

of the State, the south-west forest zone receives an influx of Crows in December, continuing till the area is saturated. As the summer wears on the northern rainfall belt shifts southwards, and by January it reaches its southernmost limit, rendering the country habitable by a larger Crow population. This results in a reversal of the migration, and the more desirable Crow country in the north attracts an inflow of birds from the south, which continues the while the south-west country becomes less and less favourable to the birds during the cold of winter.

4. From a consideration of the rain distribution in the State given under note 3, it will be seen why the southward movement is comparatively short, while the northern movement is more drawn out.

6. The stationary period in spring may be attributed to its being, in general, the breeding period, resulting in a sudden influx south afterwards.

## Bird Clubs

By A. G. CAMPBELL, J.P., R.A.O.U., Kilsyth, Vic.

Following a motion<sup>1</sup> passed at the Melbourne Congress of the R.A.O.U., 1925, that the Council be invited to prepare a scheme for closer co-operation between State members, with a view to strengthening the Union in its activities, the matter came up for discussion<sup>2</sup> at a conversazione in May, 1926, and was carried a step further, when the formation of branch committees, under article 26, was suggested.

I ventured to give some amplification to the ideas put forward in a paper<sup>3</sup> read before the Sydney Congress, 1926.

At Perth Congress,<sup>4</sup> 1927, the matter was again under discussion, with the result that three points for affiliation were set down. Thus, as far as possible, members have been acquainted with the movement, and have taken part in the shaping of the ideas.

The Council, therefore, having adopted this report, desires it to be printed in the pages of *The Emu*, and will submit it to the 1928 Congress for approval and support.

The objects for which "branches" or local committees (now to be called Bird Clubs) shall be promoted are:—

- (a) To increase the interest of members in the Union.
- (b) To attract and educate others, including juniors, to become members of R.A.O.U., by means of associate membership.

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<sup>1</sup>*The Emu*, Vol. XXV., p. 149.

<sup>2</sup>*The Emu*, Vol. XXVI., p. 95.

<sup>3</sup>*The Emu*, Vol. XXVI., p. 193.

<sup>4</sup>*The Emu*, Vol. XXVII., p. 147.

- (c) To assist the Union in carrying into effect locally its registered aims and objects.
- (d) To secure in particular the survey, research and oversight of the avifauna (including sanctuaries) of the district in which the Bird Club is formed.

By-laws agreed upon are:--

1. Any five members of the R.A.O.U. in any town or district may form a local committee (to be called a Bird Club) associated with the R.A.O.U.
2. All the Club Officers shall be members of the R.A.O.U.
3. The Club shall adopt the Union's registered objects, 3a,<sup>5</sup> 3c.<sup>6</sup>
4. The Club shall send to Council regular reports of its activities and any matter likely to interest Union members generally.
5. Every Bird Club shall be self-contained and self-governing, and shall manage its own affairs as to meetings and outings, including the entire financing of its own domestic arrangements.
6. A Bird Club shall receive Council appointment as a local committee, under article 26,<sup>7</sup> submitting copy of rules with written application.
7. The Council may from time to time assist a Bird Club by donations or loan of books or papers, natural history specimens or lantern slides, or in any other way calculated to further the entertainment and education of members.

Finally, the Council proposes to set aside space in *The Emu* for Club reports. Council offers to publish good notes, papers or illustrations sent forward through a Bird Club.

- It is proposed to enlarge the powers of the printing committee<sup>8</sup> to give them control over correspondence and reports arising from Bird Clubs, and the Council invites applications at once from any members proposing to form a Bird Club.

Dr. Leach has offered to give a public lecture on birds to inaugurate the first Bird Club formed in the State of Victoria under this scheme.

<sup>5</sup>a. "To promote the study and knowledge of ornithology and its advancement and popularisation and to take all and whatsoever means as may be considered most effective to preserve and protect the avifauna indigenous to or occurring in the Australian region or elsewhere and particularly in Australia, New Guinea and New Zealand and the islands and waters adjacent or contiguous thereto."

<sup>6</sup>c. "To establish and maintain such libraries, museums, scientific collections, laboratories and other scientific aid accessories and conveniences as may be deemed necessary or requisite for the information, entertainment, demonstration, education, convenience and use of the members of the Union."

726. "The Council may appoint any additional secretaries or assistant secretaries or other officers for special duties and in particular may appoint local secretaries committees or representatives in all or any of the States of the Commonwealth of Australia and in the Dominion of New Zealand or in any dependency district or districts of the said Commonwealth and Dominion and also may appoint any committees therein respectively and may delegate to them such powers authorities and discretions as such Council possesses and may think fit to delegate. The Council may at any time revoke any such appointment or appointments."

<sup>8</sup>An editorial committee is under consideration.

## Camera Craft

**The Princess Parrot.**—The beautiful Princess Parrot was discovered in 1862 by the Stuart Exploratory Expedition into Central Australia, at Howell's Pond, in latitude 16° 54" South. The new species was, in 1863, named *Polytelis alexandrae*, in honour of the then Princess of Wales, by John Gould. This very rare Parrot was observed by the Horne Expedition to Central Australia in 1894. It was seen, too, by the late Mr. G. A. Kearnland in 1896-7, when with the ill-fated Calvert Expedition to the North-West. We are again indebted to Mr. J. A. Kershaw, F.E.S., R.A.O.U., Curator of the National Museum, Melbourne. He kindly granted permission to use, for the coloured plate, photographs of the fine group of three specimens mounted in different positions so as to show the chaste, delicate colouring of these exquisite, rose-throated birds, which are generally considered to be amongst the most beautiful of the parrot tribe. The total length of the bird is 15½ inches.

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**Silver Gulls at Elwood.**—At many of the popular sea-side resorts the Silver Gulls have become accustomed to the presence of crowds, and will approach quite closely for scraps of food. Subjects in this semi-tame state do not appeal to the photographer while other birds are nesting, but, after the close of the nesting season I spent one morning in an endeavour to obtain close-up pictures of this species, whose beauty, by the way, is likely to be overlooked by reason of its familiarity. Notwithstanding the apparent trustfulness, however, I found them rather difficult to photograph at rest. Raw meat was used as a lure, but the birds disliked the near presence of the camera, and persisted in snapping up the meat while they were on the wing. They were much too active for my fastest shutter speed. Eventually a tempting piece of meat was anchored to a large stone below the surface of the water, and the camera was trained on the nearest protruding rock. After two or three unsuccessful attempts to obtain the prize one fine Gull was surprised into perching