

PETRELS LONG FLIGHT

Warden Kevin Morrison of Busselton has forwarded the following report:—

“In my report of 10th July this year about the number of Giant Petrels blown ashore during the early winter gales, I mentioned that one of these petrels which had been found in an exhausted state at Wonnerup on 3rd July, was wearing a British Museum leg band No. 504.9560.

I subsequently wrote to the British Museum in London, reporting the recovery of the bird and have now received back the details of the place and date the bird was banded.

It was banded on Signy Island in the South Orkney Group at Antarctica on 23rd March this year. Three months and ten days later it was recovered at Wonnerup near Busselton.

This represents a distance travelled by the bird of at least 5,350 miles, measured in a straight line, from the point of banding to the point of recovery. The actual distance covered by the bird during this period would probably be far greater.

Taking the distance of 5,350 miles, which is the minimum the bird could have travelled in the 100 days from the time it was banded to the time it was recovered, the petrel averaged $53\frac{1}{2}$ miles per day.

As a point of interest, the bird was taken to Perth the day after being found and handed over to Miss Lexie Nicholls. It was cared for until it had regained its strength, and then released.”