

- The Australian Zoologist*, Vol. 6, Part 4.
Catalogue. Dultz & Co., Munchen, Germany.
The Proceedings of the Linnean Society of N.S.W., Vol. LV., Parts 5 and 6.
Bulletin of the Fan Memorial Institute of Biology, Vol. I, Nos. 7, 8 and 9.
Catalogue of Books on Ornithology. R. W. Oates, Baldock (Herts.), England.
Orgaan der club van nederlandsche vogelkundigen, Vol. 3, No. 1.
Journal of the Royal Society of W.A. Reprint from Vol. XVII. of Notes on the Banded Stilt.
Bird News and Notes, Vol. XIV, Parts 1, 2 and 3.
Field Museum of Natural History, Publication No. 282. Birds of the Marshall Field Peruvian Expedition, 1922-23. By John T. Zimmer.
Boletin del Ministerio de Agricultura de la Nacion. Argentine Republic, Vol. XXIX, No. 3.
Catalogue. Oliver & Boyd Ltd.'s Scottish Books.

The following are reviewed in the current number:—

- The Birds of Nyasaland*. By Charles F. Belcher.
Our Own Birds of Australia. By Edward A. Vidler.
New Zealand Birds. By W. R. B. Oliver.
The Formenkreis Theory and the Progress of the Organic World. By Dr. Otto Kleinschmidt.
Australian Birds. Shell Oil Co.
Review of the Genus Cisticola. Two supplementary volumes to *The Ibis*. By Rear-Admiral H. Lynes.
Handbook of the Birds of Golden Gate Park. By Joseph Mailliard.

Correspondence

(To the Editor).

It is news to me to learn that "the R.A.O.U. has never done much to promote the welfare of birds in the popular sense" (*vide The Emu*, Vol. XXX, pp. 214-217) and that "educational authorities do not seek the co-operation of the R.A.O.U." Surely it is unnecessary to quote from the pages of *The Emu* over three decades, what the Union has done for the welfare of birds; and the records of the Union show that authorities, both Federal and State, look to the co-operation of the R.A.O.U. as the recognised mouthpiece of bird men.

What I strongly object to is the attitude of posing before "the public" and "the ordinary man" in an endeavour to obtain the "people's confidence." I have just re-read the

Union's memorandum and articles, and it does me good to see how comprehensive is the Union's charter. The objects for which the Association is established are "to promote the study and knowledge of ornithology, and its advancement and popularisation, and to take . . . means . . . to preserve and protect the avifauna." It is clear to me that this and the following clauses apply *to and for members*. Nowhere can I find any reference whatever to the man in the street, whoever he may be.

If "birds are very well protected by ordinary people," then such people should all be members of the R.A.O.U., the only body registered in Australia for this particular hobby and science. Such statements are an illogical misdirection of energy and an unhappy frame of mind for any Union member to get into. Who cares how widely it (the Union) is not understood by persons *outside*? Members are the ones that count. What does the Union do? Consisting of about 500 members, it undoubtedly fills a want in the bird-loving community; it operates through an executive, the Council, which does not fail to deal by the best means in its power with Union affairs.

If the question means "What could the Union do?" then that is another matter. The Union is not greater than its ideals. If we look to propaganda to increase knowledge and membership, how is the Union to do this? Nothing prevents an enthusiastic member from taking up this aspect of popularisation. The problem of getting into touch with elementary schools suggests itself, but practical ways and means and local application have yet to be devised.

Recently the Council after long consideration, outlined a scheme for the formation of bird clubs among members (Vol. XXVIII, p. 73), believing that members in any one town or district should now make some effort to get together in their own mutual interests. The onus is on members personally, and surely the movement is of far-reaching importance.—Yours, etc.,

A. G. CAMPBELL.

Kilsyth, January 24, 1931.

A Correction.—The Kiwi figured in the January part with the article dealing with additions to the avifauna of Kapiti Island was *Apertyx mantelli* not *A. owenii*.