

Correspondence

THE OIL MENACE

To the Editor

Sir,—While I was in England in 1929 the secretary of the Bird Watchers' Society there informed me that the different societies for bird protection overseas were seeking legislation to prevent oil ships from discharging waste oil at sea. Machinery can be installed in ships for that end, but the process of waste oil destruction is a costly one, and ship-owners generally were very averse to its adoption. The many bird protection societies had approached the Admiralty, and suggested that all new battleships should be equipped for waste oil destruction, and, I believe, had received a promise that, where possible, it should be carried out. In the Natural History Museum at South Kensington I saw some very pitiable group exhibits of sea birds overcome by waste oil and starved to death.—Yours, etc.,

L. M. MAYO.

South Brisbane, Queensland, 27/2/33.

BIRD PROTECTION IN QUEENSLAND

To the Editor

Sir,—It will possibly interest members to learn that the Department of Agriculture and Stock, Brisbane, has taken up the matter of the destruction of the Australian Bustard (*Eupodotis australis*), and to which I referred in *The Emu*, Vol. XXXII, p. 84, with a view to prosecuting offenders.

In the *Gympie Times*, of January 28, 1933, there appeared a paragraph remarking on a proposed "wallaby drive" at Traveston, which stated that "A few odd scrub turkeys have been seen in this area—also their mound-like nests, and turkey may be on the menu for Saturday's dinner." It was not my privilege to remain until "Saturday" to ascertain if turkey *was* on the menu, but from local residents I gathered that without doubt it would be. Gympie is in "No. 1 District," where the Brush or Scrub Turkey (*Alectura lathami*) is totally protected from September 1 to March 31 of the following year. The Gympie district appears to be well policed, but that there is ample scope for police activity in enforcing the protection laws is, I think, clearly indicated by the above quotation.—Yours, etc.,

A. J. MARSHALL.

Penshurst, N.S.W., 15/2/33.