

## CORRESPONDENCE

### TO THE EDITOR

Sir—I wish to refer to comments on conservation by Mr T. Gellibrand, Convener Conservation Committee, published in *The Emu*, 66: 146-147, on the R.A.O.U. Conservation policy (final clause). I agree that "there is an urgent need for a truly national conservation organization", but it must be on a Commonwealth basis and not by a body calling itself the Nature Conservation Foundation.

I wish to draw attention to part of a special report for a proposed National Plant and Wildlife Conservation Council, from the file of the Third Annual Forestry Conference, held in Sydney, September 1948.

"Arising out of constant personal efforts made by an Executive Committee member, Mr J. A. Palmer, and in the realization that the broad principle involved in the above has been long accepted by all far-sighted thinkers throughout Australia, the Forestry Advisory Council called two conferences on July 15 and 29, 1948. These were attended by representatives of interested bodies throughout the State, including a wide range of conservation and scientific organizations. The first Conference carried the following resolutions:

- (a) That the Federal Government be requested to set up a National Plant and Wildlife Conservation Council within the Federal Territories.
- (b) That the Federal Government be requested to invite the States to permit State control in this field to come under Federal co-ordination.
- (c) That, in each State, organizations similar to those represented at this Conference be invited to take action on the lines of (a) and (b) above within the sphere of activity which their constitutions cover.
- (d) That each such organization in all States request the co-operation of all Federal and State Parliamentary representatives in their particular State.

At the second Conference, after due deliberation the following was carried:

- (1) To initiate a comprehensive Biological and/or Wildlife survey of the Commonwealth and Territories in co-operation with the various State authorities and to act as the Federal co-ordinating agency for the standardization of flora and fauna on a National level.
- (2) To co-ordinate control of all National Parks, Primitive Areas and lesser Sanctuaries, and provide for a service of qualified Rangers or Conservation Officers with statutory powers to

protect all native flora, fauna and aboriginal relics; also sea-going inspectors for the supervision of marine life.

- (3) To devise measures for the control and/or elimination of prejudicial fauna, such as fox and rabbit, and where practicable to provide for fire-proof fences for the exclusion of such pests.
- (4) That wherever a demand is made for the destruction of an alleged excess of indigenous fauna, open seasons be not declared; such reduction, if approved, to be carried out by permanent Rangers, or duly licensed persons. That the sale of skins of indigenous fauna be controlled by Federal and State co-ordinating authorities, and a levy on all profits and licenses be applied to conservation costs.
- (5) To estimate and advise upon the need for adequate additional fauna and flora reservations in various regions capable of preserving a maximum local representation of native plant and animal life.
- (6) A vigorous public education campaign by means of films, lectures, posters, pamphlets, etc., dealing with wildlife, special emphasis being given to instruction in schools."

The C.S.I.R.O. set up a Wildlife Section in 1948; the Prime Minister at the time stating that he considered it should be allowed to develop slowly. I had hoped that the Wildlife Section would develop into a National Nature Conservation Department or Authority. It has rather become a scientific investigating authority.

I then concentrated on the Northern Territory, approaching Administrators, Ministers and staffs on nature conservation of the area. On October 11, 1957 a plan was submitted to Hon. J. N. Nelson, M.P. requesting consideration of my views and my map of proposed reserves of all types of habitat in the Territory. The Minister took action resulting in the National Parks and Gardens Ordinance 1955, with a Northern Territory Reserve Board. Concerned with hunting of Wildlife, particularly the Magpie Goose, *Anseranas semipalmata*, I appealed to the Hon. Roger Nott, Administrator, who took action to stop hunting of the Goose during the breeding season. He also promised consideration that Goose Camp be made a permanent Fauna Reserve.

With assistance from Mr M. S. R. Sharland and the late Mr J. Hewitt, submissions to the Administration resulted in the Crown Solicitor drafting a new Wildlife Conservation and Control Ordinance, 1962.

Now that we have Nature Conservation Laws in all States with relevant Authorities controlling them, and biennial meetings between all concerned, is it not time we had a National organization controlling Nature Conservation at a National level? It can be done under Sections 96 and 109 of the Australian Constitution. Let us settle this National matter in a National manner and have

Commonwealth Nature Conservation controlled by the Nation for the Nation.

Yours etc.

J. A. Palmer

Sydney, N.S.W.

## OBITUARY

### MARC COHN

Mr Marc Cohn of 1 Hope Street, Bendigo, died on December 30, 1966, after a short illness, at the age of 77. He had been a member of the R.A.O.U. for many years.

His studies of bird-life were mainly a hobby, but he was very thorough and he built up a considerable library on the subject. His almost complete set of *The Emu* which he had bound, together with a set of *The Victorian Naturalist* has been given to the Bendigo Public Library by his family as a memorial to him.

Mr Cohn progressed well as a bird photographer under the tutoring of the late Ray Littlejohns, all in the days of black and white and before the advent of colour. His most recent interest was in the Australian Bird Banding Scheme and he was active in mist-netting and bird-banding until a few months before his death. His wife, Constance, pre-deceased him only a short time previously.

—JOHN IPSEN, Bendigo, Vic.

## CORRIGENDUM

The Editor regrets that the following list of references was accidentally omitted from the *Stray Feather*, **A Sight Observation of the Glossy Swiftlet at Capt York, Queensland** by John L. McKean on page 98 of Volume 67 of the *Emu*.

### REFERENCES

- Hartert, E. J. O. 1892. *Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum*, 16: 434-654.  
Le Souef, D. 1913. Bird Migration. *Emu* 12: 195-197.  
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Mathews, Gregory M. 1936. *A Supplement to the Birds of Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands to which is added those Birds of New Zealand not figured by Buller*. H. F. and G. Witherby Ltd. London, pp. 1-177.