

WANDERING ALBATROSS AT WONNERUP INLET

Fauna Warden Kevin Morrison of Busselton reports as follows:

"On September 5, 1972, following a phone call from a local resident, Cadet Warden Ray Smith and I investigated a report of a large unidentified sea bird on the beach. From the first description we assumed it to be a Giant Petrel; however we found the bird up on the beach east of the mouth of Wonnerup Inlet and were able to identify it as an immature Wandering Albatross. The bird had a wingspan of at least 9 feet, though it was obviously an immature bird because of its dark plumage.

The Albatross had an injured leg and from the lacerations appeared to have been savaged by a large fish or shark. We carried the bird down to the water where it finally managed to take off into a stiff south-westerly breeze".

[The wandering Albatross is not a really unusual visitor to our shores, and does go as far up the Western Australian coastline as Fremantle. They are often forced ashore by storms in July and August; this bird may have been injured during the last strong blow in August and remained in the area until found by Warden Morrison—Ed.]



Warden Kevin Morrison with the immature Wandering Albatross.