

Collecting and Killing Birds.—When the R.A.O.U. was formed, one of the chief planks in its platform was stated to be "the protection of our native birds." If we are going to protect them, let us do it wholeheartedly, and not allow their ranks to be thinned year after year by an army of egg and skin collectors. I have it on good authority that from 30 to 40 clutches of *Acanthornis magna* eggs are taken every season in the south of our island, for exchange with mainland and foreign collectors. As this interesting little species is found only in our limited Tasmanian bush, why should it be exterminated—lost to the world—to satisfy the rapacity of a small section of the community?

Another point which should receive attention from protectionist members is the closing for the whole year of Black Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*) shooting. The Launceston *Examiner* of 28th February, recorded the massacre of 303 birds at Swansea by a sporting party. This wholesale slaughter of a characteristic Australian species—the original "*rara avis in terris*"—is nothing less than a disgrace to a civilised community.—H. STUART DOVE, F.Z.S., R.A.O.U., W. Devonport, Tasmania.