

Annual Congress and Camp-Out, 1933

The Congress is to be held this year in Sydney and the Camp-out at Moree. Final arrangements have not been made, but as at present intended, the Congress, which will be opened by His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Philip Game, on October 23, will continue till October 27. Official visits to interesting bird localities (to be arranged) will be carried out during this period as well as the more formal business matters. The Camp-out will extend from October 28 to November 4. For an idea of the birds likely to be encountered at Moree, members who intend attending the Camp-out are referred to Mr. F. C. Morse's interesting article on the bird-life of the district in *The Emu*, Vol. XXII, pp. 24-38.

The approximate cost of the Camp-out (including second-class rail return fares from Sydney to Moree, will be about £5. Interstate members should make allowance for the cost of travelling to Sydney. Particulars of concessions and fares between Melbourne and Sydney and Adelaide and Melbourne appear in Vol. XXXI, p. 77. Concession fares from Brisbane to Sydney are about £6 2 8 first return and £4 2 - second return. Mr. Neville Cayley, State Secretary for New South Wales, is proceeding with all arrangements and is sanguine of a well-attended and ornithologically-profitable Camp. Further particulars will be supplied later to members desirous of attending upon application to the Hon. General Secretary (Mr. D. J. Dickison) or the Hon. Editor (Mr. C. E. Bryant), or in New South Wales, to Mr. Cayley.

Members are invited to forward to the Hon. Editor papers for reading at Congress.

Library Notes

The following additions to the Library are acknowledged:—

Ardea, Vol. XVIII, pts. 1-2; Vol. XX, pt. 3; Vol. XXI, pts. 1-2.

The Victorian Naturalist, Vol. XLIX, No. 12; Vol. L, Nos. 1 and 2.

The Queensland Naturalist, Vol. VIII, No. 5.

Papers and Proceedings of The Royal Society of Tasmania for 1932.

Australian Science Abstracts, Vol. 12, No. 2.

The Avicultural Magazine, Vol. XI, Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 5, No. 2 contains "The Breeding of Rosella Parrakeets," by Walter Voigt, and notes on Prolific Zebra Finches, the Pukeko, Breeding the Crimson Finch, and Gouldian Finches. No. 3 contains "Macklot's Pitta," by Sydney Porter; "Diseases of

Aviary Birds," by A. E. Hammerton. [Includes diseases of respiratory and alimentary systems, tuberculosis, mycosis, animal parasites (gape worms, round worms, flukes, etc.), diseases of circulatory and generative systems, tumours, diseases of nervous system, etc.—invaluable to aviculturists.] No. 4 contains "Bourke's Parrakeet," by E. J. Boosey, with colour plate by Cayley: "The Splendid Parrakeet in Australia," by H. B. Scholz, Yaininee, S.A. ["With regard to the Splendid Parrot . . . I think I may claim to know more than any man living." Mr. Scholz did not know the bird until 1931, since when he has "combed the district through" and secured twelve. Mr. Harvey took two pairs, Mr. Hunt one pair, and "I have retained three pairs for breeding purposes." In their native state they prefer sandhills and spinifex to the timbered mallee country. They run their beaks along leaves of a shrub, presumably squeezing them for moisture. Mr. Scholz states, "I am keenly interested in the preservation of our rare birds." What will he do with any Splendid Parrakeets that he breeds?] Notes on Black-breasted Plover breeding in captivity. Prolific Bourke's Parrakeets, Gouldians breeding to third generation in captivity.

The Australian Zoologist, Vol. 7, part 4.

Observations on the Oceanic Birds of the Pacific and adjacent Waters. By P. Jespersen. From *Vidensk. Medd. fra Dansk naturh. Foren. Bd. 94*. Includes distribution maps of species observed. About thirty Australian forms are included.

Bird Notes and News, Vol. XV, Nos. 1, 2 and 3. From F. L. Berney.

The South Australian Ornithologist, Vol. XII, part 2. Contains "*Endiptes pachyrhynchus*, Thick-billed Penguin," by J. Sutton. [Specimen taken alive at Encounter Bay. Refers to previous South Australian records—8 1 14 Cape Banks, and 28 8 28 Guichen Bay.] "Birds noted between Alice Springs and Mount Liebig," by J. B. Cleland. [Total of 1387 of about 40 species.] "Two Strange Parrots of the Interior," by H. H. Finlayson. [Birds reported from the vicinity of the Musgrave Ranges. One has a long tail resembling the Alexandra Parrot, dorsum bright green, head darker, chest and vent yellow, under surface some yellow. Wongapitcha blacks state it nests in burrows. Other bronze green with no distinguishing marks and larger than a Budgerygah.] General Notes.

Descriptions of New Birds from Peru, with Notes on other little-known species. By M. A. Carraker, junr. From *Proceedings of The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, Vol. LXXX, pp. 1-38.

The Wilson Bulletin, Vol. XLV, No. 1.

The Ibis, Vol. III (13th ser.), No. 2. Contains "*Matthaeus Bechstein*", by Hugo Hildebrandt (translated by

Rosenegk.) "Ninth Report of the Committee on the Nomenclature and Records of Occurrences of Rare Birds and on Changes in Nomenclature in the B.O.U. List." [*Circus macrourus* added to British List, several changes to specific names, generic name *Pluvialis* considered feminine to conform with Brisson's opinion, with consequential change of *dominiens* to *dominica*.] "A further Note on Structural Diversity in Charadriine Genera correlated with Differences in Colour-pattern," P. R. Lowe. "On the Name of the Boobook Owl and on the Genera *Emblema* and *Paranectris*," G. M. Mathews.

The Auk, Vol. L, No. 2.

The Magic Voice, by R. T. Littlejohns. See review in this part.

A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China, by J. D. D. La Touche, Vol. II, part IV. See review in this part.

Bibliography of Australian Entomology, 1775-1930, with Biographical Notes on Authors and Collectors. By Anthony Musgrave. Published by the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales. [This painstaking work contains much of interest to ornithologists—many of the workers included being general naturalists—the dates of publication of various works being especially valuable.]

Reviews

[*The Magic Voice*. By R. T. Littlejohns. Published by the Ramsay Publishing Pty. Ltd., Melbourne.]

To refer to this booklet as an ornithological treatise would probably militate against its author's recorded desire to "provide for members of the public some permanent reference" concerning our mimetic marvel, yet to call it a popular account of *Menura* appears hardly to do justice to the pertinent remarks and detailed observations gathered between its covers. It is an artistic brochure of 33 pages, illustrated with Mr. Littlejohns's admirable bird pictures, and redolent of the fern gullies, where its author has for many years patiently observed the birds. We know that every statement made is a fact, because Mr. Littlejohns has always been insistent on strict accuracy in recording observations, and he writes of Lyrebirds as he knows them from his bountiful personal experience.

Mr. Littlejohns opens by expressing an opinion that the Lyrebird is a potential tourist attraction, and then proceeds to tell of the family life of the bird, its display, its song and mimicry as evidence in support of his statement. Chapters are devoted to the Lyrebirds of Sherbrooke and to the broadcast of the birds' songs, with which so many are now familiar. A "time-table" for use with the Lyrebird gramo-