

Council Meetings, R.A.O.U.

September 19.—Satisfaction was expressed at the receipt of a letter from the Tasmanian Attorney-General stating that from the 11th August Cape Barren Geese would be wholly protected in that State.

The Fisheries and Game Department (Victoria) forwarded a notification that all Grass Parrots (*Neophema*) are now protected in Victoria during the whole year.

Further consideration was given to a suggestion that the Bird Observers' Club be constituted a Committee of the Union with certain powers to act for it. It was decided eventually not to disturb the previous decision for affiliation.

Captain E. V. Sanderson wrote suggesting that the Union devote more attention to investigating the economic value of birds. The suggestion was regarded as an excellent one. But the question is a very wide one and demands the attention of observers with some leisure. It was pointed out that the columns of *The Emu* are open to any member with ideas on this important question.

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October 12.—The Chief Inspector of Fisheries (Victoria) wrote inviting the Council to appoint two delegates to accompany him to the Mutton-Bird rookery at Cape Woolamai. He also pointed out that there was no law under which the private land at the Cape can be resumed as a national park.

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November.—On account of the absence of members at Congress and elsewhere the Council did not meet during November.

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December 14.—Further communications were read regarding the lack of interest in the economic side of ornithology. Definite practical suggestions will be welcomed as to how the Union may best deal with the matter.

The Chairman presented a report on behalf of the delegates who accompanied the Chief Inspector of Fisheries to the Mutton-Bird rookeries at Phillip Island. Definite action is to be taken at an early date by the Union and other kindred societies in order to arrest the destruction of the nesting-places.

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January.—No meeting held.

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February 8.—A letter was received from the State Secretary for New Zealand (Mr. Oliver) indicating that members in the Dominion would be glad to have the 1928 Congress held in

Wellington, and that arrangements for Congress and Camp-out could be made in the time available. Pending receipt of the views of interstate members of Council, it was agreed to ask New Zealand members to suggest a suitable date.

Discussion arose regarding the Presidential address printed in the January *Emu* and the editorial addendum thereto. Two motions on the general subject were framed for submission to all members of Council. One motion aimed at repudiation of the views advanced in the Presidential address, and the other advocated that editorial comments should not deal with matters of opinion but only matters of fact.

A careful and interesting report on the state of the Mutton-Bird rookeries on Phillip Island was submitted by Mr. A. G. Campbell. Copies are to be sent to interested parties.

Further complaint was received regarding the action of Melbourne members of the Council in respect of office-bearers. While the volume of protest showed clearly that some revision was necessary, it was considered that the imputation of motives was uncharitable. Several interests are represented on the Council in Victoria, and members are asked to accept the assurance that there is no desire to make partisan nominations for other States.

Notes and Comments.

The Council of the R.A.O.U. has decided that the next Congress and Campout shall be held in South Australia. A cordial invitation was received from New Zealand, but the Articles of Association limit the meeting-places to Australia. Steps are to be taken to amend the Articles.

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The Hon. General Secretary of the R.A.O.U. has a note from a member who is willing to sell a complete set of *The Emu* and also a set of Mathews' *Birds of Australia*.

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It is an astonishing and lamentable fact that there are very many members of the R.A.O.U. who have not paid their subscriptions for the current year. In most cases this omission is due to carelessness. Such members are invited to be more thoughtful. The Union is conducted on an entirely honorary basis, and the Secretary and Treasurer have quite enough to do without pursuing members who default, however unwittingly.

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