

200 delegates, representing all parts of the State. He suggested (*vide Brisbane Courier*) that it would be fair for the conference, after having discussed those birds which came under the ban of bird-pest boards, to give a little kindly consideration to those natives which did valuable work, without reward, the whole year through. It was, he said, within the power of municipalities to help the work of the Agricultural Department by applying to have certain areas under their jurisdiction proclaimed as sanctuaries—cities of refuge where the birds might breed undisturbed by the thoughtless "pot-hunter." He asked delegates to suggest this humane and common-sense action to their respective councils; not to allow any bird to be proclaimed a pest until definite ornithological evidence had been obtained on the point; to help on the valuable work of the Education and Agricultural Departments in endeavouring to bring Queensland into line with other enlightened countries in the matter of bird protection; and generally to safeguard, by way of reciprocation, the interesting, valuable, and beautiful birds in all parts of the State. In reply to a question, the visitor stated that the English Starling (as distinct from the native Starling of North Queensland) was now plentiful in the southern parts of the State. He was not asking for protection for this bird, which, like the Sparrow, should never have been brought to this country; they both drove out more useful native birds and upset the natural balance.

On the following day a conference of delegates from the Bird Pest Boards of the Brisbane, Darling Downs, North Coast, Burnett, and Wide Bay Districts discussed, for the first time, the matter of assisting in the protection of valuable native birds. The executive was directed to report on the subject.

Proposed Refuge for Wild-Fowl.

LAWRENCE Jones and J. Lyle Bayliss, of Lexington, Kentucky, new owners of Jefferson Island, former home of Joe Jefferson, which he named "Bob Acres" after the character in "The Rivals," will turn their 10,000 acres into a sanctuary for birds and other wild life. They have petitioned M. L. Alexandria, Commissioner of Conservation, to set aside Lake Peigneur, which adjoins the property, as a wild water-fowl refuge. They own more than a third of the land circling the lake, and owners of other property have signified their desire that all shooting on the lake be prohibited. As soon as all necessary signatures are received these requests will be complied with, it is said, making the first of a series of interior refuges to be established by the Department of Conservation. It is proposed by the new owners of "Bob Acres" to spend several thousand dollars on the property to make it a bird haven. A dam will be constructed on the edge of the lake to re-establish a former cypress

swamp that has been drained. After the water has been put on this land, an immense Heronry will be started, so that the different Herons of the State, particularly the Egrets, may build their nests and raise their young in normal surroundings. Other innovations will be put in to attract water and insectivorous birds.—*The Christian Science Monitor*.

Camera Craft Notes.

MR. H. Gundersen, formerly Norwegian Consul, Melbourne, sends an excellent "snap" of the Lesser (or, rather, Least) Frigate-Bird (*Fregata ariel*, Gould), on a banana plant. The photo. was taken by Mr. Clyde F. Ellis, at Tahiti, Society Islands—probably about the eastern range of the species. The bird appears to be in immature plumage.—A. J. CAMPBELL.

Stray Feathers.

Foxes and Plovers.—Mr. W. M. Brennan, Forestry Department, Moree, N.S.W., states that the fox has practically killed out the Stone-Curlew and Spurwing Plover in his district; also, Magpies occasionally pick up the baits set for foxes, and so themselves succumb. He found two of these birds dead from this cause lately. He notices that many of our insectivorous birds are slowly but surely disappearing.

* * *

Queensland Bird Protection.—We are glad to notice that the Queensland Government has placed the Grass (*Psephotus*) and Ground (*Euphema*) Parrots, under the *Native Birds Protection Act* 1877-1884, amongst the birds for which total protection is provided. This has been done at the instance of one of the Queensland members of our Council, Mr. A. H. Chisholm, Brisbane. Also that Peel Island, in Moreton Bay, has been proclaimed a "bird reserve." Mr Chisholm has lately been appointed an honorary ranger for the preservation of native Queensland birds.

* * *

Trinomials.—Arising out of the din of the battle, binomials v. trinomials, one sometimes hears that the latter are an innovation of modern times, and quite unnecessary. But once again Tasmania can claim to lead the world. According to Dr. Milligan's "Vocabulary," the tribes of the north and north-western coasts of Tasmania over a century ago commonly spoke of the Bald-Coot as "*Lugoileah mungoinah leah*." And yet the early settlers claimed that the Tasmanian blacks were an uncivilized race, and wiped them off the face of the map!—CLIVE E. LORD, R.A.O.U. Hobart, 20/8/18.