

# RECOVERY ROUND-UP

## Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*)

090-61764. Adult banded by K.B. Mack at Eremophila Flat, S.A., on 19 Sept. 64. Remains found at St. Arnaud North, Vic. on 24 Nov. 67. 225 miles SE. (This is the longest recovery for this species.)

## Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*)

(a) 160-00403. Adult on egg banded by F. K. Hersey on Lion Island, N.S.W. on 22 Dec. 57. It was retrapped in five subsequent seasons in the same burrow, the last occasion being on 3 Dec. 67, nearly 10 years after banding.

(b) 160-00408. Adult on egg banded by A. R. McGill on Lion Island, N.S.W. on 22 Dec. 57. It was retrapped in three subsequent seasons, the last occasion being 3 Dec. 67, nearly 10 years after banding.

(c) 160-04869. Adult on egg banded by S. G. Lane on Lion Island, N.S.W. on 20 Dec. 58. It was 'caught while fishing; released with band' off Sydney Heads (19 miles south) on 28 Jan. 63 (see Recovery Round-up 1:72), then retrapped back on the breeding island on 3 Dec. 67, nearly 9 years after banding.

## Fleshy-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus carneipes*)

160-47989. Adult banded by Miss D. Moroney on Lord Howe Island on 25 Nov. 62. Found dying at Iwanai-machi, Furukuni, Japan, on 27 June 67. 5,300 miles NNW.

## Black-browed Albatross (*Diomedea melanophrys*)

120-00107. Adult banded by ANARE on North Head, Macquarie Island, on 29 Sept. 54. Found dead near Eden, N.S.W. on 18 Dec. 67. 1,250 miles NNW and over 13 years 2 months later. (This is the longest 'elapsed time' for any bird banded in the Australian Bird Banding Scheme.)

## Black-faced Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscescens*)

(a) 130-48510. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman near Robe, S.A. on 14 May 67. Found dead at Portland, Vic. on 29 Aug. 67. 135 miles SE.

(b) 130-48540. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman at Baudin Rocks near Robe, S.A. on 14 May 67. Band found near Murray Mouth, S.A. on 6 Nov. 67. 120 miles NNW.

(c) 130-48564. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman near Robe, S.A. on 14 May 67. 'Caught in fishing net' at Victor Harbour, S.A. on 4 Sept. 67. 126 miles NNW.

(d) 130-48570. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman near Robe, S.A. on 14 May 67. Found dead near Warnambool, Vic. on 17 Aug. 67. 175 miles SE.

(e) 130-48572. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman at Baudin Rocks near Robe, S.A. on 14 May 67. Recovered (released with band) at Second Valley, S.A. on 2 Dec. 67. 138 miles NW.

(f) 130-56713. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman at Baudin Rocks near Robe, S.A. on 14 May 67. Caught at Goolwa, S.A. on 12 Sept. 67. 124 miles NNW.

## Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax varius*)

(a) 130-41812. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman at Fishermans Bay, Port Broughton, S.A. on 16 Apr. 66. Found dead at Venus Bay, West Coast S.A. on 15 Oct. 67. 192 miles W.

(b) 130-63146. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman at Fishermans Bay, Port Broughton, S.A. on 6 May 67. Found dead at Jabuk, S.A. on 1 Sept. 67. 176 miles SE.

## Little Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*)

(a) 110-29275. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman at Fishermans Bay, Port Broughton, S.A. on 22 Apr. 67. Shot near Parndana, Kangaroo Island, S.A. about 10 Nov. 67. 158 miles SSW.

(b) 110-47223. Runner banded by Dr L. C. Hewell on Dixon's Dam, 10 miles south-south east of Narrandera, N.S.W. on 9 Dec. 66. 'Caught in rabbit trap' near Niangala, about 30 miles south-east of Tamworth, N.S.W. on 20 June 67. 370 miles NE.



Black-browed Albatross with chick, North Head, Macquarie Island. (Note bands on leg.)

Photo: R. Carriek (ANARE)  
by courtesy Gould League of N.S.W.

## Brown Gannet (*Sula leucogaster*)

(a) 130-42472. Juvenile banded by Miss J. Booth on Fairfax Island, Qld (23° 51' S. Lat., 152° 22' E. Long.) on 3 Feb. 67. Found 'stranded on beach, seemed exhausted, recovered after a while and flew northwards', (released with band) at Magnetic Island near Townsville, Qld on 31 Apr. 67. 485 miles NW.

(b) 130-42694. Juvenile banded by Miss J. Booth on Fairfax Island, Qld on 28 Feb. 67. Caught (released with band) at Green Island near Cairns, Qld (finder's letter dated 21 May 67). 650 miles NW.

**Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*)**

(a) 070-83250. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman at Lipson Cove Island, S.A. on 28 Dec. 65. Recovered at Cabarita on Parramatta River, N.S.W. on 23 Nov. 67. 860 miles E.

(b) 070-91055. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman at Stonywell Island, Coorong, S.A. on 10 Dec. 66. Found injured (and later released with band) at Wattamolla, Royal National Park, N.S.W. on 21 Sept. 67. 636 miles E.

(The bird was wounded, perhaps by gunshot, and unable to take off properly; it was left in the care of the ranger who later said it had flown away.)

(c) 070-91109. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman at Stonywell Island, Coorong, S.A. on 10 Dec. 66. Found dead at Green Cape Lighthouse Station, N.S.W. on 4 Oct. 67. 595 miles E.

(d) 070-92394. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman at Penguin Island, Beachport, S.A. on 21 Dec. 66. Recovered near Yamba, N.S.W. on 19 Nov. 67. 960 miles ENE.

These recoveries represent a sea distance of about 1,000 miles in the first three instances and 1,200 miles for (d). The longest Crested Tern recovery (see Recovery Round-up Vol. 4: 18) is 1,150 miles and a sea distance of about 1,700 miles.

**Silver Gull (*Larus novaehollandiae*)**

080-13426. Nestling banded by Dr R. Carriek on Montagu Island on 16 Nov. 56. Found dead on Dee Why Beach, N.S.W. on 5 June 67, 170 miles NNE and over 10 years 6 months after banding. (This is the oldest record for this species so far. See note p. 9.)

**Pacific Gull (*Larus pacificus*)**

(a) 110-48882. Runner banded by M. H. Waterman at Brothers Island, Coffins Bay, S.A. on 29 Dec. 65. Recovered (released with band) at Woods Point, S.A. on 6 Mar. 66. 163 miles ENE. (See Recovery Round-up 4: 81.) It was subsequently found dead at Dutton Bay, S.A. on 28 Oct. 67. 5 miles NE of banding site. (This is an interesting record as this bird had returned nearly 160 miles almost to its natal area, probably to breed, but apparently succumbed on the way.)



Brown Gannet on nest.

Photo: W. Horton

(b) 120-54423. Immature banded by M. H. Waterman on Kirkby Island, Port Lincoln, S.A. on 29 Dec. 66. Band returned from Point Lowly Lighthouse near Whyalla, S.A. on 9 Oct. 67. 140 miles NE.

**White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*)**

120-47782. Runner banded by Rev. C. G. Burt at Wilaura, Vic. on 21 Nov. 64. Recovered at Kato, about 70 miles east of Port Moresby, T.P.N.G. in July 67. 1925 miles NNE.



White Ibis at nest with young.

Photo: N. Chaffer

**Straw-necked Ibis (*Threskiornis spinicollis*)**

120-54785. Runner banded by P. A. Disher at Birds Swamp near Kerang, Vic. on 11 Dec. 66. Found dead at Achill West, 23 miles east of Armidale, N.S.W. about 3 Aug. 67. 600 miles NE.

**Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*)**

(a) 110-16551. Adult female banded by Dr H. J. Frith at Lake Wyangan near Griffith, N.S.W. on 21 Jan. 58. Recovered (brought home by cat) at Wentworth, N.S.W. on 26 May 67. 240 miles W and 9 years 4 months after banding (This is the oldest record for this species.)

(b) 110-18540. Banded by Dr H. J. Frith at Kooba Dam near Narrandera, N.S.W. on 12 Jan. 59. Shot near Gayndah, Qld in July 67. 720 miles NNE and 8 years 7 months later.

**Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax*)**

150-08513. Adult banded by E. B. Thomas 15 miles north of Barham, N.S.W. on 8 Mar. 67. 'Caught in rabbit trap' near Narrandera, N.S.W. about 21 July 67. 139 miles E.

**Whistling Kite (*Haliastur spheerulus*)**

110-48883. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman at Calomba, S.A. on 6 Feb. 66. Found with damaged right wing 'is being looked after until recovered' 15 miles south-east of Port Pirie, S.A. on 26 Feb. 67. 71 miles N.

**Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*)**

090-77053. Adult banded by C. Bennett at Avalon, N.S.W. on 7 Aug. 66. Caught (released with band) at Elanora Heights, N.S.W. on 10 Sept. 67. 7 miles SW.

**White-backed Swallow (*Cheramoeca leucosterna*)**

(a) 020-53520. Adult banded by M. H. Waterman 10 miles south-east of Two Wells, S.A. on 3 Nov. 63. Retrapped by bander 5 miles south-east of Two Wells on 20 Dec. 63. 5 miles NW.

(b) 020-53541. Adult banded by M. H. Waterman 5 miles east of Two Wells on 9 Nov. 63. Retrapped by bander near Gawler, S.A. on 24 Dec. 63. 7 miles E.

(c) 021-46131. Adult banded by M. H. Waterman near Gawler, S.A. on 21 Dec. 65. Retrapped by bander at Angle Vale, S.A. on 10 Jan. 66. 5 miles SW.

(d) 021-46289. Adult banded by M. H. Waterman at Angle Vale, S.A. on 10 Jan. 66. Retrapped by bander at Gawler, S.A. on 6 Jan. 67. 6 miles ENE.

(e) 021-46490 and 021-46491. Adults banded together (from same burrow) by M. H. Waterman at Gawler, S.A. on 19 Dec. 66. On 3 Feb. 67 they were retrapped at a burrow about 20 yards from the original location with 23 other birds. Both were retrapped again on 24 Dec. 67, this time with six unbanded birds near Two Wells, S.A. 13 miles W.

(f) 021-46515. Adult banded by M. H. Waterman at Gawler, S.A. on 3 Feb. 67. Retrapped near Two Wells, S.A. on 24 Dec. 67. 14 miles W.  
(See note p. 8.)

**Yellow-throated Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis lathamii*)**

020-06353. Banded by S. G. Lane at Tumby Umbi near Tuggerah Lake, N.S.W. on 10 Dec. 59. Retrapped at banding place by C. S. Day on 1 Dec. 65, nearly 6 years later.

**Large-billed Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis magnirostris*)**

010-78327. Adult male banded by S. G. Lane at Tumby Umbi near Tuggerah Lake, N.S.W. on 16 Dec. 63. Retrapped four times, the last occasion being on 16 Dec. 67, 4 years after banding.

**Eastern Silvercyc (*Zosterops lateralis*)**

(a) 010-18109. Adult male banded by S. G. Lane at North Ryde, N.S.W. on 30 Dec. 60. Retrapped 10 times, the last occasion being on 22 Oct. 67, nearly 6 years and 10 months after banding.

(b) 010-89110. Banded by R. Elks at Caloundra, Qld on 3 June 65. 'Killed by cat' at Stokers Siding near Murwillumbah, N.S.W. on 7 Aug. 67. 117 miles S.

(c) 011-53463. Adult banded by Mrs J. B. Paton at Beaumont, S.A., on 15 May 66. Found dead at Skipton, Vic. on 24 Aug. 67. 330 miles SE.



New Holland Honeyeater.

Photo: K. A. Hindwood

(d) 012-04354. Adult banded by P. J. Spurge at St. Ives, N.S.W. on 1 July 67. Found dead at Wilsons Promontory, Vic. on 15 Oct. 67. 450 miles SW.

**Golden-backed Honeyeater (*Melithreptus laetior*)**

030-61803. Adult banded by W. Horton at Stone Axe Creek near Mount Isa, Qld on 14 July 63. Retrapped at banding place by R. K. Carruthers on 21 July 63, 18 Oct. 64, 20 Dec. 64, 23 Apr. 67, and 1 Oct. 67, the last occasion being over 4 years 2 months after banding (see note p. 11).

**Brown-headed Honeyeater\* (*Melithreptus brevirostris*)**

(a) 020-48978. Adult banded by R. M. Gibbs near Sutherlands, S.A. on 24 Aug. 63. Retrapped at banding place by E. F. Boehm on 7 Sept. 67, over 4 years later.

(b) 020-48980. Adult banded by R. M. Gibbs near Sutherlands, S.A. on 24 Aug. 63. Retrapped at banding place by E. F. Boehm on 7 Sept. 67, over 4 years later.

(c) 020-53358. Immature banded by M. H. Waterman near Sutherlands, S.A. on 24 Aug. 63. Retrapped at banding place by E. F. Boehm on 7 Sept. 67, over 4 years later.

(d) 020-53359. Adult banded by M. H. Waterman near Sutherlands, S.A. on 24 Aug. 63. Retrapped at banding place by E. F. Boehm on 7 Sept. 67, over 4 years later.

(e) 020-53360. Adult banded by M. H. Waterman near Sutherlands, S.A. on 24 Aug. 63. Retrapped at banding place by E. F. Boehm on 7 Sept. 67, over 4 years later.

(f) 020-53361. Adult banded by M. H. Waterman near Sutherlands, S.A. on 24 Aug. 63. Retrapped at banding place by E. F. Boehm on 7 Sept. 67, over 4 years later.

(\*See note on p. 21.)

**Grey-headed Honeyeater (*Meliphaga kearlandi*)**

(a) 020-78671. Banded by A. T. Brennan at Leichhardt River near Mount Isa, Qld on 28 Jan. 67. Retrapped by R. K. Carruthers at Mica Creek Springs, Qld on 14 Oct. 67. 3 miles SW.

(b) 021-09491. Banded by W. Horton at Sybella Creek near Mount Isa, Qld on 23 Oct. 66. Retrapped by R. K. Carruthers at Mica Creek Springs, Qld on 21 Oct. 67. 4 miles N.

**Yellow-fronted Honeyeater (*Meliphaga plumula*)**

020-65921. Banded by W. Horton at Stone Axe Creek near Mount Isa, Qld on 22 Sept. 63. Retrapped at banding place by R. K. Carruthers on 8 Oct. 67 over 4 years later.

**White-plumed Honeyeater (*Meliphaga penicillata*)**

020-84069. Banded by R. K. Carruthers at Mica Creek Springs near Mount Isa, Qld on 11 Apr. 64. Retrapped at Stone Axe Creek, Qld on 23 Apr. 67. 20 miles NNE.

**New Holland Honeyeater (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae*)**

031-09615. Adult banded by M. H. Waterman near Clarendon, S.A. on 6 Nov. 65. Found dead at Beaumont, S.A. on 22 Aug. 67. 11 miles N.

**Red Wattle-bird (*Anthochaera carunculata*)**

070-17416. Adult banded by D. M. Cornish near Berri, S.A. on 6 Sept. 66. Found dead at Hazelwood Park, S.A. on 25 July 67. 118 miles WSW.

**Double-bar Finch (*Steganopleura bichenovii*)**

010-80218. Banded by A. T. Brennan at Stone Axe Creek near Mount Isa, Qld on 31 May 63. Retrapped at banding place by R. K. Carruthers on 9 Oct. 67 over 4 years 4 months after banding.

**Pied Currawong (*Strepera graculina*)**

090-55979. Adult banded by J. E. Walsh at Mittagong, N.S.W. on 28 July 62. Found dead at Noorinbee North, Cann River, Vic. on 28 Aug. 67. 228 miles SSW. (This is the longest recovery yet for this species.)

**Black-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*)**

(a) 090-00635. Adult banded by Dr R. Carrick at 'Gungahlin', Canberra, A.C.T. on 20 July 55. Found dead at banding place on 9 July 67, nearly 12 years after banding.

(b) 090-51445. Immature banded by Dr R. Carrick at 'Gungahlin', A.C.T. on 23 May 61. 'Caught in rabbit trap and had to be destroyed' six miles west of Hall, A.C.T. on 28 Sept. 67. 9 miles WNW.

## Flock Habits of Brown-headed Honeyeaters

Gregariousness is more developed in Brown-headed Honeyeaters (*Melithreptus brevirostris*) than in some other members of the family Meliphagidae. The core of the flocks of this species appear to be composed of family groups which, in the autumn, are enlarged by the aggregation of other family units.

With Brown-headed Honeyeaters and with some other species also, individuals other than the parent birds may feed nestlings, as mentioned by Dr Klaus Immelmann (1961). It is of interest in this connection that flocks of Brown-headed Honeyeaters usually include a number of immature individuals. Some of the flocks in the South Australian Mallee may comprise nearly 20 individuals.

On 24 August 1963, M. H. Waterman and R. M. Gibbs mist netted and banded nine birds of the species apparently belonging to a single flock, about three miles south-west of Bower, South Australia. Six of these birds were retrapped by me half a mile from the banding place on 7 September 1967, over four years after banding. (See

Recovery Round-up, p. 20.) They were in a flock of 15 individuals mist netted together. Four (020-53358 to 020-53361) were banded by Waterman, and the first-mentioned bird was immature when banded. Two (020-48978 and 020-48980) were banded by Gibbs.

It is noteworthy that the six birds concerned were together after more than four years, and it seems possible that they may have remained members of the one flock throughout that period. Constancy in flocks has already been established in a small passerine species, the Striated Thornbill (*Acanthiza lineata*), according to Wilson (1965) and Reilly (1967). Banding holds the key to a store of new and exciting knowledge of the flocking behaviour of certain honeyeaters as well as some other small passerine birds.

**References**

- Immelmann, Klaus (1961). 'Beiträge zur Biologie und Ethnologie australischer Honigfresser (Meliphagidae)', *Journal für Ornithologie*, 102:164-207.  
Wilson, S. J. (1965). 'Constancy in Flocks of Thornbills', *Aust. Bird Bander*, 3:46.  
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