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The *Zoological Record*, XV, Aves, compiled by W. L. Sclater, M.A., for the Zoological Society of London (price 7/6), is now available. The object of the *Record* is to give, by means of an annual volume, complete lists of the works and publications relating to zoology in all its branches that have appeared during the year preceding the issue of the volume, together with a subject and systematic index. The ornithological section is in good hands; Mr. Sclater is to be thanked for doing a tedious task very thoroughly.

Important Notice.

The R.A.O.U. threatens to become seriously embarrassed by the fact that many members have not paid their annual subscriptions for the current year, which were due nine months ago. It is recognised that this is almost entirely due to thoughtlessness, but such thoughtlessness ought not to be allowed to creep into the affairs of a body whose affairs (including the publishing of a distinctive journal) are controlled by entirely honorary officers. The Union has been put to very heavy expense for printing of late, and it cannot continue to function satisfactorily unless members pay more attention to their financial obligations. It is desired that this matter be treated as urgent.

Notes and Comments.

The present issue of *The Emu* contains contributions from every Australian State and also two distinctive articles from New Zealand and one from the Falkland Islands. Several other notable articles have had to be held over till next issue.

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Unless otherwise stated, all paintings upon which coloured plates in *The Emu* are based are donated by the artist, Mr. Neville Cayley. Anyone desiring to purchase an original should communicate with Mr. Cayley at Collins Avenue, Rose Bay, N.S.W.

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The Editor acknowledges with appreciation the fact that most manuscripts now submitted for publication in *The Emu* are typewritten. When this is not possible, all technical names should be

written with especial clearness. Contributors should also note that the scientific nomenclature adopted in the Checklist must be followed in the journal of the R.A.O.U.

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The Hon. General Secretary of the R.A.O.U. reports that there has been a good demand from members for copies of the new Checklist. It is highly advisable that every member should become possessed of a copy of this publication. Send 12s. 8d. (postage 2d.) to 376 Flinders St., Melbourne, and a copy will be forwarded. A limited number of special interleaved copies are available at 18s. 6d. a copy.

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Judge Charles Frederick Belcher, of the High Court of Nyasaland, has been appointed Chief Justice of Cyprus. Judge Belcher was born in Geelong, Victoria, in 1876, and is the son of the late G. F. Belcher, who was formerly a member of the Victorian Legislative Council. Judge Belcher was admitted to the Victorian Bar in 1902 and at Gray's Inn in 1909. In 1914 he received an appointment as magistrate in Uganda, Africa, and as assistant judge at Zanzibar in 1920. From 1920 to 1924 he was a member of the Court of Appeal for Eastern Africa. Judge Belcher is an original member of the R.A.O.U. He wrote a book entitled "Birds of Geelong," and was for two years (1905-06) co-editor, with Mr. A. J. Campbell, of *The Emu*.

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In accordance with a resolution adopted at last Congress, the R.A.O.U. wrote to the authorities in every State of the Commonwealth, asking that efforts be made to breed up rare Parrots in approved aviaries, with a view to re-establishing them in suitable sanctuaries. The replies express sympathy and ask for assistance in the matter. The Council of the R.A.O.U. now invites State branches and members generally to forward practical suggestions and generally to do all they can to help in this national effort.

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Another resolution adopted at the last Congress of the R.A.O.U. expressed alarm at the great numbers of Emus killed under the auspices of the Prickly Pear Land Commission, Queensland, and asked that the destruction be stayed pending a thorough investigation, on a scientific basis, of the food of birds in the pear areas. The Commission has replied asking for "clear supporting evidence" in favour of Emus, and stating that the matter must be approached solely from the economic standpoint. It adds that destruction of the birds will not continue indefinitely, but only for "so long as is necessary to reduce their numbers considerably,"

and expresses willingness to meet Queensland members of the Union on the matter. The R.A.O.U. has replied that "clear supporting evidence" was previously given, it having been shown that one Emu's stomach was found to contain 2,991 injurious caterpillars. The matter is referred to Queensland members, with a suggestion that the request for a proper examination of the food of Emus should be emphasised.

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CORRECTION.—A printer's error in the January *Emu* caused the blocks on Plate 31 to be misplaced. The upper figure is a male **Rose Robin** and the lower figure a female.

Expedition to Queensland Islands.

AN excursion of interest to ornithologists is being organized by Mr. E. F. Pollock, R.A.O.U., late Hon. Sec. of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales, to some of the islands of the Great Barrier Reef, off the Queensland coast. The expedition will leave Sydney by rail in November next, and join a suitable motor vessel at a port adjacent the islands to be visited. The date has been fixed to coincide with the breeding-time of the sea-birds and turtles which inhabit these coral atolls. It is intended to establish camps, each of about a week's duration, on four different islands in turn, and from these bases to visit other islands in the vicinity, making one day trips. If the weather is favorable—as it generally is at that time of the year—it is expected to explore about a dozen of these islands altogether, on all of which colonies of different kinds of sea-birds congregate and breed.

It will be remembered that Mr. Pollock led an expedition to North West Islet, Capricorn group, in Nov.-Dec., 1925, and he recently returned from Lord Howe Island after conducting a party of naturalists and others to that interesting spot. On each of these occasions several members of the R.A.O.U. were included in the parties, and Mr. Pollock again extends a cordial invitation to any members of the Union who would like to join the forthcoming expedition to get into touch with him early, as plans have to be formulated many months in advance. Several members of the R.A.O.U. have already signified their intention of making the trip.

Further particulars can be obtained by writing to Mr. Pollock, whose address is "Te Whare," Carrington Avenue, Strathfield, N.S.W.