Black Bittern and White Ibis.—On April 7, 1935, at 5 p.m.,
I was walking quietly beside a creek in the Brisbane district
watching an Azure Kingfisher, when I saw a Black Bittern
(Dupetor flexicollis). It was standing at the edge of the
water with its long bill straight up, and almost immediately it
rose quite silently and alighted on a near-by paper-bark
tree, where, except for the bright feathers on its neck, which
was stretched up so that the whole body from the tail to
the tip of the long bill was in one straight line, it was practi-
cally invisible. What struck me most about it was the abso-
lute noiselessness of its flight, even when it first rose. It
bent its legs to give it a spring and its wings lifted it with
perfect ease. I contrasted this with the same movements of
the White Ibis (Threskiornis molucca), which is ungainly
until well started. I came on one quite suddenly almost in the
same place a few evenings later. There was no clear get-away
and it turned first one way, then the other, seeming con-
fused, before it rose heavily and went crashing through the
trees, its wings brushing the leaves as it passed, and croak-
ing loudly till it got clear, and flew away up the creek. A
few days later I came across a White Ibis (perhaps the same
one) feeding in the mud further up the creek. After a little
while it flew up on to a branch of a fallen tree and began
preening itself. I was sitting quite still against a tree in
the shadow, but it seemed to sense that I was something
unusual. It stretched its bill downwards and forwards with
a croak though it was going to be sick, then it raised
its head stiffly for a moment, seeming to look in my di-
rection, and then began the queer movements again. It went
on doing this for some time and at last took to preening
itself again. It was interesting to see how easily it used its
long ungainly-looking bill to get at every part of its body.
After I had been watching it for about twenty minutes, it
dropped down to the creek and began feeding again, but
as I moved towards it, it rose heavily and flapped away
with three or four loud croaks.—(Mrs.) E. Comrie-Smith,
Eight Mile Plains, Brisbane, Qld., 4 6 35.

White-browed Scrub-Wren.—I can corroborate the occurrence
of Sericornis frontalis in South Queensland, having met it frequently at Murphy’s Creek, which is approximately
in the same latitude as Brisbane but some eighty miles
inland, on the eastern slope of the Dividing Range. The
species is resident for I have seen its nest, eggs and young.
Similar type of country extends northward some distance.
—A. C. Cameron, Biddeston, Qld., May, 1935.

No definite centre has been decided upon for the Congress
and Camp-out this year, and members who intend visiting
any Camp to be held will have to communicate with the
Hon. General Secretary later.