

News and Notes

PAN-AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The South African Ornithological Society intends to organize a Pan-African Ornithological Congress at the Victoria Falls in July 1957. The duration of the Congress, excluding the excursions, will be one week. An estimate of costs will be put out in the near future.

There will probably be three excursions, one or two before Congress begins and one or two after it has ended. One of these excursions will probably last a week and others two or three days each.

Papers submitted to the Congress must be of one or other of two kinds: either general reviews of the present position in a special branch of ornithology, with or without special reference to Africa; or specifically African in scope.

The Chairman and Recorder of each Section (Systematics and Anatomy, Breeding and General Behaviour, Conservation, Migration, Ecology and Distribution) will be responsible for preparing the papers and summary of the discussions in their own Section for the Press, under the co-ordination of a General Editor. Papers will be printed in one volume.

Further information will be sent out from time to time. Those interested in receiving it promptly are asked to send their names now to the Hon. Secretary, South African Ornithological Society, P.O. Box 1616, Cape Town, South Africa.

FLEAS FROM SEA BIRDS

Dr. Botha de Meillon, The South African Institute for Medical Research, Hospital Street, Johannesburg, South Africa, is desirous of obtaining "fleas of penguins and other sea birds of the Southern Ocean". He says that "the fleas are mostly found in the nests, burrows, etc., of the birds and occur in quite large numbers".

Dr. de Meillon will be appreciative of any material which members might be able to collect and forward.

CAT ISLAND GANNETRY

The Animals and Birds Protection Board of Tasmania proposes to police Cat Island, Bass Strait, for six months, beginning in October, to give protection to nesting Gannets from the depredations of fishermen. The Board wishes to obtain the services of men to undertake the work. The salary is £12 per week "together with all supplies and costs involved".

Members interested are asked to communicate with the Board's Secretary, Miss H. A. Cox, at 109A Collins Street, Hobart, for further particulars. Reference to membership

of the Union should be made, but the Board will consider applicants not members if recommended. Early notification is requested.

BIRD BANDING

The C.S.I.R.O. Wildlife Survey Section in Canberra has organized an Australia-wide bird banding scheme based on centres at Canberra and Perth to study the habits and migrations of Australia's bird life.

This is part of the long-range programme of C.S.I.R.O. for the study and assessment of Australia's wild life, and is aimed to conserve those species that are beneficial to the nation's economy, and to restrict the depredations of those which are injurious to agriculture. Several State Departments have been banding ducks for some years, and this work is being continued in Victoria and Western Australia.

C.S.I.R.O., in co-operation with State Departments which are each responsible for fauna protection, desires to enlist the help of all bird enthusiasts throughout Australia in cataloguing the migrations of our bird life. A full range of standard metal bands is available and will be supplied to approved persons or societies wishing to carry out studies of birds in Australia.

ANNUAL MEETING, TASMANIA

An alteration has been necessary in the arrangements for accommodation of members attending the Annual Meeting of the Union at Port Arthur, Tasmania, in October. Members will stay at the Hotel Arthur instead of the guest house as arranged previously. The hotel tariff will be £8 per head.

Members making transport bookings to Hobart should remember that the Lord Mayor is giving a reception to them at the Hobart Town Hall at 4 p.m. on Friday, October 14, and should accordingly arrange to arrive in time. To do that Sydney members must catch a plane at 7.30 a.m. that day and change at Melbourne.

Saturday and Sunday (October 15 and 16) will be devoted to excursions about Hobart, and on Monday members will leave by bus for Port Arthur. They will remain there until the morning of Saturday, October 22. Bookings should be made with Mr. Leonard Wall, c/o A.M.P. Society, Elizabeth Street, Hobart.

LIBRARY BOOKS

Will members taking books from the library kindly enter them in the library register. Books should not be retained unduly.