

*lunatus*), Tawny-crowned, Yellow-faced (*Meliphaga chrysops*), White-eared (*M. leucotis*) and Yellow-winged (*Melornis novae-hollandiae*).—NOEL F. LEARMONTH, Portland, Vic., 2/5/58.

**The Painted Snipe: A Brisbane Occurrence.**—Although widespread over Australia, the Painted Snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis*) is so rarely seen that any occurrence is usually worthy of note. At dusk on July 7, 1957, at Samsonvale, north-west of Brisbane, three waders were flushed from the sandy bed of a deeply-eroded creek. The three birds went to ground in the creek-bed only 50 feet from a road bridge over which heavy traffic was passing. Of the three, two were females in full plumage, one standing and one sitting, and the other was a male standing in the water. The male bird was scarcely more than half the size of the females. All three birds 'froze' on sighting the observer and remained in that position for half an hour, despite the heavy traffic passing in their full view. Eventually they were flushed but only after being approached to within 20 feet.

There are few records of the Painted Snipe in Queensland, and, to the knowledge of the local R.A.O.U. members, none in the Brisbane area, although possibly the bird is always present in southern Queensland, but overlooked due to its normally-secretive habits and the lack of interested observers. The Samford Valley area, where Samsonvale is situate, affords none of the marshy environment frequented by this species, so one can only conclude that drought conditions had occasioned the presence of these birds at Samsonvale.—H. L. BELL, Epping, N.S.W., 15/3/58.

**A Barn Owl's Peculiar Roost.**—On the lip of the Portland Harbour Trust quarry at Cape Grant a small branch of a dead moonah tree (*Metaleuca pubescens*) juts out over the cavity. On May 2, 1958, one of our bird men (Roy Campbell) was surprised to see a bird perched thereon. On close approach it was seen to be a Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) fast asleep—so much so that the observer was able to stretch out and catch the bird, a healthy specimen which flew off when liberated. The Owl could not have found a more exposed site in the district, with no trees handy and facing all the sea gales. Two hundred feet below bulldozers, shovels and 'euclids' roared the day long.—NOEL F. LEARMONTH, Portland, Vic., 2/5/58.

## News and Notes

### ANNUAL CONGRESS AND CAMP-OUT, 1958

The following is the tentative programme. Intention to attend and requests for further information should be notified to the State Secretary for Queensland, Mr. Noel Jack, 54 Cochrane Street, Paddington, Brisbane, Queensland.

Monday, October 6—Congress, Brisbane.

Tuesday, 7—Travel to Noosa. Train departs Roma Street Station, 8.22 a.m. Arrive Cooroy 12.20 p.m. Bus to Noosa arrives 1.20 p.m. Afternoon local excursion.

Wednesday, 8—Bus excursion, all day, Maleny.

Thursday, 9—Launch excursion, all day, Lake Cootharaba.

Friday, 10—Bus excursion, all day, 'Kondalilla' National Park, Montville.

Saturday, 11—Free day, local excursions arranged if necessary.

Sunday, 12—Bus excursion, all day, Boreen Point.

Monday, 13—Bus excursion, all day, Coolumb.

Tuesday, 14—Half day launch, half day local excursion.

Wednesday, 15—Bus excursion, all day, Gympie area.

Thursday, 16—Free day, excursions to be arranged if necessary.

Friday, 17—Travel to Brisbane. Leave Noosa 12.40 p.m. Arrive Brisbane 6.5 p.m.

Accommodation in Brisbane at 'Canberra' Hotel, Ann Street. Accommodation at Noosa at 'Laguna' Guest House. Tariff £8/8/- per week, £1/4/- per day after that. Deposit £1 is required which will be refunded in case of cancellation. Notice of accommodation required should be given as soon as possible. Camping reserves for caravans are available. Members should allow for some extra expense to cover the hiring of launches and buses. If there is a reasonable attendance charges should be light for these services. Light but protective clothing is recommended for day wear, but the nights could be cold.

At Noosa itself, sea and shore birds will figure largely on the programme. A National Park containing rain-forest species is within walking distance of the guest house.

#### EXTRA *Emu* PART

As will be apparent from the acknowledgements in the individual contributions by Mr. Wakefield and Dr. Keast, the Trustees of the M. A. Ingram Trust have provided finance for all except a few pages of this part. There will be five parts in volume 58, so that this part is an extra number issued gratis to members.

#### PUBLICATIONS WANTED

The Hon. Editor is desirous of obtaining, personally, the items set out below, and would be interested to hear from members or others having them for disposal.

*Austral Avian Record*, vol. 5, part 5.

*Victorian Naturalist*, vol. 4, part 3, and vol. 5, part 9.

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