

vegetation of northern Queensland and New Guinea), Dr. Thomson would have hesitated before suggesting that migration occurs among native tropical birds chiefly in regions where there are neighbouring areas of very diverse character in which the incidence of wet and dry seasons has different effects." It may be added incidentally that this question of tropical migration is a little "sub-department" of its own, so to say, and one of close interest to Australians in respect of *Aplonis*, *Myristicivora*, *Tanyptera*, and several other genera or species.

Aside from this matter of Australia's part, Dr. Landsborough Thomson has achieved an extremely valuable and fascinating book, one that comes close to being the definite authority on bird-migration in our present state of knowledge. Perhaps he is most interesting of all when discussing the ends served by migration, the originating cause of the migration custom, factors determining the path and goal of migration, etc. Each of these subjects is too extensive to be discussed here, but it may be observed that some stimulating theories are adduced with facts as a basis, and that the author is discreet rather than dogmatic—he submits his theories more or less tentatively and does not attempt to force facts to breaking-point.

Two other publications received for review are Part II. of J. D. D. La Touche's "Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China" (Taylor and Francis, London), and the twentyfifth number of W. L. Sclater's very useful Zoological Record. Mr. La Touche treats his birds concisely yet thoroughly. A description of the species is followed by records of distribution, notes on nests and eggs, and a few informative remarks on habits and behaviour. Mr. Sclater's little volume (one of the series published by the Zoological Society of London) is by way of being an index to the recent ornithological literature of the world, and in that sense is valuable to all ornithologists. All articles in *The Emu*, as well as those of other leading journals of the kind, are indexed under their authors' names.

Welfare of the R.A.O.U.

At the request of Mr. Charles Barrett, C.M.Z.S., and six other members of the R.A.O.U., a special meeting of Melbourne members of the Council was held on April 28 with a view to discussing various matters appertaining to the welfare of the Union.

Mr. Barrett explained that the mission of the deputation was to request the Council to increase its activities in bird protection. He urged that the Council should strongly discourage members and the public from collecting eggs and skins of birds. These remarks were supported by Mr. J. Menzies, who maintained that bird protection should be the main object of the Union, and that its members should speak more to the public on the value of bird life.

Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley replied to some of Mr. Menzies' statements.

Mr. R. T. Littlejohns explained that the reason for the Town Planning Association taking action in bird protection was probably due to the Union not doing its share. He urged that action should be taken immediately for the abolition of trap-shooting of Galahs.

Mr. S. A. Lawrence stated that dissatisfaction had been caused among some members in other States through the Council not doing its utmost to spread knowledge on the essentials of bird protection. He also urged that more publicity on protection should be given in the newspapers. To this suggestion the acting press correspondent, Mr. F. E. Howe, replied that he had experienced much difficulty in getting notes inserted in the Melbourne newspapers.

Pleasure at meeting the deputation was expressed by Mr. A. J. Campbell, who stated that for forty-one years he had contributed articles to various journals, advocating better protection for birds. He recounted briefly the good work accomplished by the Union since its inception in 1901.

The Chairman, Mr. J. A. Ross, claimed that, having in mind the small staff of the Fisheries and Game Department it was doing excellent work. To make the suppression of destruction more effective a greater number of paid inspectors would be required.

Mr. Menzies asked that the Council support a request he had made for the protection during the breeding season of the following birds :—Blue Mountain Lorikeet, White Cockatoo, Wattle-Bird, Rosella-Parrot and Galah. At its next meeting the Council endorsed Mr. Menzies' action, and the Hon Secretary was requested to bring under the notice of the Government the Council's disapproval of the use of Galahs for trap-shooting.—D. DICKISON, *General Secretary*.

[It should be pointed out that, although the above report is necessarily brief, discussion at the meeting referred to seems to have been almost entirely occupied with Victorian affairs, as distinct from those of the R.A.O.U. generally. The "round robin" which caused the holding of the meeting asked for discussion on "several matters regarding which there appears to be widespread dissatisfaction," and through which "the future of the Union may be endangered." It can scarcely be suggested that the future of the Union is involved in whether or not Melbourne newspapers accept the acting press correspondent's reports, and whether or not the Fisheries and Game Department (Victoria) is efficient. Presumably, Mr. Menzies' plea for protection of the birds named also applies only to Victoria. Further, it is to be assumed that the protest against allegedly insufficient Council activity in bird protection was directed only to headquarters to apply such criticism to Council members generally would be unfair, in view of the fact that some of them in various States have done, and are doing, valuable work in the conservation of native birds.—EDITOR.]