

- The objects of the proposed library are threefold:
1. To compile and maintain a pictorial (and historical) record of the Scheme's overall activities.
 2. To have illustrative material readily available for publicity purposes (press releases on unusual recoveries, exhibitions, and lectures).
 3. To illustrate pamphlets and handbooks that may be issued from time to time by the Scheme, or by any bona fide banding association.

BANDING OF RAINBOW BIRDS.

The question has been asked: why ADULTS ONLY in the case of Rainbow-birds (Merops ornatus)? The reason is that nestlings would have to be dug out of the burrow in order to band them, with (almost certain) consequent desertion by the parents; in such cases it is the responsibility of the Scheme, and of banders, to ensure that no such risk is taken. There is, however, no objection to the catching (by hand or net) of flying young, and their banding, provided the tarsus is long enough to carry the band comfortably.

- W.B.Hitchcock, Secretary, A.B.B.S.

SILVEREYE BAND SERIES.

Sydney Banders are requested to keep Bill Lane informed of any additional O10 band series being used for Silvereyes (Zosterops lateralis) in order that local recoveries may be quickly checked during the coming season. The information required is the first number of any hundred bands which have been used for Silvereyes, e.g. O10-41501.

REQUEST FOR BIRD PARASITES.

Bird banders are in the unique position of being able to collect bird parasites. At present very little is known of Australian bird parasites, owing mainly to the lack of active collectors. By bird parasites, I mean Bird Lice (Mallophaga), Ticks (Ixodoidea) Bird Fleas (Siphonaptera), Louse Flies (Hippoboscidae) and Mites (Acarina). Specimens should be preserved in 80% alcohol or methylated spirits. The following minimum data should accompany the specimens: Date and locality where collected, Host species and Name of Collector. Additional notes, e.g., the age (nestling, juvenile, adult) and condition of the host species, the area of the bird's body (or nest) where the parasites were collected and observations on the biology of the parasites, would be valuable.

Specimens can be sent to Mr. J.H. Calaby, C/- C.S.I.R.O.
Division of Wildlife Research, P.O. Box 109, Canberra City,

A.C.T. The material will be sorted and despatched to the various world authorities and in turn collectors will be advised of identifications. As it is likely that a high percentage of the specimens sent will be undescribed species, some delay can be expected while papers and reviews are being prepared.

Incidentally, it is always best to collect a large series rather than single specimens, so that you will be sure to include both sexes and so that some of the material can be returned to Australia.

- John L. McKean.

THE AUSTRALIAN BIRD BANDERS' LIBRARY.

The following list of books is suggested as a selection of helpful guides to the identification of Australian birds. Apart from the field guides, they are available from most booksellers at the prices indicated (subject to variation).

"What Bird is that?" by Neville W. Cayley, 3rd edition, 1959, enlarged and revised by A.H.Chisholm, K.A.Hindwood, and A.R.McGill; Angus and Robertson, Sydney. Price 45/-.

"An Australian Bird Book" by J.A.Leach, 9th edition, revised and rewritten by Phillip Crosbie Morrison; Whitcombe and Tombs, Melbourne. Price 32/6.

"Birds of Western Australia" by D.L.Serventy and H.M. Whittell, 3rd edition, 1962; 8 coloured plates and 54 text figures; informative and original field notes, etc. Paterson Brokensha Pty. Ltd., Perth. W.A. Price 50/-.

"Bush Birds" by Alan Keast, 1960; The Jacaranda Press, Brisbane. Price 13/6.

"Field Guide to the Hawks of Australia" by H.T.Condon; published by the Bird Observers' Club of Victoria, 1949. Price 2/6.

"Field Guide to The Waders" by H.T.Condon and A.R.McGill; 2nd edition, Revised 1960; published by the Bird Observers' Club of Victoria. Price 2/6.

"Australian Waterfowl" by M.C.Downes and Ina Watson; illustrations by Robin Hill; produced jointly by Fisheries and Wildlife Department of Victoria and Imperial Chemical Industries of Australia and New Zealand, 1960. Price 7/6