



# FLIGHTLINES

Newsletter Of The Australian Bird And Bat Banding Scheme

Number 21 - Jan 1998

Edited By Belinda Dettmann

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## **BANDING OFFICE UPDATE**

### **Staff changes**

Narelle Montgomery has joined the Banding Office as replacement for Tom Scotney, who has moved to the Wetlands, Waterways and Waterbirds Section of the Biodiversity Group, Environment Australia.

Narelle has been with ANCA/Environment Australia since 1992, spending the past three years in the Invasive Species Section where she worked on a wide variety of feral animals and weeds. Narelle joined the ABBBS in November 1997 and is responsible for the day to day running of the office. She works closely with Barry, our Executive Officer, on bird and bat banding policy issues, as well as participating in other projects such as albatross recovery plans.

Barry Baker continues to be responsible for overall banding policy and management of the Scheme. David Drynan handles public recoveries, band supplies, administration of banding authorities and payment of fees. Lisa Hardy looks after data administration, overseas recoveries and sightings of colour-marked animals, while Belinda Dettmann administers projects and colour marking and provides expert advice on project design and the analysis of banding data.

### **Changes to Banding Office email addresses**

As part of Environment Australia the ABBBS now has an amended set of email addresses. The old addresses will cease working after a short changeover period. Email addresses for staff in the Banding Office are now:

Officer	Email address
Barry Baker	barry.baker@ea.gov.au
Belinda Dettmann	belinda.dettmann@ea.gov.au
David Drynan	david.drynan@ea.gov.au
Lisa Hardy	lisa.hardy@ea.gov.au
Narelle Montgomery	narelle.montgomery@ea.gov.au

### **Banding Authority Renewals and Project Reports Due Soon**

Banders are reminded that all banding authorities and fee payments will be due for renewal on 30 June 1998. Requests for payment will be sent in May. If you do not receive a request by 15 June 1998, please contact the Banding Office as soon as possible. Banders enrolled after 1 January 1998 are not required to renew their authorities until 1999.

Requests for project renewals and progress reports will also be sent to project supervisors in May, and the deadline for a response is 31 July. If we don't hear from you by then, current projects will be cancelled and the relevant State or Territory advised accordingly.

### **New Regional Organiser for Victoria**

Sean Pywell has resigned from the position of Regional Organiser in Victoria.

Sean has served Victorian banders well as a link between banders and the ABBBS, and as a valued adviser to the ABBBS. Unfortunately his commitments to other activities, particularly his thesis, have increased to the extent that Sean has had to give up banding for the present.

The new Regional Organiser for Victoria will be Mike Weston, who has been banding since 1991 and is currently editor of *The Stilt*. Mike is devoted to waders but has also had experience banding passerines. He is engaged in a study of Hooded Plovers for his PhD. Mike's contact details are:

Mr M.A. Weston (Michael)  
2/63 Alma Avenue  
ALTONA MEADOWS VIC 3028 Phone: 03 0369 6332

### **New Sub-Regional Organisers for Western Australia and Victoria**

We also have additional Sub-Regional Organisers for Western Australia and Victoria, in the persons of Marion Massam and Joan Sandbrink. Their contact details are:

Miss M.C. Massam (Marion)

c/- APB

Bougainville Ave

FORRESTFIELD WA 6058      Phone: 08 9336 2311 (W)  
08 9356 2708 (AH)

Mrs JL Sandbrink (Joan)

Phone: 03 9650 3722

7 Dempsey Court

EPPING VIC 3722

## **MAKING YOUR BANDING COUNT**

The following note is based on an article written for British bird banders by Will Peach, Stephen Baillie, Jacquie Clark and Andy Gosler and published in the BTO *Ringers' Bulletin* Vol.9 No.8 of August 1997. It contains many suggestions for Australian banders who want to make their banding efforts more useful for conservation purposes. The original text has been slightly modified to reflect the way the Australian Bird & Bat Banding Scheme operates, but much remains unchanged.

### **Why band birds?**

Monitoring of bird populations, particularly their survival and breeding success, has the potential to be the most important single application of amateur banding data. Although we need better information on the movements, migration and dispersal of Australian birds, banding is unlikely to provide answers for our passerine species because of the vastness of the country and low human population. In Europe, with its high population level, this is not the case.

Information on survival rates and breeding success is important because it can help us to understand why bird populations may be changing. Survival rates can be calculated from retrap or recovery information, and breeding success can be monitored from the proportion of young birds in catches. Regular banding is particularly useful because it may be able to tell us about changes in bird populations as they happen, something no intensive research project could ever do.

The case of the Song Thrush provides a good example of this approach. Song Thrushes declined in Britain by 65% between 1975 and 1993, and a detailed analysis of the national banding recoveries indicated that the decline had been caused by increased mortality amongst juvenile birds. Adult mortality and breeding success have not changed during this period. Although we do not yet know which environmental factors may be causing problems for young thrushes, intensive research is now focusing on this critical stage of the Song Thrush life cycle.

The need to link information on survival and breeding success to particular breeding or wintering populations needs to be stressed. In order to calculate the survival rates of the British breeding Song Thrushes, it was necessary to exclude from the analysis birds banded during autumn and winter, many of which would have been migrants from continental breeding populations.

### **Regular banding at particular sites**

It is much better to operate a small number of sites regularly and over many years, rather than band infrequently at many sites. Both approaches generate some recoveries but only long-term sites produce good numbers of retraps. Regular catches and long-term continuity are more likely to be achieved when sites are operated by groups of banders rather than by individuals. We need more long-term banding sites and their establishment should receive high priority from banders.

The year-round operation of several sites in close proximity to one another but in different habitat types, would ensure a variety of species are banded and provide information on seasonal changes in habitat use. Banding effort (in units of net-metre-hours) should be recorded at all year-round study sites.

### **When to band birds?**

The **breeding season** is a very useful time of year to band many species. By *breeding season* we mean the period covering spring and summer when most birds are on or close to their breeding grounds and when many species can be easily aged and sexed.

Most recoveries and retraps of birds banded during the breeding season provide information on survival rates and can therefore help us understand why populations of breeding birds may be changing. The origins of many birds banded outside the breeding season are unknown, and this limits the value of recoveries from such bandings. A further advantage of banding during the breeding season is that many birds breed at the same sites year after year, and this means that retraps in subsequent years are common.

For many species there can be practical advantages to banding during the breeding season. Birds may be more easily captured and in relatively large numbers (e.g. colonial species). For the purpose of monitoring survival it is important that good numbers of adults and juveniles are banded during each breeding season.

A possible disadvantage to banding during the breeding season is the problem of disturbance and disruption of breeding. This is a scientific problem as well as an ethical consideration, as, if normal breeding behaviour is disrupted by banding, then the data generated may not accurately reflect the populations under study. Bird welfare should continue to receive top priority from banders and if there is a perceived risk of disrupting breeding then banding should not be carried out.

Although the breeding season is a good time to band birds, many important species and conservation issues can only be addressed through banding outside the breeding season. Australia supports internationally-important numbers of waders that breed in the northern hemisphere, yet local banding can provide vital information on survival rates, breeding success, movements and habitat use of these species.

### **Summary**

There is great scope for general banding to be better focused on species and habitats of high conservation priority. Long-term banding sites operated by groups of banders are most likely to generate useful information. More banding is needed in a range of habitats, and of a suite of widespread but declining species. The breeding season is the most useful time of year to band many species, although important populations of waders merit continued or increased levels of banding effort outside their breeding season. All banding and recapture information should be computerised.

## CO-OPERATIVE BANDING STATION PROJECTS

The ABBBS registers co-operative banding stations to facilitate operation of projects at these sites.

A co-operative banding station has a nominated Project Coordinator, who must hold a current A class authority, and is responsible for banding projects conducted at the co-operative site.

Data sheets, locodes, project applications, colour marking applications and progress reports relating to a co-operative banding station project should include the banding station authority number or locode.

The Project Coordinator's responsibilities are to:

- supervise the conduct of a project in accordance with approved aims, objectives, field techniques and methods of analysis;
- report on progress of the project and to determine whether project methods need to be changed or objectives modified;
- ensure that banders working on co-operative site projects have the appropriate type of authority and endorsement for the work being carried out;
- maintain a register of all banding records and be responsible for obtaining banding records as soon as possible from all banders who band at the station;
- maintain records of the precise location of the banding sites at the station;
- provide notes on potential hazards associated with banding and suggested net numbers and layouts; and
- register one set of LOCODES for each banding station and make details available to banders operating at the site.

Banders assisting a Project Coordinator at a co-operative site should:

- hold a current A class or R class banding authority with the appropriate endorsement and/or conditions. If holding a current C class authority, a bander must operate under the direct supervision of an A class bander with the appropriate endorsement;
- be in possession of a current permit from the relevant State or Territory fauna agency;
- obtain permission from the Project Coordinator to band at the site at least two weeks in advance of the visit;
- liaise with the Project Coordinator to find out the objectives and methods approved for current projects to ensure that all activities will contribute to these projects;
- follow the Project Coordinator's directions in regard to trapping site location, project-specific activities and conduct at the site;
- record all information required by the Project Coordinator;
- provide a copy of such information to the Project Coordinator at the earliest possible time after each visit, in the form specified by the Project Coordinator;
- provide a copy of all core banding data to the ABBBS. Modified field data sheets for use at banding stations are available from the banding office;
- use the locodes assigned to the project/s by the Project Coordinator. Banders should not register locodes in their own names;
- refrain from carrying out any banding activity which does not contribute to the projects currently approved for the site; and
- co-operate with other banders and maintain good relations with the public.

### Colour marking

Some projects carried out at co-operative banding stations will require associated Colour Marking Authorities (CMAs). Project Coordinators may provide colour bands and lists of approved colour combinations for banders to apply to species in accordance with the CMA. Banders should take special care to ensure the correct combinations of colour bands are used. Banders are also responsible for recording and reporting the use of colour bands and sightings of colour banded birds.

Current co-operative banding sites and their associated projects are:

BACKYAMMA BANDING STATION, NSW

Locodes: 851801, 851802, 851803

Project Title: Movement of woodland species in central-western NSW.

Aims/Objectives: To study the morphology and movement patterns of the species commonly occurring in woodlands in central-western NSW.

Project Coordinator: Alan Leishman, 7 Belford Street, Ingleburn, NSW 2565.  
Ph: (h) 02 9605 1426, (w) 02 9231 8166.

BOBO RIVER BANDING STATION, NSW Locodes: 852701,852702

Project Title: Study of community structure of avifauna in the Bobo River area.

Aims/Objectives: To collect morphometric data to facilitate ageing and sexing of Pale-yellow Robins; to study movement patterns of this species and its interactions with the Eastern Yellow Robin; to study the community structure of species of the Bobo River, north coast of NSW.

Project Coordinator: David Page, Lot 15, Lower Bobo Road, Ulong, NSW, 2450.  
Ph:02 6654 5350.

BURRENDONG ARBORETUM BANDING STATION, NSW Locodes: 8506BA

Project Title: Burrendong Arboretum Co-op Banding Station Project.

Aims/Objectives: To study the demography (including abundance, survival and recruitment), morphology and movement patterns of the birds of the north-west slopes of NSW. Birds include Plum-headed Finch, Diamond Firetail, Brown Quail and Black-chinned Honeyeater.

Site: Burrendong State Rec Reserve, west side of Burrendong Dam, 20 km SE of Wellington.

Project Coordinator: Rudy Jacobs, PO Box 144, Glenorie, NSW, 2157.

CHARCOAL TANK BANDING STATION, NSW Locodes: 8510CT, 8510BU

Project Title: Demography and movements of birds at Charcoal Tank and Buddigower Nature Reserves.

Aims/Objectives: To study the demography (including abundance, survival and recruitment), morphology and movement patterns of the species commonly occurring in woodlands on the south-west slopes of NSW. Birds include Shy Heathwren, Mulga Parrot, Variegated Wren (Purple-backed form), Gilbert's Whistler and Southern Scrub Robin.

Site: Charcoal Tank Nature Reserve, 10 km SW of West Wyalong on the Newell Highway.

Project Coordinator: Mark Clayton, CSIRO, PO Box 84 Lyneham ACT 2602.  
Ph: (w) 02 6242 1725, (h) 02 6241 3620.

CLOUDS CREEK BANDING STATION, NSW Locodes: 852801

Project Title : The study of community structure of avifauna at the junction of Clouds Creek and Hortons Creek.

Aims/Objectives: To study the demography (including abundance, survival and recruitment) and movement patterns of the species commonly occurring in regenerating sub-tropical rainforest at the junction of Clouds Creek and Hortons Creek.

Project Coordinator: David Page, Lot 15, Lower Bobo Road, Ulong, NSW, 2450.  
Ph: (h) 02 6654 5350.

COOLART BANDING STATION, VIC Locodes: 8514CR

Project Title: Study of Victorian bush birds and Bass Strait migrants.

Aims/Objectives: To study morphology and movements of bush birds of Victorian coastal scrub, including Bass Strait migrants such as the Grey Fantail, Flame Robin, and Silvereye.

Site: The Coolart Reserve near Balnarring.

Project Coordinator: Gordon Cameron, 66 Balnarring Road, Merricks North, Vic 3926.  
Ph: (h) 03 5982 1602.

FLINDERS ISLAND BANDING STATION, TAS Locodes: 850301, 850302, 850303, 850304, 850305, 850306, 850307, 850308, 850309

Project Title: Study of Tasmanian endemic species and Bass Strait migrants.

Aims/Objectives: To study the morphology of Tasmanian endemic species and movements of Bass Strait migrants

Site: The Patriarch's Wildlife Refuge 35 km north-east of Whitemark, Flinders Island, in Bass Strait.  
Project Coordinator: Dr Bill Wakefield, 12 Alt Na Craig Avenue, Lenah Valley, Tas 7008.  
Ph: (h) 03 6249 1311.

GIBRALTER RANGE/WASHPOOL BANDING STN, NSW Locodes: 852535, 852536, 852537,  
852638, 852644, 852545, 852546

Project Title: Banding survey of the birds of the Washpool and Gibraltar Range National Parks.  
Aims/Objectives: To study the demography (including abundance, survival and recruitment), morphology and movement patterns of the species commonly occurring in rainforest habitats on the NSW north coast.  
Project Coordinator: Greg Clancy, 56 Armidale Rd, Coutts Crossing, NSW, 2460.  
Ph: 02 6649 3153.

ILUKA BANDING STATION, NSW Locodes: 852404

Project Title: Banding survey of the birds of the Iluka Nature Reserve.  
Aims/Objectives: To study the demography (including abundance, survival and recruitment), morphology and movement patterns of the species commonly occurring in littoral rainforest on the NSW north coast.  
Project Coordinator: Greg Clancy, 56 Armidale Rd, Coutts Crossing, NSW, 2460.  
Ph: 02 6649 3153.

IRON RANGE BANDING STATION, QLD Locodes: 8519IR

Project Title: Iron Range Banding Station Study.  
Aims/Objectives: To study the demography (including abundance, survival and recruitment), morphology and movement patterns of the species commonly occurring in rainforest on Cape York Peninsular.  
Project Coordinator: Fred van Gessell, 1/38 Priestman Avenue, Umina, NSW, 2257.  
Ph: (h) 02 4343 1283 (w) 02 9562 3151.

LITTLE DESERT BANDING STATION, VIC Locodes: 8520LD, 8525WI

Project Title: Birds of the Little Desert Lodge.  
Aims/Objectives: To study the demography (including abundance, survival and recruitment), morphology and movement patterns of the species commonly occurring in the Little Desert.  
Project Coordinator: Colin Rich, PO Box 151, Glen Osmond, SA, 5064. Ph: 08 8391 1713.

LONGNECK LAGOON BANDING STATION, NSW Locodes: 8523SV

Project Title: Study of the Avian population at Longneck Lagoon, Scheyville National Park.  
Aims/Objectives: To study the demography (including abundance, survival and recruitment), morphology and movement patterns of the species commonly occurring in remnant woodland on the western edge of Sydney.  
Project Coordinator: John Farrell, 73 Ellison Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777.  
Ph: (h) 02 4751 2806, (w) 02 9850 8656.

MUNGHORN GAP BANDING STATION, NSW Locodes: 8504MG

Project Title: Munghorn Gap Co-op Banding Station Project.

Aims/Objectives: To study the demography (including abundance, survival and recruitment), morphology and movement patterns of the species commonly occurring in woodland on the NSW north-west slopes. Birds include Turquoise Parrot, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Little Cuckoo-shrike, Rock Warbler and Regent Honeyeater.

Site: At the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve 35 km north-east of Mudgee.

Project Coordinator: Graham Fry, 46 Whitfield Parade, Hurstville Grove, NSW, 2220.

Ph: (h) 02 9580 6621.

NEWCASTLE WADER BANDING STATION, NSW Locodes: 8516KI

Project Title: Kooragang Island Co-operative Banding Station - waders and other species

Aims/Objectives: To study the demography (including abundance, survival and recruitment), morphology and migratory movements of waders and other species found in the Hunter River estuary.

Project Coordinator: Fred van Gessel, 1/38 Priestman Avenue, Umina, NSW, 2257.

Ph: 02 4343 1823.

WARRADERRY STATE FOREST, NSW Locodes: 8526WD

Project Title: 1. Banding woodland birds in mixed Eucalypt/Callitris forest

Aims/Objectives: To investigate the bird population dynamics and the significance of managed Eucalypt/Callitris woodland in central western NSW; to relate bird movements to flowering of plant species.

Project Coordinator: Graham Fry, 46 Whitfield Parade, Hurstville Grove, NSW, 2220.

Ph: (h) 02 9580 6621.

WEDDIN MOUNTAINS BANDING STATION, NSW Locodes: 8515DX

Project Title: Study of birds of the central west of NSW.

Aims/Objectives: To study the morphology and movements of birds, especially honeyeaters such as Black and Striped Honeyeater, in central western NSW.

Site: On a private grazing property adjacent to the Weddin Mountains National Park, approximately 10 km south-west of Grenfell.

Project Coordinator: Richard Allen, PO Box 1275 Woden, ACT 2606. Ph: (h) 02 6282 5785, (w) 02 6283 2134.

Contact the Project Coordinator for further information and permission to operate at a co-operative site. Nominations for Cooperative Banding Stations and proposals for projects are welcome.

## NEW PROJECT APPROVALS

Twenty new projects have been approved since 30 June 1997. These are listed below with their aims and objectives.

### *Bird Species*

#### **Barren Grounds Observatory Pilotbird study at Barren Grounds Bird Observatory**

Aims/Objectives: To determine the density of Pilotbirds at the Barren Grounds site; to determine whether morphometric data can be used to age and sex Pilotbirds; to determine whether Pilotbirds are sedentary and to estimate the size of their home range.

#### **Christopher Boland Breeding biology and sexual selection in the Rainbow Bee-eater**

Aims/Objectives: To study cooperative breeding and sexual selection in the Rainbow Bee-eater.

#### **Bill Buttemer Gonadal and hormonal phenology in Rufous Whistlers**

Aims/Objectives: To test a hypothesis on the relation between levels of sex steroids and changes in social structure in passerine birds.

#### **Bill Buttemer Intragroup hormonal relationships of cooperatively breeding birds**

Aims/Objectives: To quantify circulating hormones in members of cooperatively-breeding groups; to determine whether rank and breeding status have a hormonal basis.

#### **Rohan Clark The social organisation of selected passerines in a mallee habitat**

Aims/Objectives: To investigate the breeding behaviour and social organisation of selected passerines in Birds Australia's Murray Mallee reserve at Gluepot Station.

#### **Peter Dann Aspects of the ecology and behaviour of Common Diving Petrels and Fairy Prions on Seal Island, Wilsons Promontory.**

Aims/Objectives: To examine the activity patterns and determine the site fidelity to breeding burrows of Common Diving Petrels and Fairy Prions at Seal Island.

#### **Philip du Guesclin Ecology of Rufous Bristlebirds at Aireys Inlet**

Aims/Objectives: To determine population size and habitat use of Rufous Bristlebirds at Aireys Inlet; to determine number and size of local territories; to monitor survival and dispersal of young birds.

#### **Neil Hamilton The reproductive biology and temporal distribution of an egret and heron colony**

Aims/Objectives: To obtain information on the reproductive biology and the spatial and temporal distribution of wading birds nesting at the Perth Zoo, to assist in the conservation and management of the colony.

#### **Richard Hill Biology of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (SE subspecies, *Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*, sp no 8018)**

Aims/Objectives: To investigate breeding success and fledgling survival rates of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo in Victoria; to investigate habitat use by breeding and non-breeding birds; to investigate fidelity to nest sites by individuals.

**Ron Johnstone      Breeding biology of three endemic WA cockatoos**

Aims/Objectives: To document the distribution, status, habitat preferences, breeding success and food of three species of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Baudin's Cockatoo and the Western Long-billed Corella in Western Australia; to document details of nest trees and clutch details for each species.

**Jan Komdeur      Sexual selection and sex ratio adjustment in the Short-tailed Shearwater**

Aims/Objectives: To study sexual selection and sex ratio adjustment in the Short-tailed Shearwater.

**Sarah Legge      Breeding biology of the Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher**

Aims/Objectives: To monitor reproductive success, genetic relationships and parenting activity in the Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher.

**Marie Mitchell      Breeding site, feeding territories and dispersal in Caspian Terns, WA**

Aims/Objectives: To study nest-site fidelity, survival and dispersal of young birds in a Caspian Tern population in Shoalwater Islands Marine Park.

**NPWS Seabird Group      Little Penguin monitoring - Manly NSW**

Aims/Objectives: To monitor population size, breeding success and movements of Little Penguins from a population at Manly, NSW.

**Graham Robertson      Satellite tracking, population censuses and dietary studies of Grey-headed and Black-browed Albatrosses**

Aims/Objectives: To study movements, population size and diets of Grey-headed and Black-browed Albatross in populations near Diego Ramirez and the Patagonian shelf.

**Allan Rose      Movements of Hooded Plovers from the Esperance area of WA**

Aims/Objectives: To study dispersal of Hooded Plovers from the Esperance area, WA.

**Iain Stewart      Study of breeding in Hooded Plovers in Canunda NP and adjacent coastal shores**

Aims/Objectives: To study breeding site and pair faithfulness, age at first breeding, survival of adults and young and movements of Hooded Plovers near coastal lakes in SA.

***Bird Communities*****Graham Beal      A study of the bird community of the Wright Forest, Dandenong Ranges.**

Aims/Objectives: To investigate the response of the bird community of the Wright Forest to fire control measures; to study movements of altitudinal migrants.

**Helen Macarthur      Movements of birds in a coastal corridor**

Aims/Objectives: To monitor movements and habitat use and/or site faithfulness of resident and nomadic birds in the 15km coastal dune corridor between Coconut Well and Cable Beach, Broome, WA; to collect morphometric data on the little-known species of the North West.

**Mike Pople      Relocation of birds from Hayman Island**

Aims/Objectives: To monitor movements of Crows, Pied Currawongs and Silver Gulls trapped at Hayman Island and relocated to a site in the Proserpine area.

## BILL BOARD

### Revision in albatross taxonomy

Albatross taxonomy is undergoing substantial revision. Previous taxonomy comprised 14 species, but a Workshop on the Biology and Conservation of Albatrosses at Hobart in September 1995 agreed that an interim taxonomy of 24 species was appropriate. Four populations of the Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*) have been raised to full species status. These are:

- Wandering Albatross, *Diomedea exulans*, previously *Diomedea exulans exulans*;
- Tristan Albatross, *Diomedea dabbenena*, previously *Diomedea exulans dabbenena*;
- Antipodean Albatross, *Diomedea antipodensis*, previously *Diomedea exulans antipodensis*;
- Gibson's Albatross, *Diomedea gibsoni*, previously *Diomedea exulans gibsoni*.

Other *Diomedea* species, retained in the genus *Diomedea*, are:

- Northern Royal Albatross, *Diomedea sanfordii*, previously *Diomedea epomophora sanfordi*
- Southern Royal Albatross, *Diomedea epomophora*, previously *Diomedea epomophora epomophora*
- Amsterdam Albatross, *Diomedea amsterdamensis*, previously *Diomedea amsterdamensis*

Species that used to be *Diomedea*, now *Phoebastria*, are:

- Short-tailed Albatross, *Phoebastria albatrus*, previously *Diomedea albatrus*
- Waved Albatross, *Phoebastria irrorata*, previously *Diomedea irrorata*
- Laysan Albatross, *Phoebastria immutabilis*, previously *Diomedea immutabilis*
- Black-footed Albatross, *Phoebastria nigripes*, previously *Diomedea nigripes*
- Short-tailed Albatross, *Phoebastria albatrus*, previously *Diomedea albatrus*

Species that used to be *Diomedea*, now *Thalassarche*, are:

- Black-browed Albatross, *Thalassarche melanophrys*, previously *Diomedea melanophrys melanophrys*
- Campbell Albatross, *Thalassarche impavida*, previously *Diomedea melanophrys impavida*
- Buller's Albatross, *Thalassarche bulleri*, previously *Diomedea bulleri bulleri*
- Pacific Albatross, *Thalassarche nov.sp. (platei)*, previously *Diomedea bulleri platei*
- Shy Albatross, *Thalassarche cauta*, previously *Diomedea cauta cauta*
- White-capped Albatross, *Thalassarche steadi*, previously *Diomedea cauta cauta*
- Salvin's Albatross, *Thalassarche salvini*, previously *Diomedea cauta salvini*
- Chatham Albatross, *Thalassarche eremita*, previously *Diomedea cauta eremita*
- Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross, *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*, previously *Diomedea chlororhynchos chlororhynchos*
- Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross, *Thalassarche bassi*, previously *Diomedea chlororhynchos bassi*
- Grey-headed Albatross, *Thalassarche chrysostoma*, previously *Diomedea chrysostoma*

Species that are unchanged, as *Phoebetria*, are:

- Sooty Albatross, *Phoebetria fusca*
- Light-mantled Albatross, *Phoebetria palpebrata*.

**Tristan Albatross - a first for Australia**

On 20 September 1997 Carl Loves, captain of the research vessel Sandra K, caught and released a Wandering Albatross at sea off Wollongong, NSW. The bird carried a South African band, number JO9313. Carl contacted Harry Battam of the Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association (SOSSA), who passed on a request for banding information to the ABBBS.

Terry Oatley of the South African Ringing Scheme informed us that JO9313 had been banded as a chick on Gough Island, in the South Atlantic Ocean (40°20'S, 9°55'W), on 30 October 1992. The bird had moved at least 11,480km and the elapsed time between banding and recovery was 4y 11m 5d.

This was exciting news. The Gough Island breeding colony is now recognised as belonging to a full species, *Diomedea dabbenena*, the Tristan Albatross, and Terry confirmed that this was the first Tristan Albatross to be recovered in Australian waters. All previous South African albatrosses reported to the ABBBS have been Wandering Albatrosses, *Diomedea exulans*, banded in the South Indian Ocean on Marion Island, part of the Prince Edward Group. Until this recovery scientists had assumed that Tristan Albatrosses stayed in the Atlantic.