

they place the stem or leaf of the food plant upon which they are feeding between themselves and the rays of the sun, so that whilst walking casually through a paddock with one's back to the sun their presence will remain unnoticed. Turn, however, and face towards the sun, and the ground seems black with them.

Aided by a succession of south-west winds, the moth has been distributed almost universally over the State, and any solution of the problem involves its destruction also. Experiments should be conducted to determine the best means of trapping or gassing them. In the meantime every possible encouragement should be given to the fostering of all the night-feeding birds—Frogmouths, Owls and Nightjars—and a rigid protection be extended to the ground-feeding Quail, Plover, Curlew, Ibis, and others. In America, acting under the advice of the U.S.A. Bureau of Ornithology at Washington, many of the States have been restocked with the "Bob White"—a Quail somewhat similar to our Stubble Quail, with remarkable results, and the time is not far distant when similar action will have to be taken here.

---

## Notes

### CENTRAL QUEENSLAND NATIVE BIRDS' ASSOCIATION.

The Hon. Secretary of the Central Queensland Native Birds' Protection Association, Mr. P. V. Maloney, is in receipt of the following letter, dated the 3rd instant, from the Under-Secretary for Agriculture and Stock, Mr. E. G. E. Scriven:—"I desire to inform you that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has, in pursuance of the provisions of the Native Birds' Protection Acts, 1877 to 1884, been pleased to declare Great Keppel Island to be a reserve under and for the purpose of the above-mentioned Acts. Notifications of the same will appear in the *Government Gazette* of to-day's date, a copy of which will be forwarded to you in due course." Mr. Maloney writes as follows:—"In order to preserve the bird life on these islands, I moved in April last, through the association, to have North and South Keppel islands made sanctuaries for their protection, and the lessees fell in with my views and agreed to the move. From personal observations and periodical trips to the Keppel Islands I found that hundreds of birds from the mainland have made their way there. A few years ago there were only sea birds to be found on the islands. I attribute the increase to the onward march of closer settlement along our coastline from Yeppoon. Many birds have been driven out in consequence, and have now made the islands their breeding haunts. Unfortunately at Easter time and Christmas time there seems to be a wide-spread passion among camping parties for the indiscriminate killing of these birds, and it was lamentable

to see the way the pea rifle was being used on them. My association is out to preserve the bird life on these islands, and help our Central district to retain its bird wealth. The interests of bird protection will now be advanced a step further, and it is hoped that campers will make a note that the new regulations issued for shooting or interfering with birds in future on the islands will bring a heavy penalty.—From *The Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton. 10/9/21.

\* \* \*

The R.A.O.U. and kindred bodies received a good advertisement through the State Secretary for Queensland, when the new Animals and Birds Bill was being considered recently by the Parliament of the big Northern State. The Minister for Agriculture (Hon. W. N. Gillies), in introducing the measure to the Legislative Assembly, returned hearty thanks to Mr. Chisholm and other naturalists for their assistance, and complimented them on their perseverance in the interests of native birds and animals. The leader of the Opposition (Mr. W. J. Vowles), whom many members of the R.A.O.U. met at Dalby in 1919, joined in the personal appreciation, as did also the Hon. J. G. Appel. There was very little debate on the measure in the Legislative Council, but *Hansard* for that Chamber reports that the Hon. Randolph Bedford, M.L.C., described Mr. Chisholm as "a great bird-lover and very excellent Australian," and one whose work "deserves something in the way of recognition by the Council."

\* \* \*

Visitors to Australia are frequently able to assist materially in the campaign for better appreciation of Australian fauna. Notable cases in point have been those of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Lord Northcliffe, both of whom made strong public pleas for the safeguarding of the unique birds, animals, and plants of the Commonwealth. Viscount Northcliffe was particularly interested in the work of Mr. Harry Burrell, R.A.O.U., among monotremes, and stated that the hour or so he spent with the New South Wales naturalist was one of the most interesting of his life. What Sir Conan Doyle thinks of the fauna of this land becomes apparent in his new book, "The Wanderings of a Spiritualist." Numerous impressions of bird-life are given, and the author confesses that a certain Victorian marshland, where he stole out to listen to water-fowl at night, will always be to him "the real Australia." Incidentally, Sir Conan Doyle pays cordial tribute to the work of two South Australian ornithologists, Captain S. A. White (State Secretary of the R.A.O.U.), and Mr. T. P. Bellchambers, and also to the State Secretary for Queensland, Mr. A. H. Chisholm.

\* \* \*

For various reasons, including a wealth of scientific material due to the enterprise and generosity of Mr. H. L. White, publication was delayed until January 14th, 1922.