

# The Emu

Official Organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union.

"Birds of a feather."

VOL. II.]

1ST APRIL, 1903.

[PART 4.

## Australasian Ornithologists' Union.

### REPORT FOR 1901-2.

*(Adopted at the Melbourne Congress, 19th November, 1902.)*

THE Aust. O.U. has now passed through the first year of its existence; and its work has gone steadily on. The number of its members has increased, not only in Australasia, but also in other countries. Its official journal, *The Emu*, has maintained a high standard, in every way worthy of the Union, and is now in much request by working ornithologists of other countries. There has been no lack of interesting matter, but it will be difficult to increase its size with the present subscription. The coloured figure fund has been fairly subscribed to, and it is expected that a coloured plate will shortly appear.

The Union has established observatory stations throughout the States, and the results of their observations will be published half-yearly in *The Emu*, and should be very interesting, especially as throwing some light on the migration of various species.

Action has been taken regarding the better protection of the Egrets in Victoria, which are so largely shot for the sake of their feathers, known to the trade as Osprey plumes, and the Council are glad to say that the Government has now protected them for the whole year.

Suggestions have also been made by the Union to the Government of Queensland as to the advisability of reserving certain islands off the coast of that State, with the view of protecting the Nutmeg or Torres Strait Pigeon from destruction. At present, although protected during the nesting season, these Pigeons are frequently destroyed by shooting parties visiting the islands where they have congregated for the purpose of nesting.

In making certain alterations in the Game Laws of the State of Victoria by the Government, the suggestions of the Union have all been carried out, but it is difficult to protect Quail in Victoria, so as to satisfy everyone, as the birds apparently

migrate from the more northern districts before the open season commences.

The Union is also endeavouring to have Lake Moodemere, Wahgunyah, still maintained as a breeding reserve for wild fowl, as so few of these places are left in Victoria.

A letter has also been written to the Government of Tasmania, asking that every effort be made to prevent the destruction of the eggs of the Cape Barren Geese, which breed on certain islands in Bass Strait, and it would be a great pity if this fine bird were exterminated. Unfortunately, the result was hardly as satisfactory as desired. The Tasmanian authorities were assured by those deputed to inquire into the matter that no destruction had taken place; but the mere fact of inquiry having been made will render residents on the islands more cautious as to what birds they destroy.

One of the Council was enabled to visit the rookeries of Short-tailed Petrels, or Mutton-Birds, on Phillip Island. He wrote an interesting and valuable report of his visit, and, at the instigation of the Union, the Government have preserved certain rookeries that were nearly destroyed, and regulated the taking of the eggs and young of these birds, as they are a valuable source of food supply, and one does not wish to see them ruthlessly destroyed.

Efforts have also been made to have, as far as possible, poisoned pollard and grain laid for rabbits covered over lightly with soil, as it does not prevent the rodents from getting it, but is not so liable to be eaten by birds.\*

Copies of the *Game Acts* of the various States have been obtained, with a view of making them coincide as far as possible.

The Council would urge all members of the Union to make notes of anything that may be of interest regarding bird life, however simple it may be, and forward them to the editors of *The Emu*.

For the Council,

D. LE SOUEF, *Hon. Sec.*

BALANCE-SHEET, 1901-02 (30TH JUNE).

RECEIPTS.

Subscriptions, Current Year, and Poundage ...	£103 13 1	
Subscriptions in Advance, and Poundage ...	22 15 0	
	<hr/>	£126 8 1
Donations to Coloured Figure Fund ...	...	2 18 8
By Sale of <i>Emu</i> ...	...	2 16 8
By Advertisements in <i>Emu</i> ...	...	4 0 0
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		£136 3 5

\* The report of Mr. F. E. Allan, officer in charge of these operations, in answer to this, asserts there is small danger to birds from this source; but this assertion is hardly borne out by observed facts.

## EXPENDITURE.

Printing of <i>Emu</i>	...	...	...	£59	16	6	
General Expenses (as per Invoices)	...	...	...	23	2	2	
				<hr/>			£82 18 8
By Bank Balance	...	...	...				53 4 9
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							£136 3 5
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Audited and found correct.

M. SYMONDS CLARK, }  
EDWIN ASHBY, } *Auditors.*

12/8/1902.

ROBT. HALL, *Hon. Treasurer.*