

eucalypts on St. Kilda Road. A prize was awarded to him for a collection of birds' eggs at the International Juvenile Industrial Exhibition in 1879-80.

He was educated at St. Paul's High School, Melbourne, which stood on the site now occupied by St. Paul's Cathedral. In 1882 he became a gunner in the Emerald Hill Volunteer Garrison Artillery, and on its disbandment he joined C Battery of the Victorian Field Artillery Brigade, where he became a corporal. Later he transferred to the Victorian Horse Artillery, which was quartered at Werribee. He held a certificate as auditor under the Local Government Act, and was frequently engaged in auditing accounts of municipalities. His association with ornithology was not considerable but his services to the Union as its Treasurer for many years were most valuable.—J.A.R.

News and Notes

A recent publication, *Bird Stamps of All Countries, with a Natural History of Each Bird*, contains interesting and usually accurate accounts of various birds appearing on postage stamps, but the Kookaburra stamp of this country is accompanied by a note which refers the bird to the Cuckoo family and adds that it is "the only Cuckoo to reach Australia."

The Council has approved of a contemplated Camp-out to be held at Marlo, at the mouth of the Snowy River, Victoria, from October 21 to October 29. The holding of the Camp depends on the attendance of a substantial number of members. Sea-birds and water-birds abound at Marlo, and the Ground Parrot occurs in heathy country nearby. The Camp will probably be in huts and under canvas, but for those preferring it accommodation may be had in the township near the Camp site. Further details, as available, may be obtained from the Hon. Editor. Members contemplating attendance are requested to notify their intention immediately.

The Annual Meeting of the Union will be held early in November. Members will be apprised of the date and details by the Notice of the Meeting required by the Articles to be sent to members 21 days before the date thereof.

Meetings of the R.A.O.U. are to be held at the Union's Room on the evening of the first Tuesday of every *second month*, two having already been held—in July and September. As the first Tuesday in November is a public holiday the meeting in that month will be held on the following evening. Members are invited to attend the meetings and also to forward suggestions for items for discussion.

Surplus stock of the twenty-eight parts of *The Emu* constituting Vols. xii to xviii are available from the Hon. Secretary at 1/- per part plus postage. This offer will not remain open indefinitely.

Members in arrears and those who have not yet paid the current year's subscriptions are requested to attend to their obligations in this respect.

Recently two pairs of Lyre-birds have been sent from Melbourne by 'plane and liberated in the National Park, near Hobart, Tasmania. This undertaking, carried out with the co-operation of the Chief Inspector of Fisheries and Game in Melbourne, was made possible by the donation, some years ago, by an anonymous donor, of a sum of money for the purpose.

Correspondence

To the Editor.

Sir—Can any members give an explanation of the following? Some years ago I found a mud nest like that of a Swallow affixed to the inside of a hollow tree about five feet from the ground. It was winter and the nest was empty, but directly beneath it was a considerable quantity of birds' excreta, consisting almost entirely of the husks of the seeds of the large cutting grass (*Gahnia*). It was in the bush and there were no Sparrows in the vicinity, nor, do I think, any Goldfinches. I can scarcely imagine any of our Parrots roosting in such a situation, in a small clearing near a habitation, and I do not think that the Beautiful Fire-tail (*Zonæginthus bellus*) eats much seed. Some bird which ate large quantities of cutting grass seeds had roosted there—what bird?

Yours, etc.,

G. MURRAY ANDERSON.

Hobart, Tas.,
August 9, 1935.

THE MYSTERY OF LEICHHARDT

To the Editor

Sir—We are all interested in the mysterious disappearance of the explorer Ludwig Leichhardt, with whom one of Australia's most notable field-workers in ornithology, Gilbert, was associated, and no apology should be necessary for asking members to transfer their thoughts for a moment from ornithology to explorations.