

has been recorded with three eggs, but the birds deserted it.

Several pairs of Regent Parrots (*Polytelis anthopeplus*) are permanent residents at Undera and Tatura. A small flock of from fifteen to twenty birds spent many hours in flowering eucalypts at Shepparton during August.

Occasionally the Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsoni*) is seen throughout the district, one pair nesting at North Mooroopna. Four young birds were reared successfully; but later only three were seen with the parent birds.

The Budgerygah (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) is a rare visitor. A small flock was recorded at Tatura in March, and at Shepparton nine birds were seen near the lake on August 17.

One flock of seventeen Elegant Parrots (*Neophema elegans*) is occasionally seen in the North Mooroopna/Coomboona area. They appear to be very shy and, although seen carrying grass in the vicinity of hollow trees, no actual nest has been discovered.

The Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*) was recorded once, at Byrneside, when a pair rose from tall dry grass at the roadside and flew along the road.—GEORGE W. BEDGGOOD, Mooroopna, Vic., 11/9/57.

## News and Notes

### AUSTRALIAN NATURAL HISTORY MEDALLION, 1957

The medallion for 1957 was awarded to Mr. C. E. Bryant, Editor of *The Emu* and the immediate past president of the Union. Mr. Bryant's nomination was sponsored by The Victorian National Parks Association.

### COLLOQUIUM ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

It is hoped that at the Fifteenth International Congress of Zoology, to be held in London in July, 1958, it will be possible for that Congress finally to approve and adopt the new text of the International Code for Zoological Nomenclature as revised by the preceding Congresses held in Paris in 1948 and Copenhagen in 1953. As arranged at the Copenhagen Congress, a draft of the revised text will be submitted for such purpose to the London Congress.

Arrangements have been made under which a Colloquium on Zoological Nomenclature is being organized on the lines of the Colloquium organized in connection with the Copenhagen Congress.

The Colloquium will open on Wednesday, July 9, one week prior to the opening of the London Congress. It is hoped that this body will be able to submit to the Congress agreed recommendations as to the text to be adopted. Invitations to the Colloquium have already been issued by the Trust to a large number of zoologists known to be interested in zoological nomenclature.

## EDITORIAL REQUEST

There has been some recurrence lately of that bane of editors, the use of single-spaced typing on papers submitted. Contributors are earnestly requested to refrain from such a practice and, in addition, to leave ample marginal space.

Other matters the observance of which will assist, are these—Do not use abbreviations of any kind; if abbreviations are required the editor will attend to that aspect. Do not underline except to indicate the necessity for italic type.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

The importance of prompt payment of subscriptions cannot be over-stressed. The work of the Union's office-bearers is entirely honorary and it appears not unreasonable to expect members to co-operate in an endeavour to reduce their labours to a minimum. The first part of each volume of *The Emu* is sent to all persons who were members at the end of the previous year, whether they are financial or not as at the time of despatch. In respect, however, of members who do not renew their subscriptions by the time the second part is ready for posting, it becomes necessary to hold their cards in suspense and to prepare supplementary lists. This involves initial work, consequential attention to the matter at a later stage when, upon payment, names are reinstated, risk of confusion, and the loss to the Union of the advantage of bulk postage rates. In the circumstances members are asked to make *immediate* payment of subscriptions.

## Reviews

**Biology of the Coot.**—Gerhard Kornowski, writing on 'Beiträge zur Ethologie des Blässhuhns (*Fulica atra* L.)' in *Journal für Ornithologie*, 98 (3), 318-355, July 1957, deals with age differences and the breeding biology of the Coot. Eggs are laid between one and two hours before sunrise. The incubation period is 23-24 days. Young search and dive for food after 4-5 weeks, and fly and become independent of their parents at 8 weeks.—E.F.B.

**'Anting' by Inexperienced Birds.**—In a paper on 'Ein Beitrag zur Frage des 'Einemsens' von Vogel' (*Journal für Ornithologie*, 98 (3), 313-317, July 1957) Franz Sauer describes the behaviour of four Garden Warblers (*Sylvia borin*) which had been reared in captivity for the purpose of experimenting with them. The Warblers did not put ants into their plumage, and were distinctly disturbed by the presence of ants crawling on their limbs or plumage. Sauer found that the birds wiped the ants into their feathers before eating them, closing their nictitating membrane until the prey had been hastily disposed of. He thinks that anting may be the involuntary response or reaction to the shock of the bird from the effects of the secretion of formic acid by the prey.—E.F.B.

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