

Notes and Comments

The article on the bird life of Coomooboolaroo Station, by Mr. C. A. Barnard, which we publish in this number, is probably one of the most valuable papers ever contributed to the *Emu*. Mr. Barnard has been observing the birds in his locality for 50 years, and the locality is so far from large centres of population that the changes that he has observed in the numbers of various species cannot be attributed directly to interference by man. Indirectly, however, human occupation has brought about great changes, principally through the stocking of the country with cattle, which, especially in dry seasons, denude the country of grass, thus depriving seed-eating birds of food and terrestrial species of shelter. The disappearance of almost all permanent waterholes in the creeks is probably also due to cattle, which, by constantly trampling about their margins, keep them in a muddy condition, and thus cause them to silt up.

Mr. Barnard read a paper detailing the more striking changes he had observed, at the recent Rockhampton Conference, where it aroused great interest and led to a valuable discussion. At our request he and his brother, Mr. H. G. Barnard, kindly added many additional notes, so that the paper now published contains a complete account of all the birds observed by them in the district during the past 50 years.

The New Zealand Government has appointed Mr. A. S. Wilkinson custodian of Kapiti Island Bird Sanctuary.

Mr. C. Barrett has been appointed a member of the R.A.O.U. Committee on Reservations and Minimising Danger from Fires as representative of Victoria.

Members of the R.A.O.U. have always been proud of the fact that the *Emu* was the best illustrated journal issued by any Ornithologists' Union in the world. If this superiority is to be maintained it can only be through the assistance of those members who are photographers. No doubt many of our readers have good photographs of birds which have not been published in the *Emu* because they were not required to illustrate articles by the photographers. In many cases, however, they would be valuable to illustrate articles by other members who happened to be writing about the species in question.

We would appeal to bird-photographers to send us prints of any good photographs they may obtain of species on which they do not intend to write articles themselves, so that we may build up a stock of photos. to be drawn upon as occasion offers to illustrate papers in this journal.

All communications in connection with the *Emu*, and articles or photos. for publication should be addressed to the Editor at Sherwood, near Brisbane, not to the official address of the Union.

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