

R.A.O.U. Council Meetings.

At the meeting of the Council of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union on 7th May, at the rooms of Col. Chas. Ryan, Collins-street, Melbourne, Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley presided. Other members present were Messrs. Z. Gray, A. C. Stone, D. Le Souëf, L. G. Chandler, Chas. Barrett, and G. Finlay. Mr. Le Souëf read the report of the sub-committee appointed to consider the question of preparing a second edition of the "Official Check-list of the Birds of Australia," and it was decided that the recommendations made be published in *The Emu*. It was resolved that brief reports of proceedings at the Council meetings should be published in *The Emu* in future.

At the meeting of the Council held on 11th June, Mr. D. Le Souëf presiding, arrangements for the annual session at Brisbane in October, and the working camp-out farther north, were considered. A sub-committee was appointed to deal with camp rules and so forth. Mr. Charles Barrett urged that some restriction should be placed on collecting at the Union's camps-out. Specimens of birds and eggs were necessary for public museums, and a limited number was required by ornithologists who were doing scientific work, but general collecting should be discouraged. Mr. A. C. Stone defended the policy of collecting. In view of the fact that a large number of type specimens of birds was not in Australia, it was necessary that further specimens should be secured, so that the Check-list Committee, when it began work on a second edition of the list, might not be hampered. But for the collector, little would be known of our birds. Messrs. A. J. Campbell, D. Le Souëf, A. H. E. Mattingley, and others spoke on the subject. It was reported that the sub-committee appointed to deal with the ring-marking of migratory birds was making satisfactory progress with preliminary work, and the scheme would be in full swing shortly.

From Bush to Museum.

MR. J. A. Kershaw, F.E.S., Curator of the National Museum, Melbourne, describing his experiences in Northern Queensland, in *The Victorian Naturalist*, April, 1915, gives some pleasant glimpses of bird life. A good specimen of a bower was obtained.

"Close to our camp was discovered an old and deserted bower of the Fawn-breasted Bower-Bird (*Chlamydera cerviniventris*), and on the following day a fresh one was found, built in the shelter of some thick scrub. The sides of the bower were formed of small twigs, closely and securely packed, about 15 inches long and 12 inches high, separated at the top, the base, of similar material, extending at either end a little distance from the upright sides. Both entrances were decorated with numbers of brightly-coloured berries about half an inch long, some bright green, others dark blue, while others were placed here and there among the tops of the upright twigs forming the sides of the bower. A couple of feet from either entrance was a small heap of the faded and discarded berries. This bower was carefully removed, intact, and is now in the Melbourne Museum."