

Mr. Chisholm addressed lantern lectures to 1,000 children, drawn from eight schools. Good reports are also to hand from the Central and Northern districts. The head teacher of the Gracemere (Rockhampton) school advises that Mr. F. L. Berney, R.A.O.U., visited his school on Bird Day, and that the children were "much taken with both the subject and the lecturer." Further north, at Mackay, Mr. E. M. Cornwall kept the bird-lovers' flag flying bravely. Following a series of lectures throughout the district, he spoke to crowded audiences on 22nd October and on the night of Bird Day itself, concluding by offering the children of the district a prize for the best essay dealing with the value and interest of native birds.

Mention should again be made of the fine work being done in the interests of native birds by the Central Queensland Native Birds Protection Association, of Rockhampton. This body (a member of the R.A.O.U.) is composed of sportsmen rather than ornithologists—sportsmen who champion the claims of game birds to immunity in the breeding season, and recognize the right of most other birds to be totally protected. When the close season for the Northern (No. 2) district commenced, on the first day of November, an advertisement was inserted in the Rockhampton press above the name of the hon. secretary of the association (Mr. P. V. Maloney) notifying the fact, and intimating that "any person caught interfering with protected birds" would be prosecuted. Nor is this an idle warning, for the Association has on several occasions successfully prosecuted offenders under the *Bird Protection Acts*. A leading article appeared in the Rockhampton *Morning Bulletin* supporting the work of the Association, and this was seconded by a letter written on behalf of the R.A.O.U.

Membership of the R.A.O.U. in Queensland has been considerably added to during the past few months; this despite the handicap of vast distances, the maritime strike, and the outbreak of influenza. The shipping dislocation isolated Mr. E. J. Banfield ("The Beachcomber") on his tropic isle for some time, and the epidemic caught several members in its clutches. In addition, Mr. F. L. Berney has been suffering somewhat severely from illness recurrent from his trying experiences with the A.I.F. in Palestine, and Mr. J. O'Neil Brennan, R.A.O.U., has also been an inmate of a private hospital for several weeks. All are well at time of writing. Mr. E. R. Caldwell, R.A.O.U., who made some valuable notes during his summer residence on a station inland from Cairns, is now among the birds of south-western Queensland.

A. H. CHISHOLM,  
State Secretary.

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**The Swift Parrot** (*Lathamus discolor*).—This bird was, owing to its varied notes, commonly named the "Talking 'Keet" by boys 30 years ago.—C. F. COLES, R.A.O.U. Wangaratta.