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EDITORIAL NOTES.

As this Journal passes its second Christmas we must confess to a certain feeling of satisfaction that this tender speedling has at least taken firm root. However, we shall not feel that we can consider it as firmly established until it is possible to have it printed in letterpress. The offset process at present employed results, we hope you will agree, in a very presentable production, thanks largely to the devoted labour of two people. And this is the reason why this system cannot be considered as permanent. The amount of work entailed in the mechanical production of this Journal is very considerable, and we cannot in fairness regard such voluntary service as anything but temporary, quite apart from the fact that it makes production of the Journal very vulnerable to disruption by illness or other sudden calls on key personnel. However, a changeover to commercial printing will of course substantially increase the cost of production of our Journal. This is the main reason for the revision in the scale of subscriptions which we understand will be proposed at our forthcoming Annual General Meeting. Since the main function of the Association is the production of a Journal to cater for those interested in bird banding, there is no sound reason for maintaining two different subscription rates for full members and associate members - the only difference in privileges is that only the former can vote at the Annual General Meeting. This seems justified because control of the affairs of the Association should properly be in the hands of registered banders. It is therefore suggested that the subscription for associate members should be the same as that for full members. An additional reason for revising the subscription rates is that under our present system we have not been able to obtain bulk postage rates for our Journal as a registered periodical. We do not pretend to understand the workings of the official mind, but we are assured that under the revised scale registration should be possible. At our present membership figures this should result in a saving of about £25 a year in postage.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the Central Bird Banding Association has now been officially absorbed into the Bird Banders' Association of Australia. The C.B.B.A. was founded for the express purpose of importing mist nets for distribution to banders - a function which could not be carried out by the Australian Bird-Banding Scheme, because as a Government instrumentality it cannot engage in commerce. In fact this work has fallen almost entirely on Steve Wilson, whose unselfish efforts in this regard are very much appreciated. However, with the formation of our Association, the independent existence of the C.B.B.A. became anomalous, so the position now is that, while Steve still does the work, he now does it on behalf of your Association, which in turn takes

over the financial responsibility. A note on this development from your Treasurer appears on p. 180.

We were very interested to receive a copy of The South Australian Ornithologist for October, 1963 (vol. 24, part 1). The first article in this issue is one on "Bird Banding in South Australia" by Max Melvin. This gives an account of the Australian Bird-Banding Scheme, of the objects and techniques of bird banding, and something about bird-banding activities in South Australia. We hope it will stimulate interest in bird banding among South Australian ornithologists not already familiar with the A.B.B.S. and that it may bring in some new recruits. At the time of writing there were 22 registered banders in South Australia. Another item which caught our eye in the same issue will be of great interest to some banders in other States. This is a note on a pathological examination by Dr. M. C. Fowler, of the Adelaide Children's Hospital, of a Silvereye "which had large nodules on both feet causing some deformity". These are probably the same as the lesions occasionally seen on the feet and around the bill by Silvereye banders in Sydney (and probably elsewhere). Previous efforts to have these diagnosed have been unsuccessful, so it is interesting to note that Dr. Fowler reports that they are papillomatous (wart-like) and contain cytoplasmic inclusions, and that they are probably caused by a virus. We hope that Dr. Fowler will be able to continue his investigations of this condition.

Before concluding, we should like to apologise for the delay in bringing out this issue, and to state that this was due not to any shortage of material, but to other demands on the time of those responsible for production of the Journal. In other words, we've been a bit snowed under. However, this is a time of year when most ornithologists are out in the field rather than at home writing up their notes, so with one eye on our next issue, we should like once again to urge all members to try their hand at short communication - we are convinced that every member must have some anecdote or item of interest to report, if only he could bring himself to the point of setting it down.

Finally, we should like to welcome the appearance of the Seventh and Eighth Annual Reports of the A.B.B.S., which all banders should have received by now, and to wish all our members, belatedly, the compliments of the Season and successful banding in the New Year.

Footnote: Remember the Annual General Meeting on February 15! The business meeting will be followed

by a scientific meeting which we hope will be as interesting as the last one, so we look forward to a good turn-out of members of all categories, and bring your friends! See notice on p. 171.

BANDING OF PIED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax varius*)  
AT PORT GAWLER, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

R.F. Brown and M.H. Waterman.

Port Gawler is an abandoned wheat port situated near the mouth of the Gawler River, some 20 miles North of Adelaide. There are no habitations and it is now visited mostly by fishermen at weekends. The district, which is characterised by tidal sapphire flats and mangroves (*Avicennia marina*) extending for some distance North and South of the old port, may be reached by traversing a raised, single track road built towards the end of last century. Close at hand is the well-known "birding" area of Buckland Park.

Pied Cormorants have been known to breed in the dense, coastal-fringing mangrove-woodland for more than 40 years. The exact location of the breeding colony varies from time to time but it is always relatively inaccessible to fishermen and others who may wish to destroy the birds.

The usual breeding place is about half a mile from the port. To reach it one must wade through the tidal mud flats and the numerous tidal creeks which form the delta of the river; and it cannot be reached from the landward side at high tide. Only 24 nestlings were banded in 1961, but in 1962 the colony was visited by banders on seven occasions when a total of 480 were banded.

The first visit took place on April 15, 1962, and subsequent trips were made on April 20, 28, May 5, 13 and 19, and June 2. Members of the Bird Banding Scheme who took part were Messrs. F. Chapman, R. Gibbs, R. C. Shearer, R. F. Brown and M. Waterman. They were assisted by friends and members of the South Australian Ornithological Association.

The nesting site covered about one acre along the bank of a narrow tidal creek. Nests were situated in mangrove trees, the heights of which varied from 15 to 30 feet. Owing to the density of the mangroves an exact count of the nests was not possible, although it is thought that there were at least 300. Among the birds banded on these excursions were