

R.A.O.U. Congress, 1926.

MEMBERS of the R.A.O.U. are invited to attend the 25th Annual Congress of the Union, to be held in Sydney, commencing on October 18, and a Camp-out, to be held in the vicinity of the famous Barrington Tops, commencing on October 23.

Detailed arrangements for the Congress are in the hands of the N.S.W. Section of the R.A.O.U. A considerable volume of interesting matter will be listed for discussion, and there will be also an attractive programme of lecturettes and outings. One of the trips will be to National Park, where Sydney ornithologists have a cabin which acts as a central point for the study of the splendid birds of the area.

The Camp-out promises to be fruitful and entertaining. Members will go by train to Dungog, about 140 miles north of Sydney (not far from Newcastle), and from there motor-cars will carry the party to the upper Williams River and the foot of the Barrington Tops. The locality is reported by Messrs. A. H. Chisholm and N. W. Cayley, who went recently to select a site for the camp, to be very picturesque and most promising for naturalists.

The remarkable Rufous Scrub-Bird (*Atrichornis rufescens*) finds its southern limit there; and other birds of outstanding interest found in the area are the Superb Lyre-Bird, the Rifle-Bird, the Regent-Bird, the Spine-tailed Logrunner, the Olive Whistler, etc. Jungle and forest country intermingle, and in both classes orchids are abundant.

The good people of Dungog are keenly interested in the expedition, and have promised to help by providing transit and in other ways. Residents of the Williams River are also closely interesting themselves in the project. Tents, a cook, and a certain number of blankets will be provided, but trippers should bring rugs, especially if they propose to visit the top of the mountains.

Members who intend to be present should at once notify Mr. N. W. Cayley, State Secretary, R.A.O.U., "Myriam," Collins Avenue, Rose Bay, Sydney.

Expedition to Lord Howe Island.

AN expedition of ornithologists and other naturalists to Lord Howe Island, 420 miles from Sydney, is being organized by Mr. E. F. Pollock, R.A.O.U., J.P., late Hon. Sec. of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales. The party will embark for the island on 13th November, 1926, and return to Sydney after an absence of about five weeks.

Few more attractive or interesting spots for a camp could be selected from an ornithological point of view, as sea-birds breed in myriads on the Admiralty group of islets, about a mile from Lord Howe Island, and November has been selected as the best month for observing the young birds. Prominent among the sea-birds which breed on Lord Howe and the adjacent islands may be mentioned the Masked Gannet, the Red-tailed Tropic-Bird, the Sooty Tern, the Wedge-tailed Petrel, and the Short-tailed Petrel.

Apart from its special attraction to ornithologists Lord Howe Islands is justly celebrated for its charming climate, beautiful scenery, and its wonderful palm groves. Bowls, cricket, splendid fishing, mountaineering and surfing are other attractions.

Mr. Pollock, who last year organized and led an expedition to the Capricorn Islands, off the coast of Queensland (an account of the birds then observed was published in the April issue of *The Emu*, by Dr. W. Macgillivray), extends a cordial invitation to R.A.O.U. members to join his party.

As the size of the party will necessarily be limited to the capacity of the steamer, the camp will be for gentlemen only, and for the same reason those desiring to make the trip should communicate immediately with Mr. Pollock at "Te Whare," Carrington Avenue, Strathfield, N.S.W.

It is expected that the camp will be a large one and R.A.O.U. members from New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania have already booked as passengers.

Notes and Comments.

Mr. H. L. White, C.F.A.O.U., of "Belltrees," Scone, N.S.W., who is well-known for his practical assistance to Australian ornithology, has been seriously ill for a considerable period. Members will be glad to know that he has now recovered.

Mr. A. S. Wilkinson, of Kapiti Island, New Zealand, a member of the Council of the R.A.O.U., recently underwent a serious operation in the Masterton Hospital. He has made a good recovery.

Dr. W. Macgillivray, C.F.A.O.U., of Broken Hill, visited Sydney during August-September to be operated upon for appendicitis. The operation was completely successful and he has now returned to his home.

Will authors tendering papers or notes to *The Emu* please observe the nomenclature given in the Official Checklist (Second Edition), which has just been issued. All papers should be typed, or else very clearly written.

A Correction.—Plate 51 in Vol. XXV of *The Emu* is inscribed "Photo from Watling Drawing No. 61, Type of *Gracula melanocephala*, Latham." The picture, as stated in the accompanying remarks by Mr. G. M. Mathews, is the type of that species, but it is not one of the "Watling Drawings." It is No. 61 of another series of drawings preserved in the British Museum. Watling Drawing No. 61 represents the Magpie-Lark and is the type of *Corvus cyanoleucus*, Latham. I desire to make it clear that the mistake in the inscription was entirely mine, and to apologise to Mr. Mathews for the error.—W. B. ALEXANDER.