

Executive Board put the conference idea to the more than 200 delegates from 31 countries. All these nations — the Iron Curtain countries unequivocally included — voiced unanimous approval of this challenging idea. The Board then determined to hold the conference in Seattle in the summer of 1962 under the Century 21 banner. . The conference will provide a rare opportunity for the growth of understanding among those ranking officials of each country in whose hands are parks and reserves. These men need to keep before them the whole meaning of their natural and historic resources of compelling scenic beauty and scientific and human interest. . The distinctive native traditions exemplified in the scenery, wildlife, historic objects, and other resources that comprise the cultural pattern of each country must be recognized. They are fundamental to the advancement of the park movement everywhere under the ideals of international understanding. ."—Ed.

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Correspondence

FIRST LYREBIRD BROADCAST

To the Editor,
Sir,

There is an inference in Mr. R. T. Littlejohns' obituary notice (*Emu*, 61: 147) that Littlejohns was the first in Australia to broadcast the song of the Lyrebird. Credit for the first actual, or "live", broadcast should, I feel, go to the late Tom Tregellas of Melbourne. The two broadcasts were in fact made within a few days of one another, and as a matter of interest, the details might be put on record. I myself heard both and took part in one.

There was some little rivalry, withal friendly, between Ray Littlejohns and Tom Tregellas on Lyrebird matters about 1930-31. Admittedly, Littlejohns got in first with the bird's song on the air, but this wasn't a "live" broadcast, but was reproduced from a film sound track which he had made a year or so earlier.

It was also a case of one radio station getting in before the other. When the Australian Broadcasting Commission announced that, with the help of Tregellas, it would try for a broadcast from Sherbrooke forest on a certain day a

commercial station controlled by a Melbourne newspaper at once got a sound track from Littlejohns, and with him as commentator, put over this "mechanical" broadcast a few days beforehand. It was the next week-end, on the scheduled day, that Tregellas' "live" broadcast was put on, after he and I had cut tracks through bracken and scrub for the wires. Tregellas gave a running commentary on the bird as it performed and called in front of microphones laid to its mounds. This was on a Sunday afternoon in June 1981, and the performance came over well. Subsequent "live" broadcasts were made both by Tregellas and Littlejohns.

Yours etc.,

MICHAEL SHARLAND

Tennant Creek, N.T.
August 4, 1961.

LEG COLOUR OF THE CURLEW-SANDPIPER
(*Erolia ferruginea*)

To the Editor,
Sir,

I would like to correct the statement by E. F. Boehm regarding leg colour of the Curlew-Sandpiper (*Erolia ferruginea*) in his review (*Emu*, 61: 248) of the *Field Guide to the Waders*, by H. T. Condon and A. R. McGill, 2nd ed., 1960.

Mr. Boehm states that the olivaceous-brown legs of the Curlew-Sandpiper quickly become greenish-black after death, and finally change to black, and that other authors, including Condon and McGill, have been misled when they state the leg colour of the live bird to be black.

At the C.S.I.R.O. Wildlife Survey Section, Nedlands, Western Australia, some 400 Curlew-Sandpipers have to this date been trapped, examined, banded, and released over a period of four years. Every one of these individuals had its legs examined incidental to the process of banding, and in not one case has any deviation from a dull black colour been noted. Due to this lack of colour variation it has never been found necessary to note down individual leg colour when recording routine details of the specimen at the time of banding, as is the case with the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Erolia acuminata*).

No colour change has been observed to take place after death in the Curlew-Sandpiper, the legs remaining black until absolute desiccation.

Yours etc.,

C. A. NICHOLLS

C.S.I.R.O.,
W.A. Regional Laboratory, Nedlands,
Western Australia, 5/1/62.

[See note by E. F. Boehm, page 282—Ed.]

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