

To the Editor,

Sir,—I take exception to the letter by H. T. Condon in *The Emu*, vol. 58, pages 336-7, attacking the recording by Glover and Schodde of the Grey-tailed Tattler in South Australia.

To begin with Condon has not even got his facts right. Glover and Schodde did not say that "most migratory waders follow the coastline". They said "probably most migratory waders follow the coastline", which puts a different meaning into the sentence.

Also Glover and Schodde in their description of the bird seen, went well beyond the descriptive limits in the *Field Guide to the Waders* by Condon and McGill. They certainly did not exercise any unnatural restraint in their description of the bird seen. I consider they gave a very full description, and the fact that they did not state any particular shade of yellow for the legs seems unimportant: 'yellow' can, after all, only mean one thing—'yellow'.

Condon in the last paragraph of his letter carefully explains that a Tattler could be recognized by an experienced observer, yet he objects to that being done. He asks "Are we expected to take their word for it?" Yes, we certainly should take their word for it—their word backed up by careful and extensive observation under apparently good conditions and on several separate occasions.

Condon chooses to guess that they saw a Common Sandpiper. He apparently did not read Glover and Schodde's description of the bird intelligently or he would not have guessed as he did.

Yours, etc.

CLAUDE N. AUSTIN

'Willaroo' Coleraine, Vic.
Feb. 6, 1959.

News and Notes

DEATH OF CHARLES BARRETT

The death occurred recently of Charles L. Barrett, a naturalist with long-standing associations with the R.A.O.U. An obituary notice will appear in the next issue.

PARTS OF *The Emu* REQUIRED

Details of any odd numbers, volumes, or 'sets' of *The Emu* previous to 1947, for sale, would be welcomed by N. Jack, Hon. State Secretary for Queensland, 54 Cochrane Street, Paddington, Brisbane, Queensland.

THE 'Official Checklist'

As stocks have become low the Council has decided to increase the price of the *Checklist of the Birds of Australia* (2nd edn.) to 20/-. In future will members requiring copies kindly remit that amount with their order.

CENTENARY OF THE BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION

The B.O.U. will celebrate its one hundred years 'birthday' in March this year. The Council of the R.A.O.U. has sent a message of congratulations and good wishes, and publication of this notice might be accepted by the B.O.U. as an endorsement, by members generally, of the Council's action.

The first part of the 101st volume of *The Ibis* (increased in size to what appears to be demy quarto reduced) is devoted to historical matter associated with the activities of the B.O.U.

ANNUAL CONGRESS AND CAMP-OUT, 1959

'Advance news', received from the State Secretary for South Australia (Mr. G. R. Beruldsen, 34 Davenport Terrace, Seacombe Park, S.A.), indicates that the session will extend from Sunday, September 20 (when a full-day outing to Buckland Park will be held) in the expectation of delegates arriving in Adelaide on Sep. 19, until Wednesday, Sep. 30, when those attending the excursion to Kangaroo Island will return. An endeavour will be made to arrange day trips for delegates remaining in Adelaide until the following week-end.

Members proposing to attend should communicate with Mr. Beruldsen for information, but the following brief details are given.

Monday, Sep. 21, will be devoted to Congress business, and the party will leave for the Camp-out on the following day. Deposit of £2 per person for accommodation on Kangaroo Island should accompany notifications to Mr. Beruldsen, and, if it is desired that he arrange accommodation in Adelaide, deposit of £1 per person in addition. Please also notify him of (a) date of arrival in Adelaide, (b) particulars of room/s required and length of stay there, (c) type of accommodation at Kangaroo Island—single room, twin, or double room, and (d) type of transport required—(i) sea trip (8 hours), £2, return £3/10/-, (ii) air ($\frac{3}{4}$ hr.), £3/3/-, return £6/6/-. Advise also of whether or not accommodation required in Adelaide (with details) on return from Camp-out.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are now due for 1959 and it would greatly expedite the work of the Honorary Officers if they be remitted promptly to the Hon. Treasurer.

MATERIAL ON HAND

Pressure on space has necessitated the holding over of a considerable number of contributions, which will be published as soon as practicable.

The date of publication was March 31, 1959.