

their possession, to an Australian Museum, preferably that of the State in which the specimens were taken, within three months of the description thereof having been published.

12. The R.A.O.U. shall set up a small Board in each State to act in an advisory capacity to the Government concerned.

(Signed) A. H. CHISHOLM (Convener).

J. A. ROSS.

C. BRYANT.

F. E. HOWE.

The Council of the R.A.O.U. received the above report and ordered its publication. The Council invites members to express their views on the various proposals and to send their letters to the Hon. General Secretary.

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

Following is a summary of the main items of business transacted by the Council of the R.A.O.U. recently:—

The Collecting Problem.—Acting on an instruction from the Annual Meeting, to “examine the whole question of collecting of bird skins and eggs by members of the Union and others with a view to placing the matter on a proper basis,” the Council appointed a committee, consisting of Messrs. A. H. Chisholm, C. E. Bryant, F. E. Howe, and J. A. Ross, to consider and report. Discussions by the Committee, which has been in communication with all States, have extended over several months. See foregoing report. The problem has been intensified by the fact that, while the Committee was sitting, large numbers of eggs, said to have been illegally taken, were confiscated by Governmental authorities in New South Wales and Victoria.

Controlling Vagrant Cats.—Difficulty has been found in getting a satisfactory basis for the attack of this problem. The Victorian Chief Secretary, on being approached by the Council, asked for practical suggestions. It was agreed to recommend that domestic cats gone wild be declared vermin under the Vermin and Noxious Weeds Act 1928, and that it be made illegal to “dump” unwanted cats. The Council awaits advice from State Secretaries, who were asked by the Annual Meeting to urge their respective Governments to grapple with the problem.

Sanctuaries, etc.—Satisfactory responses have been received from the controlling authorities of golf links throughout Australia in regard to the recommendation that all golf links should be sanctuaries for birds and that native trees should be planted as much as possible. In all instances Golf Associations approached have agreed to follow the Union's advice. A cordial reply was received also from the Mayor of Hobart in regard to the Union's suggestion that native trees should be planted along the main road from Hobart to Launceston. The Council has been in touch with Victorian authorities in the matter of preserving swamp areas for water-birds, and it has written the New South Wales Minister for Lands strongly supporting the movement of members in that State for the preservation of Lake Urana. Further, the Council is supporting a movement, initiated by Dr. Spencer Roberts (Qld.) and endorsed by Professor J. B. Cleland (S.A.), for the better protection of native birds, and offering assistance to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Transfer of Lyrebirds.—Although the Union was largely responsible for the transfer of a number of Lyrebirds from Victoria to Tasmania (and is interested in the welfare of those birds), the Council was not prepared to recommend, in reply to an inquiry from the Victorian authorities, that a number of Lyrebirds be captured in Gippsland and transferred to the Otway Ranges, south-west of Melbourne. The objections raised were that the Otways were not necessarily suitable

for Lyrebirds and did not have the Tasmanian advantage of lack of foxes, and that Otway residents, unlike Tasmanians, were not far away from the natural quarters of the birds in Gippsland.

Gannets of Cat Island.—The Council agreed that a serious state of affairs had been disclosed by Drs. G. M. and B. Anderson (see *The Emu*, vol. xxxv, pt. 4) in regard to the Gannets of Cat Island, Bass Strait. It was decided to ask the State Secretary for Tasmania to ascertain the views of his Government on the matter, and to recommend that a ranger be employed to guard the birds during the breeding season.

More Members Needed.—Concern is felt by the Council at the fact that the membership of the Union has fallen away considerably in recent years. Members in general and State Secretaries in particular are asked to make special efforts to meet this situation by enrolling their friends. It is obvious that unless the membership and funds of the Union are kept at a satisfactory level the standard of *The Emu* cannot be maintained.

Annual Congress and Camp-out

The Council has decided that the 1936 Congress will be in Adelaide and the Camp at Bool Lagoon, South Australia. The State Secretary, Capt. S. A. White, is proceeding with arrangements.

The *tentative* itinerary is set out below. Possibly a larger period will be devoted to the Camp. Further details will appear in the October issue. Members contemplating attending will be advised of any further information from time to time available upon application to the Hon. General Secretary.

November 24 (Tuesday).—Congress opens.

November 25, 26.—Congress continues. Outings to Mt. Lofty Ranges, etc.

November 27.—Leave for Bool Lagoon.

December 1.—Return to Adelaide.

The contemplated route is through Mt. Lofty Ranges, Murray Bridge, Tailem Bend, Coonalpyn, Bordertown and Narracoorte, the return to be via Narracoorte, past Lake Eliza and Lake Howden, to Robe and Kingston, through the Coorong to Meningie, and across the Murray at Wellington. Transport by cars.

The estimated cost is about £5. A chef to cook and prepare meals will accompany the party, but members must provide their own sleeping material, cutlery and crockery.

Early intimation of intention to attend is requested. This aspect of the matter is of particular importance as South Australian members cannot advance their arrangements until an approximate estimate of attendance is available. Members are urged to attend and are invited to bring friends.

Members requiring loose parts of vol. xxxv, or others, bound, should forward them to the Hon. General Secretary by July 20.