

In the article previously mentioned, Mr. Chisholm assumed (p. 183) that the East Winiam district would be the southernmost portion of the range of the Purple-backed Wren (*Malurus assimilis*), although he thought it might extend farther south or south-west. The Purple-backed Wren occurs in the same patch of scrub in which I saw the Southern Scrub-Robin, but its numbers are apparently very small. This is about fifty miles south-east of Mr. Chisholm's record. No evidence of breeding has been obtained, but the birds have been seen on three widely-separated occasions.

Mr. Gordon Binns accompanied me to the area on October 27, 1956, when the weather was cool and showery. Scrub-Robins were calling but were not seen, while male Purple-backed Wrens allowed me only two fleeting glimpses. I have noticed that the Scrub-Robins seem more active on warmer days, when most of my observations were made last year.

Half of the area where the Scrub-Robins occur contains scattered clumps of mallee and other leafy shrubs, and the other half contains *Melaleuca*, *Hakea* and other shrubs (about eight feet tall) with occasional clumps of mallee. The Purple-backed Wrens occur in the latter area.

This dwindling scrub patch is surrounded by paddocks cleared for grazing and cropping purposes. This isolated pocket is well away from the main mallee area.—ALAN M. BALD, Horsham, Vic., 20/12/56.

News and Notes

NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

The present cost of printing *The Emu* is £3 per page of 10-point type. (The charge for half-tone illustrations is £4 per page—in addition to the cost of block-making). Upon the ground of economy the Editor appeals to contributors to reduce the use of tables in their papers to a minimum, expressing in some other form, if that be possible, what tables are intended to convey. Tables are not set by the usual linotype method, but constitute special setting on a monotype machine, being 'sent out' by the printer for the purpose. The cost is greatly in excess of linotype charges, and is all extra, the standard £3 per page being an over-all charge applicable in any case as it covers ordinary type-setting, running heads, locking up, paper, etc. The Union cannot afford the outlay inseparable from monotype setting.

ANNUAL CONGRESS FOR 1957

The 1957 Annual Meeting will be held in Melbourne on Monday, October 21, (time and place to be announced later). A field excursion will be arranged for the preceding day. The 'Camp' will be at Portland, and members will leave for that place on Tuesday, October 22. Accommodation in Port-

land is being arranged and it is proposed to make provision for those who wish to camp and cater for themselves. Further details will be published as available.

GIFT TO UNION

Miss S. E. Fletcher, sister of our late member, Miss J. A. Fletcher—see Obituary in *Emu*, vol. 56, p. 149—has donated £25 to the Union in memory of her deceased sister's long association with the R.A.O.U. The Union's thanks and appreciation are hereby recorded.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1957 are now due and the Council would appreciate prompt payment in order to keep the Union's finances on a sound basis and to facilitate the work of the Hon. Treasurer. Payment by 'not negotiable' cheque payable to the Union is the method preferred if that can be arranged.

The first yearly part of each volume of *The Emu* is sent to all members who are financial as at the end of the preceding year, but the despatch of further parts is withheld until the current year's subscription is paid.

To reduce the Treasurer's work and to effect a saving on postage, it is proposed not to send receipts for subscriptions in future unless they are specifically requested.

TOXIC CLEANSERS AND PEST DESTROYERS

It is assumed that members using pest and weed destructive agents and cleansing substances known to be dangerous to bird life always take care to reduce to a minimum the possibility of killing birds. A member has drawn attention to the havoc created amongst birds as the result of the use of phenyle in washing out drains in a country school-ground. Phenyle diluted with water was run out of the drains and lay in pools. Birds drank from the pools and died: apparently even a very weak concentration was sufficient to cause death.

ACCOUNT OF 1956 CONGRESS

At the date of 'closing' the inclusion of material for this part, part 1 of volume 57 (March 9, 1957), the Editor has not received the manuscript of either the Proceedings of the Annual Congress, 1956, or the account of the birds of the Camp-out.

LODGEMENT OF *Emu* 'SET' IN NEW ZEALAND

The President of the R.A.O.U. has received a letter from Mr. H. R. McKenzie, President of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand expressing appreciation for the lodgement with the Society of volumes 4 to 41 of *The Emu* for the use of New Zealand ornithologists. The Society, he says, will

always appreciate the Union's 'big brother' interest in it and the generous gesture evidenced by the despatch of the volumes. Mr. R. V. Roberts, of Wellington, effected a signal service to the Society when he initiated the inquiry that eventuated in the Union's action.

Correspondence

'SET' OF *The Emu* FOR NEW ZEALAND

To the Editor.

Sir,—New Zealand members of the R.A.O.U. as well as those of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand will be pleased to learn that a 'set' of *The Emu* comprising volumes 4 to 41 has been generously placed in the library of the O.S.N.Z. now housed in the Auckland Museum. The volumes or parts are available on loan to all members of the O.S.N.Z. as well as to the New Zealand members of the R.A.O.U. This action of the Council of the R.A.O.U. will be deeply appreciated by all New Zealand members of both societies. The Council of the O.S.N.Z., in particular, expresses its thanks to the R.A.O.U. for its action in making the set available. It will greatly assist members carrying out field work and research on the birds of the Australian and New Zealand regions.

Should any member of the R.A.O.U. be in a position to supply any parts of volumes 1 to 3 the secretary of the O.S.N.Z., Mr. E. G. Turbott, Auckland Museum, would be glad to hear from him.

W. R. B. OLIVER	} Members of Council
A. S. WILKINSON	
R. A. FALLA	

Obituary

DR. ERIC POCKLEY

Dr. Eric Osbaldiston Pockley, whose death took place on November 11, 1956, at Avalon, near Sydney, joined the Union in 1933. He was keenly interested in bird behaviour. He attended several camps and will be remembered by his companions on such trips for his lively personality and fund of reminiscences. Born in 1876, he was among the first dozen pupils of the Sydney Church of England Grammar School. He travelled to school from his home in Killara, some ten miles away, in a dog-cart. He graduated from Sydney University and became resident doctor at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Later, after working as a ship's doctor, he studied at Oxford and Vienna.

Throughout his long life he had a passion for travelling and exploring. Quite recently, at the age of 78, he visited Ayers' Rock in Central Australia. Before the 1914-18 war, he made a motor-cycle tour of Europe. Later he shot big-