

are then shown as 1, 2, 3, etc., for easy field identification, and packed in tins ready for use. This system was evolved by the late W.C. Johnstone".

Queensland Item.

J.S. Robertson, of Wellington Point, Queensland, writes;

"The ripening of the local grapes at Christmas time with the reputed hordes of Silvereyes feeding on them seemed too good a chance to miss, so I got a second net from Steve and have been very bush on a farm between the grapes and the nearest cover. This year I have added another 300 Silvereyes to the throng and hope to get a few more. I added a couple of dozen this morning even though the grapes appear to be almost non-existent. I have been wondering who will see these bands. The nearest bander, Vernon Cooper, at seven miles away is unfortunately inoperative on account of pressure of farm work. The next one is John Liddy at Kingscliff in New South Wales, 60 miles away; after that comes Lloyd Nielsen at Jandowae, 150 miles away, and as far as I am aware the Sydney boys are next at 450 miles. The next nearest Queenslander is at 700 miles and the rest of them 1000 miles away. Please therefore ask the Sydney boys to take a specially hard look but 350 seems painfully few!"

Banding Migrating Honey-eaters.

The following is an extract from a letter from Athel D'Ombra (Maitland), dated 26.9.63, which we thought of considerable interest:

"I was amused at some of your banders throwing sticks to bring down honeyeaters.

"This is a very old trick and if they want to save a lot of collecting sticks, do a better job, and have a bit more fun, may I suggest they use boomerangs.

"I was initiated into this back in 1918 by an old aborigine on the North Wakool Station, now I believe the centre of rice growing.

"He showed me how the blacks brought ducks down by placing a batch of aborigines upstream and another a few hundred yards down at a convenient place.

"By whistling like the Soldier birds do and letting fly with a returning boomerang the mob of ducks just fell flat to the water at the required spot where they were promptly knocked flat by well aimed throwing boomerangs - the hunting type.

"While at Hawkesbury Agricultural College a year or two later I told one of the men who worked in the orchard about this - a chap named Joe Pye from Windsor - and he laughed and said just watch.

"At the time the Peewees were making their way back from the river late in the afternoon. They were flying fairly high in long straggling mobs. Joe just did the hawk whistle which many birds do - including the Soldier bird - and every damn Peewee dropped like a shot duck nearly to ground level, and took refuge in the nearest bush or tree. I have done it with many birds since but now that I have man made teeth I am not so good at the whistle, but can still bring birds hurtling down with it.

"Maybe they would like to try the boomerang throwing, I can recommend it and also the whistle will save even that if some are not so active with their throwing now.

"It is quite easy to become fairly proficient at boomerang throwing and saves a lot of hunting for missiles."

Caspian Tern Colony.

The following extract from a letter from Dr. Ron Todd of Broken Hill, dated November, 1963, may also be of general interest:

"I notice in 'Cayley' Caspian Terns do not nest in colonies and wondered how accurate this statement is. On a very small island in one of our lakes there is a colony of 50 breeding alongside a larger colony of Silver Gulls. The two species keep to their own territories however. The island would only be about 30 feet in diameter. Another peculiarity is that this particular lake has been set aside for power boats and the birds are not deterred by boats roaring past nor by the frequent visits of various members of the speed boat club. There are many quieter areas in the lakes where they could breed."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Programme.

Sir,

The Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Programme, under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution, has within the last year instituted a large-scale seabird banding project in the central Pacific Ocean area. The primary area of inter-