

The President's Message

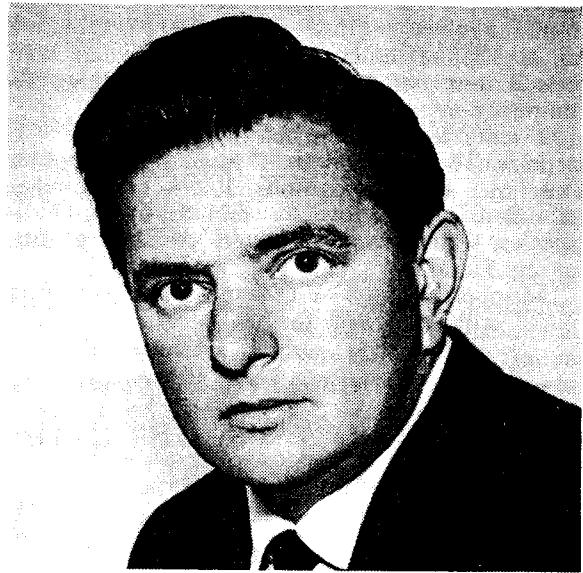
THE WAY AHEAD

Without doubt the most important development in Australian bird banding during the past year has been the implementation of the CSIRO Wildlife Division's new policy of authorising the use of bands only for well-defined banding projects. This new policy, aimed at drastically cutting down the use of bands for random banding, has caused members to think carefully of their work in this branch of ornithology and, what is more important, of the results they hope to achieve by their activities. I feel you will all agree that bird banding is a scientific endeavour and this, of course, brings with it the obligation that we as banders should be systematic in our work.

This new policy should not be regarded as a criticism of our earlier efforts. Many excellent projects were carried out in these years of unrestricted banding. Also the "older" banders thoroughly learned the business of banding during this period. Quite apart from the many contributions banders have made to Australian ornithology in the fields of migration, nomadism and life history studies of individual species, there has been a rapid and valuable build-up of the essential, basic field techniques—the "know how" of banding. This information has been carefully recorded by our members and disseminated to all banders through the pages of *"The Australian Bird Bander"*.

With this basic work completed we are now equipped to tackle quite ambitious banding projects, designed with a specific end in view and the eventual publication of results. This planned approach to our work will add greatly to the satisfaction and enjoyment we derive from it.

The new policy, I feel, will add to responsibilities of the Regional Organisers, for I am sure, in many cases banders will turn to their local organiser for assistance in planning their projects. This, of course, should not mean that the plan should be drawn up by the organiser, but rather he will assist with the detail of how the plan will be implemented. The initiative should always rest with the individual bander regarding which species he will study and in which locality he will work. Nothing should interfere with the bander's desire to work with



Mr M. H. Waterman, President, 1967.

species in which he is most interested, provided he is reasonably sure he will be able to bring his study to a successful conclusion.

Regional organisers and experienced banders will probably be more involved with training new banders than they have been in the past. This will have many advantages—it is a pleasant way of welcoming a new bander into the Scheme, and also means that the new member will quickly learn the "tricks of the trade". Only by personal contact can he discover what is being done in his locality and the details of the projects which are already underway. This knowledge will be of great assistance to him in determining the final "shape" of his own project.

Finally, it is up to all banders to ensure, that in the design of their projects and in their field work, they are making the best possible use of limited resources of the Australian Bird Banding Scheme. By working in this way we assure ourselves of results which will gain credit for the Scheme and will also help to increase our knowledge of our unique Australian bird life.

Secretary's Report

The year just completed has again been a good one for the Association. Our journal has found a place in the ornithological world, and an analysis of the contents of Vol. 4 which comprised four parts totalling 84 pages shows the following information:

Twenty-seven contributors submitted 17 articles, 16 short articles, 5 reviews and numerous notes and photographs. Recovery Round-up recorded 236 recoveries and re-traps of 74 species, while five species were covered in "Bird in the Hand".

Membership at 31st December, 1966, is compared with the 1965 figures.

	31.12.65	31.12.66	Increase
Full members	178	195	17
Associate members	131	171	40
Junior members	67	55	-12
TOTALS	376	421	45

The membership lists recorded 11 changes in status to Full membership during the year.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank those members and friends who assisted during the year in the production of *The Australian Bird Bander*.

B. S. Carter, Hon. Secretary.

Income And Expenditure Account For Year Ended 31st December 1966

EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
1965		1966		1965		1966	
\$		\$	\$	\$		\$	\$
	Cost of "The Australian Bird Bander":—			650	Subscriptions		805
717	Publication	890		28	Sales of—		
136	Distribution	60			"The Australian Bird Bander"	48	
			950		"Bird in the Hand"	27	
4	"Bird in the Hand"	6		87	Donations	190	
38	Miscellaneous Expenditure	10		—	Advance from Mist Net Service	160	
5	Depreciation—Addressograph Plates	5		16	Bank Interest	15	
—	Excess of Income over Expenditure	303		1	Miscellaneous Income	29	
				112	Excess of Expenditure over Income	—	
<u>900</u>		<u>1,274</u>		<u>900</u>		<u>1,274</u>	

Balance Sheet As At 31st December 1966

LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
1965		1966		1965		1966	
\$		\$	\$	\$		\$	\$
132	Subscriptions paid in advance	115		191	Cash at Bank		443
	Accumulation Account:—				Stock on Hand:—		
572	Balance as at 1st January	460		10	Stationery	11	
112	Excess of Income over Expenditure	303		209	"The Australian Bird Bander"	300	
			763	52	"Bird in the Hand"	79	
							390
				40	Loan to Mist Net Service	—	
				54	Sundry Debtors	—	
				36	Addressograph Plates	45	
<u>592</u>		<u>878</u>		<u>592</u>		<u>878</u>	

R. G. Lonnon, Hon. Treasurer.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held in the Hallstrom Theatre, the Australian Museum, Sydney, on January 21, 1967.

The President welcomed all present, particularly overseas visitors Dr H. Elliott McClure (Bangkok) and Mr B. Bond (Malacca). Apologies were received from the Hon. Secretary and several interstate members.

Following the Hon. Secretary's and Hon. Treasurer's reports, the retiring President, H. J. de S. Disney, thanked all those members who in many ways had assisted the Committee during 1966 and helped maintain "*The Australian Bird Bander*" as one of the most useful and practical bird banding journals.

Office bearers for 1967 were elected as follows:—

President: M. H. Waterman (S.A.).

Vice-Presidents: J. Liddy (Qld.), Mrs. P. N. Reilly (Vic.), Dr. A. M. Gwynn (N.S.W.).

Hon. Secretary: H. Battam.

Hon. Asst. Secretary: B. A. Speechley.

Hon. Editor: S. G. Lane.

Hon. Asst. Editor: H. J. de S. Disney.

Hon. Treasurer: R. G. Lonnon.

Messrs. C. B. Campion and M. T. Murn were re-appointed Auditors.

On completion of business a Scientific Meeting was held. Dr H. Elliott McClure, Director of the Migratory Animal Pathological Survey in S.E. Asia, with the aid of colour slides described the bird banding scheme operating under his direction and some of its results to date. Other speakers were D. Purchase, Secretary of the Australian Bird-banding Scheme who spoke on "Some factors involved in Population Regulation of the Southern Skua" and S. Marchant of Canberra who spoke on "The R.A.O.U. Nest Record Scheme".

Editorial

Of the few matters requiring editorial comment, the most important is to draw attention to the notice in this issue announcing Warren Hitchcock's retirement from the post of Secretary of the Australian Bird-banding Scheme and the succession in that post of David Purchase.

Warren is well known to all of us by reputation and from the many communications of one sort or another which we have received over his signature, he is also known to many of us personally, and for us he was, as it were, a "father figure" at the centre of the Scheme, always ready with advice and information when called upon. Through previous contacts in the museum field, in South Australia from 1938 to 1941 and in Melbourne from 1949 to 1954, he was already known personally to about 50 per cent. of banders when he took over the office of Secretary of the Scheme in November, 1957, and he made it his business to extend his acquaintanceship and contacts among banders at every opportunity. In him, amateur banders could feel that they had a friend at the centre, and one who would always have a sympathetic

ear for their interests. We are grateful for his past efforts on behalf of the Banding Scheme, and we take this opportunity to extend to him our very best wishes for success in his future sphere.

Warren's successor, David Purchase, is as yet known to relatively few of us, but his past experience augurs well for his suitability for the job, and we have already been made to feel that he is determined to carry out the very onerous duties of his office with the best interests of the Scheme and of the individual banders at heart. We were very glad to have the opportunity of welcoming him at the Annual Meeting of the Association on January 21, when he gave a very interesting talk on his work on the Southern Skua.

Finally, we should mention the second Regional Organisers' Conference which is to be held in Canberra under the Chairmanship of Dr Harry Frith at about the time this journal goes to press. We hope to be able to make some reference to the work of this Conference in our next issue.