

Members are reminded that nominations for Council must be in the hands of the Honorary General Secretary not later than September 19. All nominations should be accompanied by the consent in writing of the candidates proposed.

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The Annual Meeting of the Central Queensland Native Birds Protection Association (Rockhampton) was held on January 27, when a very healthy record of the year's work was presented. It was shown that new sanctuaries had been established, more honorary rangers appointed, and assistance given towards establishing similar associations in other centres. In touching on the question of Emus and prickly pear, the Committee's report suggested that the birds had been condemned on somewhat flimsy evidence, and expressed willingness to co-operate with the R.A.O.U. in securing a reprieve for these noble birds pending investigation into their food by men who understand the economic status of birds. The following officers were elected: Patron, Mr. R. G. McDowall; President, Mr. A. Boldeman; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. C. M. Rogers, J. Larcombe, J. Stapleton, A. R. Kirby, R. C. Boland, H. W. Withers, C. Barnard, D. McLaughlin, junr.; Committee, Messrs. G. Boldeman, G. Baxter, F. Brimacombe, C. Stone, J. Byril, J. Richter, H. F. Lamberton, C. Stimms, T. Gorle; Chairman of Committee, Mr. F. Lamberton; Auditor, Mr. F. Brimacombe; Honorary Secretary, Mr. P. V. Maloney.

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Mr. H. Wolstenholme, R.A.O.U., of Sydney, is to be congratulated on having been made an Honorary Member of the London Natural History Society. This Society dates from 1858.

Council Meetings, R.A.O.U.

At a meeting on April 13, 1927, the Council expressed gratification at the response to its requests for reports from certain members as to the decrease in numbers of native birds. Several interesting letters have been received, and are being filed for use when questions of close seasons *et cetera* are under discussion. The Council will welcome reports from members suitably situated regarding the illegal destruction of native fauna or of the necessity for close seasons for certain species.

Consequent on a complaint from the Union that Penguins were being used on the Victorian coast as bait for crayfish,

the Chief Inspector of Fisheries (Victoria) wrote stating that the practice did not exist. Some members were not inclined to accept this statement, and it was decided to suggest that a raid be organized to ascertain the class of bait used.

A report was received from Mr. G. H. Barker, State Secretary for Queensland, regarding the destruction of Emus in prickly pear areas. It was resolved to communicate to Mr. Barker the appreciation of the Council of his efforts to save these birds.

Dr. J. A. Leach and Mr. Z. Gray were appointed to represent the Union on a deputation to urge the extension of the Buffalo National Park, Victoria. It was decided that the Union should support other societies in a campaign against the destruction of sea-birds by waste oil.

The secretary of the Melbourne Bird Observers' Club communicated the desire of that body to be appointed a committee or representative of the Union under Article 26. Mr. Ross was asked to look into the legal aspect of the matter.

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At a meeting held on May 11 a further communication was received from the Chief Inspector of Fisheries, stating that he had visited Phillip Island recently and had been unable to find any evidence that fishermen were using Penguins for bait, but that the fox was doing considerable damage amongst them. However, he was of opinion that certain Bass Straits Islands under Tasmanian control were raided by fishermen. It was decided to suggest further to the Department that crayfish pots should be licensed and numbered in order to secure more efficient control.

The Editor wrote calling attention to the excessive cost of reprints from the last volume of *The Emu*. The serious financial strain caused by the supply of authors' reprints had been discussed frequently by the Council and it was now agreed that the Editor be asked to discontinue the free supply. All present voted in favour of the motion and interstate members of Council have been invited to record their votes.

Consideration was given to the wording of an explanatory note regarding sub-generic names, which it has been decided to issue with the second edition of the Checklist. Two drafts are being submitted to members of Council.

A newspaper report of the wounding of birds at trap-shooting matches was dealt with, and it was resolved to bring the matter under the notice of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Some members of the Council have declared themselves more than once as being opposed to the use of live birds for trap-shooting. However, the remarkable increase in the numbers of Starlings and other introduced species, which are driving our own birds from their

accustomed haunts, is a serious matter, and it was felt that a decision should not be arrived at hastily. The views of members throughout the Commonwealth would assist the Council in this matter.

Mr. Arnold, secretary of the Melbourne Bird Observers' Club, attended the meeting, and was informed that the Council agreed to the affiliation of the Club as a branch of the R.A.O.U.

R.A.O.U. Congress, 1927, Western Australia.

For the second time in the history of the R.A.O.U., the Annual Congress and Camp-out will be held this year in the western State.

In 1920 a large number of members, representing every State in the Commonwealth, participated in the proceedings, and it is hoped that on the present occasion many more members may find it convenient to take this opportunity of becoming acquainted with the ornithology of the western side of Australia.

The date of the Congress has been amended from that published in the April *Emu* to four weeks later.

Conference will open at the W.A. Museum on October 18, delegates from the east arriving in Perth on the previous day, Monday, October 17. According to the new schedule, therefore, Sydney members will have to leave on October 12, and Melbourne and Adelaide members each a day later.

A reception by Mr. E. A. Le Souef and the Acclimatization Committee will be accorded the visitors at the Zoological Gardens on the afternoon of the day of arrival, and after 2½ days in session, the party will entrain for the camp, in the extreme south-west.

The camping site has been chosen on the western shore of Nornalup Inlet, at the Deep River. The country for many miles around is entirely virgin, and comprises big timber (including the giant karri and tingle-tingle), swamps, plains, and the many miles of inland waterway of Nornalup Inlet. Up to a few years ago settlement in this vast area had been negligible, but the active establishment of group settlements at many points will effect a radical change. The camp site, 50 miles from the head of the railway at Denmark, and about 70 miles from Pemberton, lies near the surveyed route of the proposed Pemberton-Denmark railway, the construction of which will bring new group settlements in the area. The proposed visit of the R.A.O.U. is therefore timely. The camp will extend from October 21 to 30.

It is important that members who contemplate being present inform the General Secretary as early as possible.