

undertake the means necessary for the information, entertainment, demonstration, education, convenience and use of members; to take all means that may be considered most effective to preserve and protect the avi-fauna indigenous to the Australian region, etc.

It should be obvious that we are faced with natural growth in the Union. (Even talk of breakaway is a sort of growing pain and a sign of growth.) Is Council to endeavour to control members 500 or 1,000 miles away, and keep in touch with them only through *The Emu* and occasional circulars and notices? It does not seem practicable when members increase in numbers. It might be assumed that the limit of practicability has now been reached. What, for instance, can Council understand about the requirements of members in Boomoonoomanah or Bondi, Coomooboolaroo or Cowlong? I contend there are many matters not Council business which properly should be dealt with by units; and if Council did attempt to grapple too much with local matters it would be to the neglect of federal aspects of the Union.

The matter of junior members has been mentioned. No provision is made in the Articles, for the simple reason that juniors as such cannot be recognised. There is nothing, however, to prevent units doing what they wish to attract junior members. Here they could give the personal touch that is so much needed. Every member must, of course, recognise the value of any scheme that will attract and educate the young folk, who will in due course become members of the Union.

Finally, it may be asserted that some such scheme as here outlined, the principal aims of which are to bind in common interest the members of the Union in the town or district where they live, must confer great and lasting benefits upon the affairs of the R.A.O.U. as a whole.

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**Unusual Nesting Sites.**—One expects usually to find the warmly-lined and cosy nest of the Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*A. chrysorrhoa*) in a cluster of pendulous leaves and twigs and skillfully hidden from observation.

To my surprise, when visiting the top of Mount Dandenong (Victoria) I found a nest of this charming wee bird built in a small hole in the ground in the side of a bank on the roadway. The only part of the nest that was visible was the small opening of the entrance. The nest contained young, and the parents were quite unconcerned at my presence and were easily identified.

It is customary for the Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*) to select a hollow in a tree wherein to lay its eggs; but a pair of these entertaining birds chose a hollowed-out ledge on the cliff-face of a deserted quarry at Spring Vale, Victoria. They reared their brood in safety.—A. H. MATTINGLEY, Melbourne (12/11/26).