

and duplicated the minutes of meetings, without cost to the Union, a gesture that is appreciated.

The prompt payment of membership dues by every member is again earnestly sought. Provision and posting of accounts to those in arrears has proved costly, and should be unnecessary. It is expensive both in cash, and in the time of honorary officers. Executive officers of the Union feel that the rank and file members do not realize and appreciate the onerous task of conducting the affairs of their organization, which is considerable, and takes much time.

The Union is indebted to those members who have made donations to the funds of R.A.O.U. during the year, whether to general funds or to assist in illustrating *The Emu*. Such sums, irrespective of amount, are gratefully acknowledged.

GENERAL

At the 34th Congress of The Australian and New Zealand Association for Advancement of Science, held in Perth, W.A., in August, the Union was represented by Dr. D. L. Serventy, Dr. J. A. Keast and Mr. R. T. M. Pescott.

During 1959, the British Ornithologists Union celebrated the centenary of its foundation. The Union congratulated that body on reaching this milestone in its history. Dr. A. J. Marshall, a Fellow of this Union, was in England, and represented the R.A.O.U. at the centenary functions of the B.O.U.

GORDON BINNS,
Hon. General Secretary

Square-tailed Kite at Coomboona, Vic.—When school re-started in February 1958, a solitary member of this species, *Lophoictinia isura*, stayed about the area. Spending much of its time resting in trees near irrigation channels, the bird was often under observation. When it flew into the open, Magpies often attacked it, but on many occasions the fight went with the bigger bird and it beat off its attackers. Twice it arose from the carcass of a hare which it shared with a Swamp Harrier (*Circus approximans*) and between them they kept away the usual crowd of Ravens (*Corvus coronoides*). On many nights the Kite roosted in large sugar-gums within the school yard. The bulk of the bird's food seemed to consist of grasshoppers which were in large numbers at that time. The only other occasion I have recorded this species was at Pyramid Hill on November 1 of this year. The bird rose from a telegraph pole and circled as our car went past, then resumed its position.—G. W. BEDGGOOD, Mooropna, Vic., 5/11/58.