of Natural History, London, from whom banding details have been requested.

The table on page 110 sets out the recovery and release data. Advice of recovery of bands 52432, 52491 and 52602 were first reported by the finders to Mr. L. Glauert of the W.A. Museum, who kindly made details available.

One of the birds, which was later ringed with A.N.A.R.E. band number 10293, excited particular interest as it was a comparatively rare "white phase" specimen. According to Dr. Serventy, this colouration occurs in only about 5% of the giant petrel population. Almost all its feathers were white, but the sprinkling of black and the brown iris was proof that the lack of black colouration was not due to true albinism.

All the birds were fed on a diet of fish and fish offal and readily drank either fresh or seawater with no noticeable preference.