

wing and then the other, the ant dropped and another taken up and the performance repeated at least a dozen times.

The Mynas had a slightly different action. With them the ant was picked up and, seemingly, pressed under each wing, one after the other, then discarded and the action again repeated. The Mynas were continually on the move, jumping about amongst the ants while continuing the anting. The House Sparrow had a different action again, but whether this was the usual practice I do not know, as the Sparrow only performed on one occasion. The Sparrow picked up an ant and rubbed it down one wing in similar fashion to the Starling but with a very hurried movement. The ant was discarded and another picked up to do the other wing. I had the birds under observation for about fifteen minutes on this occasion and the Starlings and Mynas were anting continually during that time. On my examining the ant mounds, of which there were several, I noted many damaged and many apparently dead ants scattered around. Some of the apparently dead ones immediately 'came to life' on being touched. The ants were not removing the bruised ones as at the nest on the opposite corner on the previous afternoon. I collected some specimens and the ants were identified at the National Museum, Melbourne, as belonging to one of a large group of sugar ants and known as *Camponotus innerex* Forel. The weather on both the afternoons mentioned was warm and sultry.

Mr. Jack Tester, who lives at Box Hill, near Melbourne, has watched Starlings and Mynas anting in similar fashion, at an ant nest near his front gate on evenings about the same time as my observations. I asked him to collect some specimens which he did and they proved to be another species of sugar ant—*Camponotus consobrinus*.—ROY WHEELER, Windsor, Vic., 14/8/50.

News and Notes

ANNUAL CONGRESS AND CAMP-OUT

The Camp-out in connection with the Annual Congress in October, 1951, will be held, according to present intentions, at the Hattah Lakes, Red Cliffs district, Victoria. Details will be supplied to all members, later.

In the meantime a circular with some details has been prepared and copies are available on application to the Hon. General Secretary.

Circulars in connection with the photographic exhibition to be held in Melbourne during the Congress are available, on request, from State Secretaries.

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HON. GENERAL SECRETARY

Will members writing to the Union on official matters usually dealt with by the Hon. General Secretary, please address their correspondence to that officer and not to Mr. D. J. Dickison. Mr. Dickison resigned from the position as at June 30, 1951. Delay in handling correspondence will inevitably occur if mail is directed to Mr. Dickison by name.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO *The Emu*

Contributors of lengthy-papers are again requested to include a *short* summary at the end. The preparation of such summaries is indubitably the responsibility of authors and should not be expected of the Hon. Editor.

The inauguration of additional local natural history journals has developed a tendency to submit short accounts and general notes to them and to regard *The Emu* as the medium for the publication of lengthy papers. Extension of this practice is not to be encouraged. Moreover, contributors must realize, particularly as demands on space are likely to become more acute if expense necessitates any reduction in *Emu* size, that long papers may have to appear in parts, in future. More important, however, is the necessity for authors to express themselves in concise terms and to avoid prolixity. Extensive reduction of length of papers by editing is difficult and unsatisfactory, and authors themselves should curb any tendency to extend papers unduly.

Instances of the submission of closely-similar material to more than one journal are apparent, and are to be deprecated. The attention of contributors is drawn to the fact that the policy of *The Emu* has always been to publish original observations and photographs, not those to which publicity has previously been given.

VICTORIAN DUCK BANDING PROGRAMME

As part of a large-scale investigation into the Victorian ducks, the Fisheries and Game Department has commenced a banding programme in 1951. Banding is being restricted initially to the Grey (Black) Duck (*Anas superciliosa*) and Grey Teal (*Anas gibberifrons*), but will in future include the Maned Goose (Wood-Duck) (*Chenonetta jubata*) and the Chestnut Teal (*Anas castanea*).

The bands used are aluminium and are inscribed as shewn in the following diagram.

Notify F. & G.
Dep. Vic.
50 — 184

The 50 indicates the year of manufacture and appears on all bands. The group of figures on the right is the serial number of the bird.

The Department is largely dependent on duck shooters for the return of bands from ducks shot in open season during the year. It is possible, however, that some R.A.O.U. members may come across dead birds carrying bands, in the course of their field work. Any members finding banded birds are requested to notify the Director of Fisheries and Game and return the band to the following address—

Fisheries and Game Department,
605 Flinders Street,
Melbourne, C.3.

To be of value, notification should state the locality, and time and date of finding of the bird. Any other information about ducks within or adjacent to the borders of Victoria will also be welcomed.

Obituaries

IAN H. MACGILLIVRAY

The death of Dr. Ian Hamilton MacGillivray occurred suddenly on March 22, 1951, at Cudgera, near Murwillumbah, New South Wales. He was aged 51 years.

Born at Hamilton, Victoria, Dr. MacGillivray was a son of the late Dr. W. D. K. MacGillivray, a noted ornithologist and a former President of the R.A.O.U. The son virtually grew up among birds, for his father, when living at Broken Hill, took him on many expeditions. He did not attain the same eminence in ornithology as his father, but he always manifested a keen interest in the subject and wrote a number of pleasant and informative articles and paragraphs on various phases of bird-life. His fields of experience included Victoria (where he was a university student), England (where he continued his medical studies), and various parts of New South Wales. He was in practice for some years with his father at Broken Hill and later (1939) transferred to Murwillumbah.

During World War II Dr. MacGillivray served with the Australian Army Medical Corps with the rank of major, and in post-war years he rendered much public service in the Murwillumbah district. The sympathy of members of the R.A.O.U. will be extended to Mrs. MacGillivray and her three daughters.—A.H.C.

ALBERT SHERBOURNE LE SOUEF

The name Le Souef has long been associated with Zoological Gardens. Albert A. C. Le Souef, the founder of the dynasty of Zoo Directors, was in charge of the gardens

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