

*Soc., Lond.*, vol. XV, pt. I, the volume includes papers read in March and June, 1826, so could not have been issued in February, 1826, as has been stated. The earliest date of issue I know is February 17, 1827. Is not the data provided by me in my Bibliography correct?

The committee appointed to bring out our new *Checklist* will have to consult many works, embracing lists compiled by overseas workers and including the one now appearing, by Peters. No one expected one man to list the birds of the world without making mistakes and, although Peters is, of course, as much entitled to his views as are the remainder of the ornithologists, there are some outstanding differences between him and other workers so far as the nomenclature of Australian birds is concerned. The R.A.O.U., for example, has always admitted the genus *Barnardius*, as do most workers. Other genera are admitted by those who have studied Australian parrots in the field and in captivity. Different workers have different ideas of what constitutes a genus, the prejudiced worker maintaining that he is correct, the truly-scientific worker not being so dogmatic. Apparently misunderstanding exists concerning the use of genera. An accepted definition of a genus has never been promulgated and until such obtains it is obviously impossible to say if too few or too many genera are in use.

Yours, etc.,

GREGORY M. MATHEWS.

Sydney,

February 26, 1941.

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## Editorial

In view of differences between contributors on matters of nomenclature, the Editor draws attention to the statement on the inside front cover dealing with authors' responsibility for opinions expressed in their contributions. Lack of editorial comment does not necessarily imply agreement with any particular statements.

Pressure on space has necessitated the holding over of very much material, and publication of several lengthy papers may be delayed considerably. In view of such state of affairs, avifaunal lists of other than little-worked areas and biographical papers of length, particularly those dealing only indirectly with Australian ornithology, cannot be accepted, or at best must be postponed to strictly ornithological contributions.

Marked differences occur in the style of branch reports, some being largely confined to matters of minor local domestic import. State Secretaries might endeavour to record, in their reports, matters of more-general progress in ornithology, such as bird protection, sanctuaries, dissemination of knowledge of birds, and the like, ensuring a more

uniform picture of what is being achieved in the tenets of the Union's aims, viz. popularizing the study and protection of birds and the recording of scientific research in ornithology.

Through fortuitous circumstances the regulations regarding restriction on the use of paper have not reduced the size of *The Emu*. Production costs have increased, however, and a reduction in the number of coloured plates is being made as a temporary offset.

### Council Activities in Brief

Following representations by Mr. Lindsay Black, of Leeton (N.S.W.), concerning a local agitation for the removal of the Barren Box Swamp (near Griffith, N.S.W.) from the list of sanctuaries and for the lifting of restrictions on the shooting of duck out of season, it was resolved to write to the Chief Secretary of New South Wales suggesting that instead of opening this notable haunt of water-birds to shooters, rice-growers be permitted, by special permit only, to protect their crops by destroying birds only on their own properties.

The Council's advice having been sought on complaints that the Red-backed Parrot, the Yellow Rosella, and the Zebra Finch (first two protected for whole year, and last from September 1 to January 31) had been causing damage in north-west Victoria, Council recommended that the Yellow Rosella should be retained on the fully-protected list because of its restricted range and relative scarcity, and that further inquiries be made about the other two birds. Reports from local members were obtained and forwarded to the Chief Inspector of Fisheries and Game. It is unlikely that alterations will be made.

Following a visit of inspection by Messrs. A. G. Campbell and E. S. Hanks, it was decided to recommend to the Lands Department of Victoria that the sandy desert country, of approximately 1,000 square miles, adjoining the Wyperfeld National Park on the west, be permanently reserved. The matter has been taken up through the Park trustees.

It was resolved that, in future, no matter shall go forth from a Council meeting as a motion to be voted upon unless it has been seconded. If not seconded, it shall be sent out as a notice of motion only.

Some 120,000 acres of the Hattah (Victorian Mallee) area having been reserved as National Forest Reserve (including a large tract on the recommendation of the Union), the authorities concerned have agreed to recognize a small advisory committee to administer the wild-life aspect of the area, and also to provide such board with funds, to a limited extent. The Forests Commission has been asked to agree that the board be permanent on a basis of recommendation from the Union, and that the names recommended by the Union in the first instance be accepted, viz. Messrs. L. G. Chandler (Red Cliffs), Norman Favaloro (Mildura), J. Willis (National Herbarium, Melbourne) and Jack Jones (Melbourne).

The Council is considering methods of publishing amendments to the *Checklist*. The Checklist Committee consists of Major H. M. Whittell (Convener), Messrs. C. E. Bryant and A. G. Campbell, Drs. R. A. Falla and D. L. Serventy. Mr. H. T. Condon has been invited to join the Committee, as has Mr. Gregory Mathews whilst he is in the Commonwealth.

A number of other matters are omitted as reference to them appears elsewhere in *The Emu*.

The date of publication was April 1, 1941.