

## Obituary

**John Le Gay Brereton**, Associate Professor of Zoology at the University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales, died on 18 February 1976, at the age of 56, and through his death the Association lost one of its strong supporters.

John had a distinguished career as a pilot in World War II and became interested in birds while watching kites find thermals to gain heights. Having received his first degree in science at the University of Sydney and further academic training at Chicago and Oxford, where he obtained the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, John had a strong background in the theoretical aspects of population ecology in which he specialised. He worked on grain beetles and slaters before returning to Australia to take up his position at Armidale in 1956. At the University of New England he developed a new field of study in Australia — socio-ecology of birds. He also developed the only formal course in ornithology available in Australia as a curriculum for external biology students. As his lectures were stimulating and his enthusiasm infectious he was soon surrounded by graduate students interested in the behaviour of birds.

John became interested in social mechanisms of population control in parrots and contributed articles on the subject to many journals. He also presented papers at international congresses and symposiums.

When he joined the Bird Banders' Association of Australia in 1964, he was pioneering the banding of parrots for his intensive study of social organisation in the Eastern Rosella. Results of his tagging experiments were reported in this journal (Vol. 6, No. 2, pp. 35-37) in 1968. His study of the Eastern Rosella is one of the most detailed of a single species made in Australia and he had been writing it up for publication in recent years. He was also interested in the evolution of animal communities and conservation, and contributed much to the study of natural resources and their management.

We express our deep-felt sympathy to his widow and family in their sad loss.

J.K.

## Nomenclature and Classification

From the commencement of 1977, the following policy covering nomenclature and classification will be adopted by this Association.

The *Checklist of the Birds of Australia*, Part I (RAOU 1975) will be followed for non-passerines; for passerines, the *Interim List of Australian Songbirds*, Passerines, by R. Schodde (RAOU 1975) will be followed.

Authors should make use of trinomial classification where sub-species are morphologically identifiable in the field.

This policy has been decided in the interest of standardisation in the publication of our Journal, as these Lists have been adopted by both the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union and The Australian Bird-banding Scheme.

It is hoped that amendments to the Lists, already foreshadowed, will be published promptly by the RAOU.

Hon. Editor

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## Notice of Meeting

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Association will be held in Sydney on Saturday, 15 January 1977 at 2.00 p.m. Country or Interstate Members planning to attend and wishing assistance with accommodation should write to the Hon. Secretary before 10 December 1976.

An informal social function will follow the Annual Meeting and those planning to attend this function are asked to inform the Hon. Secretary before 31 December 1976. There will be a small charge to offset the cost of the function.

Further details will be published later.