

A paper entitled "Field Data—Suggested Items for Recording" was supplied by Mr. A. R. McEvey, Curator of Birds, National Museum of Victoria, and distributed to all those interested. Mr. McEvey had intimated previously that he would be willing to prepare a standardised terminology relating to habitat for the use of banders and a resolution requesting this was unanimously carried.

Sanctuary Banding: A discussion took place regarding the law banning trapping and banding of birds in sanctuaries. Mr. N. J. Favaloro moved, seconded by Mrs. M. Bateman, and carried unanimously that:

The V.O.R.G. Committee be directed and authorised to confer with Fisheries and Wildlife Department with a view to amending the legislation to enable banding to take place, under the control and supervision of the Department, in Sanctuaries.

Ibis Banding: A discussion took place regarding the banding of Ibis in rookeries and the possible harm caused by human intrusion. Opinions ex-

pressed indicated that, with due care, no harm is caused, but that predation from hawks was a far greater menace than human intervention.

Cape Woolamai Banding Station: On Sunday the field outing was to Cape Woolamai for the official opening of a temporary building to be used as the first permanent bird-banding station in Australia. This was erected by Fisheries and Wildlife Department on the Wildlife Reserve and will be administered by V.O.R.G. Mr. M. C. Downes, of the Game Management Section of F. and W., whose vision was responsible for the setting aside of this area as a permanent reserve, opened the building with a short résumé of the history of Cape Woolamai, and Mrs. Mary Bateman cut the ribbon to open the doors.

Dr. D. L. Serventy, of the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Wildlife Research, from Western Australia, who attended all functions at the weekend, discussed Mutton birds in the rookeries and demonstrated sexing methods. As he is a world authority on the subject, this was greeted with special interest.

More Than One Way to Ruin a Mist Net: Find The Ass

I imagine all mist-netters have had their problems and in the two years that I have been operating, I have encountered my share. To name a few, there have been an inquisitive cow, fortunately dehorned, a flock of sheep (two jumped through one end—hooray for rubber bands which broke), bats (this area is thick with them in the evenings and can they chew), parrots, cockatoos, etc., that bite the net while they wait to be banded and released, sudden high wind and willy-willies that dump the net on a dead bush or on ground covered in sticks or prickles and my own dog that went straight through at high speed (have used rubber bands ever since!).

However, they all pale into insignificance compared to the latest net wrecker.

One calm day, recently, I set up my nets at Martin's Bend near Berri, in an effort to boost my banding numbers, for I've had a lean time compared to last season.* I took the usual chance of setting three nets in an area occupied by horses, as the best area happens to be over the fence. I

always take care to chase the animals away through the scrub, but on this occasion, I did not allow for their inquisitiveness as they returned almost immediately. When I checked the net, hidden cosily in bushes and trees, a quarter of an hour later, a horse was bunting the net playfully and horror of all horrors, an ass in all his striped splendour, was belligerently examining the other side of the net. Sensing what could happen, I carefully approached end on to the net and the horse slowly walked away. But not the ass. He just had to follow the horse and jumped through. The trail of wreckage was only equalled by my speechless rage and frustration! The tattered remains were in the sticks and dry Californian Burrs!

The motto is—Beware of asses, and I am still trying to decide which one of us really was the ass.

Joe Mack, Berri, South Australia.

* This manuscript was received in May, 1965.