

Flame Robin Colour-Banding Project

It has been decided to widen the scope of the Flame Robin (*Petroica phoenicea*) colour-banding scheme (see *Aust. Bird Bander*, vol. 3: p. 73) to include banding with the usual C.S.I.R.O. band in every area frequented by this species, as well as sight observations. These should include where possible, numbers, whether brown or male, whether observed continuously or whether apparently passing through. Even the sighting of a few birds may help to complete the pattern; e.g., several skiers have reported "robins" wintering on the snow-covered slopes, but these

reports need substantiating by competent observers.

Colour-banding is functioning successfully in some areas but has ceased on Flinders and King Islands and at Colac due to departure of banders. Assistance is needed in these areas and in Tasmania.

The co-operation of all banders and observers is sought and will be gratefully acknowledged when results are published.

—Mrs. P. N. Reilly,
33 Camperdown St., East Brighton, Vic.

Silvereye Project

In order to determine the extent of movement from breeding areas, it is important that as many nestling Silvereyes as possible should be banded during the approaching breeding season.

Associate and Junior Members can help considerably by reporting nests to banders and by keeping them informed of the nesting progress.

The most suitable time for banding silvereye nestlings is between five and nine days after hatching.

S. G. (Bill) Lane, Lane Cove, N.S.W.

Notice to all Members

Banders are licensed by CSIRO and State fauna authorities to trap, band and release birds in connection with the Australian Bird Banding Scheme.

All members are requested to be on the lookout for illegal trappers. The possibility must be considered that some of these may endeavour to cover their clandestine operations under the guise of banding.

In science there is no guarantee that an investigator will ever solve the problem that concerns him or, for that matter, that anyone else will ever solve it. Solutions are found, to be sure, and the advance . . . depends on them. But the life blood of science is the new problems that seem to multiply as quickly as the old ones are solved. Indeed, science may be regarded as a highly organized way of discovering problems and thereby continually replenishing surprise.—John Pfeiffer, quoted in the *Readers' Digest*, March, 1965.

[Surprisingly, Pfeiffer is not a bird bander!]

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS

On 11.6.66 replying to a letter from Bill Lane, Brian Bell (Wildlife Service, Department of Internal Affairs, Wellington, New Zealand) wrote:—

"One of my projects while on Adams Island was to make a census of the Wandering Albatross but this was thwarted by the constantly bad weather the group suffers. I ended up only being able to census some restricted areas and just make a generalised summary of the position elsewhere.

"In addition to counting the birds I was able to band 66, including your bird. When planning to go down I was very much aware of the work Doug Gibson and you had been doing and I was hopeful that I might be able to find some of your birds. Future workers on Adams Island will be in a much better position as they will be able to go directly to the major concentrations whereas I had to find where these were and never actually got amongst the most densely populated nestling area. I have hopes of returning some time to continue the work.

"I hope that future visits to the sub-Antarctic by myself and others might furnish you with further recoveries."

BANDERS!

Remember your obligation to renew your State and CSIRO permits.