

"Kos. VII", on June 29, 1959. The whale was a male, 36'1" in length taken at 35° 2' S. and 117° 58' E.

Advice has now been received from Dr. G. L. Kesteven, Assistant Chief (Fisheries) of the Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, C.S.I.R.O., that the whale had been marked by the Russians on February 2, 1959, at 63° 47' S. and 111° 49' E. At the time of its recovery, therefore, the whale was slightly over 2,000 miles from, and almost due north of, its point of marking.

#### TAMMAR RESEARCH TO AID CANADIAN CARIBOU.

Mr. J. P. Kelsall, a biologist of the Canadian Wildlife Service, in a recent radio statement said that he believed that research being carried out into the habits of Australian wallabies would help the preservation of Canada's dwindling herds of caribou. In association with the Department of Zoology of the University of Western Australia, Mr. Kelsall is making a study of the effects of the environment on the evolution of the tammar, a small wallaby found on Garden and other offshore islands as well as on the mainland. Research methods pioneered by graduate students at the Western Australian University have brought new facts to bear on the preservation of native animals, Mr. Kelsall said. He added that he would carry out similar research on the caribou when he returned to Canada in August of this year. Canadians, he concluded, killed about 100,000 caribou a year for meat and his Government was concerned at the rapid decline in the herds.

#### BANDING OF SILVER GULLS.

In continuation of the programme of banding nestlings of Silver Gulls under the Australian Bird Banding Scheme, a further visit was paid to the islands off Shoalwater Bay last month. Western Australian ornithologists, Messrs. J. Ford, E. Le Souef and E. Lindgren, accompanied by the Fauna Warden, Mr. S. W. Bowler, visited the islands on May 22. A large concentration of Silver Gulls was found on all islands and the majority of adult birds were nesting. Although many nests were located, most had eggs and only 31 nestlings were banded.

The islands are being visited at regular intervals to ensure that representative selections of nestlings of the different breeding groups are banded.

#### BANDED SEA BIRDS.

With the onset of winter storms, reports of the finding of Giant Petrels may be expected to commence shortly. All Inspectors are requested to keep a particularly sharp lookout for banded sea-birds this year. It is expected that the Giant Petrel will be the bird most commonly found and there is really no mistaking it. It is almost entirely black with a pale heavy beak which has a prominent nasal tube on its upper surface. A few individual birds occur in the white phase, but they are relatively rare and usually have a

scattering of dark feathers among the white. These birds will be banded by the Falkland Islands Dependencies Scientific Bureau, and also by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, under its Antarctic Research Bird Banding Programme. Dr. William J. L. Sladen, of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U.S.A., has written advising that a number of species will be banded under his Service's programme this year. Special attention, he says, is being paid to the banding of Adelle and Emperor Penguins; South Polar Skuas; Giant, Pintado and Wilson's Petrels and the sub-antarctic albatrosses.

Any person recovering alive a banded bird should note down carefully -

- \* the band number,
- \* the name and address of the banding authority, and
- \* the date and locality and method of capture.

THE BIRD SHOULD THEN BE RELEASED WITH THE BAND INTACT.

The only occasion when the band should be removed is when it is found to be causing injury to the bird. If the bird is dead, the band should be removed and as many relevant notes made as possible regarding the locality, date, possible cause of death and any other details which might be helpful. Last year, all the birds banded with F.I.D.S. and U.S. Wildlife Service rings carried an additional coloured plastic band. This year's bandings will, no doubt, also carry two bands and it must be emphasized that neither should be removed from any live bird.