

Although Warblers may readily desert their nests while building, it is not probable that they will abandon their nest without good cause after their eggs have been laid.

Wyperfeld National Park.—The National Park in the Mallee at Wyperfeld indirectly owes its existence to the work of the R.A.O.U., and it was befitting that its members should have recently held part of their annual session in this favoured spot for bird life.

Three members of the R.A.O.U., Messrs. J. A. Ross, F. E. Howe and A. H. Mattingley, decided many years ago to visit a remote part of the Mallee to study its avi-forms. A hearty welcome had been proffered to them to visit Pine Plains by Mr. Charles McLennan, better known by the name of "Mallee Bird". He was a dingo trapper employed by Messrs Poulton Brothers of Camba-Canya station, who were also the proprietors of Pine Plains station, and who leased most of the unsettled Mallee country in the north-western portion of Victoria, including the site of the present National Park. The site was then used as a resting place and watering place for their stock when travelling between Pine Plains and Camba-Canya on account of a never-failing supply of water to be obtained at this place from a well. On September 13, 1907, we proceeded by rail to Hopetoun and next day passed through the present Park area and during our visit explored the area at various points in search of bird life.

On each of our visits I was charmed by the natural beauty of this area and its suitability as a National Park and its outstanding advantages in contradistinction to most of the other types of Mallee country. Its geological formation, its dry and sunny climate, its beautiful and varied forms of flora and fauna irresistibly appealed to me, and after consultation with Messrs. Poulton Brothers, who thoughtfully offered no objection to the proposal that this area should be made into a reserve, I wrote to the *Melbourne Argus* on August 31, 1908, extolling the virtues of the area as one suitable as a National Park. I afterwards waited upon Mr. J. M. Reed, Surveyor General and Chief of the Lands Department and requested that this area should be set aside as a Park reserve. After consultation with his officers, Mr. Reed most graciously consented to recommend the reserving of the area known locally as Wonga and Brambruk as a site for a park and the official map was marked then and the reservation was later accomplished. Hence the Park is indissolubly linked with the activities of the R.A.O.U.—
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