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May I also express my appreciation to the members of your staff for their loyalty and efficient service in the year just closing. I trust that they will all enjoy and benefit by the Christmas break, and that the year 1960 will be one of happiness for them and their families.

Yours sincerely,

R. J. Bond
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER."

BIRD BAND RECOVERIES.

Giant Petrels.

Banding details have been received from the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S.A. regarding two of the banded giant petrels recovered on our coast last winter. The first, found dead on the beach at North Fremantle on June 22, had been banded at Bird Island, South Georgia, in the Antarctic on January 31 of the same year. The second, which was trapped near the South Mole at Fremantle on June 24, had also been banded at Bird Island on the same day - January 31, 1959. Unfortunately, the Fish and Wildlife Service did not indicate the age of the birds when banded, but presumably they were trapped as nestlings.

Wild Ducks.

Mr. W. G. Bennett, of Perth, returned to us the first Queensland band so far known to have been recovered in this State. It was No C 00102 and was taken from a wild duck shot at Lake Gundaring 8 miles east of Wagin on opening day, Sunday, December 20. Details of the banding are not yet known but will be published when received from the Department of Agriculture and Stock, Brisbane.

Another interesting duck-band recovery was sent in by Mr. F. Sutherland, of Ajana. He recovered band No 11810 from a black duck which he shot 14 miles west of Ajana on December 20, 1959. The bird had been banded by one of our voluntary operators, Mr. D. Moir, on his property at Cape Riche on February 21, 1959. The flight of 530 miles from Cape Riche to Ajana is the longest yet recorded by a black duck in Western Australia.

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Mr. I. E. Mainwaring, of Como, returned to us a band recovered from a black duck on February 26, 1958, on the Murchison River north of Geraldton. This bird has been banded at Karrinyup Lake, six miles north of Perth on January 16, 1958. A flight of at least 305 miles was indicated in this case.

Another unusually long flight by a black duck was recorded in the return of band No 7272. This band was recovered by Mr. D.R. Beale, of Manjimup, from a bird he shot at Broke Inlet, approximately half-way between Albany and the Leeuwin, on January 1, 1960. The bird had been banded at Yere Yere Station in the Dandarragan district on March 13, 1958. In this case a flight of at least 300 miles was involved.