

EDITORIAL NOTES

1. The Association.

The Bird Banders Association appears to have got away to a good start, and we hope that after reading this issue you will feel that the same can be said of your magazine. Bill Lane has received an encouraging number of letters enthusiastically welcoming the launching of the Association (there was one dissentient voice, but on balance the Committee felt that it had a pretty solid vote of confidence). These included a letter from Warren Hitchcock offering his sincere congratulations and the assurance of the Bird-Banding Scheme's support and co-operation at all times; also one from Harry Frith, Chief of the Division of Wildlife Research of the C.S.I.R.O., and several from private members of the Scheme. There has also been evidence of strong support from other States, and this has prompted a reorientation of the Committee's thinking about the aims and objects of the Association.

At the outset we hesitated to look beyond the confines of New South Wales, as we were uncertain of the reaction in other States. However, the Committee now believes that it has ample evidence of the need and desire for an Australia-wide organisation, and it seems clear that if "The Bird Bander" is to flourish, it must have an Australia-wide circulation. This being so, it seems better that the Association should be organised on a Commonwealth basis from the start, so we envisage that by the time the Association is properly launched it will have changed into "The Bird Banders Association of Australia".

This in turn implies a change in function. The organisation of meetings and other localised activities will have to be left to regional groups, while the activities of the Association will centre round the "Bird Bander" as a means of disseminating and exchanging information; the Association can also serve as a channel for liaison between groups and individuals, and it should be concerned with publicity and public relations. The substantial enlargement of the potential membership may make possible a revision of the annual subscription, once the Association finds its feet.

For practical reasons the Association must, for the present, continue to be centred on Sydney, and it is proposed to hold the first Annual Meeting of the Association on Saturday, 1st December, 1962 at 1.30 p.m. in the Hallstrom Theatre at the Australian Museum, College Street, Sydney. This will be followed by a Scientific Meeting at 2.45 p.m.; the programme for this has still to be arranged. Members are asked to accept this as the formal notification of these Meetings, and it is hoped that as many as can will attend. The Scientific Meeting is open to all Members and their friends, and we hope for a good turnout.