

Outings during Congress, 1930

By C. E. BRYANT, R.A.O.U., Hon. Editor.

The customary hospitality that the Queenslanders extend to visitors was indicated, amongst other things, by the arrangements made to grant delegates from the south every opportunity of studying the avifauna of the locality. The principal trips were to the lagoons at Sandgate, to Mount Tambourine, and to Eight-Mile Plains. Members attended the first as the guests of the Queensland Naturalists' Club, whilst Mrs. Comrie-Smith, R.A.O.U., kindly entertained the visitors at the last-mentioned place. Mrs. Mayo, R.A.O.U., was good enough to accompany the party to Mount Tambourine, and was able to assist the members very materially in their searches for birds there. Of the birds observed on these trips, special mention is warranted of the Eastern Swamphehn (*Porphyrio melanotus*), which, realising full well the splendid measure of protection extended by the residents of Sandgate, wander at will along the grassy edge of lagoons right in the town, frequently cross the metalled road, and sometimes, we were told, even enter the shops. Within, say, 50 yards of the heart of a busy little centre, the following water birds were noted:—Eastern Swamphehn, Jacana (*Irediparra gallinacea*), White-eyed Duck (*Nyroca australis*), Plumed Tree-Duck (*Dendrocygna eytoni*), Coot (*Fulica atra*), Grey Duck (*Anas superciliosa*), and two species of Cormorant.

At Tambourine Mountain, a call was made on Mrs. Curtis, R.A.O.U., and her property adjoining was traversed. The Regent Bower-Bird (*Sericulus chrysocephalus*) and the Cat-Bird (*Ailurædus crassirostris*) were both seen, whilst many forms, such as the Pheasant Coucal (*Centropus phasianinus*) and some of the Pigeons, were listed for the first time during the Congress. The visit to Eight Mile Plains proved most interesting. Several species were nesting, including the White-throated Warbler (*Gerygone olivacea*), Scarlet Honeyeater (*Myzomela sanguinolenta*), Rainbow-Bird (*Merops ornatus*), Rufous Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*), and Variegated Wren (*Malurus lamberti*).

In addition to what might be termed the "official" trips, Messrs. Favaloro and Bryant and Mrs. Bryant made several excursions to the outer suburbs of Brisbane—to good bird localities indicated by Mr. Barker. Anzac Park, Mount Coot-tha, Ashgrove, and the Hamilton Reach were visited, and a number of forms added to the lists. At the last-named place, wading birds, such as the Royal Spoonbill (*Platalea regia*), the white phase of the Reef-Heron (*Demigretta sacra*), and the Mangrove Heron (*Butorides striata*) were seen. Nests with eggs of the Mangrove Heron were found

in the mangroves. Mr. Favalaro, who, as he intended visiting the MacPherson Ranges later, did not go to Mount Tambourine, spent that day at the Enoggera Reservoir studying the Jacana.

Report of Hon. Editor of "The Emu"

To enumerate the various articles that the recent issues of *The Emu* have contained and acclaim their merits, is futile, for members have been able to see for themselves the quality of the journal. The Editor gratefully acknowledges the efforts of those whose contributions have been forthcoming at opportune times. Complimentary letters on the excellence of the magazine have been sent from time to time, and to all those whose articles and photos. have recently added interest to the pages of the magazine the Editor passes on the portion thereof that their help merits.

That New Zealand and Great Britain as well as each State of the Commonwealth have been represented in the last few issues is indicative that the widespread interest in the affairs of the Union, formerly appertaining, is not flagging. But the writings of some of the veteran contributors of earlier years whose engrossing articles make such interesting reading in back numbers, are seen no more. In order to familiarise himself with ornithological events of the past the Editor has often to peruse those back numbers, and it is noticeable that many well-known ornithologists and naturalists whose names appear in those early pages, no longer contribute. It is hoped that those who know themselves to be of that number will feel reproved by this reminder and send along a contribution to enhance the journal in the near future.

To those constant contributors upon whom the Editor has come to feel that he can always rely for a contribution when material is needed, he says "Carry on"; to those who probably have much of ornithological interest, but who hitherto have not contributed, he expresses his hope that they will render what assistance they can in maintaining the standard set by earlier Editors, a standard that is an inspiring criterion.

The Editor's thanks are due to the Editorial Committee, from the members of which he knows that advice and consideration can always be obtained if required. Special mention also is warranted of Mr. Cayley's excellent colour plates, an important factor in ensuring the continued popularity and general interest of *The Emu*.

C. BRYANT,
Hon. Editor.