

SACRED KINGFISHER

Mr. D.M. Purchase of the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Wildlife Research Laboratory, Canberra, has recorded a very interesting banding record of the Sacred Kingfisher. The bird was banded as a fledgling on December 31, 1964, near Chain of Ponds in South Australia, by a Mr. M.H. Waterman. It was found alive at Tuart Hill on March 16, 1968, but died two days later. Dr. D.L. Serventy's interpretation of this is, that the bird had gone northwards on its migration and, on its return, either in the first year or last year, had mingled with Western Australian birds and made the southern passage with them.

The Sacred Kingfisher (Halcyon sancto) occurs all over the State, except in the far inland portion. In the south it is found inland to Tammin, Lake Grace, and Norseman, while in the North-West it penetrates along the rivers to their upper reaches frequenting the eucalypt belts.

In the southern portion of the state the Sacred Kingfisher is a migrant, arriving during the first half of September when it insistently reveals its presence by its "ki-ki-ki" note - one of the characteristic sounds of the spring and summer bushlands. In their handbook "Birds of Western Australia", Serventy and Whittell also say that the majority of birds leave again in early March and most have gone by the first week in April, but a few individuals continue to remain behind for the winter; these however, are usually silent. Some of our birds migrate to Timor and adjoining islands of Indonesia.