

meeting regarding the three subjects first mentioned had been given effect to, and the Governments concerned approached on the various matters.

Mr. Barker was thanked for his report, and there ensued further general discussion on the question of a State branch, concerning which a message of goodwill had been received from Melbourne members of the Council. After Mr. Henry Tryon had placed on record the opinion that State branches do not conflict with the present constitution of the R.A.O.U., the following resolutions were carried unanimously, on the motion of Messrs. Tryon and Brennan :—

(1) "That we, members of the R.A.O.U. in meeting assembled, constitute ourselves the Queensland branch thereof, with power to incorporate in our body all other members resident in Queensland."

(2) "That a circular setting forth the purposes of such branch, and its relation to the central executive, be prepared and sent to all Queensland members of the R.A.O.U., inviting them to enrol in the branch."

Another item of importance dealt with by the meeting was a recommendation from the Central Queensland Bird Protection Association that the Native Companion (*Antigone*) be protected for the whole year instead of portion thereof. The recommendation was forwarded by the Department for opinion, and cordial support of the R.A.O.U. was given the proposal.

Subsequently, the State secretary received a request from residents of Bribie Island (Moreton Bay) to present to the Minister for Agriculture a petition they had drawn up praying that their island be made a sanctuary for native fauna. This was done, and the Minister (Hon. W. N. Gillies) promised sympathetic consideration. Incidentally, the Minister was heartily congratulated on his resolve to protect koalas and possums for the whole of the present year throughout the State. Official figures showed that during the last open season at least 5,000,000 possums and 1,000,000 native bears were killed in Queensland.

A. H. CHISHOLM, *State Secretary.*

Correspondence.

AUTHENTIC NESTS OF *Mattingleya inornata*.

To the Editors of "The Emu."

SIRS,—In the last part (No. 5, vol. viii.) of his work, "The Birds of Australia," Mr. G. M. Mathews gives an excellent historical exposition of the puzzling Grey Thickhead (*Mattingleya griseiceps inornata*); but his picture has been somewhat spoilt, so to speak, by the author drawing his pen heavily charged with ink across it by writing :—"From a further consideration of Campbell's account of the nests found at Cardwell, it is possible that they

were referable to *Pachycephala queenslandica*, and not to this species at all, especially the one with the 'red' young in" (last three lines, p. 268).

The inner history of finding the nests of *Mattingleya inornata* is as follows:—In October, 1916, Mr. H. Greensill Barnard, the well-known Queensland field naturalist, and I were guests of Mr. Tom Butler, J.P., near Cardwell, N.Q. There were several sons in the family, all well versed in bushcraft. Mr. Barnard produced a skin of the Thickhead in question, which we obtained nearer the coast, and intimated he would give a reward to any of the boys who found a similar bird's nest and eggs. At the end of a week there had been no result, except with other species. Therefore, in a jocular manner, I said—"I suppose the old oologist will have to go out and find the nest," or words to that effect.

When examining an old clearing on the edge of some virgin scrub where Topknot Pigeons were feeding on the bright blue fruit of "quandong" trees, a small bird flushed from a bunch of suckers springing from a low stump. The bird perched in a neighbouring tree, where I got a good view of it, and it commenced to preen its feathers. This was none other than the species the nest of which we were seeking. Then, examining the bush, I found it sheltered a nest containing two eggs. As it was late in the afternoon I took the eggs, and on the following morning returned with Mr. Barnard. Fortunately, one of the parents was found still in the vicinity of the nest. Mr. Barnard shot it. This was important for identification purposes, as the sequel has proved. Replacing the eggs, I photographed the nest *in situ*—the picture in *The Emu*, xvi., pl. xxxv. Mr. H. L. White described the eggs on page 163, same volume, while the skin of the bird obtained is in the "H. L. White Collection," National Museum, Melbourne. It was Mr. Barnard who observed the nest with "red" coloured young, and he subsequently took another nest with eggs. Further, regarding the possibility, as Mr. Mathews suggests, of the birds being *Pachycephala queenslandica* (i.e., the common *pectoralis*), that species was not breeding in the coastal country, but up in the ranges and on the table-land beyond.—I am, &c.,

A. J. CAMPBELL.

Box Hill (Vic.), 26/2/21.

Death of Member.—Members of the R.A.O.U. will regret to learn of the death of Mr. A. W. Milligan, an honorary member of the Union, which occurred at a private hospital, St. Kilda, on the 30th March. An extended notice of the late Mr. Milligan's ornithological labours in the field, together with a camp scene of one of his Western Australian expeditions, will appear in the next (July) issue of *The Emu*.