

Council Meetings of the R.A.O.U.

The matters of endeavouring to make arrangements for despatch of H. L. White Collection specimens, if required, to other museums, for the use of workers, and of proposals concerning field ornithology, are still receiving consideration.

The Council reconsidered its decision regarding representation on the Victorian Advisory Council for Fauna and Flora, and finally appointed Mr. J. Jones as an additional delegate.

As a consequence of recommendations made by the Council, the Victorian Department of Lands approved, early this year, of the re-organization of the Committee of Management (then comprised entirely of Shire councillors) of the Sir Colin Mackenzie Sanctuary, Healesville, to permit the inclusion of representatives of scientific and publicity interests. The step was taken in an endeavour to enhance both the scientific and educational status of the sanctuary. The Council's nominees to the new committee were Prof. P. MacCallum (Professor of Pathology, University of Melbourne), Messrs. A. H. Chisholm (natural history and publicity), V. F. Letcher (at the time manager of the Victorian Railways Publicity Board), F. E. Lewis (Chief Inspector, Fisheries and Game), and K. Byron Moore (donor to the sanctuary). With the exception of Mr. Lewis, whose official position does not permit him to participate, all the Council's nominees are now members of the Committee of Management of the Sanctuary.

Messages of appreciation at the action of the Union in appointing them Fellows and Corresponding Members were received from the gentlemen recently so honoured.

Appreciation was expressed to the Chief Inspector of Fisheries and Game, Vic., at the action of having Musk Ducks and Blue-billed Ducks placed on the fully-protected list.

News and Notes

ECOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mr. L. Macmillan, a member of the R.A.O.U., who has for some years been working in the Pacific Islands for the American Museum of Natural History, New York, is now undertaking further ecological research, for that institution, in Central Australia and southern Queensland, where he will probably be in the field for 18 months or more.

Mr. Macmillan extends an invitation to any Australian ornithologists who may care to do so to join his party in the field for short periods—at their own expense so far as travelling to and from the site is concerned.

At this stage no very definite information as to the party's movements is available, but such will be forthcoming. Applicants are required to communicate with the Hon. Editor, who has undertaken to make arrangements with and for Mr. Macmillan. In view of the possible isolation of the party from time to time at least one month's notice is desirable and, in any case, the suitability of location and time may not always permit of arrangements being possible.

The party is interested in the seasonal movements of birds, changes of plumage and general ecological matters, and it is hoped that persons taking advantage of the foregoing opportunity will later carry on observations, on the lines conducted by Mr. Macmillan, in their own respective localities.

VISIT OF MR. G. M. MATHEWS

The arrival of Mr. Gregory Mathews at Fremantle was the culminating incident of an interesting series of events in the history of the Union in the western State, when, for perhaps the first time, a really successful effort was made to establish personal contact between as many as possible of the scattered units of the Union's membership. On February 5, Major H. M. Whittell, who travelled specially from Bridgetown for the occasion, entertained Mr. Mathews at a luncheon and general reception at the Savoy Hotel, the company including also Messrs. L. Glauert, J. Hassell, C. F. H. Jenkins, H. M. Wilson, and Dr. D. L. Serventy. That function provided an opportunity for extended reminiscences of ornithological doings in Western Australia over about half a century. During what might be called "Mathews Week" in Perth, the presence of country ornithologists enabled many to meet each other who had been strangers hitherto, whilst country tours of Dr. Serventy and Mr. Wilson enabled personal contact to be established with several others. It is hoped that this communal stimulation will result in accelerating interest in bird work and usefully integrating ornithological activity in the west.

Upon Mr. Mathews' arrival in Melbourne, Mr. A. H. Chisholm, President of the Union, who had made his acquaintance in England a year or so ago, took him in hand. He and Mr. C. E. Bryant, Hon. Editor, had a chat with our visitor for an hour or so, and, that afternoon, Messrs. Chisholm, D. J. Dickison and C. L. Lang, and Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Hanks, accompanied Mr. Mathews to the Sir Colin Mackenzie Sanctuary. Mr. Mathews left that evening for Sydney.

In Sydney our visitor was entertained at luncheon, on March 13, by members of the Royal Zoological Society and other bodies, at Taronga Park, and officially welcomed by Mr. K. A. Hindwood. Later he attended the monthly meeting of the New South Wales branch of the Union and ornithological section of the R.Z.S.

HONOURS ACKNOWLEDGED

At the 1939 Annual Meeting of the R.A.O.U. the Council submitted several recommendations for the honouring of ornithologists in other countries. These recommendations were adopted and duly conveyed to the persons concerned. All have since replied expressing warm appreciation.

Dr. Ernst Mayr (American Museum of Natural History, New York), a Corresponding Member, writes that he fully appreciates "the great honour of being associated with your distinguished society." He adds that Australian birds have entered more and more into his sphere of interest recently, particularly since his Museum acquired the

Mathews Collection, and he invites members of the R.A.O.U. to communicate with or visit him at any opportunity.

Dr. A. Wetmore (Smithsonian Institution, Washington), a Corresponding Member, states that he looks forward with pleasure to association with the R.A.O.U. He hopes that any members who visit his city will advise him of their presence.

Dr. R. C. Murphy (American Museum of Natural History, New York), a Corresponding Member, says he regards the "distinguished honor" conferred upon him with great pride, and hopes that it will strengthen his personal contacts with ornithologists of Australia and New Zealand.

Dr. Percy Lowe (President of the British Ornithologists Union), a Corresponding Member, asks that his thanks and appreciation be conveyed to members, and expresses the hope that this may be regarded as yet another link between two portions of the great British Empire.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews (England), a Fellow, also desires that his deep appreciation of the honour be conveyed to members of the R.A.O.U.

Mr. W. B. Alexander (England), a Fellow, says that his interest in birds has brought him many friends, especially in Australia and New Zealand, and this mark of their appreciation is very welcome. If Australasian workers care to avail themselves of the services of the organization of which he is Director (the Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology, Oxford), he will be very glad to help in any way.

APPEAL TO MEMBERS

In the January *Emu* an appeal was made for donations to finance a special part of *The Emu*. The appeal is now repeated. The proposed publication is an extensive paper by Mr. K. A. Hindwood dealing with both the present avifauna of Lord Howe Island and its extinct birds, compiled and written from historical records, personal observations and general accounts and literature.

It is desired to publish the contribution in one issue of *The Emu*, without recourse to the ordinary funds of the Union. This will mean that members will receive five, instead of four, parts for the year, a factor that in itself justifies an expectation that *all* members will render some assistance. It is considered that publication of the paper—which will exceed the size of a standard issue—in parts, would not only extend over too lengthy a period but would also seriously hold up other *Emu* material.

The Council asks members to consider in this appeal the message "This means you!" With prevailing conditions the Council wishes to preserve the funds of the Union and to have the special issue financed *entirely* by donations.

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