

Fairchild, explaining his retention of the skin "for nearly half a century until you (Fleming) received it. . . . You may rest assured that you possess a Duck that was secured on *Campbell Island*. Captain Fairchild was definite on this fact."

Annual Congress—1939

This year's Congress and Camp-out will be held in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, New South Wales, a district noted for water birds. The Riverina sub-branch of the Union, which has been in existence for a little more than 12 months, will undertake the organization of these functions, with the assistance of members of the New South Wales branch.

Provisional arrangements provide for the Congress to be held at Leeton, commencing on September 16—a time considered by sub-branch officers to be the most suitable for breeding birds. The Camp-out will follow the Congress, and a site will be selected along the Murrumbidgee River, about ten miles from Leeton, and within easy access of breeding areas. The business meetings will be held at the Hotel Hydro, and the Congress will be opened by the local Member of Parliament, Mr. Hankinson.

It is hoped that members will plan their holiday leave to coincide with this period; and the chairman of the Riverina Sub-branch, Mr. R. Lindsay Black, Leeton, is anxious to know as soon as possible of the approximate numbers that will be present. From Melbourne, Leeton is reached through Wagga. The following fares are approximate, on account of a proposed increase in rail fares in New South Wales: Sydney to Leeton (return), 1st class, £5; 2nd, £3/10/-. Melbourne to Leeton, *via* Wagga (return), 1st, £5; 2nd, £3/17/6. Brisbane to Sydney (return), 1st, £7/7/-; 2nd, £5/10/-.

The arrangements also provide for a civic reception to visiting delegates and a public lecture at Leeton, during which lantern slides of birds will be screened. Members bringing their own camping gear by train will be transported to the camp site by local members. Those who will be without tents or sleeping gear are requested to advise Mr. Black. *Please notify him at once if you are going.*

Of birds there is no scarcity on the Irrigation Area, as well as in the adjacent forest country. The billabongs are the breeding places of innumerable Duck and Teal and other water-fowl. The forests support a large resident bird population, including several Parrots and birds of prey. The area itself is also fascinating from a scenic point of view. Further details of the meeting will be published in the July number of *The Emu*.