

On November 25 by invitation, members attended the lecture of Sir James Barrett on "The National Parks of America." It is to be hoped that some day, not very far distant, Australia, a new but sparsely populated land, will have national preserves of similar extent to her credit. The Committee of the Bird Observers' Club wishes to extend to all bird lovers in the vicinity of Melbourne, whether members of the Union or not, a cordial invitation to come along to meetings, which are held regularly in the R.A.O.U. rooms on the fourth Tuesday evening each month. The Leach Memorial Club continues to carry through a plan of outings as a section of the Bird Club's activities.—A.G.C.

Correspondence

To the Editor.

Sir,—The questions of who should be permitted to collect natural history specimens and who should be considered a "scientific" collector have for very many years been vexed ones. No proper attempt has been made to settle this question, hence contentions are continually re-occurring, causing much perturbation amongst those concerned, and which should be removed in the best interests of scientific advancement.

It is, therefore, incumbent upon us to set a recognised standard, by which the classification of what constitutes scientific collecting may be made. If such a standard were made, and agreed upon by the proper authorities, it would set at rest many causes of dispute with, and even interference with, legitimate collectors, who are working in the interests of the advancement of the sciences. As a working basis for consideration, I would suggest that a scientific collector is a person who collects for "recognised" or registered public and private museums, herbariums and laboratories. Expression of opinion should be invited from the leading scientists of the Commonwealth and others by the Council of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union.—Yours, etc.,

ARTHUR H. E. MATTINGLEY.

13 Turner Street,
South Camberwell, 12/11/30.

Pressure on space has necessitated the holding over of several contributions, including two papers read at the Congress.

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