

afternoons have also been booked, viz., July 19 and August 4. A pressing invitation is hereby given to members of the R.A.O.U. and the Club, together with any friends who are at all interested in bird study, to come to these practical object lessons.

Nature Study Camps

Bird lovers generally—and R.A.O.U. members in particular—are invited to participate in the camp-outs to take place at Port Stephens, north of Newcastle, N.S.W., next December and January, which are being organised by Mr. E. F. Pollock, R.A.O.U., F.R.G.S., of Carrington Avenue, Strathfield, from whom an illustrated pamphlet setting out all particulars can be obtained. Two camps, each of three weeks' duration, will be held, one immediately before and the other directly after Christmas. Mr. Pollock recently spent a week in the district searching for an attractive camp site, and an ideal position has been selected from which daily excursions by water will be made on a large specially chartered boat. The islands visited by R.A.O.U. members in November, 1928 (particulars of which were recorded in the April, 1929, *Emu*), will be revisited, as well as many other attractive places in the district. A feature of the camps will be a series of lantern lectures by ornithologists and other naturalists twice weekly, for which a hall (distant 15 minutes by boat from the camp) has been engaged.

The breeding habits of the following birds, amongst others, will receive particular attention:—Little Penguins, White-winged Petrels, White-faced Storm-Petrels, Silver Gulls, Nankeen Night Herons, and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters or Mutton Birds. The locality is exceptionally prolific in both sea birds and land birds. Each day will be marked by hours of worth-while and enjoyable outings, visiting quaint and beautiful out-of-the-way places on sea, harbour, river and lakes.

Report of Meetings of R.A.O.U. Council

At the meeting of the Council held on April 8 Mr. Mattingley occupied the chair, and took the opportunity of welcoming Mr. R. A. Falla, R.A.O.U., who had that day returned on the "Discovery" from the Antarctic. At the request of the Avicultural Society of Victoria, Messrs. Campbell, Hanks and Dickison were appointed to discuss with that society the restrictions on the importation of birds into Australia. Mr. Ross was appointed a trustee, *vice* the late Dr. Leach, in connection with the bond for £1000, the gift of the late Mr. H. L. White, held by the Union.

The May meeting of the Council was held on May 6. Mr. Ross occupied the chair. A request was received from Tasmania for the support of the Union with regard to the proclamation of Bell's Parade and part of the Mersey as a sanctuary. The State Secretary for Tasmania was asked to act for the Union in the matter. A sub-committee was appointed to report on the serious position of the Union because of the failure of many members to forward their subscriptions. By an almost unanimous decision of members of Council, both Melbourne and interstate, it was decided that, in view of the fact that the value of the Union's interest in the will of the late Dr. J. A. Leach was not ascertainable on account of the possibly diminishing royalties on his books, the Union should surrender its interest in consideration of an immediate gift of £100 offered by the executors. A suggested programme for the next Congress and Camp-out in Queensland was received from the State Secretary for that State. The suggestions were received with unanimous approval, and full details will appear elsewhere.

On June 10 Mr. Ross again occupied the chair. Through Mr. A. S. Le Souef, of Sydney, an offer was made to procure Lyrebirds for introduction into Tasmania. It was agreed to make further enquiries as to the attitude of the authorities in Tasmania. Consideration was given to the object to which the £100 received from the estate of Dr. Leach should be devoted, but no decision was arrived at. The action of the Forestry Commission in Victoria in destroying large trees in Sherbrooke Forest was discussed. It was decided to ask the opinion of qualified members of the Field Naturalists' Club on the matter. At the suggestion of the committee appointed to deal with the matter, it was decided to make one more appeal to members whose subscriptions are in arrear before removing their names from the membership list. Gratification was expressed at the success of the Victorian Advisory Council in inducing the Government to reserve 10,000 acres adjoining Wyperfield Park as a sanctuary. This area is of considerable importance as the breeding haunt of the Mallee Hen.

News and Notes

Members, particularly State Secretaries, are invited to make nominations for office-bearers of the Union for the ensuing year. All nominations should, where possible, be accompanied by the consent of the nominee, and they must be forwarded in time to reach the Hon. General Secretary not later than September 8, 1930.