

him, exciting chases amongst the thick scrub. Our efforts, however, were eventually rewarded, for, despite the parents' warning cries, the young bird posed for several pictures. One of these is of interest, as it shows the youngster in the "sidelong clinging" attitude so characteristic of this species.—D. F. F. THOMSON, R.A.O.U. Canterbury.

State Secretaries' Reports.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE wonderful season that this State has been experiencing has had a marked effect on the bird-life, and, generally speaking, birds are recovering fast from the effects of the previous dry period. Reports from the country show that birds, especially Waders, are numerous. Ducks are reported to be scarce in many of their regular haunts, but this indicates that they are scattered far and wide on many small lagoons and flooded areas that are not usually available for them. The Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales has instituted a series of lectures in the show-grounds on popular subjects connected with agriculture, and your local secretary has been asked to take the subject, "How to Get the Best Use from Our Birds This Year." Owing to numerous complaints of destruction of fish, young Ducks, Ibis, &c., by the Pelican, this bird has been removed from the protected list for the breeding season in the western part of New South Wales. This will enable land-holders who find them troublesome to keep them in check when the waters are low and young birds are about. Parrots have been very numerous this season in some of the fruit districts, and have also been reported as destroying maize crops, and certain species have been taken off the protected list, as the farmers had to shoot the birds in order to protect their crops. From reports to hand it seems that the Barraband Parrot is again becoming numerous in western New South Wales. This species has been scarce for many years past, many being probably destroyed by rabbit poison, and that it is now increasing is very likely due to the fact that most of the large stations in the Riverina dig out rabbits instead of using poison.

A. S. LE SOUËF.

QUEENSLAND.

FROM a business point of view (as distinct from ornithology itself) the most notable happening since last report—possibly the most important development of the Union in this State—was a meeting of Queensland members, held on 11th February, in connection with the formation of a State branch of the R.A.O.U. Mr. H. A. Longman (member of the Council) was voted to the chair.

Several matters of local importance were first dealt with. These

included a report by the State secretary on measures taken to protect Finches. Action in this direction was taken, firstly, because of the enormous traffic in these birds from the Northern Territory—approximately 18,000, embracing eight species, were inspected on the steamer *Mataram* at Brisbane during December, and were prevented from landing here—and because of the continued activities of trappers. It was reported that bird-lovers had caused several consignments of protected birds to be seized in Brisbane during the last few weeks, and that in one case 60 out of a batch of 90 Chestnut-eared Finches had died for want of attention before being found. The consignor of these birds had been prosecuted by Mr. C. G. Stevenson (secretary of the Gould League of Bird-Lovers and of the Cruelty Prevention Society), and had been fined £5, with over £5 costs. It was added that the police had issued warnings against trapping in several localities, and that the Commissioner of Railways had given instructions against the carriage of protected birds on the railways of the State. The meeting approved of the action taken, and a resolution was carried asking the responsible department, before granting permits of any kind in respect of native birds, to submit applications to the Queensland branch of the R.A.O.U. (This policy had already been followed to some extent.)

Another report concerned the National Park of the Macpherson Range. It was stated that, following a public meeting, representatives of some twelve societies had waited upon the Minister for Lands (Hon. J. H. Coyne) and submitted resolutions making for the protection of the fauna and flora of the reservation and seeking to have its development placed in the hands of a trust. The Minister, in responding to the representations (which were made to him by Professor H. C. Richards, Queensland University, and Mr. A. H. Chisholm), assured the deputation that no destruction of either fauna or flora would be permitted in the "park." This remark, he said, applied particularly to the fauna. Trees could be grown again, but once a valuable bird was destroyed it was gone for ever. It would be nothing short of a criminal act for anyone responsible to allow such a wonderful creature as the Rufous Scrub-Bird to be destroyed, and he did not propose to be responsible for such an act.

Mr. G. H. Barker, the only Brisbane member of the Union to attend the annual meeting of the Union at Perth, reported on the business transacted there, particularly in relation to matters with which he had been entrusted by a meeting of members held prior to his departure. The chief of these subjects were:—Safeguarding of National Parks, co-ordination of Northern Territory bird-protection laws with those of Queensland, restriction of the use of the pea-rifle, the establishment of State branches of the R.A.O.U., and the establishment of a scheme of membership distinctions in the Union. Mr. Barker dealt with these matters as fully as possible. As a corollary, the State Secretary was instructed to inquire whether the resolutions of the annual

meeting regarding the three subjects first mentioned had been given effect to, and the Governments concerned approached on the various matters.

Mr. Barker was thanked for his report, and there ensued further general discussion on the question of a State branch, concerning which a message of goodwill had been received from Melbourne members of the Council. After Mr. Henry Tryon had placed on record the opinion that State branches do not conflict with the present constitution of the R.A.O.U., the following resolutions were carried unanimously, on the motion of Messrs. Tryon and Brennan :—

(1) "That we, members of the R.A.O.U. in meeting assembled, constitute ourselves the Queensland branch thereof, with power to incorporate in our body all other members resident in Queensland."

(2) "That a circular setting forth the purposes of such branch, and its relation to the central executive, be prepared and sent to all Queensland members of the R.A.O.U., inviting them to enrol in the branch."

Another item of importance dealt with by the meeting was a recommendation from the Central Queensland Bird Protection Association that the Native Companion (*Antigone*) be protected for the whole year instead of portion thereof. The recommendation was forwarded by the Department for opinion, and cordial support of the R.A.O.U. was given the proposal.

Subsequently, the State secretary received a request from residents of Bribie Island (Moreton Bay) to present to the Minister for Agriculture a petition they had drawn up praying that their island be made a sanctuary for native fauna. This was done, and the Minister (Hon. W. N. Gillies) promised sympathetic consideration. Incidentally, the Minister was heartily congratulated on his resolve to protect koalas and possums for the whole of the present year throughout the State. Official figures showed that during the last open season at least 5,000,000 possums and 1,000,000 native bears were killed in Queensland.

A. H. CHISHOLM, *State Secretary.*

Correspondence.

AUTHENTIC NESTS OF *Mattingleya inornata*.

To the Editors of "The Emu."

SIRS,—In the last part (No. 5, vol. viii.) of his work, "The Birds of Australia," Mr. G. M. Mathews gives an excellent historical exposition of the puzzling Grey Thickhead (*Mattingleya griseiceps inornata*); but his picture has been somewhat spoilt, so to speak, by the author drawing his pen heavily charged with ink across it by writing :—"From a further consideration of Campbell's account of the nests found at Cardwell, it is possible that they