

Correspondence.

EMUS AND PRICKLY PEAR.

(To the Editor).

Sir.—I am heartily at one with the note, *Emu*, XXV., p. 290, in which the Editor says, "It behoves bird-lovers, and indeed all good Australians, to see that these remarkable birds are not unduly victimised." It is unthinkable that our finest species, the Emu, should have a price put upon its head for a misdemeanour which has never been proved; indeed, the evidence of a careful observer, Mr. R. Macpherson, who has made observations through a number of years, goes far to show that the charge is wholly false.

I trust that the Council of the R.A.O.U. will take the matter up and block this bonus without loss of time, or *Dromæus novæ-hollandiæ* will be going the same way as *diemenensis*, *minor*, and *ater*.

Yours, etc.,

H. STUART DOVE.

West Devonport,
Tasmania.
May 18, 1926.

VALUE OF BIRD-VERSE.

(To the Editor).

Sir,—One of the objects for which the R.A.O.U. was founded was to popularize knowledge of our Australian birds and to create a sympathetic sentiment thereby in their favor. One of the avenues of approach to the public is to give popular lectures on birds. The thing that stirs popular imagination at these lectures is to recite poetic quotations about our birds. In fact, as an almost life-long lecturer, I have found that which appeals mostly to the public is verses on Australian birds. Sentiment thus stirred achieves more than many Acts of Parliament in helping to protect our beautiful Australian avi-forms.

Bearing the foregoing in mind, I suggest that suitable verses about Australasian birds be printed in each issue of *The Emu*. I feel assured that they would be a distinct benefit and would encourage more persons to subscribe to our journal, beside being a welcome addition to the reading matter for those of our members who are not concerned with the scientific aspect of our work. Perchance, some of our members might care to express their views on this innovation.

Yours, etc.,

ARTHUR H. E. MATTINGLEY.

13 Turner St., S. Camberwell,
Melbourne.
May 12, 1926.