

was intended to encourage them—that is, contributions of a *more complete nature*. With much that has been said anent encouraging young ornithologists the Editor is in accord, not after reading the letters, but quite independently of them. But a bird census is greatly improved if careful notes, gathered after patient study, are included, and the young ornithologist would be well advised rather to continue painstakingly working on his list and notes until he is satisfied that it is complete as it can be made, than to rush it into print in a haphazard condition.

It is fully appreciated that lists form a large part of bird observation. A census of birds from a zoologically-unexplored locality is of considerable value, and it has also been the custom always to record in *The Emu* the birds of the R.A.O.U. Camps-out. That bird lists were included in the part of the journal in which the paragraph appeared and also in the current part, indicate that there is no intention of rejecting them—the underlying object of the reference was to *improve their quality*. The Editor has kept the words on the cover, and to which reference is made in Mr. Stidolph's letter, as an illuminating criterion. Mr. Stidolph italicizes "popularize"; the recording of *scientific research* is the other portion that completes the well-balanced whole. The Editor desires to keep both objects in view and trusts that members will assist in that direction. Finally, the inclusion of this statement in the editorial report is in no way intended as a retort to the letters referred to, but merely as an explanation of what the Editor hoped, when he included it, was already sufficiently clear.

C. E. BRYANT,
Hon. Editor.

Musk-Duck (*Biziura lobata*).—The Musk Duck is usually considered as a bird incapable of any but very short flights, and is believed to travel on foot from one water to another. Whilst on holidays recently at Smith's Lake (N.S.W.), Mr. Bramble, an old resident of the Lake, informed me that the male bird always walks from one water to another, and on more than one occasion he has seen the bird travelling across country from Smith's Lake to Myall Lake, which lakes are about a half mile apart, but the female *always* flies. He noticed that the female always became very thin before undertaking a flight.—W. J. ENRIGHT, R.A.O.U., West Maitland, N.S.W., 14/11/32.

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