

There was a good attendance at the outing at Yarra Glen on March 1, in spite of the inclement weather. A list of about 40 species was compiled. Miss Wigan gave a most interesting address on her trip abroad and made several references to her bird observations.

The Leach Memorial Club has carried out a regular series of outings. This is an interesting case of symbiosis, because this section provides the field outings, while the B.O.C. attends mainly to the indoor lectures and meetings.

The Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria organised a bird evening on March 9, at which our members were present by invitation. Films were exhibited of bird life, both in Victoria and in Britain, and probably for the first time in Melbourne was such a collection shown. Mr. R. Littlejohns's "Life History of the Lyrebird" was screened first, and fascinated the audience with the results obtained in dark forest where light and all other conditions are against photography. The unique portion showing the male bird displaying was stated to have taken five years to obtain, although occupying only five minutes on the screen. Great credit is due to the photographer and to the producer. Short films were shown of the Red-capped Dotterel nesting on a sandy shore and of flocks of Ibis breeding on the Moira marshes near the Murray.

The second part of the evening consisted of two British nature films of astonishing interest. Edgar Chance depicted in "The Life of the Cuckoo" most of his observations already well known in print. The female Cuckoo approaching and sitting upon a Lark's nest, then carrying away an egg of the host bird in her bill, after depositing her own, together with the uncanny processes of ejection by the young cuckoo of the foster parent's nestlings, were shown with great clearness. A Golden Eagle rearing its offspring in the granite crags was another outstanding triumph of nature photography under most difficult conditions. This included a magnificent slow motion of the bird in flight.

News and Notes

The following new members have recently been enrolled:—R. Emerson, 12 Oakville Street, Willoughby, N.S.W.; Sister Mary Ignatius, St. Charles Villa, Springwood, N.S.W.; O. Clark, Moree, N.S.W.; G. King, 143 High Street, Glen Iris, Vic.; Corio Ornithologists' Society, Geelong Grammar School, Corio, Vic.; H. C. Tuttle, 31 State Street, Boston, U.S.A.; A. R. Hughes, c/o. Comml. Pine Forests Ltd., Colombo, Ceylon; Keston Foreign Bird Farm, Kent, England; Mrs. J. W. McGregor, Box 325, Cairns, Qld.; L. D. Cameron, c/o Thomas & Cameron, Hilly Street, Mortlake, N.S.W.; Marquis Yoshimaro Yamashina, 49 Nampo-dai Shibuya-Machi, Tokyo; Mrs. S. B. Quinn, 8 Glyndebourne Avenue, Toorak, Vic.; R. H. Greenwood, c/o Union Bank, Dimboola, Vic.; N. H. E. McDonald, Kulwin, Vic.; John Bright, Rochester, Vic.; S. P. Baldwin, 25 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.

A copy of Mathews's *Birds of Australia*, complete in unbound parts, in perfect order, is available for sale. Apply Hon. General Secretary.

An original member of the R.A.O.U. would like to dispose of Vol. 2, 4 parts, and Vol. 3, parts 2 and 3, of *The Emu*. These parts have been out of print for many years and are much sought after. Offers from intending purchasers should be sent to the Hon. General Secretary, 170 Latrobe Street, Melbourne.

The next Congress will be held in Melbourne, and the Camp-out in Victoria. No locality has yet been decided upon, but Mt. Drummer, Moira Lakes, Portland, and the Mallee have been mooted. Members are invited to make suggestions for the consideration of the Council. Full details will be published in the July number.

The following books are missing from the Union's library, evidently having been taken without having been entered in the library book. Will the persons holding them return them as soon as possible?—Barrett, *In Australian Wilds*; Sorensen, *Australian Friends and Foes*; Thomson, *Problems of Bird Migration*.

A Cinema Story of the Little Grebe.—Guided by the original observations of Mr. T. V. Givens, I was able to locate several nests last season of the interesting Little Grebe (*Podiceps ruficollis*). Mr. Givens has devoted a great deal of time to these birds, and contemplates, I hope, publishing his notes in *The Emu* when he has them complete. My object in searching for a bird which had been already so thoroughly dealt with was to obtain a cinema record of its life story. One of the nests was in such a suitable locality that I was able to obtain film of almost every phase of the nesting of the species. The only real difficulty in the way of making the story so complete as to satisfy even bird-lovers was that the commercial aspect had to be studied, and a curb put on the tendency to photograph every available incident.

The completed film will occupy the screen for about five minutes, and will be portion of an "Australian Talking Gazette." It may not be released for some little time. As is the case with most species like the Dotterels, Plovers, Coots, etc., the Grebe is shy of humans, but is not greatly concerned at the presence of a camera. The moving pictures were made with a line nearly two hundred yards long attached to the camera. The noise of the machine presented some difficulty, and several hours were spent in the process of making the birds accustomed to the noise. This was done by operating a dummy motor continuously by a second line from over the brow of a neighbouring hill.—R. T. LITTLEJOHNS, R.A.O.U., Melbourne.

The date of publication was April 1, 1931.