

history to identify the birds around them and it included an important history of Western Australian ornithology, as well as a study of the bird geography of the area. His later *Handbook of Australian Sea-birds* (1971), written with Vincent Serventy and the writer, was well received; a second edition is currently in the hands of the publishers.

Dom was a very early bird ringer, active before the official Commonwealth banding scheme was started. He was a founder member of the Bird Banders' Association of Australia, and also of the Western Australian Naturalists' Club, being elected their first secretary/treasurer on 3 July 1924.

Dom Serventy's departure marks the end of an era in Australian ornithology and we shall greatly miss his humour, keenness and comradeship. Our sympathies go out to brother Vin and sister Lucy, and to his sons Wilfrid, Conrad and Peter.

John Warham

electric Scheme he was even lowered over the sheer mountain side on a small trolley to carry out necessary surveys. He was first to observe the occurrence of the Eastern Bristlebird on the Laminton Plateau, which formed the basis of one of his first published articles in 1946. In the same year, Jack wrote a short note on the Brown Honeyeater; over thirty years later, his last paper was again on this species.

As one of the first authorized bird banders in the early 1960 era, he took full advantage of this opportunity to study in the hand many birds. He concentrated on Silvereyes, Brown Honeyeaters and Mangrove Honeyeaters at his Wellington Point home, and his comprehensive notes have been used extensively as the basis for study by other ornithologists, as well as for his own publications. A Silvereye banded by Jack in the summer turned up in Canberra in the following winter, and its capture by Canberra bird banders was recorded by a television team doing a segment on bird migration — quite a surprising flight. Sadly, his sight had faded badly, yet only four days before he died, he said to a visitor that the Welcome Swallows calling outside his window were nesting under the eaves of a nearby building — birds were his love and inspiration to the end.

Vernon Cooper

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## OBITUARY

John Stephens Robertson died in Brisbane, on 16 July 1988, at the age of 90. Jack was a very competent ornithologist, a long time member of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, and a foundation member of the Bird Banding Association of Australia through its change into the Australian Bird Study Association until his death. His detailed, methodical observations of birds were a source of much new information, invaluable to the bird watching fraternity.

As a Main Roads Department engineer in Queensland, he was in charge of the construction of many major bridges and important projects. While working on the Barron Falls Hydro-

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## New Members

EMERY, P. A., Kingston, SA  
 ROBINSON, C., Albury, NSW  
 HINES, H., Armidale, NSW