

RECOVERY OF A BANDED GIANT PETREL

On June 29, 1959, a Giant Petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*) was found dead on the beach at Encounter Bay, South Australia, by Mrs. G. Rumbelow. It was found to have a leg-band with an "FIDS" number. The weather had been stormy for several days and the writer, as one of a museum party sent to the locality to recover two pigmy sperm whales (*Kogia breviceps*) which had become stranded, was able to save the petrel for preservation as a study skin. Mrs. Rumbelow had noticed the bird the day before swimming in the sea in the vicinity of floating offal, derived from the operations of crayfishermen who had slaughtered the two whales for bait. During my visit I observed a solitary Musk

Duck (*Biziura lobata*) swimming and diving in the sea, only a few yards offshore. It was apparently feeding on offal and small whale cutlets.

The Giant Petrel had probably died of starvation; it was in very poor condition. In a letter to me, Mr. C. D. Scotland, The Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, 4 Millbank, London, S.W.1, stated: ". . . The bird was banded at Signy Island, South Orkneys (Lat. 60 deg. 43 min. S. Long. 45 deg. 36 min. W.), between February and April, 1959, by members of the Survey. As you probably know, quite large numbers of our banded Giant Petrels have been recovered in Australia, New Zealand, and South African waters."—*V. J. Wood.*