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EDITORIAL NOTES

As with its predecessor, in the early stages of assembling the material for this issue we reconciled ourselves to the belief that it would probably be somewhat smaller than the previous issue but as before, 'copy' has gradually assembled 'till, with a little judicious pruning and by means of holding over a couple of items, we are just able to squeeze it into thirty-four pages, our largest issue to date. We hope that our members will find it up to standard. We think that John Disney is to be congratulated on his latest contributions to "Bird in The Hand" and we look forward to maintaining this as a regular feature, which we hope will be widely appreciated by our members.

We should like to record the fact that John Liddy, whose trojan efforts in banding Tasmanian Silvereyes are noted on p.109 is moving to the Tweed Heads neighbourhood. This is of practical importance for the Silvereye project, and Tasmania's loss is a gain for the far north coast of New South Wales. We wish him luck in retrapping some of his own Tasmanian birds in their winter quarters.

GONE - BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Banders who had the good fortune to make his acquaintance will be sorry to learn of the departure of Bill Belton of the American Embassy, Canberra, from our shores.

During his sojourn in our country, Bill continued to express the interest in ornithology he had developed in his homeland, where he banded birds for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at his Washington home, and on an island in the Caribbean where he marked several thousand Sooty Terns. He joined the Australian Bird Banding Scheme and commenced operations on 27th March, 1961. Despite his busy official life, including some months as Acting Ambassador, he contrived to band 1,680 Australian birds by the time he departed in June this year, to take up new duties in the Panama Canal Zone. Since some of these results were achieved with mist nets in the Embassy grounds he is probably the first person to band native Australian birds on United States Territory.

Bill has stowed his nets in his luggage and hopes to tackle the avifauna of Panama. We look forward to hearing of his exploits and trust that he will do his duty by the Australian Bird Banders' Association, of which he remains a valued and distinguished member, by keeping us well informed. To a very able birdman and a most charming companion we can only say, "Hasta la vista!"