

Council Meetings of the R.A.O.U.

Matters dealt with by the Council since the last issue of *The Emu* include the following:—

Ornithology in New Zealand.—Notice has been received of plans for forming an Ornithological Society in New Zealand, and the Council was asked whether it would be possible for such a society to affiliate with the Union, and whether the annual report of such a society could be published in *The Emu*. As the constitution of the R.A.O.U. does not provide for affiliation with such a body, or for the admission of members of such a society to membership of the Union at reduced subscriptions, a reply to that effect was sent to Professor B. J. Marples, of the University of Otago, who made the enquiries. Professor Marples was also informed, by direction of the Council, that material made available by the society would be considered for publication in *The Emu* on a basis of reasonable limitation of space and sufficiency of general interest. Dr. D. L. Serventy has been given full power of negotiation (within the limits of the constitution) in discussions of the matter with Professor Marples.

Queensland Representation.—On the recommendation of the Queensland Branch, Mr. D. S. A. Drain, chief nature study inspector to the Education Department of Queensland, was appointed as a member of Council for Queensland in succession to Mrs. W. M. Mayo (resigned).

Gould League of W.A.—Council promised on behalf of the Union every assistance possible in the nature exhibition to be conducted in Perth by the newly-constituted Gould League of Birdlovers in that state.

Sanctuary for Wading Birds.—At the suggestion of the Council, the property of the Cheetham Salt Works, between Altona and Laverton (Port Phillip Bay), has been gazetted as a sanctuary. The property contains 1,500 acres, and is a favourite and the most important haunt of wading birds near Melbourne.

Victorian Quail Season.—The Council successfully opposed a request to the Victorian authorities that the quail season be reopened. Because of drought conditions, quail were scarce in Victoria this season, and appeared not to be breeding to any extent during the spring of 1938.

Kerang Swamps.—The Council has been engaged for some time in determining to what extent the Union and the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission of Victoria can co-operate to preserve the extensive rookeries of water birds which have been threatened by the proposed irrigation improvements in the Kerang district. The matter is still under consideration.

Export of Birds from W.A.—Following the discussions recorded in the last issue, a report has been received stating that in the last ten years the matter of export of native birds from Western Australia has been raised by various local bodies, without any satisfactory solution. The matter is now being discussed again.

Inter-Museum Loan of Specimens.—The Council has been in negotiation with the National Museum, Melbourne, in an endeavour to arrange for transmission of specimens on loan from the H. L. White Collection to museums in various States to meet the convenience of systematic workers.

Financial.—A £100 bond of inscribed stock has been negotiated to meet extra expenses incurred by the issue of the Gould number of *The Emu*.