

Correspondence

GOULD COMMEMORATION EMU

To the Editor

Sir,—I congratulate you and your contributors on the Gould Commemoration issue.

Green Hills, mentioned in Mrs. Gould's diary (Hindwood, p. 136), is now the town of Morpeth. It is distant not three, but five miles from West Maitland where Mr. Cohan's Inn was situated. East Maitland, then called Maitland, which Gould would have passed through on his road from Morpeth, was only about three miles from that place.

James Backhouse, the Quaker missionary who preceded him on the same track in 1836, has left us a description of the sub-tropical brush which then existed there and which Mr. and Mrs. Gould would enter when they crossed the Hunter River on September 23, 1839. Backhouse showed his knowledge of botany and geology but made but slight reference to the birds. He mentions seeing night hawks in flight resembling owls and hearing plovers crying but no others. That brush-land, now bereft of all trees, is being converted into a recreation ground.

W. Allan, mentioned by Mr. Whitley at page 159, resided at Wingham, where he died in 1915 at the age of 95 years. It was due to him that a portion of the Wingham brush was reserved for the public and as a home for the scrub birds. Of him it was recorded in the *Proceedings of the Linnean Society*, vol. XLI, p. 5.

"Mr. William Allan, of Wingham, was born at Cheltenham, England, in 1820; and had resided on the Manning River uninterruptedly since 1851. He was elected to Membership on February 24th, 1886. Mr. Allan, throughout his long life, evinced a keen interest in Natural History, especially in Ornithology and Entomology; and it was largely through his unceasing efforts that the 'Wingham Brush' was reserved for the preservation of the native flora and fauna. In his younger days, he came to know John Gould, and was in the habit of visiting him in London. He was very highly esteemed in the Manning River district in which he had resided so long, for his kindly disposition, and for his readiness at all times to take a prominent share in promoting the interests of the district and the welfare of its inhabitants. Mr. Allan passed away on April 25th, 1915, in his 95th year."

John Hopson, Jr., a member of R.A.O.U. until his death, related that his father, John Hopson, Senr., had told him that a bird collector visited Eccleston on the Allyn River many years ago and stayed with his people. As John Hopson, Senr., was not born until 1843, he was probably relating what his parents had told him of the visit. His story was that the man, whose name he could not remember, stayed with his parents and whilst there assisted in reaping and thrashing wheat. John Gould could have reached the Allyn River from the Scone district through Stewart's Brook and down Mt. Royal Creek to its junction with the Paterson. In that district he would find one of the biggest

brushes in New South Wales. Even to-day there is a vast unsettled, well-watered area there rarely visited by man. If that visitor was not John Gould, who was he?

Yours, etc.,

W. J. ENWRIGHT.

West Maitland,

New South Wales.

November 14, 1938.

News and Notes

Mr. K. A. Hindwood has been elected a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union—an honour upon which he is to be congratulated.

The Ninth International Ornithological Congress was held in Rouen, France, from May 9 to May 13, 1938, under the presidency of Prof. A. Ghigi, Rector of the University of Bologna, with M. Jean Delacour as Secretary. Approximately 300 persons were in attendance with delegates representing 32 countries.

The motion picture films shown included Dr. Arthur Allen's sound film illustrating the voice and the appearance of a number of North American birds. There were also films by Horst Siewert on the display of the Great Bustard; by Captain C. W. R. Knight, on the Hammerhead Stork, the Secretary-bird, and the Crowned Hawk-Eagle; by Dr. M. Stolpe showing the flight of Humming-birds in slow motion; and by Dr. K. Lorenz, on the psychology of Gray-Lag Geese reared in captivity. Amongst other important contributions were an x-ray film by Dr. Stanislaus showing the movements of the air sacs in living birds, and an account by Dr. James Chapin of the discovery of the Congo Peacock *Afropavo*.

At the close of the sessions it was voted to accept the invitation of the American Ornithologists Union to hold the next Congress, which will come in 1942, in the United States. Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, was elected President.

By inadvertence a proof of the captions under the maps on pages 282 and 284 of the November *Emu* was not submitted by the printer to the Hon. Editor. The obvious errors in the spelling of isohyet and in the use of the capital letter for *pusilla* and *chrysorrhoea* will doubtless have been noted by readers.

On page 273 of the November *Emu* (vol. xxxviii, part 3) the sixth line from the bottom of the page should read