

Annual Congress and Camp-out

This year the Congress will be in Melbourne and the Camp-out at Wyperfeld or Lowan National Park in the Mallee. As at present intended the Congress will open on Wednesday, September 23, 1931, and that and the following two days will be devoted to the conduct of the annual meeting and visits to places of ornithological interest. September 24, which is a holiday in Melbourne, will be utilised in a whole day excursion at which visiting members will be the guests of the Bird Observers' Club. Visitors desirous of seeing more of Melbourne than is possible in the period referred to above should time their earlier arrival accordingly.

On Saturday, September 26, the members attending the Camp-out will leave by specially-chartered cars for the Mallee, where they will remain until Monday, October 5. The locality chosen is a little over 300 miles from Melbourne, being about 25 miles beyond Rainbow, the principal rail-town of the district. The camp will be under canvas, marquees and tents being hired for the purpose. Camp-stretchers will be supplied for lady members, but everyone must bring their own bedding. A Rainbow caterer will be engaged. For those who intend to be actively engaged in seeking birds a water-bottle is a necessity.

The country within the Park is composed chiefly of Mallee scrub, but along the dry course of Outlet Creek (the outlet of the Wimmera River from Lakes Albacutya and Hindmarsh), and at Lakes Wonga and Brambruk (also dry), there is a good deal of red-gum country. Many distinct Mallee forms of birds are expected to be found, chief amongst which might be mentioned several species of Parrots. The Southern Scrub-Robin (*Drymodes brunneopygia*), Chestnut Quail-Thrush (*Cinclosoma castanotum*), Crimson Chat (*Epthianura tricolor*) and the Striped Honeyeater (*Plectorhyncha lanceolata*) are but a few of the forms common in the locality, whilst rarer birds such as the Grass-Wrens (*Amytornis*) and the Wedgebill (*Sphenostoma cristatum*) and others are likely to be found. No complete bird census of the Park, which is a sanctuary, appears to have been made, but the late Dr. J. A. Leach compiled a list of over 90 species in a short excursion to Wyperfeld.

Concession fares are available for rail travel from any of the States to Melbourne at the rates shown below, provided that 6 members attend from that State.

Adelaide to Melbourne.—First Return, £4/13/4; Second Return, £3/2/8.

Sydney to Melbourne.—First Return, £5/6/8; Second Return, £3/10/8.

Brisbane to Melbourne.—First Return, £10; Second Return, £6/13/4.

(In all cases, sleepers and booking extra.)

The above concessions are also only applicable if 20 delegates attend the Congress.

The approximate cost, exclusive of the cost of reaching and staying in Melbourne, is anticipated to be as follows:—

(a) Car fare to camp and return	£2	0	0
(b) Share of hire of tents, marquees, etc., not exceeding	2	10	0
(c) Catering—8 days at 10/6 per head per day	4	4	0
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	£8	14	0

The above figures are on a basis of 20 attending the camp-out, and the success of the venture depends on an attendance of at least that number. If more attend there will be a reduction in (b) above, and probably in the cost of transport also. It is hoped that some reduction will be possible also in the cost of catering.

Members are urged to make the camp-out as successful and as well-attended as some of the earlier R.A.O.U. camps and to invite friends and others interested to attend. Further particulars will be supplied on application to the Hon. General Secretary or the Hon. Editor. An early intimation of intention to attend would help considerably in making arrangements; in fact, no definite arrangements can be made until it is known how many members will attend. Will State Secretaries please assist in this matter.

Review

[The Birds of the Philippine Islands: with notes on the Mammal Fauna. By the Hon. Masauji Hachisuka, F.Z.S., F.R.G.S., M.B.O.U., &c. Part 1, pp. 1 to 168. Published by H. F. and G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London. (Melbourne, Robertson & Mullens Ltd.) Price per Part, 25/- net.]

This, a first volume, is largely introductory, for the last 19 pages only are devoted to a portion of a systematic account of the avifauna of the Philippines, the remainder of the book being divided into four sections:—(i) Geography and Climate; (ii) Ornithological History; (iii) an account of the author's journey to the Philippines; and (iv) an extensive Bibliography. The book should be of particular use to ornithologists whose interest is in distribution and zoogeography. As the author says in his short preface, "The Philippine Islands are situated on the border-line between the Oriental and Australasian regions, and so far little has been done to determine the natural boundary line between the two, or their biological sub-