In the story bird number 625 is tagged to allow scientists to learn more about these birds. Read the passage below and then answer some questions about bird tagging.

The Australian Government's Bird and Bat Banding Scheme (ABBBS) manages the collection of information on threatened and migratory birds and bats. They have been collecting the information since 1953 and currently have over 2 million bird and bat records.

Birds and bats are banned by the ABBBS so that scientists can discover things like:

How many of that type of bird there are? Where different birds and bats live? If certain birds or bats mate for life? How long a species might live? How many eggs they lay annually and over their life span? How far away they fly? And Where they feed? Among other questions.

When someone wants to band birds or bats they need to get permission from the ABBBS. They are then sent bands to put onto their animals. As time goes by the information they collect about their birds or bats is sent to the ABBBS. If a banded bird is caught by someone else such as by the fisherman in the book, the ABBBS contacts the bander and can tell the finder the bird's history.

Banding has revealed some startling facts about Australia's birds. For example, most small bush birds like robins and wrens never move far from where they were born while short-tailed shearwater fly up to 15,000kms every year. It has also shown that some birds like the Grey Fantail have an average life span of 1 year and the oldest banded Grey Fantail was 9 years old while the short-tailed shearwater typically lives for around 13 years but has been known to live for up to 37 years. This makes it one of the oldest birds in the ABBBS's banded bird study.

What does ABBBS stand for?

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How many years has the ABBBS been around?

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What interesting facts has banding uncovered?

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What other facts might scientists be able to answer using banding?

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