

# THE EMU

VOL. 74

APRIL 1975

SUPPLEMENT

## XVth INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

### INTRODUCTION

H. J. FRITH

*Secretary-General, XVth International Ornithological Congress*

The XVth International Ornithological Congress was held in Canberra, ACT, Australia from 12 to 17 August 1974. It was under the patronage of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT, and was sponsored by the Australian Academy of Science and the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union. Prof. J. Dorst of the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France, was President and Dr H. J. Frith, CSIRO, Division of Wildlife Research, Canberra, ACT, was Secretary-General.

Total membership of the Congress was 807.

### SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

#### *Congress Symposia*

There were eleven Symposia at which invited papers were read. These papers will form the substance of the volume of Congress Proceedings.

The symposia were as listed below:

#### **Origins of Australasian Avifauna**

Convener: D. L. Serventy (Australia)

Chairman: C. A. Fleming (New Zealand)

#### **Biology of Southern Hemisphere Species**

Convener: R. Schodde (Australia)

Chairmen: R. Falla (New Zealand) and E. Mayr (USA)

#### **The Value of Various Characters in Avian Classification**

Conveners: E. Mayr (USA) and W. J. Bock (USA)

Chairmen: E. Mayr (USA) and W. J. Bock (USA)

#### **Breeding of Birds in Southern Continents**

Convener: S. J. J. F. Davies (Australia)

Chairman: R. K. Murton (UK)

#### **Biology of Crowned Sparrows Zonotrichia in Two Hemispheres**

Convener: J. R. King (USA)

Chairman: B. B. DeWolfe (USA)

#### **Structure of Feathers**

Convener: A. H. Brush (USA)

Chairman: A. H. Brush (USA)

#### **Physiological and Behavioural Adaptations to Arid Zones**

Conveners: D. S. Farner (USA) and K. Immelmann (FRG)

Chairmen: D. S. Farner (USA) and K. Immelmann (FRG)

#### **Systematics of Australian Passerine Birds**

Convener: C. G. Sibley (USA)

Chairman: C. G. Sibley (USA)

**Evolution of Island Landbirds**

Conveners: J. A. Keast (Canada) and P. R. Grant (Canada)

Chairman: J. A. Keast (Canada)

**Co-operative Breeding in Birds**

Convener: I. C. R. Rowley (Australia)

Chairman: G. McBride (Australia)

**Seabirds: Distribution, Speciation and Ecological Diversification at Sea**

Convener: G. F. van Tets (Australia)

Chairman: F. Kinsky (New Zealand)

**General Sessions**

There were twenty-four General Sessions in which 130 papers, selected from those offered, were read. The papers were grouped into the following sections:

- I. Evolution, Selection and Systematics
- II. Breeding Biology and Behaviour
- III. Diversity and Niche
- IV. Behaviour – General
- V. Co-operative Breeding
- VI. Migration and Movements
- VII. Physiology and Genetics
- VIII. Song and Vocalization
- IX. Regional Avifaunas.

Abstracts of these papers were available to the members of the Congress. After editing and, in some, revision these abstracts are presented here in a more permanent form.

One or two authors declined the invitation to publish their abstract here. We include a few abstracts offered by ornithologists of USSR, even though the authors could not attend and the papers were not read. It is considered that making this material available in the English language is sufficient reason to make an exception to the rule that papers that were not actually read could not be included.