

News and Notes

R.A.O.U. Congress and Field Outing Programme

Congress opens in Melbourne at 10 a.m. on November 6, 1965, at a place to be fixed (see Annual Notice Paper).

Sunday, Nov. 7—Party visits "Serendip", the Fisheries and Wildlife Research Station, to see duck-banding, etc.

Monday, Nov. 8—Party leaves by car or train for Mt. Beauty. Those travelling by train are advised to take the daylight express to Albury, where they will be met by a chartered bus.

Tuesday, Nov. 9—Morning outing by bus to Simmonds Creek. Afternoon to Mt. Beauty Pondage and East Kiewa River.

Wednesday, Nov. 10—Full day bus trip to Rocky Valley Dam and the Bogong High Plains (5,500 feet).

Thursday, Nov. 11—Morning outing by bus to Big Hill. Afternoon by bus to Mountain Creek Road.

Friday, Nov. 12—State Electricity Commission Tour of the Kiewa Scheme, visiting Mt. Mackay and the West Kiewa sub-stations.

Saturday, Nov. 13—Full day bus trip to Towonga Gap, Bright, the Ovens Valley and Mt. Buffalo.

Sunday, Nov. 14—Free day.

Monday, Nov. 15—Full day bus trip to the Murray River Flats at Wodonga.

Tuesday, Nov. 16—Full day at Falls Creek, Bogong High Plains, etc.

Wednesday, Nov. 17—Field Outing finishes. Party leaves the Chalet.

The Mt. Beauty programme is subject to changes, depending on the weather conditions at the time. The total bird-list for the north-east of Victoria contains 212 species.

An R.A.O.U. Field Outing that is Different

The scene of the Field Outing for 1965 will be one of the most picturesque valleys in north-eastern Victoria, at Mt. Beauty. Situated near the foot of Mt. Bogong, Victoria's highest mountain, the Chalet makes an ideal setting for the R.A.O.U. Field Outing.

It affords comfortable accommodation, mostly in single bedrooms, at a reasonable price of £17/10/- for ten days. Power points, with reading lamps, are in every bedroom, and there are extra power points for electric blankets.

Although just below the snow-line, Mt. Beauty is in a sheltered valley which can get very warm in November, so that it will be necessary to bring light as well as heavier clothing.

Bus transport has been arranged to take the entire party on the arranged tours and all attending are asked to use the buses. If we move about as a group we share our observations and also get to know each other better. The bus prices are most reasonable, less than £5 per head for the whole camp.

The large ballroom will be ideal for evening entertainment, which will include the bird-list, slides, films, talks, a quiz, S.E.C. night, etc. A bird-list of the area will be supplied to each person attending the Field Outing.

Very little bird work has been done on the Victorian high plains, which are between five and six thousand feet above sea-level, and no work at all on the influence of altitude on the reduction in the number of species present at various heights. These could well be the subject of serious and valuable ornithological studies during the Field Outing.

There will also possibly be plenty of snow about on the tops and certainly alpine flowers to admire among the snow-gums. The glorious scenery along the Ovens, Mitta and Kiewa valleys, and the endless panorama of Victoria's mountains, are well worth seeing.

Bookings, with a deposit of £2 each can be made with Mr Roy Wheeler, 59a Upton Road, Windsor, S.1, Victoria. Please state if you need transport from Melbourne, or from Albury (the nearest rail-head), to Mt. Beauty.

The Limited Open Season on the Cape Barren Goose in Tasmania

The following statements on the limited open season on Cape Barren Geese in the Furneaux Group on April 24-25, 1965, were supplied by Dr Eric Guiler of the Animals and Birds Protection Board of Tasmania.

1. The population of Cape Barren Geese in the Furneaux Group has increased from about 900, in 1957, to approximately 4,000 in 1965.
2. The Animals and Birds Protection Board has received complaints from farmers, of damage to crops. Permits have been issued to farmers to shoot geese, but these measures have not been very successful in minimizing damage. One farmer has a more or less permanent flock of 200 to 300 birds on his property. When shot at they simply move to the next property, returning when the danger has passed.
3. There was no pressure from shooters. This is confirmed in a letter from Mr Lyons, Chairman of the Tasmanian Shooters Association, which appeared in the *Mercury*.
4. The density of the birds is such that there is a possibility of overstocking, with consequent deterioration of the habitat. On Goose Island, of 234 acres, flocks of more than 300 are regularly counted, and these sometimes exceed 400 birds.
5. The three islands on which shooting was permitted are not particularly important breeding grounds.
 - Kangaroo Island—100 young birds raised last breeding season.
 - Badger Island—Probably the same as Kangaroo Island.
 - Woody Island—7 to 10 nests.These can be compared with:
 - Goose Island—More than 250 young birds raised.
 - Chappell Island—More than 250 raised.
6. 32 licences were granted.
7. 116 birds were killed. These included two banded as runners the previous year. The total is substantially less than the known number of young raised last year on Goose Island alone.
8. There are plans to capture 50 birds next year for release in Victoria.

Notice to Contributors

Contributions to the *Emu* should be presented in double-spaced typing, preferably on quarto paper, leaving at least an inch margin all round. Contributors are asked to follow *Emu* style, particularly when setting out dates, scientific names and references. Failure to do this involves the Editor and the compositors in much unnecessary work.

Dates should take the following form: e.g. January 8, 1965. Scientific names should not be enclosed in brackets but between commas, and should be underlined. For Australian birds the scientific names should be those of *The Official Checklist of the Birds of Australia*, 1926, as amended to date. If other names are used reference should be made to the *Checklist* names.

Titles of periodicals and of books, used in the text, should be underlined; titles of papers should not be underlined but should be enclosed in quotation marks.

Only the most commonly accepted abbreviations should be used in the text of an article.

Authors' galleys should not, except in unusual circumstances, be retained more than seven days.

Co-operation in these matters by contributors will do much to help in bringing the *Emu* out in good time.

The date of publication was August 30th, 1965.