

air currents to propel themselves, followed our craft in the hope of catching some food in the wash at the wake. Occasionally a solitary Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) would appear. When close to Clifty Isle a Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) arrested our attention as it winged its way towards this isle.

A map showing the islands referred to in this paper appears in *The Emu*, vol. VIII, 1909, facing page 195.

Standing Committee on Economic Birds

QUESTIONNAIRE ON STRAW-NECKED IBIS

- (1) Can you give any information as to the numbers of Straw-necked Ibis in your district, now or in the past?
- (2) Did it or does it breed there? If so, please give particulars?
- (3) Have you any information about the breeding grounds of these birds in other parts of Australia, and what, if (2) is negative, would you consider your nearest breeding ground?
- (4) What circumstances do you consider militate against the increase in the birds' numbers, and can you suggest any remedy?
- (5) What observations can you make as to its feeding habits and food?
- (6) Any other general remarks.

Please return your answers as soon as possible to the State Secretary of the R.A.O.U. in the State in which you live.

RAINBOW-BIRD (*Merops ornatus*)

In Queensland, certain pest destruction boards are paying a bonus on the destruction of these birds. It is the opinion of the Standing Committee that protest against this should be made, as it is felt that the bird is not a menace to apiarists. Evidence for or against it is sought from members, and any communication you have to make on this subject should be sent to Dr. Spencer Roberts, Toowoomba, Queensland.

The Standing Committee would appreciate answers on both or either of these two matters, even if information cannot be given on all aspects of the questions. Members are reminded that recommendations will be submitted to the Standing Committee on Agriculture of the C.S.I.R. after the opinion of members of the R.A.O.U. has been carefully considered by the Union's own Standing Committee.