

of September 15, 1934, gives for the first time an idea how greatly the R.A.O.U. has been responsible for this attempt, indicating that the project would not have been possible had it not been for the Union's supplying of money donated to it for the purpose.

An application has been made for a pair of Thylacines for breeding purposes at the Melbourne Zoo. Under very strict conditions authority was given for the taking of a pair if procurable. Here it is of interest to state that in conversation with Dr. Frederick Wood-Jones the suggestion was made that an attempt be made to breed the Thylacine in the dense scrub of Macquarie Island.

I have no record of any fines or penalties having been imposed during the last twelve months for the taking or killing of birds. Messrs. A. L. Butler and B. R. Reynolds have spoken to the boys of our principal secondary schools in reference to the protection of bird life.

A suggestion as I close: might not the new reservation on Ben Lomond be called the Legge Reserve, not only in remembrance of Colonel Legge as a bird lover, but as the one responsible for its detailed survey and the location of its highest point.—W. L. CROWTHER, M.B., Branch Secretary.

Eighth International Ornithological Congress

The following is a copy of the report of the Eighth International Ornithological Congress, forwarded by Mr. W. B. Alexander, who represented the Commonwealth Government at the Congress. Mr. Gregory M. Mathews represented the Union.

Brief Report on the Proceedings of the Eighth International Ornithological Congress held at Oxford, July 2 to 6, 1934.

General.

The Congress was attended by about 350 individuals, including delegates from numerous scientific societies and from the Governments of most European countries, as well as of the United States, China, Japan, Egypt and the British Dominions.

It had apparently been recognized by the organizers that the most important feature of such a Congress is the opportunity that it affords for personal intercourse between the workers in different countries. Accordingly receptions and excursions figured largely in the programme and were greatly favoured by a week of exceptionally fine weather.

The mornings were devoted to the reading of papers in four sections, the proceedings taking place simultaneously. It was thus impossible for any one person to hear more than a quarter of them and a report on the scientific results in ornithology announced at the Congress will only be possible when the transactions have been published.

There were six general sessions of the Congress devoted to: (1) Reception of delegates; (2) presidential address; (3) exhibition of films of British bird life; (4) a lecture (in German) on the Osprey; (5) scientific discussions; (6) passage of resolutions.

During the Congress an exhibition of pictures of birds by living British artists was held in the Ashmolean Museum. To this exhibition I lent a painting by Neville W. Cayley so that the work of the leading Australian bird artist should be represented. An exhibition of bird photographs by British and European photographers was also held in the University Department of Zoology.

Proceedings of Section IV (Aviculture, Protection and Agricultural Ornithology).

As this section was the one in which matters of interest to the Australian Government were most likely to arise, I attended it whenever my other duties would allow.

Two of the papers read in it were followed by the passage of resolutions, subsequently endorsed by the Congress in its final session, and of which copies are appended.

A leading British bird artist, Roland Green, lectured on the distinctive forms of various types of birds, illustrating his remarks by rapidly executed outline drawings. He urged that school children should be taught to recognize the forms and attitudes of birds, alleging that at present too much attention was paid to colour to the neglect of form, and that concentration on the latter was likely to make children more interested in birds and therefore more ready to protect them.

Mr. Sandford Cole, an English lawyer, gave a review of the present position with regard to oil pollution of the sea. Apart from the horrible deaths of sea-birds which resulted from their getting waste oil on their plumage, the amenities of seaside resorts and the activities of inshore fishermen were seriously interfered with. The only remedy was compulsory installation of separators on oil-burning steamers and tankers. These had been proved to be efficient and economical when installed, but the cost of installation was considerable. The British Government had promised to raise the question at Geneva and, as Lord Cecil had pointed out in the House of Lords, this would make it evident which were the nations which stood in the way of an international agreement on the subject.

A paper by Jng. J. Rasek on "Ideas and Progress of Bird Protection in Czechoslovakia" seemed to me to be of considerable interest from the point of view of Australia. Czechoslovakia has a population of about eight million people and is largely agricultural. Since it obtained its independence after the War, rationalization of the agricultural industry has been rapid—hedges have been replaced by wire fences, swamps have been drained, thickets destroyed. The effect on bird-life has been very serious, the small insectivorous birds having no shelter left. The Czech Government has in consequence established a Bureau of Ornithology to study the question, and to give advice on methods of encouraging and protecting birds. It has thus followed Hungary and the United States in giving national recognition of the value to agriculture of economic ornithology.

International Committee for Bird Preservation.

This Committee held a public meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. T. G. Pearson, of New York, its President, when reports were received from the National Committees of each country as to the progress made. The names of the countries with national committees were called alphabetically and I was not present at the beginning when Australia was called. There was no response, and even if I had been present I should not have been in a position to respond.

I believe that the movement for the preservation of birds is at least as strong in Australia as in any other country, but the fact that the national committee sent no report to the annual meeting of the international committee was bound to produce a contrary impression.

May I recommend therefore that if the Commonwealth Government sends a delegate to any future Ornithological Congress he should be provided with a report by the Australian National Committee on Bird Preservation.

The next International Ornithological Congress is to be held in France in 1938.

W. B. ALEXANDER.

University Museum, Oxford, 6/8/34.

Resolutions Adopted by the VIIIth International Ornithological Congress, July 6, 1934.

The VIIIth International Ornithological Congress approves the intention of the British Government to raise the question of oil pollution of the sea at the next meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations; urges that all possible steps be taken, both in relation to that meeting and also by influencing public opinion in all maritime countries of the world, to bring the evil to an end; and, as a practical means of effecting this purpose, stresses the need for legislation requiring the installation of oil separators in all oil-driven and oil-carrying ships under all flags.

This resolution to be forwarded to the British Foreign Secretary, the British Board of Trade, and the appropriate authorities in all the maritime countries of the world.

The VIIIth International Ornithological Congress recommends that the study of the forms of birds should take a part in the teaching programme in schools as leading to the development of the sense of observation, and in consequence to the development of the spirit of protection of birds.

The Striated Thornbill.—The Striated Thornbill (*Acanthiza lineata*) is a common bird in suitable localities throughout its range. It is chiefly to be met with in the eucalypt forest areas, particularly where there is an abundance of underscrub. In such an environment it secures a plentiful supply of insect life.

These birds are highly insectivorous, and of much economic value. Their food has been found, on dissection, to consist of ants, flies and fly larvæ, plant bugs, aphides, psyllids, spiders, lace-wings' eggs, beetles and caterpillars, also a few small seeds, such as wattle and probably others of a small size.

They are interesting little birds to watch, very methodical and untiring in their search for food, which is usually secured from amongst the foliage. They search both the leaves and bark of the forest giants as well as the low saplings and shrubs. They usually associate in small parties up to four or five individuals and during the nesting period I have noticed the whole company attending to a nest of young. Rarely if ever do they feed on the ground.

Their notes consist principally of a series of short calls, these being varied occasionally with a short, sweet song.