

recorded sighting of a bird is thus not necessarily the date of its first return to the gannetry and the distribution of first returns will not be exactly as shown in the last row of Table VI. It will, however, not be too different, and the numbers are large enough to show the general age at which young gannets return to the colony for the first time.

Two-year-olds returning to the gannetry are exceptional: only four were identified among 276 first sightings between 1951 and 1965, all resting on the outskirts of the colony. Of 23 three-year-old birds at the gannetry the status of 11 was not known, seven were resting, four occupied empty nests and only one (with a chick) was definitely breeding. Five-year-old birds made up the largest proportion of first sightings (36.6%) but smaller numbers were first recaptured as late as their eighth and even ninth year.

TABLE VII.—Recoveries of Gannets Banded at Kidnappers Plateau to 30 April 1965.

Year ending 31 March	Chicks Banded	Recovered away from Gannetry	Recovered at Gannetry				Total Recovered
			Dead Chicks	Live adults at			
				Plateau	Cape	Black Reef	
1951	142	5	2	37	1	—	45
1952	106	4	—	21	—	—	25
1953	144	5	—	35	1	—	41
1954	142	8	10	4	—	—	22
1955	116	5	1	19	—	1	26
1956	80	2	1	20	—	—	23
1957	126	4	—	28	—	1	33
1958	108	7	—	33	1	—	41
1959	214	16	24	46	1	—	87
1960	281	15	2	23	—	—	40
1961	134	3	3	3	—	—	9
1962	249	8	8	1	—	—	17
1963	228	16	1	—	—	—	17
1964	266	7	—	—	—	—	7
1965	177	12	—	—	—	—	12
Total	2,513	117	52	270	4	2	445

Table VII shows the number of chicks banded each season between 1950–51 and 1964–65 at Kidnappers Plateau, and their subsequent fate. The high juvenile mortality, shown by the relatively small numbers of birds returning to the gannetry to breed, will be the subject of a separate paper. The strong attachment of gannets to their “home” colony is shown by the very small number of birds banded on the Plateau that returned to breed in the adjoining colonies (six or 2.2%), including four at the Cape itself and two at Black Reef.

The Kidnappers Plateau colony consists of two separate clusters of nests (Wodzicki, 1967) called “old B” and “new B” in which the banding of chicks was recorded separately. Most gannets banded as chicks returned to their native cluster. Of 202 banded at “old B” 154 returned to settle there and 48 settled at “new B”, while of 38 banded at “new B” 17 returned and 21 moved to “old B”. Only five birds have definitely nested at both clusters although an additional seven may have done so.

#### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The results of the present investigation are based on birds banded between 1950–51 and 1964–65 at five gannetries, viz., Kidnappers Plateau, Horuhoru, Bush Island, Mahuki and White Island. A total of 344 recoveries was made outside