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THE
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
ORNITHOLOGIST,

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1st JANUARY, 1919. - 20

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

R. CROMPTON, R.A.O.U.

A. G. EDQUIST

S. A. WHITE, C.M.B.O.U.

F. R. ZIETZ, R.A.O.U.

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THE
South Australian
ORNITHOLOGIST.



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Secretary :

F. M. ANGEL, R.A.O.U.,
c/o W. D. & H. O. Wills, Ltd.,
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The Editorial Committee accepts no responsibility for the views or deductions expressed by any of its contributors. The Journal welcomes a free interchange of ideas with the object of extending the knowledge of our avifauna, but the author of each article is responsible for the opinions and deductions recorded.

— THE —

South Australian Ornithologist.

Vol. IV.]

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[PART I.

The South Australian Ornithological Association.

SEPTEMBER 27th, 1918.

The monthly meeting of the South Australian Ornithological Association was held in the Royal Society's room, North Terrace, on Friday evening, 27th September, 1918. Capt. S. A. White presided, and welcomed Mr. J. Neil McGilp, of Moolawatana Station, near to Lake Frome as a visitor. Many interesting bird notes were recorded. Mr. J. W. Mellor stated that the landrails were nesting on his property at Lockleys, and that a pair of wagtails had built a nest low down in a tree near to the house. A child who was visiting had interfered with the nest, and the birds pulled it to pieces and rebuilt it higher up. The same member exhibited a large bunch of gum leaves and twigs which had been nipped off by a shrike tit (*Falcunculus flavigulus*). This is a usual practice when they nest. Mr. Mellor also stated that the mudlark or Murray magpie (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) had nested in a Morton Bay fig tree quite close to his house. Mr. Welfare read several interesting press clippings. One was a statement made by Mr. H. L. White, of Scone, New South Wales, in which he said he had seen the Murray magpie picking tick from a sheep. Mr. A. Crompton reported having observed quite 500 cormorants on the Port River. They comprised two species—little black and little black and white. Master Alen Lendon said he had noticed about 150 white-faced herons near to the main road, between the Cross Keys and the River Light. Dr. Morgan reported that fairy martins were nesting on September 14 along the Sturt Creek. A discussion took place upon

the food of cormorants. It was admitted by all present that the Chairman and Dr. Morgan's work upon this subject clearly showed that the cormorant was not injurious to the seafishing industry. Mr. J. Neil McGilp was requested by the Chairman to give his experiences with the wedge-tailed eagle and the crow. Speaking of the first bird, Mr. McGilp said it was only troublesome during drought time, when they appeared in numbers. In his opinion, an eagle could not take a lamb from a healthy mother, for she would be more than a match for the bird, but he had seen five eagles attack and almost kill a large lamb. He considered crows very useful. The short-billed, or Bennett's Crow, was a wonderful bird on grasshoppers and other insects, and all species of crows were enemies to the blowfly. He had observed several crows turn over a dry carcass and dig into the ground for the fly larvae. A discussion occurred regarding the habits of birds, for which there seemed to be no explanation. It was stated that the bare-eyed cockatoo ring-barked a gumtree in which it had its nest. One reason seemed to be that the killing of the tree would cause more nesting hollows to become available. Mr. McGilp said a native had informed him that the cockatoos ring-barked trees because the cats could not be heard climbing up the green bark, but as soon as they struck the dead wood with their claws a scratching sound of warning was made. The Chairman stated that the Rufous Song-Lark (*Cinclohamphus rufescens*) had put in an appearance for the first time this season at the Reedbeds on September 10, and that on the same day he saw a large flight of white-browed wood swallows (*Artamus superciliosus*) flying very high, and that the landrail (*Hypotaenidia philippensis*) was numerous at the Reedbeds this season. Some interesting notes from Mr. Bell-chambers, of Humbug Scrub, were read.

OCTOBER 25th, 1918.

Capt. S. A. White presided. Several members of the field naturalists' section of the Royal Society were welcomed as visitors. The Chairman said he had been addressing good audiences in several country centres, and also scholars of the public schools. He was much gratified at the interest shown in bird protection. Mr. J. W. Mellor stated that the pair of wagtails which he had reported at the previous meeting as having rebuilt their nest near to his home after having been interfered with, had become suspicious. They had pulled it to pieces, built it for the third time and on this occasion high up in a gum tree. Mr. Mellor said he had again witnessed

white-browed babblers pull young sparrows out of their nest and then drag the nest to pieces. Landrails were nesting at the Reedbeds. Mr. F. R. Zietz drew attention to the fact that boys were taking birds' nests and eggs in the parks. Mr. A. Crompton stated that he had seen great numbers of wattle birds at Second Valley lately. Mr. Hosking said a friend had observed a tussle between a snake and a kestrel; the snake at last escaped. The Secretary (Mr. F. Angel) stated that he had discovered an eagle's nest at Moolooloo, and had counted the remains of 39 rabbits, two cats, and a wallaby. The cats were an unusual change of diet, and it was said that the manager of the station was in favour of protecting the birds. Mr. Mellor gave an interesting account of a trip made into the mallee and pine country off the Paringa line, and showed a number of bird skins. He stated that the birds had nested early in that district this season owing, no doubt, to the spell of fine weather some few weeks back. The Hon. Secretary gave an account of a visit made by a small party of nature lovers to Moolooloo Station, at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Lindo. Mr. Angel read a large list of birds observed, and gave useful notes upon them. Mr. Beck (a visitor) showed some nice photographs taken upon this trip.

NOVEMBER 29th, 1918.

Capt. S. A. White presided. The failure of the Government to pass the Bill for the protection of birds was discussed, also the constitution of "Flinders Chase." The time lost in carrying out these national works was much deplored. Two names were submitted as new members. Mr. J. W. Mellor reported that many bee-eaters (*Merops ornatus*) had visited Lockleys last month, and that he had seen magpies pulling sparrows' nests to pieces and carrying off the young birds. The same member reported that much bird destruction was going on in the Mount Lofty Ranges through school boys destroying nests and eggs. Mr. A. G. Edquist read an interesting letter from a member of the Bird Club describing how the writer had seen a grass parrot frequenting a hole in the ground, where most likely it would nest. This statement led to a discussion in regard to cockatoos nesting in rabbit burrows and upon the ground. Master Allan Lendon reported having noticed a brush bronzewing pigeon on the Lower Sturt Road. The Chairman said that he had seen two stubble quails' nests, one with five eggs and another with seven eggs—both at the Reedbeds; also several grass parrots in his garden. It was many years since these birds

had previously been noticed there. A landrail with a brood of five black chicks had also been seen; also a button quail. The remainder of the evening was taken up by an interesting account by Dr. A. M. Morgan of a trip taken by him to the South-east in October last. He gave a description of the country and birds seen, and collected and exhibited a series of fine specimens, two *Scricornis* and *Neomanodes chrysogaster aurantia* being of special interest. As many members intended to be out of town during the Christmas holidays it was decided not to hold a meeting in December.

Order Pelecaniformes, Family Phalacrocoracidae, Genus Hypoleucis.

Hypoleucis varius hypoleucis—Pied Cormorant.

Description—Top of the head, back of neck, back, flanks, tail coverts, deep glossy black; wings, deep greenish black; primaries and tail same colour; all the undersurface pure white; iris, sea green; bare space in front of eye, orange; bare space round eye, blue; lower eyelid, metallic green; gular pouch, flesh colour; bill, black; tip, horn colour; legs, feet and nails, black. Total length in the flesh, 32 inches; wing from body to tip, 22 inches; spread of wings, 49 inches.

Distribution—South and south-west Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland.

Habits—Found mostly on the coast line, and frequenting the mangrove creeks and swamps along the coast; yet they are met with at times on rivers and fresh water lakes great distance inland. They form large rookeries when nesting, and place their nests in mangrove trees or on the tops of low bushes.

Flight—Heavy, with rapid motion of the wings.

Food—Consists of fish and crustacea, from research work carried out it has been proved that these birds only feed upon the slow swimming fish such as weed fish (*Odax*), cat fish (*Cnidoglanis megastomus*), toad fish, and box fish. Upon rivers and lakes the fresh water yabbie forms the greater part of their food, and young turtles are devoured.

Nest.—They nest in colonies, sometimes several thousand pairs together. The nest is substantially built of sticks generally of mangrove or samphire, some of which they break off for themselves; it is placed in the fork of a bush usually a man-

grove, but where such is not available any low bush will suit their purpose, such as tea tree or samphire, often several nests are placed in the same shrub. The lining is seaweed or grass, but this soon becomes caked with excrement, as does the whole nest. The eggs are two or three in number, rarely four. They are quite white when fresh laid, but very quickly become nest stained. The outer coating is soft and chalky, and is easily scraped off, if this be done the true colour of the egg is found to be light blue or greenish blue. Eggs laid late in the season, probably second or third clutches, are often deficient in the outer coating, and show patches of the blue ground colour. Average measurement of 17 eggs, 6.27 x 3.83 c.m.

Largest egg, 6.80 x 3.80 c.m.

Smallest Egg, 6.05 x 3.50 c.m.

They do not normally lay more than one clutch in a season, but if a first clutch be destroyed they will lay another.

In South Australia the breeding season is the Autumn, usually from March to May.

Description of a New Subspecies of *Climacteris*.

By J. W. Mellor, R.A.O.U.

Climacteris erythroptus parsonsi subsp., nov. Mellor.

Southern White-browed Treecreeper.

Type locality Pungonda, Hundred of Bookpurnong, South Australia.

As might reasonably be expected a *climacteris* inhabiting the pine and mallee country of the River Murray would differ considerably from its ally of the arid districts of Central Australia. When comparing the skins of a pair of the white-browed treecreepers that I procured from Pungonda in the Hundred of Bookpurnong, S.A., in October last, with North's description of the White-browed Treecreeper procured by the Horn Expedition to Central Australia, vide report of Horn Expedition, Aves p. 96 I found the following differences:

The Southern form is altogether more robust, and the coloration differs considerably from the Central Australian bird, being more greyish above; crown of head and forehead being uniform dark grey; no wash of brown on the grey upper tail coverts; subterminal band on tail black; no buffy brown on sides of body and centre of abdomen; and dull white in place of buffy white on under tail coverts, which are "barred" with black spots. The birds were rare,

and very noiseless, being in marked contrast to the Southern Brown Treecreeper (*Climacteris picumnus australis*) Mathews, with which they were in company. I propose to designate the bird in the vernacular list as the Southern White-browed Treecreeper, and scientifically as *Climacteris erythroptus parsonsi*, in honour of Mr. Frank E. Parsons, of Adelaide, whose energy as a young ornithologist I wish to recognise, and through whose valuable information concerning the country I was enabled to secure the specimens described.

The descriptions are:—

Male—General colour above, brownish grey; all the crown of the head, dark grey; upper tail coverts, grey; tail brownish grey, all but the two centre feathers, and the outer web of the outermost feathers crossed by a broad subterminal band of black, being broader and more conspicuous on the outer feathers; wing, blackish brown, crossed in the centre with a broad band of rich buff, this colour gradually dying out towards the outermost primaries; the secondaries tipped with brownish grey; lores, black; a stripe above the eye, and the small feathers on the edge of the lower lid white; ear coverts, brownish grey, with a dull white streak down the centre of each feather; chin, dull white, passing into whitish grey on the throat, and dark grey on the chest; remainder of under surface has a lanceolate appearance, the feathers being black, lessening in intensity towards the abdomen, and each feather having a broad stripe of white down the centre; the centre of abdomen, dark grey, and less conspicuously streaked; under tail coverts, dull white, with spots of brownish black at intervals forming irregular cross-bars, with the shafts of the feathers dull white throughout; iris, brown; bill, black; feet, very dark horn. Dimensions—Total length in inches, 6.00; wing, 3.64; tail, 2.60; bill from forehead, 0.53; bill from gape, 0.70; tarsus, 0.76.

Female—Resembling male, but having the white stripe above the eye margined above with a narrower line of rusty red; the breast is greyish, streaked with dull white down the centre of each feather, giving a more marked lanceolate appearance than in the male, in the centre of the chest a few rusty red markings on the feathers make an indistinct patch of that colour.

Habitat—Belts of pine and mallee country adjacent to the River Murray on the South Australian and Victorian borders, and probably extending into all such country for a considerable distance.

The Birds of the South-Eastern Part of South Australia.

By A. M. Morgan, M.B., B.Ch.

My wife and I spent the month of October in a tour of the South East with the view of making a list of the birds of that part of the country, none having been yet published. Leaving Adelaide by the Melbourne express on October 1 we reached Mount Gambier early on the morning of the 2nd, travelling by the night train from Wolsley. Mount Gambier is a desolation as far as the ornithologist is concerned, the district for miles around being under cultivation, and absolutely denuded of native trees, the plantations of pines which have taken their place are occupied by hordes of sparrows, starlings, goldfinches, and greenfinches. A few native birds were seen around the lakes, but nothing of sufficient interest to warrant a stay there. So next day we hired a trap to drive us to the Glenelg River, where we spent five days. Returning to Mount Gambier on the 8th we left for Beachport next morning, and stayed there until the 17th, motoring from there to Robe, where ten days work was put in. On the 27th we motored to Kingston, and spent the next day in some nice gum scrub about five miles from the town. The neighbourhood of the town itself is very bare and birdless. On the 30th we went on to Narracoorte by train where we saw the beautiful caves and had two afternoons in some stringy bark forests near the town. The country about Narracoorte looked promising, and we were sorry we had not arranged to spend more time there. On the morning of November 1st we left for home. This list is, of course, not complete; of quite a number of the birds identified single individuals or pairs only were seen, so it is to be supposed that some were missed altogether. Notable absentees were the Emu, still said to be common in parts, and even in one place we visited near Beachport, but we did not see them. The Bustard, now about extinct in the district; the Native Companion, formerly very common, now getting rare; and the Bronzewing Pigeon, which I was told was still common, but although we saw numbers of Brush Bronzewings we saw none of the common kind. Other omissions are noted in the detailed list. The country examined was mostly coastal, with the exception of two days at Narracoorte only two or three trips were made into the inland country. The sandhills at Beachport and Robe are

covered with very thick scrub, making observation difficult, and collecting in some cases almost impossible. The country behind the sandhills is flat, with numerous swamps and lakes fringed with tea-tree; the greater number of these lakes are salt, and not very well populated with water birds; but the swamps near Kingston, which are fresh, swarm with water fowl, and would repay a better examination than we had time to give them. We were hampered throughout the trip by bad weather, almost every day being wet or windy, or both. The names in the detailed list are those of Mathews's 1913 list, except that sub-specific names are not given unless I am reasonably certain of the diagnosis. In some cases I have found this impossible even when specimens are available for comparison. For instance a specimen of the Striped Diamond Bird collected near Kingston was compared with a large number of skins from widely separated localities, and was found to most nearly resemble a bird from Mount Lyndhurst, in Central Australia, a locality many hundreds of miles distant, and with totally different natural conditions. Birds identified were:—

1. *Eudyptula minor undina* (Fairy Penguin)—Many specimens found dead on the beach at Beachport and Robe.

2. *Coturnix pectoralis* (Stubble Quail)—Common in all parts. Some birds were put up in a cutting grass flat which I took to be Swamp Quails (*Ypsilophorus*), but I did not secure a specimen.

3. *Turnix varius* (Scrub Quail)—Two pairs seen near Kingston.

4. *Cosmopelia elegans affinis* (Brush Bronze Wing)—Very numerous at Glenelg River, Beachport, and Robe.

5. *Rallus pectoralis* (Slate-breasted Rail)—I did not see this bird myself, but heard they were in numbers in a small swamp near Robe, and on returning to town saw a specimen which had been caught in a rabbit trap in that locality and sent to the museum.

6. *Hypotaenidia philippensis australis* (Pectoral or Land Rail)—A male in breeding condition was brought to me at Beachport. It had been caught in a rabbit trap, said to be a common occurrence in the district.

7. *Porzana fluminea* (Spotted Crake)—I did not see this bird, but found a nest with five heavily incubated eggs on October 26th. The nest was built in a tussock of rushes growing in the water, and was built entirely of dry rushes.

8. *Zapornia pusilla Palustris* (Little Crake)—Seen in a

swamp near Robe. A specimen killed by a dog was given to me from the same locality. Its total length was 17 c.m.; Iris, red; bill, upper mandible, dark green; lower, lighter green, with the base, bright green; legs, feet, olive green; inside of mouth, lead colour; sex, ♀.

9. *Porzanaidea plumbea immaculata* (Spotless Crake)—A number was seen in a swamp near Robe.

10. *Microtribonyx ventralis whitei* (Native Hen)—A pair seen near Robe, and great numbers in several swamps near Kingston. They are said to have nested in great numbers at Lake Robe. I found one old nest near the township.

11. *Gallinula tenebrosa* (Moor Hen)—Seen in pairs at Glenelg River, Robe and Kingston. A nest containing six eggs was found in a tea-tree growing in the water of a small swamp near Robe. In this swamp there were six species of rails. The spotted, little, and spotless crakes, the slate-breasted rail, the native hen, and moor hen. I spent a morning wading through it, and found besides the nests of the native hen and moor hen, fifteen nests of small rails, most of which had been quite recently occupied, though the only one containing eggs was that of the spotted crake.

12. *Fulica atra australis* (Coot)—Seen at Mount Gambier, Beachport, Robe, and Kingston; mostly in pairs or flocks of five or six.

13. *Podiceps cristatus christiani* (Tipped Grebe)—Seen in pairs at Glenelg River, Mount Gambier, and Robe.

14. *Polioccephalus polioccephalus* (Hoary Headed Grebe)—Common wherever there was suitable water. Mostly in small flocks up to ten. They appeared to have finished breeding as a rotten egg was found in a swamp at Robe.

15. *Pelagodroma marina howei* (White-faced Storm Petrel)—Several birds were found dead on the beach at Beachport and Robe.

16. *Prion turtur* (Dove Prion)—A bird which I attributed to this species was found dead on the beach at Robe.

17. *Hydrochelidon leucopurcia fluvialis* (Marsh Tern)—A few pairs seen on a swamp near Kingston.

18. *Hydroprogne tschegrava strenua* (Caspian Tern)—Common at the mouth of the Glenelg River and on a swamp near the sea at Robe.

19. *Thalassens bergii poliocercus* (Crested Tern)—A few birds seen at Glenelg River and Beachport. I was surprised at this bird being uncommon, for they nest in thousands on the Banden Rocks near Robe.

20. *Sternula nereis* (Little Tern)—Common at Beachport, where they were nesting on a small island near the coast. They were bringing small fish for their young from Lake George about a mile away. They were seen as far inland as Millicent following the plough or harrow. Also seen on the swamps at Narracoorte.

21. *Bruchigaria norachollandiae* (Silver Gull)—Common all along the coast. They appeared to be nesting on the island above mentioned near Beachport, but the weather was too rough to land upon it.

22. *Haematopus ostralegus longirostris* (Pied Oyster Catcher)—A pair was found breeding on a sandspit at the mouth of the Glenelg River. No others were seen.

23. *Haematopus niger fuliginosus* (Black Oyster Catcher)—A pair seen at Beachport, and another at Robe. They behaved as though nesting.

24. *Lobibyx norachollandiae* (Spur-wing Plover)—Seen in pairs at Beachport, Robe, and Kingston.

25. *Zonifer tricolor* (Black-breasted Plover)—A few pairs seen near Beachport.

26. *Leucopolius ruficapillus* (Red-capped Dotterel)—Common everywhere on the sea beach. They were nesting freely on the sandy flats between the dunes. One pair at Beachport had two eggs on a rocky promontory some 20 feet above the water. A male collected at Robe measured in total length 16.25 c.m.; iris, dark brown; bill, black; legs and feet, black; inside of mouth, black. The stomach contained insect remains and sand.

27. *Charadrius cucullatus* (Hooded Dotterel)—Common in pairs on all the sea coasts. Two nests were found, one on October 9th at Beachport with three nearly fresh eggs, one on October 18th at Robe with three slightly incubated eggs. The male of this nest was shot, and measured total length, 22.75 c.m.; spread, 41 c.m.; iris, light brown; bare skin around eye, vermillion; bill, base, orange; tip, black; legs and feet, light salmon pink; tips of toes, black. The stomach contained tiny molluscs.

28. *Actitis hypoleucis auritis* (Common Sand Piper)—There were a few of these birds on the Glenelg River. They do not affect the mud flats, but seem to prefer settling on rocks or thick tree branches near the water. A male collected measured in total length, 20 c.m.; iris, dark brown; bill, olive brown; legs and feet, greenish yellow; inside of mouth, dark horn colour. The stomach contained small molluscs.

29. *Glottis nebularius* (Greenshank)—A few birds seen at Lake George, Beachport.

30. *Limnocinclus acuminatus* (Sharp Tailed Stint) - Large flocks were seen about the swamps and lakes near Beachport.

31. *Diclutias hardwickii* (Snipe)—Only seen once near Beachport. I was told that they are fairly numerous in some seasons.

32. *Rostratula australis* (Painted Snipe)—A Pair was put up from a shallow swamp near Robe.

33. *Threskiornis molucca stielipennis* (White Ibis)—Seen in fair numbers between Kingston and Narracoorte, and about Narracoorte, but not nearly so numerous as the next bird.

34. *Carphibis spinicollis* (Straw-necked Ibis)—These birds were especially numerous about Narracoorte. Many flocks were feeding by the roadside on the way to the caves. They are evidently well protected, for they take but little notice of passing traps and motor cars.

35. *Herodias alba sylvatophora* (White Egret)—Three birds were seen near the mouth of the Glenelg River, and a single bird on Lake George at Beachport.

36. *Notophox norae-hollandiae* (White-fronted Heron or Blue Crane)—Seen occasionally throughout the trip, but not numerous anywhere. A tame bird at Glenelg River was very fond of blowflies, of which it caught numbers about the back yard.

37. *Myola pacifica* (White-necked Heron)—Two birds were seen near Wolsley—not seen elsewhere.

38. *Demigretta sacra cooktowni* (Blue Reef Heron)—A pair had located itself on the rocks at Robe. Not seen elsewhere.

39. *Casarca tadornoides* (Mountain Duck)—Common on the swamps near Kingston, also seen at Narracoorte and between the two towns.

40. *Chenopsis atrata* (Black Swan)—Very numerous on Lake George near Beachport; also seen at Glenelg River and Kingston.

41. *Anas superciliosa rogersi* (Black Duck)—Seen at Glenelg River, Beachport, Robe, and in thousands near Kingston.

42. *Virago gibberifrons* (Grey Teal)—Always seen in company with the last, and in similar numbers.

43. *Malacorhynchus membranaceus* (Pink-eared Duck)—A few birds seen at Glenelg River, not seen elsewhere.

44. *Biziura lobata* (Musk Duck)—Seen in pairs at Glenelg River, Beachport, and Robe.

45. *Phalacrocorax carbo novaezelandiae* (Great Black Cormorant)—Only once seen on the Valley Lake at Mount Gambier.

46. *Mesocorbo ater* (Little Black Cormorant)—Very common all along the coast. Also seen at Narracoorte.

47. *Hypoleucis varius hypoleucus* (Orange-faced Cormorant)—Common all along the coast. A bird shot at Glenelg River, measured: total length, 77 m.m.; spread, 120 m.m.; iris, greyish green. The stomach contained small mullet.

48. *Microcarbo melanoleucus* (Little Pied Cormorant)—Common all along the coast and on the Valley Lake at Mount Gambier. The Black-faced Pied Shag (*Hypoleucis fuscescens*) was not seen at all. I was surprised at this as I have always regarded it as the ocean cormorant, and is known to occur and breed off the S.E. coast.

49. *Catoptropelicanus conspicillatus* (Pelican)—A number seen on the shallow lagoons at the mouth of the Glenelg River.

50. *Circus approximans gouldi* (Swamp Hawk)—Very common. The swampy country and great cutting grass flats are peculiarly suited to its habits, and a pair or more were always to be seen hunting over the flats throughout the trip. At Beachport a bird was disturbed from a freshly killed rabbit. A nest with one fresh egg was found in some tall reeds on the Glenelg River: it was visited again but the birds had deserted it.

51. *Urospiza fasciata* (Goshawk)—Seen at Robe and at Kingston, where one was flushed from an inaccessible nest.

52. *Uroaetus audax* (Wedge-tailed Eagle)—Only one pair seen hovering over the mouth of the Glenelg River.

53. *Haliastur sphenurus* (Whistling Eagle)—One of these birds was flushed from its nest near Kingston. No others were seen.

54. *Ieracidea berigora* (Brown Hawk)—Seen at Robe, Beachport, and Kingston. Near Beachport a bird flew over us carrying a small snake in its talons. All were the dark form.

55. *Cerchneis cenchroides* (Kestrel) — Very common throughout the trip.

56. *Tyto alba delicatula* (Delicate Owl)—One was flushed from a bushy branch of a tea-tree near Beachport.

57. *Trichoglossus norachollandiae* (Blue Mountain Parrot)—Breeding in numbers on a gum flat near Kingston; not seen elsewhere. A female collected measured in total length, 30.5 c.m. Iris, red with black rim to pupil; bill, vermilion; tip, yellow; inside of mouth, yellow; legs and feet, dark grey.

58. *Glossopsitta concinna* (Musk Lorikeet)—Seen in numbers in company with the last bird, and apparently breeding. A female had the iris brownish yellow with black rim to pupils; bill, black at the base, tip yellow; legs and feet, grey; inside of mouth, dark horn colour. The stomach contained particles of gum blossom.

59. *Calyptorhynchus funereus* (Black Cockatoo)—Still common in the stringy bark country. Seen in flocks up to eight in number. They come into the town at Narracoorte every day apparently to feed on the pine seeds.

60. *Platyercus eximius* (Rosella Parrot)—Common in red gum country at every place we visited, and seen as far west as Tintinara on the Melbourne railway line. A nest with seven fresh eggs was found near Kingston on October 28th. A female shot near Kingston measured in total length 31.5 c.m. Iris, dark brown; bill, light horn colour; legs and feet, dull black; inside of mouth, light horn colour. The stomach and crop contained small seeds.

61. *Platyercus elegans* (Crimson Parrot)—Seen only at Glenelg River in fair numbers, but very shy. They are said to extend over the border, but we did not see them.

62. *Psephotus haematonotus* (Red-rumped Grass Parrot)—Common at Beachport in the timbered country; also seen at Robe and near Kingston.

63. *Neonanodes chrysogaster* (Orange-bellied Grass Parrot)—A flock was always to be seen near the township at Beachport, and odd birds were seen in the sandhills. They were also seen on several occasions near Robe, always close to the coast. A male collected at Beachport measured in total length 22.5 c.m. Iris, light brown; bill, upper mandible, dark horn; lower, light horn; legs and feet, greyish brown; inside of mouth, creamy yellow. Stomach contents, small seeds. It showed no signs of breeding. I was told that at Beachport they nest upon the ground. This bird has not been seen in South Australia since Mr. Ashby collected a specimen at the Grange in 1885.

64. *Pezoporus terrestris* (Swamp Parrot)—I heard that a few of these birds were still to be found upon the flats at the

mouth of the Glenelg River, and after two afternoon's tramping we managed to put one up. This was the only one seen.

65. *Aegotheles cristata* (Owlet Nightjar)—A single bird flushed from a hollow near Beachport.

66. *Alegone azurea victoriae* (Azure Kingfisher)—Fairly common on the Glenelg River. A male measured in total length 18 c.m. Iris, black; bill, black; point, horn colour; legs and feet, vermilion; inside of mouth, orange red. Stomach contents, a few small fish scales.

67. *Dacelo gigas* (Laughing Jack)—Common throughout the trip.

68. *Heteroscenes pallidus* (Pallid Cuckoo)—Heard only at Glenelg River. None was seen.

69. *Cucumantis rubricatus* (Fantailed Cuckoo)—Fairly common. Seen or heard calling at every place we visited. A male collected at Beachport measured in total length 27.75 c.m. Iris, brown; bare skin around eye, bright yellow; bill, black; feet, light brown; soles, yellow; inside of mouth, orange; stomach contents, hairy caterpillars.

70. *Acocalcites nasalis mellori* (Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo)—Heard occasionally throughout the trip, but nowhere common.

71. *Lamprocoeryx plagosus* (Broad-billed Bronze Cuckoo)—Seen at Glenelg River, and an egg taken from the nest of a yellow-rumped tree tit at Narracoorte on October 31st.

72. *Hirundo neorena* (Welcome Swallow) — Common throughout the trip. Breeding in the sea cliffs at Robe.

73. *Hylodichthys nigricans* (Tree Swallow) — Common throughout the trip. They appeared to be breeding in holes in the cliffs at Robe.

74. *Microeca fascians* (Brown Flycatcher)—A pair seen near Beachport, and another at Narracoorte. No others were seen.

75. *Petroica multicolor frontalis* (Scarlet-breasted Robin) —Seen everywhere where there was timbered country. A nest which the young had just left and another building were found at Glenelg River.

76. *Melanodryas cucullata rigorsi* (Hooded Robin)—Seen at Glenelg River, Beachport, and Narracoorte; not common.

77. *Pachycephala pectoralis* (Yellow-breasted Thickhead) —Seen at Glenelg River in the tea-tree, and at Beachport in the stringy bark. A female collected at Beachport measured in total length 17.5 c.m.; iris, brown; bill, dark horn colour;

legs and feet, dark grey; inside of mouth, whitish; stomach contents, insect remains.

78. *Lewinornis rufiventris* (Rufous-breasted Thickhead)—Seen only once in stringy bark country at Narracoorte.

79. *Eopsaltria australis viridior* (Yellow-breasted Shrike Robin)—Seen only at Glenelg River, where they were common in the tea-tree. A male collected measured in total length 17.25 c.m. Iris, dark brown; bill, black; legs and feet, black; inside of bill, black; palate, flesh colour.

80. *Rhipidura flabellifera victoriae* (White-shafted Fantail)—A very common bird, in all classes of timber, at all the places we visited. A pair was seen building a nest near Robe on October 26th, and another pair feeding half grown young on the same day.

81. *Leucocirca tricolor* (Black and White Flycatcher or Wagtail)—Very common in all classes of country and breeding freely.

82. *Scizura inquieta* (Restless Flycatcher)—Only a single individual seen in the main street of Kingston.

83. *Coracina novae-hollandiae melanops* (Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike)—Seen in pairs occasionally in big timbered country throughout the trip. A nest found at Beachport on October 10th was in a stringy bark about 20 feet from the ground, and contained three fresh eggs.

84. *Pomatostomus temporalis* (Babbler)—Common at Beachport, Robe and Kingston. Their great stick nests were more often seen than the birds. They were breeding, and were feeding nearly full grown young. I saw nests near Narracoorte which I attributed to these birds, but did not see the birds themselves. Kingston must be near the Western limit of the range of this bird, though Mr. J. W. Mellor found them on the Coorong some years ago; Captain White saw nothing of them on a recent visit to that locality. A female collected near Beachport measured in total length 27.5 c.m. Iris, dark brown; bill, black; base of lower mandible, white; legs and feet, black; inside of mouth, black; palate, flesh colour. Stomach contents, insect remains. A male collected near Kingston measured 29.25 c.m.; iris, dark brown; bill, black, with white line down the culmen and under the lower mandible; inside of mouth, yellowish; stomach contents, remains of small beetles.

85. *Calamanthus fuliginosus albiloris* (White-lored Field Wren)—This bird was seen occasionally at Glenelg River, Beachport, Robe, and Kingston. They were exceedingly shy,

and I failed to secure a specimen, so I am not sure of the species. They are beautiful songsters.

86. *Cinlochampus cruralis cantatoris* (Black-breasted Song-Lark)—Common in all the open country throughout the trip.

87. *Epthianura albifrons* (White-fronted Tin-tac)—Common around all the marshy and cultivated country.

88. *Poodytes gramineus* (Little Grass Bird)—Heard singing once on a small swamp near Robe. I also saw the eggs in a boy's collection.

89. *Acanthiza pusilla* (Little Tree Tit)—This is one of the commonest birds in the district. They were seen and heard in all classes of country, but were most numerous in the thick scrub of the sand hills. Two nests found near Robe on October 25th and 26th; each contained young birds. A male taken at Glenelg River on October 4th had the iris bright brownish red; legs and feet, brown; soles, yellow; inside of mouth, black.

90. *Acanthiza lineata* (Striped Tree Tit)—Seen at Beachport and Narracoorte in the stringy bark country. Not common. A female shot from the nest on October 15th, near Beachport, measured in total length, 9.25 c.m.; iris, light brown; bill, dark horn colour; legs and feet, brown; inside of mouth, horn colour. The nest was built in a banksia tree about 15 feet up. It was composed of fine strips of stringy bark, outwardly decorated with green silky material, and a few white spiders' cocoons, and lined with feathers and a few pieces of rabbit fur.

91. *Geobasiliscus chrysorrhous* (Yellow-rumped Tree-tit or Tom-tit)—Common in all classes of country. Many nests seen mostly built in bushy overhanging branches of tea-trees.

92. *Sericornis* sp.—Two Specimens of Scrub Wren were secured, one at Glenelg River, and another at Robe, but I have not yet been able to determine to which species they belong. The birds are common both in the tea-tree about the swamps and in the sand hills.

93. *Malurus cyaneus* (Blue Wren)—Common everywhere. They had only just started to breed.

94. *Stipiturus malachurus tregellesi* (Emu Wren)—Common on the marsh flats at the mouth of the Glenelg River. They are said to occur also at Robe, but we failed to find them there. A male collected measured in total length 16.5 c.m.; iris, light brown; bill, black; legs and feet, brown; stomach contents, small beetles

95. *Maccojornis broadbenti* (Bristle Bird)—These birds are very common in the sandhill country from Glenelg River to Kingston. The bird on the Coorong collected by Capt. White is much lighter in colour, and has rightly been described as a new sub-species. Although the birds are so common they are very rarely seen. My wife and I have stood still in the scrub and had birds calling all round us sometimes within a few feet, and yet not been able to get a sight of them. As for collecting specimens we tried every day for a week at Beachport without securing a single bird or even a shot at one. We were too early for nests. Several last year's ones were found in the Robe district, but it was not until October 24th that we found a nest building near Robe, and we did not see the eggs at all. Two specimens were collected, both females. The first from Glenelg River measured in total length 27.5 c.m.; iris, bright brown red; bill, horn colour, upper mandible darker; legs and feet, dark brown; inside of mouth, dark horn colour. The second at Beachport on October 20th measured 25.5 c.m. in total length. The upper mandible of the bill was almost black, and the feet were darker brown than the legs. The stomach contained insect remains, and many had round seeds of a small red fruit.

96. *Campbellornis personatus* (Masked Wood Swallow)—A single individual was seen several times near Beachport and was shot. It measured in total length 19.5 c.m.; iris, dark brown; bill, blue; tip, black; legs and feet, mealy black; inside of mouth, black; stomach contents, small beetles; sex, ♀.

97. *Pseudartamus cyanopterus* (Dusky Wood Swallow)—Common throughout the trip. They had just begun building.

98. *Colluricincla harmonica victoriae* (Grey Shrike-Thrush)—Seen and heard in all classes of country throughout the trip. A nest found on October 18th near Robe containing three fresh eggs was built of bark and sword grass and lined with fine strips of the same material, with an inner lining of fine rootlets. Height over all, 10 c.m.; width over all, 10 c.m.; cavity, 9.5 x 8 c.m.; depth of cavity, 6.5 c.m.

99. *Grallina cyanoleuca* (Magpie Lark)—Common wherever there was water. Breeding.

100. *Gymnorhina hypoleuca leucanota* (White-backed Magpie)—Common everywhere. Breeding. Most of the pairs had well grown young.

101. *Bulweria torquatus* (Butcher Bird)—Seen at all the places visited, but not numerous anywhere. Two nests

found, one at Glenelg River with one egg on October 4th, and one at Robe on October 23rd with two eggs.

102. *Climacteris leucophaea* (White-throated Tree-creeper)—Seen only at Narracoorte, where they were common in the stringy bark country.

103. *Zosterops lateralis westermensis* (Silver-eye)—Very common in the sandhills all along the coast.

104. *Austrodicacum hirundinaceum* (Mistletoe Bird)—Seen only at Narracoorte in red gum country. This was the only place in which we saw many mistletoes.

105. *Pardalotinus striatus* (Striped Diamond Bird)—Fairly common in red gum country near Kingston. We did not see or hear a Diamond Bird of any kind at any other place. A male collected measured in total length, 10.75 c.m.; iris, light brown; bill, black; legs and feet, grey brown; inside of mouth, white; stomach contents, insect remains. Breeding. This bird had a very dark red wing spot.

106. *Meliphaga atricapillus submaguirostris* (Brown-headed Honey-eater)—A flock of about ten birds seen near Narracoorte; not met with elsewhere.

107. *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris* (Spine Bill)—Seen only once on the edge of a swamp near Beachport.

108. *Gliciphila melanops chandleri* (Fulvous-fronted Honey-eater)—Very common in some grass tree country near Kingston. They were feeding on the flowering spikes. A female collected measured in total length, 16 c.m.; iris, dark brown; bill, black; legs and feet, leaden colour; inside of mouth, black; stomach contents, insect remains.

109. *Meliphaga sonora* (Singing Honey-eater)—Very common in the sandhill scrub all along the coast. They were breeding. A female collected measured 19.5 c.m. in total length; iris, dark brown; legs and feet, leaden grey; inside of mouth, yellow; stomach contents, many small beetles and some green vegetable matter.

110. *Ptilotula penicillata* (White-plumed Honey-eater or Greenie)—Pair seen at Mount Gambier, and a single bird at Narracoorte. It appears to be an uncommon bird in the district.

111. *Meliornis norachollandiae subassimilis* (White-bearded Honey-eater)—Common in tea-tree and banksia country; also fairly common in the sandhill scrub.

112. *Myzantha melanocephala whitei*.—Fairly Common in the red gum country a little distance from the coast. Not seen within four miles of the sea. A female collected near

Beachport measured in total length 28 c.m.; iris, light brown; bill, yellow; bare skin behind eye, bright yellow; ring round eye, black; legs and feet, dull yellow; inside of mouth, yellow; stomach contents, insect remains and nectar. A nest ready for eggs taken on October 15th was built in a stringy bark tree, of small twigs lined with grass, with an inner lining of sheep's wool. Height over all, 6 c.m.; width over all, 20 c.m., cavity, circular, 9 c.m. in diameter, and 4.5 c.m. deep.

113. *Colcia carunculata tregellasi* (Red Wattle Bird)—Very common in mallee and small gum country near the coast, much less numerous inland. They mostly had young in the nest or heavily incubated eggs. A male collected at Robe measured in total length 35 c.m.; iris, light brown; bill, black; legs and feet, light brown; soles of feet, yellowish; wattles, red; inside of mouth, yellow; stomach contents, small red berries, and the hard round seeds of the same.

114. *Anthochaera chrysoptera intermedia* (Brush Wattle Bird)—These birds were in thousands in the sandhill scrub, especially where there was any mallee. Hundreds of their nests were seen most of which the young had just left, but many contained eggs or young birds. A nest taken on October 22nd measured height over all, 8 c.m.; width, 11 c.m.; cavity, 8.5 x 6.5 c.m.; depth, 4 c.m. It was built of small fine twigs lined with coarse bark, with an inner lining of shredded bark, rabbit fur and feathers. A female collected on October 23rd measured in total length 28 c.m.; iris, brownish grey; bill, black; point, horn colour; legs and feet, dark greyish brown; inside of mouth, yellow; stomach contents, seeds of the small red berry mentioned above.

115. *Acanthopygus rufigularis cygnus* (Spiny-checked Honey-eater)—Very common in the sandhill scrub, but did not extend far inland. Several nests were found each containing two incubated eggs. A nest taken on October 20th was placed in a small tea-tree about four feet from the ground. It was constructed of green grass, and lined with clematis, capeweed down, and horse hair. Height, 6.5 c.m.; cavity, 9 x 7 c.m.; depth, 6 c.m. A female collected on October 23rd measured 26.5 c.m. in total length. Iris, bluish white; bill, flesh pink; tip, black; legs and feet, slate colour; inside of mouth, yellow; stomach contents, small red berries.

116. *Anthus australis* (Ground Lark)—Seen occasionally throughout the trip where there was cleared land. Not common.

117. *Stagonopleura guttata philordi* (Spotted-sided Finch)
—A single bird seen at Narracoorte.

118. *Zonacanthus bellus* (Fire-tailed Finch)—Seen at Beachport and at Robe, where they were fairly common in the teatree around the small lakes, and where they were breeding. They were very shy. A nest taken on October 24th was built in a tea-tree about four feet from the ground of fresh grass and fine tea tree twigs, and was lined with clematis down and rabbit fur. Height, 17 c.m.; length, 22 c.m.; length of cavity, 13 c.m. It contained seven fresh eggs. A female collected at Robe on October 22nd had the iris, dark brown; ring round eye, light blue; bill, red, white at base; legs and feet, yellowish brown, feet darker; inside of mouth, red.

119. *Aegintha temporalis* (Red-browed Finch)—Common at Glenelg River and at Mount Gambier about the Valley Lake where a pair was seen building a nest. Not seen elsewhere.

120. *Corvus coronoides* (Crow)—Seen occasionally throughout the trip. Not common anywhere.

121. *Strepera versicolor* (?) (Bell Magpie)—A bird of this genus was seen at Beachport and at Robe, but they were very shy, and I could not get a specimen. It appeared to be the above species.

122. *Corcorax melanorhamphus* (Chough)—A pair had a nest in a red gum near Kingston. No others were seen.

The eggs of the Collared Sparrow Hawk and of a *Podargus* were seen in a boy's collection, but the birds themselves were not seen.

In the Pine and Mallee.

By J. W. Mellor, R.A.O.U.

Part I.

In October last it was my good fortune to be able to pay a somewhat hasty visit to the pine and mallee country in the Hundred of Bookpurnong, S.A., the immediate locality examined being situated east of Loxton, and near the Victorian border.

Leaving Adelaide on the 9th it took the full day by train to travel by way of Murray Bridge and Tailem Bend, thence along the Paringa line. Night was just closing in when the train pulled up at the little siding of Pungonda, and I was dumped down in the wilderness. My first anxiety was finding

a suitable place to camp, this being extremely difficult in a new country, darkness having set in. However, I was fortunate in finding a friend in need, in the person of two out back farmers' sons, Mr. J. A. Forby and a friend, who came to meet the train for mails, etc., and with their assistance I removed my tent and camping kit about half a mile distant to a secluded clump of the so called Murray Pines (*Calitris*), Having temporarily pitched my tent, I was glad of some rest after the long day's journey, and even the hard ground did not banish Nature's sweet restorer "balmy sleep". Next day I was up betimes, and straightened up camp a little before getting out into the surrounding country, which is chiefly of a chocolate sandy clay nature, carrying large mallee and numbers of fine Murray pines. These trees attain a large size, and when growing in patches give to the more open country a park-like appearance. In these quite a number of birds make their abode, the first to catch my eye was the southern singing honey-eater, while the yellow-throated Miner made the locality resound with its loud and continued calls. The chestnut-crowned babbler was also quite numerous, and it was interesting to watch the antics of these birds as they hopped and flew about in "follow the leader" fashion from tree to tree, threading their way through innumerable bushes and fallen pines en route, all the time uttering their sharp whistling calls, and bobbing their tails up and down as if worked on springs. They are extremely animated birds, and in these parts quite take the place of the white-browed species, which was rarely seen. The Pink Cockatoo also known as Major Mitchell was quite a common bird in the open country, and was breeding in the large mallee. The Rose-breasted Cockatoo or Galah was by no means rare, and doubtless was also breeding, although no nests were found. These two birds fly about in company, and feed together on the grassy flats where seeds are plentiful, and make a pretty sight as they rise and fly into the dark foliaged pines, the delicate pink of the Major Mitchell with its beautiful crest erected being very conspicuous. Shell parrots were about on the open grass land in large flocks, and ever and anon a cloud of them would pass swiftly by, uttering their small rattling notes, and alighting on a dead pine, the tree would instantly be transformed into a living green, with the green "leaves" swaying in the breeze. Then suddenly the tree

would be quite dead again, as the birds moved off, and alighted on the ground to feed. Cockatoo parrots were about in pairs, and looked very pretty as they darted above the trees. The Blue Bonnet Parrot in its dull olive green garb relieved by yellow and crimson beneath, and by blue face and cap was less conspicuous, and generally seen feeding in pairs. When feeding in the half dry grass it was difficult to detect, the upper coloration harmonizing so well with the surroundings.

Several trips were made to the Victorian border, where the assistance of the Messrs John and Edward Forby, and Mr. and Mrs. Forby, Seur., was most acceptable in finding out fresh fields for inspection. It was here that the beautiful little Black-backed Wren first came into prominence, as it darted through the undergrowth at the edge of the pine and mallee. The males were extremely shy, and darted off like flashes of light, leaving their sombre coloured mates to investigate the "new comer", the male seeming to know that his bright uniform made him a mark far too conspicuous to be examined closely. Gilbert's Thickhead was also in evidence here, and its ventriloquial calls were heard on every side as the birds moved from place to place, not staying in the same situation long, but moving about continually, and making it difficult to get close to them for examination. On one of my twenty mile walks to the Victorian border and back, I came upon an unusual sight in a small dry bush about five feet high. Four fully grown young Butcher Birds were being fed by their parents upon various tit bits of insects, etc., while in the same bush were three young Lanceolate Honey-eaters, also being fed by the old birds, and all agreeing. For some time I stood watching them, as the parent birds came to and fro, and no quarrelling took place. It was here that I was fortunate to come across a pair of the White-browed Tree-creepers; they seemed to be very quiet birds, and struck me as being in marked contrast with the Brown Tree-creepers, which were quite numerous in the mallee, where they were found nesting. The latter are extremely noisy, and continually making their loud pink-pink-pink and other calls. Upon examination the white-browed species proved to be so very different from the Central Australian form collected by Mr. G. A. Kearsland on the Horn's Expedition, that I have decided to describe it at length in this issue as a sub-species under the scientific designation of *Climacteris erythropus parsonsi* in honour of my friend, Mr. Frank E. Parsons, of Adelaide.

Vernacularly I propose to designate it the Southern White-browed Tree-creeper. Time and space will not permit of a minute description of all the birds seen, as no fewer than 76 species were identified during my short seven days' stay in camp, which was by no means a bad record in addition to the hundred and one things that claim one's attention in connection with camp life. The end of the week came all too soon, and I packed up and caught the early train on the morning of the 17th, arriving in Adelaide after the usual long tedious day's journey in a slow train.

Renaming Australian Birds.

To the Editors, "The S.A. Ornithologist",
Sirs,

The Hon. Secretary of the S.A. Ornithological Association was good enough to hand to Capt. S. A. White a copy of my address on Nomenclature, apparently for "review" in this journal. (See *ante* p. 232).

A review is a summary of what an article, book, etc., contains. There is a difference between a review and a critique, and Capt. White has criticised my address somewhat biassedly, therefore please permit me a brief rejoinder.

In the first place, I absolutely refrain from personal matters, therefore I pass over Capt. White's reference to the writer's "very conservative views", and the beginning of his critique, and near the end of it, his reference apparently to a connection of his—"a great field ornithologist", whom Gould was supposed to have treated shabbily.

1. Capt. White declares that nomenclature *is* a science, thus staking his opinion against standard dictionaries. "Chambers's Encyclopaedia", for instance, furnishes a complete list of 39 concrete and abstract sciences, but does *not* include nomenclature.

2. The Army, Navy, and Civil Service promotions have nothing to do with ornithology. No, but they have to nomenclature, by analogy, *i.e.*, by the selection of the most fit person (not necessarily prior or senior), or name, in the case of nomenclature.

3. Capt. White contends that Gould was a strict priorist—a helpful statement in favour of, and not against, using his nomenclature which was up to date, and a good starting point for some Australian names—those that are ornithologically correct.

4. "No progressive ornithologist works on Gould now—his work is obsolete", says the Captain. Hear what Professor Macgillivray states:—"Mr. Gould has produced a series of magnificent works, without rival in the Cabinets of Science.

In taking a review of Mr. Gould's labours we can not fail to be impressed with the benefits conferred by them on Ornithological Science."

5. I do admit in my book, "Nests and Eggs", that Gould's classification is somewhat obsolete—a statement strictly accurate. Capt. White confuses systematic classification with nomenclature. The first is science, the other not.

6. As to the question "Who made the rules?" of Zoological Nomenclature, Capt. White would be "much surprised" if any Australian were deemed worthy to sit on the National Committee—a severe reflection on the biological professors of our respective universities. The committee is composed of zoologists in general, and not ornithologists in particular.

7. If *The Emu* were "to popularize the study of native birds", at the expense of scientific matter, that would be one sided. Capt. White wobbles here. If he reads my address again (I seriously recommend him to do so), he will see I said "one of the two principal planks of our Union is to popularize, etc." (Page 4).

8. Capt. White endeavours to make capital out of what *The Auk* and *The Ibis* have stated concerning the R.A.O.U. Official "Check List of the Birds of Australia." These learned journals forgot, surely, that it was an Australian list they were judging and not one solely for *savants* of the old world. Moreover, they showed careless criticism when they referred to "lack of" or "that no synonymy" was given. The "Check List" contains references which lead up to all the literature available, besides what is perhaps more practical, a reference is furnished of a life-coloured plate for almost every species named.

9. Capt. White states that "The International Committee of Zoological Nomenclature is steadily confirming and rejecting names." How does he know that, if he does not possess a copy of the rules, or follows them without question? He refers to two conferences—1892 and 1901. These were held respectively at Moscow and Berlin, two cities which have eternally disgraced science. Fortunately Australia was not represented at either.

10. And, in conclusion. All ornithologists in South Australia are not of Capt. White's opinion, as the following extract of a letter received by me shows:—"It was with much

pleasure that I received a copy of your address on 'Renaming Australian Birds'. I quite think, with you, that Mr. So-and-So is pushing the priority rule to an extent that is causing confusion in the nomenclature of our birds, and I imagine that the makers of the rule never contemplated that it would be pushed to such extremes." That, sirs, is the sum and substance of the whole matter. "*The makers of the rule (The Law of Priority), never contemplated that it would be pushed to such extremes.*" Therefore, before our next "Check List" is completed let us seek an amelioration of that overbearing and mischievous rule.

I am, etc.,

A. J. CAMPBELL.

Surrey Hills, Victoria, 28th November, 1918.

Kingfisher Encounters a Snake.

A remarkable encounter between a Sacred Kingfisher (*Haleyon sanctus*), and a large brown snake was witnessed by Mr. W. J. Dixon, of Fulham, S.A., recently, near his house on the bank of the River Torrens. The bird had made its nest in the usual burrow-like hole in the bank of the stream, some distance from the water below, and the snake wishing to get at it glided stealthily up the bank, all the time closely watched by the agitated bird, which allowed the reptile to get to a place in the bank that was steeper than elsewhere, when it darted with arrow-like swiftness, and a well-directed blow from the long pointed bill on the reptile's head sent it rolling down the bank into the water. Nothing daunted, and, like the spider and the monarch of old, the snake after a brief interval was induced to 'try again', and up the bank it glided, but at the same steep part, the kingfisher darted at its adversary's head again, and it rolled down into the water once more, to repeat the performance yet a third time with exactly the same result. Then the snake gave it up, glided away into some thick bushes and disappeared, and the little bird was left monarch of all he surveyed, and its nest was unmolested. The instinct of the kingfisher in attacking its adversary each time at the one place where the steepness gave the little bird an advantage that it could never have gained at any other spot on the bank was remarkable, and is another instance of the almost human thinking power of our feathered friends.

"Mellor Park",

Lockleys, S.A.

JOHN W. MELLOR,

10/11/18.

About Members.

All will be pleased to know that Mr. Edwin Ashby has returned safely home from America, but sympathize with him in the illness of his son (Dr. Ashby).

Dr. A. M. Morgan spent a month in the South East, and did some excellent work amongst the birds in an almost unworked district. A paper by the Doctor appears in this number.

Mr. Frank Parsons has been on an ornithological trip up the Murray River, and we are looking forward to the results of the trip later.

Mr. J. W. Mellor took a trip east of the Murray in the mallee and pine country, and the first part of a paper upon his work appears in this number.

The President motored to Robe, and all through the district, but failed to see *Neonanodes chrysogaster*, and supposes they must have left the district since Dr. Morgan met with them.

A Sketch of the Life of Samuel White Ornithologist, Soldier, Sailor, and Explorer.

By His Son, S. A. White, C.M.B.O.C.

XIX. THE ORNITHOLOGIST AND SAILOR.

There were few of the Aru women seen, and it is my impression that they are not allowed to speak to strangers, and this also applies to the girls. Whenever I came suddenly upon a home where there was a woman at work, she would drop whatever she had in her hand and rush up into the house. If I met one in any of the little tracks through the bush she would run and hide. I always passed on without taking the slightest notice, but I think this shyness soon wears off. I had a better opportunity of seeing some of the little children, for I made it a practice to give them beads and other presents when I saw them, then the fathers and friends of others would bring them for me to look at, but the poor little things were as much terrified as if they had been taken to see a wild beast. Both men and women adorn themselves with beads and other ornaments of brass, pearl, tortoise shell, finger rings, earrings, and necklaces; the beads in greatest demand among them are mixed white and coral red. The Aru people are very fond of keeping pets of all kinds. Dogs, cuscus and birds, as well as fowls,

cockatoos and parrots of the most brilliant plumage, and every conceivable hue were brought to me, generally tied by the leg to a piece of bamboo bent into the shape of a triangle, and it is surprising how tame they appear. This is no doubt due to the training they get. The natives are continually mauling every thing they have, either dead or alive, and are often very cruel to them; indeed they have neither thought nor feeling for them. Poor wounded birds are tied by the legs to a stick and kept hanging and fluttering till the leg mortifies, or they die of starvation. The dogs they have about them are diminutive, ill looking, half-starved mangy curs, and can be useful for nothing but making a noise. The brutes are a pest and source of constant anxiety. When I camp near a village, they prowl about all night, and if anything is left within their reach they are sure to carry it off. I know not what religious views the Aru people possess, or if they have any. All the natives have canoes, and the larger prau is plentiful, the former being a mere "dug-out", made out of a solid log hollowed out in the centre, and they are from 18 to 30 feet long, by 12 to 18 inches wide, well-formed, sharp at both ends, and have a good shear. Some have a couple of cross beams projecting over each side 4 to 5 feet, and have a piece of bamboo or cocoonut fastened fore and aft, with rattan to form an outrigger, and give the craft more stability. These boats will hold 3 or 4 or even 6 to 8 men who propel them with short spade-like paddles at a good pace. The larger vessels are much better craft, they are regularly and ingeniously built on a keel, which does not add much to the draft of the craft. Every plank is hewn out of a solid log, and cleats are left every two feet in the solid wood; these cleats when the planks are in their places, come opposite to each other, and form rows from keel to gunwale. These, after they have been boarded vertically, are fitted with bent pieces of wood made to fit and touch every cleat, and are laced down to them with rattan, these form the timbers of the ship, and the planks are hewn to an inch or an inch and a half in thickness with the cleats about two or three inches deep. The scarfs are generally curved, and about a foot long, the plank being laced to the keel, the latter in some instances being continued at one end to 8 or 10 feet above the craft, and ornamented at the top. The planks are bevelled one edge to the other as well as being laced, and the whole is made tight by caulking with cocoonut fibre. These boats usually have a deck of split bamboo lashed down with rattan, and a small neat house built on

this, into which the crew can creep. It is propelled with short broad paddles, or a large mat sail made of pandanus leaves sewn together, and hoisted on a bamboo yard to a triangle or tripod mast, and lashed down to the craft. Of course these boats can only sail before the wind, and they are going continually from the Blackangtanna to Dobo with articles they have for barter. The trade of the Aru people must be very limited, for there was nothing that I could see that is worth trading for.

The Paradise plumes appear to be the chief thing they sell, and they fetch 20/ each; very few pearlshell, and still fewer pearls are found. I had a few pearl shells offered me, by some of the boats which were passing on their way to Dobo, and the price asked for small shells was five rupees a pair. The pearls offered me were very small, and a few edible birds nests and some sugar cane seemed to be all the Arue people could trade in except it be a little "Trepang" which I should judge as very poor quality, it being a very different article from that which I have been used to seeing in the straits. The edible birds nests seemed to be valued at about threepence to sixpence each. Every kind of fruit and vegetable was very scarce and dear.

Minerals in the Aru Islands are wanting. I did not see or hear of any. The whole of the country seems to be of a limestone formation.

MAMMALS.

The Mammals of the Aru Islands are not so numerous in species or specimens as in most parts of Australia, nevertheless small mammals such as rats of various kinds are by no means scarce in many districts. They frequently annoyed us, by destroying our food and specimens. The largest of the animals which came under notice while I was camping on the islands was the pig, and I found that in his wild state he was a lanky ungainly looking beast (the Malay name for this animal is "*Babi*"). The only species representing the kangaroo on the island is a wallaby of moderate size, and a distinct species. The greatest distinguishing mark being a broad white bar on the thigh. It is very like some of our scrub wallaby. The natives at times catch these animals in snares, and I have had them brought to me tied by the legs till the limbs are swollen and numb, or coiled up in a basket where they must have been confined for days or weeks, so that in either case the unfortunate animals could not walk, and never lived more than twenty-four hours after being liberated. The next in size to the wallaby is the cuscus, a tropical opossum of large size, and with a tail which is prehensile and bare of hair for half its length. This

animal lives amidst the foliage of the trees, and feeds upon the young leaves and shoots in a similar manner to some of the Australian opossums, but the cuscus differs from the opossum of Australia in colour, and its fur is very thick and woolly, and often of a dirty, creamy white. The ears are very short, and the skin about the face, especially about the eyes and nose, is a bright, pinkish flesh colour and gives a decided character to its appearance. The texture of the skin of the cuscus is very different from that of the Australian opossum; the skin of the latter is tough and capable of making good thin leather, but the skin of the cuscus is so tender that it will not bear its own weight while skinning, and the greatest care must be observed to get it off the animal whole. When the cuscus is brought in by the natives it is never perfect. If in a dead state it is sure to have been struck with something to kill it, which always breaks the skin, if alive it is sure to be bound with rattan, which cuts the skin about the legs or other parts, and even when brought in baskets the creature's struggles damage it very much. The carcase is usually very fat, the flesh white, and much esteemed by the natives. Three colours are represented in my collection. A middle-sized one with light grey upper surface and a large one of a dirty creamy white, and a small animal whose fur is creamy white with large and irregular blotches of black. I procured about eight other species of small mammals, such as rats, some of these being large, some small, some had coarse hair, others fine fur, some were water rats, some lived in the scrub amongst the fallen timber and rocks, whilst others took up their abode with the natives in their houses. One animal was very like our bandicoot, but was very small and had a very long nose and short tail, another was closely allied to the squirrel, having a long bushy tail, and it was of a dark brown colour. From the number of species and specimens I procured during my short stay, I should think that the rodents and small mammals were fairly represented in the Arus. The bats are very numerous, some subsist on fruit and vegetables, others feed on insects like small bats. One noisy fellow is as large as a small dog, with a long snout like a hound, pleasant looking eyes, short-pricked ears and wings, which measure considerably over four feet across. Then there are others whose bodies are not bigger around than one's finger. I procured five or six species while hunting in the Arus, the larger ones were shot like birds with the shot gun, but the small ones were captured in fly nets like night moths.

THE BIRDS OF THE ARUS.


The birds of the Arus are plentiful in some districts, yet there are places where a collector would fail to find two or three species. Owing to the short duration of my visit, it may be I am not competent to judge of the number of species. I recorded over two hundred species, and saw and heard others. I did not procure all the species to be found in the island, and nearly all the birds are to be found either in Australia or New Guinea, yet there are some species confined to the island and found nowhere else, the chief of which being "the Great Bird of Paradise" (*Paradisca apoda*), and called by the natives "Burong Matti." This magnificent creature is not found in any other part of the world other than the country of the Aru group. It measures 18 or 19 inches from the bill to the end of the tail, not including the wire feathers, which are 20 inches longer, these long wire-like tail feathers, and the side plumes adorn only the old male birds, the females and young of the first year or so are almost uniform chocolate brown, being a little darker on head and chest. It is stated that the birds must live ten years before they arrive at perfection, and this is not unreasonable when we know some of our birds in Australia require several years to perfect their plumage. I have observed that the common "Rosehill" parrot (*P. adelaidensis*) when kept in confinement will improve in depth and brightness of plumage for 7 or 8 years, and I am of the opinion that the lovely bird of Paradise may take quite as long or longer to come to maturity. I have been able to procure some good series of this bird. The first year or two of their lives there is little difference between the sexes without it be that the males are a little larger, then a light yellow tinge appears on the back of the neck, and the chest is darker brown, then the head becomes mottled with yellow, and a few green feathers appear on the chin, and the two central tail feathers lengthen out, but are mottled on both sides, after this the head becomes bright citron yellow, the chin and the throat are covered with short scaly features of emerald green, and of metallic brightness. Around the base of the bill is a ruff of hair, like feathers, of a deep green, the feathers stand out on end, and look like plush; the bill is of a light leaden blue, and the eyes have brightened to a deep citron yellow; the tail feathers now lengthen to a foot or eighteen inches, and the web disappears except at the end of an inch or so when they are half an inch broad; the next stage—the colours all brighten, the eyes become very bright and sharp like a hawks, the chest is deep purple brown, the

central tail feathers have grown to 24 inches or more, and are destitute of web with the exception of a little at the base; the bird is now perfect with the exception of the plumes, scarcely a sign of which can yet be seen. The plumes appear a few inches at first, and are of a brownish yellow colour, increasing in length, volume and brightness every year. When half grown they are pale yellow, but when full grown they are about 24 inches long and of the most intense orange yellow at the base, with a finer gloss than silk lustre and depth of colour gradually dying away towards the tip into a soft brown. These birds must be seen alive or freshly killed to realize their full beauty; in life they are most beautiful birds, and have made the heart of the Naturalist beat and bound when he had one of these glorious birds within his grasp for the first time. When the great Bird of Paradise is adult or nearly so, he ranks amongst the shyest birds in the world, he resorts to the highest trees in the scrub, and the cracking of the smallest stick under one's foot, or the sight of any moving object is sufficient to send him off. The easiest and best way to obtain these birds is to take advantage of some of its habits; one peculiar to the family is to repair in the forenoon to certain large trees, when they produce their loud call of "Cark" or "Wark" repeated several times, and with the old birds the voice is much more deep and sonorous than the females and young males. On the large horizontal branches of the large trees, the male birds dance and display their plumes, and it is now that the Naturalist can procure his specimens. I have called these birds into a tree under which I was standing by mimicking their voices; they have several calls besides the loud call "Wark" one a low soft note when feeding, and when caught or wounded give a call much like a domestic fowl when being caught. The natives ascend their dancing trees and conceal themselves in the lower branches to get at shorter range and shoot them with blunt or often pointed arrows. Just before evening a man brought me a fine bird, but with not much plume. It had been hit with a blunt arrow on the tip of the wing, which was dislocated. The man who had brought it told me he had a dead bird for me (Burrong Matti), all my senses told me this was not the case, for the bird was fighting, struggling, and squeaking vigorously, yet the fellow persisted in it being a dead bird, but are we not just as absurd, for the Naturalist has named it the legless bird of Paradise, which is not the case, for it possesses exceedingly strong and well developed legs and feet, quite as strong if not more so than our common crow, which fit it for a variety of


purposes, for I have seen it moving in the tree tops when feeding with the ease and activity of a *Ptilotis*, and at other times clutching a large branch, and throwing its heavy body and great plumes about with the greatest ease. Whether *Linne* when he named this bird really thought they existed without legs is a puzzle. The food of this bird seems to be entirely fruit, the stomachs of all those examined did not contain a single insect, but were crammed with fruit of several kinds, some were filled exclusively with wild nutmegs, and most of them contained the remains of this spice. When the bird had been feeding upon this fruit, the flesh of the bird smelt strongly of spice. The stomach of this bird is large and membranous, the carcase never fat, but very muscular, the bones compact and strong, the neck being long and the skin dry and very tough, adhering very closely to the body; about the throat the skin is thick, loose and lined with several layers of thin watery membrane, which gives that part a fluffy appearance. The side plumes, although voluminous spring from a patch of skin on each side of the breast, not larger than a half crown piece, the skin here is compact, hard, and firmly attached to the muscles of the breast, which tear away with the skin when skinning, if a knife be not used. What is most surprising in this bird is the hardness and toughness of its skin, while the flesh is decomposing. I have had birds brought to me that have been killed a week or more, the flesh being green, rotten, and stinking, maggots crawling from the eyes and mouth, but strange to say, with the exception of the thin membrane on the abdomen the skin was still tough, and the feathers firm. After a little washing, an operation these bird's feathers bear remarkably well, a good skin can be made. Any other bird under these conditions would have been minus its feathers before half finished. They are birds that will stand a lot of handling, for I have seen a native bring a bird for sale, and while coming to terms (it sometimes requires hours to complete a bargain), constantly rub the bird up and down, rub it on his arms and face, press it, pat it, stroke it, till I have been nearly crazy, and felt as if I would like to knock the fellow down and trample him underfoot. When the purchase has been completed I have had to take the bird and wash it with soap to remove the stains the beast had left on the delicate yellow plumage. The natives maul everything alike, and some of the small birds were spoilt, but they soon learnt to do better. Some small birds were brought to me in a filthy state, and I showed the fellow who brought them what he had done, and what he should do in future. I then threw the birds down, and

made him take them away. After this they learned to bring in the birds, strung through the nostril with rattan, and then they would string five or six small birds on the one piece of rattan, most of them alive and squeaking, fluttering and crawling, till scarcely one in the bunch had any feathers on the neck or back. The great bird was my great quest, and I offered liberally for them, indeed, extravagant prices for freshly killed birds, for I knew that they were rare and shy, and the natives alone knew their haunts, so with a little exertion and a liberal distribution of tobacco I persuaded hundreds of men and boys to go out and hunt in every part of the islands for specimens. I have had as many as fifty men come in at once with birds for which I would have to give four pounds worth of goods to each man, and amongst others there would be two or three of the great birds. Towards the end of my visit I had practically all the men of Aru Islands collecting for me.





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1st APRIL, 1919.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:
R. CROMPTON, R.A.O.U.
A. G. EDQUIST
S. A. WHITE, C.M.B.O.U.
F. R. ZIETZ, R.A.O.U.

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F. R. ZIETZ, R.A.O.U.

Secretary :

F. M. ANGEL, R.A.O.U.,

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The Editorial Committee accepts no responsibility for the views or deductions expressed by any of its contributors. The Journal welcomes a free interchange of ideas with the object of extending the knowledge of our avifauna, but the author of each article is responsible for the opinions and deductions recorded.

— THE —

South Australian Ornithologist.

Vol. IV.]

1st APRIL, 1919.

[PART 2.

The South Australian Ornithological Association.

JANUARY 31st, 1919.

The monthly meeting of the South Australian Ornithological Association was held in the Royal Society's Rooms, North Terrace, on Friday evening. Capt. S. A. White, C.M.B.O.U., presided. Owing to the holidays no meeting was held in December, and an unusually large amount of business had accumulated. Messes. W. G. and R. G. Thomas were elected members. Mr. Edquist reported progress of the committee appointed to form a juvenile branch of the association, and showed a sketch and letter from a member of the Booborowie Bird Club, describing a white-necked crane which had appeared in that district. The Chairman pointed out that this was the white-necked heron (*Myiola pacifica*). The same member also stated that a blue mountain parrot kept in captivity had laid 17 eggs this season—eight clutches of two each (the normal number), and one clutch of one egg. Following upon the complaints about boys interfering with birds' nests at Stirling East, members were delighted to hear from Mr. Edquist that the head master of the public school in that district had formed a bird club with a large membership, and that the boys were learning to love and protect the birds now, instead of destroying them. The Chairman reported that the owners of Thistle Island were anxious to make it a fauna and flora reserve, and at their request he had undertaken to introduce mallee fowls, kangaroos, wallabies, and phalangers. He considered it an ideal spot for a sanctuary, and was

in great hopes that the animals would soon multiply. Mr. J. W. Mellor reported that birds were mating late this season. He had seen the young of brush wattle birds, harmonious shrike thrushes, and white-plumed honey-eaters, quite lately. The imported starlings have been more plentiful than ever, and were sweeping off the fruit in spite of all efforts to prevent them. The Chairman directed attention to a letter from Mr. Clarke, of Kangaroo Island, asking if he could obtain some great brown kingfishers to liberate on the island. All present agreed that it was risky to introduce any animal into a country hitherto unknown to it, lest it should change its habits. Mr. F. R. Zietz exhibited a specimen of the red-tailed tropic bird. It had been forwarded to the Museum by Mr. Bradley, of Grantala Farm, near Port Lincoln. The bird had been flying round for several days. This is a new record for South Australia, and the first ever known to have appeared in South Australian waters. Mr. Zietz pointed out that when this bird was being skinned no aural canals could be found. Upon Dr. Morgan examining it, he stated that the wandering of the bird out of his habitat may be attributed to this. Mr. J. W. Mellor stated that the magpies were keeping up their raids upon the young sparrows, and that they had diminished the imported pests very much. The rest of the evening was taken up by Mr. Frank Parsons in describing a recent trip on the Murray River, and the birds in the vicinity of the New South Wales border. A few very nice skins were shown to illustrate the birds found there.

FEBRUARY 28th, 1919.

Capt. S. A. White, C.M.B.O.U., presided. Mr. Robert Beck was proposed for membership. Dr. A. M. Morgan mentioned that the black-throated grebe had mated twice in the Botanical Garden lake this season, and said the old idea that grebes could not walk on land was exploded, for he had seen these birds in the gardens obtaining pieces of vegetation some little distance from the water, and then returning with it to their nest. The doctor exhibited a neat pair of collapsible scales which he had made. He said he had found it difficult to get scales which would pack away in a small space for travelling. He was using the scales in connection with the brain weights of birds which he was now investigating. Mr. Edwin Ashby was welcomed back from America. This member stated that he was under the opinion that the swift lorikeets (*Lathamus discolor*) had visited Blackwood again this

season. If this be the case, it is interesting, because they have only come over from Tasmania at long intervals. Mr. Ashby also exhibited the new colour plates and nomenclature of colour standards by Dr. Ridgeway. There was a good deal of discussion over this, but all were of the opinion that it was a much-needed chart. Mr. Ashby was requested to procure several copies for members. Mr. F. R. Zietz reported that two female black falcons (*Neofalco subniger*) had been sent in from the lakes district. Mr. Lienau gave some interesting notes upon the breeding in captivity of the painted finch. Mr. J. W. Mellor handed in some interesting notes made at Lockleys during the last month. The matter of permits being issued to persons who wanted to visit bird sanctuaries was brought up, and some members expressed themselves strongly upon the matter. A small deputation was elected to wait upon the Minister and point out the danger that may follow the practice mentioned. The Chairman stated that he had been busy during the month addressing different associations and bodies in the country upon bird protection. Among others, he had a most sympathetic audience at Murray Bridge, and through the courtesy of the head teacher of the Murray Bridge School had addressed the students there. He had also spoken at Payneham and other places. The Chairman also stated that in conjunction with the Government Department he was about to put up new notice boards on the islands in the Coorong. Dr. Morgan drew attention to the good work done by the Chairman, and said if he did not do it no one else would, but he should not be allowed to bear all the expenses. The Chairman read some notes upon the changing of colouration with the common blue wren. He stated that by January 23 of this year most of the male wrens began to lose their blue plumage, and that by February 27 many had taken on the brown plumage of the females. The New-Holland honey-eater was mating late this season, for on February 2 young birds were being fed that had just left the nest. Mr. E. Ashby exhibited a small collection of skins to illustrate the birds observed by him during a brief visit of an hour or two at a water hole in the mallee near Karoonda. A surprising number of species were identified in such a short time. Mr. Ashby who was congratulated on being made a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithological Union, further entertained the meeting with an account of notable ornithologists he had met in America, and the work the States are doing for the protection of birds.

Order Psittaciformes, Family Loriidae, Genus Trichoglossus.

Trichoglossus novae hollandiae (Blue-bellied Lorikeet or Bluemountain).

Description—Head, cheeks and throat, deep blue; the centre of the feathers being lighter, giving the appearance of a stripe; at the base of the head a narrow band of greenish yellow; the upper surface green, with many feathers at the base of the neck marked with yellow and scarlet; tail basal half of the feathers, dark green shading into blue on the tips, under side of feathers greenish yellow; marked on the inner webs with yellow; the outer webs of the wing feathers dark green, inner webs dark brown to black, with a large spot of orange on each feather. Chest, rich scarlet, shading into rich orange on the sides. Abdomen, deep blue; the feathers on the sides scarlet, tipped with deep blue; inside the shoulders, bright blood red; under-tail coverts, yellow, tipped with green; bill, coral red, tipped with yellow; iris, orange, shading to red; feet, ashy grey.

Measurements—Total length, 328 m.m.; wing from body to tip, 192 m.m.; spread, 426 m.m.; bill, 16 m.m.; tarsus, 18 m.m.

Distribution—Southern Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia, including Kangaroo Island.

Habits—Noisy and gregarious, having a shrill loud call, and when many birds are feeding in the same tree it is difficult to hear oneself speak. They congregate in great flocks at times while at others they are to be met with in twos and threes. They shift about according to food supply, and are to be met with in the big timber country as well as the low mallee. They are confined to the coastal belt as a rule, and they have not been met with in the interior. They are undoubtedly the most gorgeous of our South Australian parrots, and when a number are feeding close together in the bright sunlight they present a wonderful sight in their rainbow colourations.

Nest—The eggs are laid in the dry dust at the bottom of a hollow spout of a gum tree. Usually the biggest tree in the neighbourhood is selected. Though they can hardly be said to nest in colonies it is usual to find several pairs nesting in the same vicinity, often in the same tree if it have enough suitable hollows. The nesting season is from August to December, varying according to locality.

Eggs—The eggs are two in number, of a rounded shape, the texture of the shell dull and lustreless. They are pure white when first laid, but soon become stained a brownish colour by the dust of the nesting hollow. Average measurement of six eggs, 2.74 c.m. x 2.26 c.m. Largest egg, 2.80 c.m. x 2.40 c.m.; smallest egg, 2.65 c.m. x 2.20 c.m.

Flight—Very swift and strong; they fly to a great height at times when moving from one locality to another.

Food—Consists of honey, varied at times with berries and seeds. They are very troublesome in the orchards at times, having a great liking for pears and apples.

Note—Loud and shrill, and when many are feeding in the same tree, quite deafening.

Habitat—Wherever the Eucalypts are flowering whether stunted mallee or the lofty gums. As soon as the trees finish blossoming they shift to another locality; at times travelling great distances.

In the Pine and Mallee.

By J. W. Mellor, R.A.O.U.

Part II.

LIST OF BIRDS IDENTIFIED IN THE HUNDRED OF BOOKPURNONG, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

October, 1918.

Emu (*Dromiceus novae-hollandiae*).—The fresh marks of this bird were observed, and an egg taken in the district worked. A clutch of eight eggs had not long ago been taken.

Eastern Stubble Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*).—These birds were only moderately common, their call being sometimes heard in the grass, and on one occasion a bird rose up so quickly from beneath my feet, that it struck a stiff stemmed shrub, which plucked quite a number of feathers from its breast.

Button Quail (*Austroturnix velox*).—Several were flushed in the long grass where they were feeding.

Bronzewing Pigeon (*Phaps chalcoptera*).—Noted on several occasions, but not common.

Crested Bronzewing Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).—Extremely common in pairs, and at times several pairs would alight on a dead tree together, but they were timid, and flew off with a “whirr” and “flap” of wings when approached.

White-headed Stilt. These birds were flying over, making the usual barking call not unlike that of a small dog.

Scrub Curlew (*Burhinus magnirostris*).—At night time these birds uttered their well-known mournful notes of “curlew curlew curlew.”

Australian Night Heron or Nankeen (*Nycticorax calidonicus australasiac*).—At night time these birds flew over apparently going to the Murray some miles away to feed.

Australian Goshawk (*Urospiza fasciata*).—Seen on several occasions in the mallee country.

Collared Sparrow Hawk (*Accipiter cirrocephalus*).—Seen in the mallee on one occasion only.

Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaetus aular*).—Not plentiful; those seen were soaring and circling in the air, the huge nests of the birds were seen on several occasions, one especially large one was placed in a tall hillock.

Brown Hawk (*Ieracidea berigora*).—Seen on one occasion.

Nankeen Kestrel (*Cerchneis cenchroides*).—Not plentiful.

Southern Boobook Owl (*Spiloglaux boobook marmorata*).—In the pines and also in the large mallee calling mournfully at night.

Purple-crowned Lorikeet (*Glossopsitta Porphyrocephala*).—Very common in the mallee, where they were breeding freely, all the nests examined having large young, three being the general number. The old birds were extremely noisy as they clung to the mallee boughs seeking honey from the flowers.

Pink Cockatoo or Major Mitchell (*Lophochroa leadbeateri*).—In pairs, seen on every hand, they were breeding in the hollows of the very large mallee, the young being almost ready to leave the nest, three being the clutch. The old birds were feeding on the open grass flats, upon the native grass, reeds, etc. They were often in company with the rose-breasted species. A pair made regular visits to my camp, and foraged about in the grass only a short distance away.

Rose-breasted Cockatoo or Galah (*Eolophus roseicapillus*).—Were about in small coveys of half a dozen or more feeding on the grass seeds on the open flats about the pines.

Cockatoo Parrot (*Leptolophus auricomis*).—In pairs flying swiftly just above the mallee, settling at times, and calling loudly; they had apparently just arrived, and were looking for nesting hollows.

Mallee Ring-neck Parrot (*Barnardius barnardi*).—These parrots were common in the mallee, always in pairs, and were breeding in the hollows, all nests had fledged young, four in number. The parent birds were very noisy, being at times extremely excited, and pugnacious should another pair come near their selected locality.

Many-coloured Parrot (*Psephotus varius*).—Fairly common in pairs not far from the Victorian border; I believe them to be the Victorian species.

Yellow-vented Parrot or Bluebonnet (*Northiella haemato-gaster xanthorrhoea*).—In pairs and not uncommon, especially in the open country where pines were plentiful, and in these trees the birds came to roost at night. The dull olive green on the backs of these birds made it very difficult to detect them when they settled on the ground with the half dry grass about them.

Shell Parrot (*Mclopsittacus undulatus*).—These pretty little parrots were very plentiful in flocks, flying with undulating movement across the open grass land, seeming to be guided by a leader or leaders, as the whole flock would twist and turn systematically and in perfect unison, all the time uttering their pretty little warbling notes. When a flock settled on a dry tree, the tree would instantly be transformed into a living one with the elongated leaves swaying in the breeze, for the little birds being very animated are never still.

Mallee Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides rossii*).—These birds were in the pine and mallee, and regularly their low weird call of "boo boo boo" often repeated would start soon after sunset, and continue well into the night, as they sat upon some post or convenient place, and ever and anon sallied forth after their food.

Red-backed Kingfisher (*Cyanoleyon pyrrhopygius*).—Seen only on one occasion in the small mallee country.

Bee-eater (*Cosmacrops ornatus*).—Fairly common especially in sandy localities.

Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Neochalcites basalis mcl-lori*).—Seen on several occasions.

Bronze Cuckoo (*Lamprococcyx plagosus*).—Not common.

Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neo-rena*).—Fairly plentiful.

Eastern Black and White Swallow (*Cheramoecca leucosternum stouci*).—Seen near sandy banks in open localities.

Tree Martin (*Hylochelidon nigricans caleyi*).—Often seen in the thinly timbered parts, and a nest in course of building in a leaning mallee was noted.

Brown Flycatcher (*Microeca fascinans*).—Seen at times in the thinly timbered parts, and a nest in course of building in a leaning mallee was noted.

Southern Red-capped Robin (*Whiteornis goodenovii*).—This pretty little bird was to be seen in all situations in the dense mallee, and open pine country. It was nesting, and several nests examined contained large young.

Southern Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata vigorsii*).—Only seen on one occasion in the mallee.

Greenish Tree-tit (*Smicronis brevirostris viridescens*).—Common in the mallee.

Southern Rufous-breasted Thickhead (*Lewinornis rufiventris inornatus*).—A few seen in the pine country.

Eastern Red-throated Thickhead (*Gilbertornis rufigularis*).—I have never before seen these birds so plentiful, especially in the pine country towards the Victorian border. They were calling and answering one another in all directions, one call being of a ventriloquial nature, and often leading one astray when trying to find the birds. The call of these birds is very full and clear at times.

Black and White Fantail (*Leucocirca tricolor*).—Fairly numerous, a nest on a leaning mallee was in course of building.

Restless Flycatcher (*Seisura inquieta*).—Only a few seen in the mallee country.

Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coraciina novae-hollandiae melanops*).—Not plentiful.

White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater (*Lalage tricolor*).—Only seen once in the open pine country.

Chestnut-backed Ground Bird (*Cinclosoma castanotum*).—Only one bird seen, it being a female which was walking on the ground in the low bushes beneath the mallee.

Chestnut-crowned Babbler (*Pomatostomus ruficeps*).—These birds were quite common especially in the more open pine country, where they were in small coveys of five or six.

They were very noisy and animated in their actions, threading their way through the thick pines, sometimes flying from tree to tree, or hopping and running over the ground very quickly. Numbers of those seen were this season's birds, and in the pines their huge stick nests were seen, sometimes so large as to quite bend the pine over with the weight. No nests were found to be occupied.

White-browed Babbler (*Morganornis superciliosus*).—Only a few seen, the former bird seeming to take the place of the smaller species.

Southern Brown Song Lark (*Cinchorhamphus cruralis cantatoris*).—Fairly numerous on the more open grass land, and on the samphire country, where the females kept to the ground and the low bushes, while the males soared aloft in the air singing their well-known call "Want-to-go-to-Egypt."

White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*).—Met with in the open country.

Red-fronted Chat (*Parepthianura tricolor*).—Only one seen in the open country.

Orange-fronted Chat (*Aurepthianura aurifrons*).—A few were noticed on the open samphire country.

Red-rumped Tit (*Acanthiza pusilla hamiltoni*).—Only a few observed in the mallee.

Chestnut-rumped Tit (*Acanthiza uropygialis ruthergheni*).—Plentiful in the mallee.

Victorian Yellow-rumped Tit (*Geobasileus chrysorrhous sandlandi*).—From the light fawn colour of the flanks I take this to be the Victorian sub-species; they were seen near to the Victorian border.

Black-backed Wren (*Malurus melanops*).—These beautiful little wrens were observed in the country adjacent to the Victorian border, usually in the low bushes on the fringe of the mallee, where they thread their way through the thickets with remarkable agility. The males are very shy, and dart off at the least noise, leaving their more sombre mates to face the intruder. These birds seem to have only just started to breed. I saw a nest with one egg; it was composed of fine dry grass, lined with rabbit's fur, and placed in a hop bush 18 inches from the ground. It measured outside, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad; inside, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 2 inches. The entrance was exceptionally large, being $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter.

Masked Wood Swallow (*Campbellornis personatus munita*).—These birds with the next species had just arrived in large numbers and were seeking nesting quarters, but none had started building.

White-browed Wood-swallow (*Campbellornis superciliosus*).—In numbers, and like the former species were making a great fuss in certain places which they had selected for building purposes.

Wood-swallow (*Pseudartamus cyanopterus*).—These birds were also common, and, I believe, are about all through the year. They had started to breed, and several nests were noted in the forks of trees, and behind broken limbs in the mallee. Three eggs formed the clutch.

Victorian Grey Shrike-thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica victoriac*).—Only a few seen, their beautiful notes resounding through the timbered glades in the early morning.

Murray Magpie or Magpie Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*).—Seen on only one occasion.

White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca leuconota*).—Seen in the open country.

Mallee butcher-bird (*Bulestes torquatus colci*).—This bird which I believe is the Victorian sub-species was fairly common, but each pair had its own little locality. They were very pugnacious when other birds entered their sanctuaries. I noted an exception to this rule near the Victorian border where four young butcher birds sitting on a small dry bush were being fed by their parents. In the same bush, and close to them were three young fully fledged streaked honey-eaters also being fed by their parents. All were living in harmony. A pair of butcher birds had their nest not far from my camp, and their loud calls were heard throughout the day, especially in the early morning, when the notes were very loud and clear.

Southern Crested Bell-bird (*Oreoica cristata clelandi*).—Not common. Seen in the mallee. Their notes of "reep-reep, reepbook" were often heard. It was difficult to find the bird by following the sound, as they are good ventriloquists.

White-face Titmouse (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*).—Very common in all situations. Hopping on the ground in little coveys in search of food, they had apparently done breeding, and were out with their young. No fresh nests were seen.

Slender-billed Tree-runner (*Neositta pilcata tenuirostris*).—Seen on several occasions in the pine country, where they were flying in little coveys of five or six. On alighting, they would carry out their usual method of searching for food, by circling around the trunks of the trees head downwards, and on reaching the bottom, fly away to another tree to repeat the performance. They never go up the trunks.

Southern Brown Treecreeper (*Acoclimina picumna australis*).—Very common in the large mallee, where they were breeding in the hollows, and were very noisy indeed. Their notes of "pink pink pink" were heard in all directions as the birds hopped up the tree trunks always in a circular motion. Should they wish to keep out of sight they would pause on the farther side of the tree for a minute or two, and then fly to another tree, keeping it between them and the intruder.

Southern White-browed Tree-creeper (*Climacteris erythropus parsonsi*), sub-sp. nov. (Mellor, South Australian Ornithologist, Vol. IV., page 5).—This species which I have just named after my friend and enthusiastic ornithologist, Mr. Frank E. Parsons, of Adelaide, I found in the pine country near the Victorian border. Only a pair was secured. They are very silent compared with the former species, but their habits of searching out their food on the tree trunks are similar. I was not surprised at finding them very different from the white-browed tree creeper of Central Australia seeing that the country they live in is so different. The cooler and more fertile country doubtless accounts for their larger and more robust form.

Southern Striped Diamond Bird (*Pardalotinus striatus subaffinis*).—Common in pairs and were nesting in the small hollows of the mallee, their pretty oft repeated call of "chucky chuck" being heard in every bit of mallee one came to. They were well on with their breeding as every nest examined had large young in it, and the parent birds were ever on the go carrying food to their offspring.

Mallee Brown Headed Honey-eater (*Melithreptus atricapillus mallee*).—Noted in the mallee country.

Southern Striped Honey-eater (*Plectorhyncha lunccolata neglecta*).—Seen on several occasions in the mallee country

where they were breeding. Fully fledged young as described previously were seen in company with the butcher bird. A nest swinging at the extreme end of a bough of a tall bull oak was examined, and found to contain three freshly hatched young. The nest was composed of the usual sheep's wool.

Black Honey-eater (*Cissomela nigra*).—This little honey-eater was moderately plentiful in the mallee scrub, also in the "wild tobacco" country, where it was seeking the honey with its long tongue from the narrow tube-like yellow flowers. It was in pairs, so probably was just about to breed, but no indications of nests were noted.

Eastern White-fronted Honey-eater (*Glyciphila albifrons incerta*).—Noted principally in the mallee country, but also in the pines. They were calling loudly, and were very shy, making off at the slightest noise. They were feeding on the honey from the flowers of the mallee.

Southern Singing Honey-eater (*Meliphaga sonora*).—Noted in the pines, but by no means plentiful.

Graceful Honey-eater (*Lichenostomus ornatus talemii*).—Plentiful in all situations, especially in the mallee, where it was breeding. Large young were seen both in and out of the nest.

Black eared Minah (*Myzantha flavigula melanotis*).—Numbers in the mallee and pine country; very noisy and quarrelsome when other birds came near them. Large young were accompanying their parents on the wing.

Southern Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis cygnus*).—Noted breeding, but not plentiful.

Southern Pipit (*Aathus australis adclaidensis*).—Seen in the open grass country, also on the samphire flats.

Small-billed Crow (*Corvus bennetti*).—A few pairs in the pine country. One pair made repeated visits to my camp to secure bits of meat, etc., but were off directly any noise was made.

Southern Whitewinged Chough (*Coccyzus melanorhamphus whiteater*).—Several coveys of six or seven were seen in the pine country.

Birds noted during a Holiday Trip in Victoria.

By Alan Lendon.

The trip extended from January 3rd to 25th, 1919.

Sherbrooke is a small village about 30 miles distant from Melbourne, and situated in the Dandenong Ranges. Marysville is a small township about 61 miles from Melbourne, and about 22 miles from Healesville, and is situated on the other side of the Dividing Range. The names of the birds seen are taken from Mathews' 1913 List. Birds identified were:—

1. Bronzewing Pigeon (*Phaps chalcoptera chalcoptera*).—One specimen of this bird was seen in a clearing near Sherbrooke.

2. Straw-necked Ibis (*Carphibis spinicollis*).—A small flock of seven or eight birds was seen in a paddock near the Stevenson River at Marysville. Several odd pairs were also seen along the same river.

3. White-fronted Heron (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*).—A few birds were noticed in company with Straw-necked Ibis at Marysville. Also several were seen flying near Narbethong in the same district.

4. Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo novae-hollandiae*).—Seen on two or three occasions flying over the mountain streams at Marysville presumably after the introduced trout, the only fish found in the rivers.

5. Brown Hawk (*Ieracidea berigora berigora*).—noticed several times near Healesville. Apparently not common.

6. Nankeen Kestrel (*Cerchneis cenchroides cenchroides*).—Common throughout the Marysville district, but not seen near Sherbrooke.

7. Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon galcatum*).—These birds were frequently seen in the thickly timbered parts near Marysville, and were always in pairs. They were mostly noticed in the evening from about 5 o'clock to 7.30, and did not appear to be shy.

8. Crimson Parrot (*Platyercus elegans elegans*).—This bird was fairly common in the forests at both Sherbrooke and Marysville. At Marysville an old bird in colour and a young one were several times seen feeding in the grass in front of the house.

9. Rosella Parrot (*Platycercus eximius eximius*).—Fairly plentiful in the Sherbrooke district, but only one pair seen in the Marysville district.

10. Brown Kingfisher (*Dacelo gigas gigas*).—Common both near Marysville and Sherbrooke.

11. Spine-tailed Swift (*Chaetura caudacuta*).—A small flock of about a dozen birds was seen circling about one evening at Sherbrooke.

12. Pallid Cuckoo (*Heteroscenes pallidus*).—A pair flew in front of the motor on the road from Healesville to Marysville. No others seen.

13. Fantailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis rubricatus rubricatus*).—A single bird was seen in a fern gully near Marysville.

14. Lyre-bird (*Menura novachollandiae victoriarum*).—These birds were only to be found in a certain thickly timbered gully near Sherbrooke, where there was a fair number of them. Their striking notes were to be heard in this gully at almost any time of the day, but more particularly in the early morning and late evening, and on several occasions the birds were seen. They were, however, very difficult to approach, as on the slightest sound they would stop calling and disappear into the scrub. Their mimicry was marvellous, and the note of the Coachwhip Bird especially was wonderfully reproduced. A dancing mound was formed. It consisted of a circular platform of earth about four or five inches high. The earth was kept well scratched over, and around the edge of the mound the ferns were trodden down. The feet of these birds must be exceedingly strong as in many places decayed tree trunks were seen scratched completely to pieces by the birds in search of their food. Strange to say no females were seen.

15. Tree Martin (*Hylochelidon nigricans caleyi*).—Common about Marysville.

16. Brown Flycatcher (*Microeca fascians fascians*).—Numbers were seen about the house at Marysville, but they were not noticed at all in the Sherbrooke district.

17. Flame-breasted Robin (*Littlera chrysoptera phoenicea*).—This bird was quite common about Sherbrooke, and was very tame. Only one specimen, a young male, was observed at Marysville.

18. Rose-breasted Robin (*Belchera rosea*).—This bird was apparently rare. Two males and a few females or young birds were seen in a thick fern gully near Sherbrooke.

19. Golden-breasted Thickhead (*Pachycephala pectoralis youngi*).—Fairly plentiful in the Sherbrooke district. A single bird, a male, was seen near Marysville.

20. Rufous-breasted Thickhead (*Leucinornis rufiventris rufiventris*).—One bird only, a male, seen near Marysville.

21. Yellow-breasted Shrike-Robin (*Eopsaltria australis vividior*).—Common everywhere in the thick forests where its piping note was often heard. One old nest found at Sherbrooke.

22. White-shafted Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera victoriae*).—Probably the commonest bird seen during the trip. It was always very tame and one occasion a bird flew on to a stick I was carrying. Two nests were seen, one just completed at Sherbrooke and another with eggs at Marysville.

23. Rufous Fantail (*Howeavis rufifrons inexpectata*).—Seen fairly often in the thick scrubby country in both districts visited. The birds were usually rather shy, and would not remain in full view long.

24. Black and White Fantail (*Leucocirca tricolor tricolor*).—A single bird was seen at the Healesville Railway Station.

25. Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novae-hollandiae melanops*).—Seen on a few occasions near Marysville, but not at all common.

26. Coach-whip bird (*Psophodes crepitans scrymgeourii*).—The sharp notes of this bird were often heard in the dense gullies at Sherbrooke, but the bird itself was difficult to see. On one occasion two pairs were seen in some thick bracken, and another time an old male was seen fighting with a young male that was just moulting into full plumage. The females were noticed to be duller and smaller than the males.

27. Mountain Thrush (*Oreocincla lunulata dendui*).—These birds were common in the dense gullies at both Marysville and Sherbrooke and were usually seen near the streams.

28. Brown Tit (*Acanthiza pusilla macularia*).—Noticed occasionally at Sherbrooke.

29. Striated Tit (*Acanthiza lineata chandleri*).—A great many of these birds were seen about Sherbrooke, but they were not so plentiful at Marysville.

30. Yellow-tailed Tit (*Geobasileus chrysorrhous sandlandi*).—Not common, but seen a few times in both districts visited.

31. Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneus henricctae*).—These birds were in great numbers everywhere, and at Sherbrooke three young just out of the nest were seen.

32. Wood Swallow (*Pseudartamus cyanopterus*).—A single bird was seen near Sherbrooke, and several near the Stevenson River at Marysville.

33. Magpie Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca cyanoleuca*).—Many were seen at Sherbrooke, also a few about the township of Healesville.

34. Grey Shrike Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica victoriæ*).—Fairly common at both Sherbrooke and Marysville.

35. White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca leucota*).—Very common throughout the trip.

36. Tree Creeper.—Several of these birds were seen probably of species *Neoclima picumna*, but they were not identified with certainty.

37. White-eye (*Zosterops lateralis westernensis*).—Common at Sherbrooke, and at Marysville. Usually seen in the fruit trees.

38. Spine Bill (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris victoriæ*).—Not common in the Sherbrooke district, two birds only being seen. Plentiful about Marysville.

39. Yellow-eared Honeyeater (*Meliphaga lewinii nea*).—A single bird which was quite tame was seen in a thick gully at Sherbrooke.

40. Yellow-faced Honeyeater (*Paraptilotis chrysops beaconsfieldi*).—Several were seen at Marysville feeding in the garden quite close to the house.

41. Crescent Honeyeater (*Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera indistincta*).—Single specimen seen in a gully near Sherbrooke.

42. Wattle-bird (*Acanthochaera chrysoptera intermedia*).—Several seen in a gum tree at Sassafra, a small village near Sherbrooke.

43. Pipit (*Anthus australis australis*).—Noticed once or twice in some paddocks near Healesville.

44. Red-browed Finch (*Aegintha temporalis tregellasi*).—Common throughout the trip. A nest with three fresh eggs was found at Sherbrooke.

45. Crow (*Corvus coronoides perplexus*).—A large flock of many hundreds of birds was seen flying nearly every morning over the township of Marysville.

46. Pied Bell Magpie (*Strepera graculina graculina*).—One was seen on the road from Healesville to Marysville, and a few others were seen close to the latter place.

47. Grey Bell Magpie (*Neo-strepera versicolor vicilloti*).—This bird was more plentiful than the last species in the Marysville district, and on one occasion two young birds were seen.

Geobasileus hedleyi rosinae.

By F. E. Parsons, R.A.O.U.

Few ornithologists have yet had an opportunity of studying this recent addition to the list of Australian "tit warblers." It was first described by G. M. Mathews in the Austral Av: Record Vol. 2, page 9 from specimens obtained by Captain S. A. White in the vicinity of St. Kilda, about 20 miles North of Adelaide.

No particulars of the habits or economy of this bird were published when it was described, and nothing has been written since, so that it will not be out of place to record a few personal observations though they be scanty.

The country where Capt. White collected his specimens is a strip of land bordering the coast, and consists of a large area of low lying land which is subject to inundation by high tides, and is thickly clothed with low bushes and samphire, with a margin of mangroves on the sea side of it. Similar country to this extends all the way north to Port Wakefield at the head of the Gulf, and then south for about twenty miles on the western side of St. Vincent Gulf; it was here that I came across these birds in large numbers.

This appears to be essentially a swamp tit, as it is never found away from the samphire swamp land, neither is it ever seen in the mangroves.

"*Acanthiza pusilla*" is fairly plentiful in the mangroves and "*Geobasileus chrysorhous*" is found on the land border of

the swamps, but *G.h. rosinae* never was seen in either of these situations.

"*Geobasileus h. rosinae*" is a very quiet bird, and greatly resembles "*G. chrysorrhous*" in its manners; it has a somewhat similar faint but sweet warble, and procures its food while hopping about on the ground in a very sprightly manner. In June of this year they had congregated into flocks of about 40 to 60 birds, and in the early part of the morning or late in the afternoon they could be seen moving over the flats in search of food, and when so engaged they did not fly simultaneously from spot to spot, but each bird took short flights of about 30 or 40 feet and alighting in the bushes, at once hopped to the ground and searched for insects for a few seconds, then took another short flight in the same direction; thus at any moment there were always some birds on the wing.

I found it very easy to procure specimens by taking up a position ahead of them in their line of flight, they took little notice of me, but came on in their spasmodic flights, some birds alighting within six or eight yards of where I stood. At the report of the gun they would all rise in a flock and fly 200 or 300 yards then alight, and again continue their way in quest of food in their peculiar jerky fashion.

The legs, feet, and bill of "*G.h. rosinae*" are black, and the iris colored light cream.

1/7/18.

An Instance of the Great Courage of the Welcome Swallow.

By Owen Crompton, Communicated by S. A. White.

When I was at Port Lincoln recently spending a week cruising in an old cutter called "Bonny Dundee" which belongs to Mr. Dabovitch, late inspector of fisheries, his son Chris, told me the following interesting experience he had had with a pair of swallows. Some time ago he and his father had reason to go to Stansbury for two or three weeks' work to do with the inspection of fisheries. While their boat was anchored there a pair of swallows built a nest and laid eggs in an old sealskin cap which was hanging in the cabin. When the time for sail-

ing home to Port Lincoln had arrived, they were very loth to go because they believed it would mean breaking up the swallows' happy family, but to their surprise the birds went with them.

The first evening the male bird was seen frequently flying round the boat, but was not seen to settle; the next day all went well until late in the afternoon when a gale sprang up and they were afraid that the male bird was lost. Next morning, however, the weather had calmed down and both birds were there apparently quite happy, Mr. Dabovich believed that the male bird had got into an upturned dinghy on deck to escape the gale. When they got down abreast of Wedge Island the two birds were noticed chattering together and then flew straight in the direction of the Island, evidently to procure food having had nothing to eat for over 36 hours. They wondered very much whether the birds would return, and sure enough in about half-an-hour back they came apparently satisfied.

On arrival at Port Lincoln they anchored the boat, and as Mr. Dabovich said, to his great delight, their young ones hatched and were reared in the Port Lincoln Harbour.

Bird Notes from McGrath's Flat.

By Joseph Gordon Hastings.

The white-fronted or blue cranes have put in an appearance earlier than usual this year. All through the year odd ones are to be seen, but only in the winter do they appear in large numbers, when there is plenty of food to be had in the form of snails and insect life which is provided by the rains forming pools or ponds in the low lying country near the Coorong. The only reason I can give for their early arrival is, perhaps, the very low state of the Coorong where crabs are more easily procured. If that is so, I feel very sure upon this, they are doing a splendid work which should be highly appreciated by all lovers of bird life, fishermen in particular. The latter, I am afraid, are men who do not fully realize what a great help birds are to the fishing industry. About 300 cranes came to roost every night in the trees near our house, among them being a pair of white ones (a very rare bird in

this district). In a large well close to the house a family of frogs took up their abode some years ago, and in the course of time their numbers increased, till they were to be seen in hundreds, and in all stages from the great-grandfathers down to the tiniest infants. One of the cranes came along last week and paid daily visits to the well. Yesterday we went over to clean the well out, the crane had left and the frogs along with it. The water hens have just about all disappeared. I was down at the Murray mouth last week, and where they were in thousands three months ago, only odd ones were seen. The water crakes have all disappeared from here, but undoubtedly will return with the winter. A few weeks ago when returning from Woods Wells I came across a Bittern travelling in a southerly direction. This bird and a Nankeen or Night Heron which I saw last June are the only two birds of their kind I have ever seen here, although nearly 30 years ago I saw several of the latter bird in the swamps at the back of Salt Creek. Our three boys are beginning to show a keen interest in bird life, and we are careful to cultivate it. The two magpies brought out their chicks this season which in due course were introduced to the scrap heap in the back yard, and are now on intimate terms with the children who feed them. These birds have become very quiet, and will hardly fly out of the way.

It has often occurred to me as strange that although the Australian Hoverflies were here in thousands years ago, they have been very scarce for a number of years, and I have not seen any for quite a time till lately, when on a trip along the Hummocks I saw one and the only bird seemingly on this end of the Coorong.

A Sketch of the Life of Samuel White— Ornithologist, Soldier, Sailor, and Explorer.

By His Son, S. A. White, C.M.B.O.U.

XX. THE ORNITHOLOGIST AND SAILOR.

The bird next in importance to the Great Bird if not in beauty certainly in singularity of plumage is the little King Bird *Cicinnurus regius* of the naturalist, and called by the ARU

natives "goby goby." It is a small bird, and that which a collector would call a "gem". In its actions, habits, and call it is a miniature *P. Apoda*, and it seems as it were to mimic the great bird, excepting in style and colouring of the plumage, which is deep glossy red on all the upper surface. The feathers on the front of forehead are of an orange tint, and short and hair-like, standing on end, and look like plush, the feathers extending beyond the nostrils; the throat and chest are shining purple red, a border of dark green crosses the breast, and the rest of the underplumage is pure white, but the side plumes, and these feathers are the greatest peculiarity. The side plumes are about an inch and a half long, about six or seven broad feathers, square at the ends, and are of a brown colour, and have a broad band of golden green near their tips. The tail is very short, extending no further than the ends of the wings, which are short and round, but the two central tail feathers are lengthened into two thin wires about seven inches long, crossing each other at the end of the tail, and diverging again at the tips. These wires take a spiral turn at their extremities, where they are broadly webbed, forming a button like tip to each feather or wire, and are of a deep shining green. Taken all together this bird is very peculiar and beautiful. Besides these, Birds of Paradise and other species were very numerous in places. Hawks were not plentiful, and I saw but two species. I did not see or hear any owls. Crows were not numerous. Saw a large fruit-crow with glossy-black plumage, beautiful blue eyes, and an enormous bill, this bird was not uncommon, but very shy. Parrots were plentiful, and of several species, and closely allied to those found in Australia, and several of the cockatoos were identical. Amongst the parrots were some very varied and beautiful birds, the same with the pigeons, especially the fruit pigeons, some of which were most gorgeous birds, and several species are found in Australia as well as the Aru's. Kingfishers were abundant, and of many species and colours, and several of the Australian species are found amongst them. Two species of swallows were seen—the edible bird-nest swallow and an Australian species. The former is remarkable for its nest, which is half-cup shaped, and attached to the walls of caves round the coast; it is composed of tough semitransparent gelatine, which the natives collect and sell in Dobo, to be sent to China as a delicacy. There are scrub turkeys (*Talagallus*), and Megapodes, both good for food, and the natives catch them in snares, but not very often. The eggs of the Megapode are very large and laid

in a mound to hatch in the same manner as the allied species in Australia. The Casowary we did not see, although I saw numerous traces of it and also its eggs. Quail and Finches I saw none nor did I see any country suitable for them. There was only one duck, the *Tadorna radjah* of Australia. Two cormorants, one all black and the other black and white. Several cranes were seen and collected, most of them Australian. Amongst them the well known Nankeen Heron (*Nycticorax caldonicus*). Perhaps amongst the aquatic birds none was more remarkable than the large brown rail. It is a fine bird as large as an ordinary fowl, but not so low set for they had fairly long legs. The natives call it "Sarah", and its beautiful large red eyes, the bright green bill and legs, as well as the blending of the soft brown and grey of the plumage claims the admiration of the naturalist, but the most remarkable thing about the bird is its tongue, its loud discordant craking is heard everywhere, where the land is low and wet. The slightest noise is taken as an excuse for a fresh outbreak, the report of a gun, or one man calling to another is sufficient to set a couple of them going at the top of their loud voices, but the bird is a difficult one to see or shoot. It is found in the thickest of the underbrush, and its long powerful legs carry it noiselessly from all danger. The natives sometimes catch them in snares which is the surest way of obtaining them, for while a man with a gun is struggling through thorny vines, these active birds have not the slightest difficulty in evading him.

—Fish.—

Fish in the waters around the Arus are plentiful and varied; they were seen in schools everywhere round the coast. The water at night was alive with them, and an incessant splashing was kept up, but to our surprise and disgust they would never take a bait, although we frequently tried, and although the vessel was surrounded by fish every night we never on any occasion caught a fish with hook and line. The natives catch large quantities. Their plan is to take a canoe near to the edge of the reef, and by the light of a fire spear them, or wade in shallow water with lighted torch in one hand and a spear in the other. The natives did not care to sell their fish. All the time we were at the Arus they did not offer a fish for sale, but when off the island of Trangan I purchased two small fish out of half a boat load by offering more than their worth of tobacco, but could get no more. The fish I have seen with the natives are varied in species. Many of

them look like those we call mullet, snapper, bream, rock-cod, parrot-fish, and many others, including "sting-rays" beautifully marked with green, blue, and white, indeed there seemed to be fish of all sizes, shapes, and colours. A species of flying fish seemed to be numerous. I observed them in numbers two hundred miles from shore. They were a small species, long and slender, of a silver-white colouration which made them conspicuous little objects in the bright sunlight over the dark blue water as they took their arrow-like flight of from 10 to 40 yards within a foot or so of the waters surface. They emerged suddenly from the water and maintained a straight course with the wind "abeam" or a little on the quarter, and when the sea rose before them they disappeared into it. Their transparent wings when in motion are not visible, giving to the fish a strange arrow-like motion. When near the coast small fish trooped about in countless thousands, and I have seen some curious scenes of destruction amongst them. Upon one occasion I observed an assemblage of small fish which seemed to be a few rods square and a few feet deep. They were so closely packed they could not steer, but had to all go in one direction. Behind these had collected about a dozen large sharks, and over them a thousand sea birds of various species and sizes. The sharks would at intervals make a rush forward with open mouth and engulf hundreds of the small fry at a time. At this time thousands of fish would make a simultaneous leap out of the water in a solid mass (as if they had been thrown up with shovels), and alight a few feet in advance to escape from the huge jaws of their monstrous enemy, but not to escape a host of hungry birds which instantly swoop down and each carry off a mouth full. This state of affairs went on for an hour or more, and I saw that as each shark, or bird had its fill it dropped behind, or soared in the air away from its still hungry mates.

—Insects.—

I was surprised to find that at the time of my visit the insects were not more numerous in the Arus than in tropical Australia at the same time of the year for it is well known that at the end of the rainy season in the tropics is the best time for insect life of every kind. However, I procured a few nice beetles from the natives as well as by my own collecting. I one day chanced to see a couple of dead specimens of two species of longicorns. I showed them to the natives and made them understand I wanted them, and would give tobacco and

beads for them. I soon had a good quantity of longicorns brought in, some in bamboos where they had bitten one another into pieces. Some had their legs tied to prevent them getting away; some were tied in bunches by their antennae, but to my horror many of them had all their legs torn off to disable them, others had their mandibles broken off to prevent them biting, but a good few were perfect. A small assortment of beetles and bugs was obtained. Lepidoptera were scarce, at least at this time of the year. I did not get more than a dozen species, and those were nearly all small, some of them are found in Australia, and others I have met with in New Guinea. Ants were not so numerous or varied as met with in Australia. The green tree-ant is the most plentiful. Millepedes, centipedes, and scorpions I saw of moderate size, but not very numerous. Spiders were far more numerous and varied; they spread their nets everywhere in the scrub to our annoyance. Some were large and had great expanse of limb, some were short limbed and heavy bodied, some were hard and others soft, some spiked all over, and there were others twice as broad as long. Some few species seem similar to species found in the southern part of Australia, and others closely allied to those found in Northern Queensland. Mosquitos and sandflies were not so numerous or troublesome as I expected; they did not trouble us on board the yacht, but we found them both in the mangrove swamps. Wasps were not numerous we found to our great satisfaction, nevertheless the small nest building species were seen occasionally, and some of our party discovered that they could sting as vigorously as the Australian species with which they seemed identical. It seems a small fly not more than half an inch long, and builds a nest of leaves about the height of a man's head by drawing a number of large leaves together and fixing them with web. It is usually placed on the edge of the thick scrub or the small openings in the scrub, and is not easily seen. A number of the little pests cluster on the outside evidently on guard, and when an intruder approaches, fifty or a hundred attack him about the neck and face. It is laughable to observe a man who is sent in advance of you both walking stealthily through the scrub in search of game, suddenly seized with a fit of antics, throws down his gun, birds, bags, etc., throws his arms about, knocks off his hat, and makes a frantic rush through the thickest of the scrub regardless of thorns or tangle. If the man behind is an old hand he knows what is the matter, and darts off quietly in another direction and sits down, and

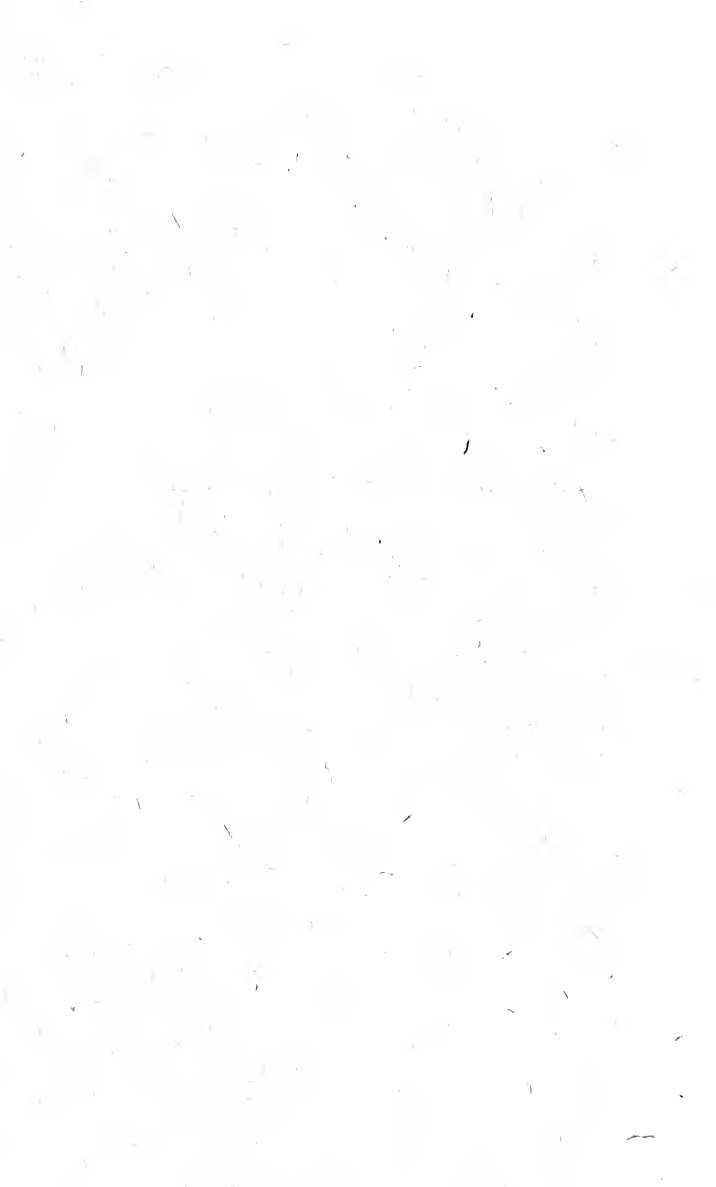
listens to his inmate (if addicted to profanity) indulging in a number of foolish and useless words. Presently he proceeds on hands and knees stealthily to where his property is lying, and recovers it as best he can without attempting one of the many vengeance he vowed against the wasps a few minutes ago. From my own experiences I can say their stings are severe for a short time. Although they do not last long and leave a lump for a few days, it is very annoying to find that although I have retained hold of everything in my hands I have while endeavouring to brush the insects off my face knocked my concave spectacles from my eyes. To recover them I have had to return and hunt them up amongst the dead leaves on the ground, perhaps to be attacked again. It will happen sometimes that the insects will enter the ear or nose and thus confined will sting three or four times, giving great pain with swelling and inflammation. I have found "Bary's Tricopherous" very useful in such cases.

—Reptiles.—

The reptiles of the Aru Islands are not plentiful. Small lizards are the most abundant; of snakes there appears to be few. I saw some very beautiful green ones with white markings, one seen was about five feet long; these are "Tree Snakes". A good many marine serpents were observed in the seas around the islands, but they were the same as found in Australian waters. One curious large lizard seemed to be fairly plentiful in the scrubs; it had a curious lappel under the chin edged with spikes, also a comb-like piece on the head also spiked. I have seen an allied species in Australia. Several large lace lizards were brought in, beautifully speckled with black and yellow. The natives brought frogs of gigantic proportions, fine fellows that measured a foot to fifteen inches from nose to toes. These were caught in the wet low country, or the banks of the small streams, sometimes up trees, and like the lizards were frequently shot with arrows. The frogs were huge creatures of a dull livid colour, lacking that brightness and vivacity some frogs possess, the ground colour was a dull dirty orange and brownish yellow. The creatures were brought tethered with a piece of rattan, and when placed in the sun laid themselves out and died without a movement. Some of the men ate them and pronounced them good. I am under the opinion that there are a few turtles round the coast, but none came to our share. The natives would not let turtle pass through their hands if they had it.

—Vegetation.—

The vegetation is very similar to that found on the north coast of Australia, and the south coast of New Guinea. It is a dense tropical forest or scrub covering nearly every mile of surface of the low islands. On Trangan there is an exception, for the land is much higher, and a large portion of its surface is covered by tall coarse grass, and bare rocks stand up through it here and there, belts and patches of scrub cover the lower parts. Trangan is the most southerly of the large islands. Most of the trees and plants seen resemble those I have seen in Northern Australia with a few exceptions. I noticed a tree whose young shoots drooped in long bunches and tinted of various colours from a greenish or pinkish white to a scarlet, looking at a distance like blossoms. Another I had not seen in Australia was a mangrove with a large white or pinkish white flower resembling in shape a convolvulus; this was a straggling small tree, and grew in the salt water on the banks of the Watalli Channel. The common mangrove grew to great perfection there. Some of the trunks were eighty feet long at least; some fine specimens grew on the banks of the Wannambi River. In some parts of the islands there were some magnificent trees very tall, but not very robust; among them were those that bore a large fruit like an orange, but was pithy inside. The nutmeg trees were very tall, and the fruit appeared in every way like those I have met with in Australia, and like them when the spice has arrived to perfection the brownish green pericarp opens and lets fall the nut covered with a network of scarlet mace, the nut is long in shape, barely half an inch through it, and scarcely an inch long. The tree which excited my admiration most was the *Casuarina*. They were noble specimens of the genus, some of them a hundred and fifty to two hundred feet high, and stout in proportion. They grew on the lowland bordering the coast, and were very conspicuous from seaward. The dark green almost black foliage and pointed tops of these trees was in marked contrast to the usual scrub foliage, forming a broken fringe all along the west coast of the islands (they did not grow inland). Under these trees grew palms, tree ferns, palm lawyers, and other plants, as well as creepers and vines in abundance. In places there were patches of large and tall bamboos, and wherever the native settlements were coconut palms were growing and bearing well. This is an introduction by order of the Dutch Government. The nuts appeared to me to be of fair size, and the flesh very thick.





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THE
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
ORNITHOLOGIST,

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1st JULY, 1919.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:
R. CROMPTON, R.A.O.U.
A. G. EDQUIST
S. A. WHITE, C.M.B.O.U.
F. R. ZIETZ, R.A.O.U.

Price, 2/-



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Secretary :

F. M. ANGEL, R.A.O.U.,
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The Editorial Committee accepts no responsibility for the views or deductions expressed by any of its contributors. The Journal welcomes a free interchange of ideas with the object of extending the knowledge of our avifauna, but the author of each article is responsible for the opinions and deductions recorded.

South Australian Ornithologist.

VOL. IV.]

1st JULY, 1919.

[PART 3.

The South Australian Ornithological Association.

APRIL 4th, 1919.

The monthly meeting was held in the Royal Society's Rooms, North Terrace, on Friday evening, 4th April. The President, Capt. S. A. White, C.M.B.O.U., occupied the chair. Mr. R. C. Beck was elected a member, and Messrs. A. Keith Ashby, son of our worthy Vice-President, and J. N. McGilp of Moolawata were nominated. Several visitors were welcomed.

The Chairman reported that delegates from the Association interviewed the Honorable, the Minister of Industry, and discussed the question of the control and supervision of the Coorong. A letter was received from Mr. Geo. R. Laffer, M.P., Chairman of Committees, eulogising the valuable work and assistance that Capt. S. A. White had rendered in connection with the New Game Bill last year. Another effort to get the Bill passed would be made next session when he hoped to again have the help of Capt. White's wide experience and influence. The Secretary was requested to write to the Commissioner of Police commending the fine work of Inspector Fraser of Adelaide, and M. C. McDonald of Milang in securing convictions against offenders of the Bird Protection Laws. Members expressed their pleasure at the prominence given by the Proprietors of "The Register" and "Evening Journal" to articles dealing with the protection and welfare of our native birds.

Mr. T. P. Bellchambers of Humbug Scrub sent a sketch of a bird rarely seen in his district. This was recognised as the Fantailed Cuckoo. Mrs. Nimmo sent data and photographs of

a pair of curlews that had successfully hatched a chick in her garden. Capt. White reported that a pair of White-bearded Honey-eaters had finished building a nest in his garden on 3th March. The first egg was laid on 9th, and the second a day later. Both hatched, but the chicks died when three days old, and the parent birds were again building. Mr. Edwin Ashby noted several White-faced Herons roosting close to his house at Blackwood. Mr. J. W. Mellor reported the Yellow-rumped Diamond Bird about throughout the month at Fulham, and the Fantailed Cuckoo very quiet at Lockleys. Black-faced Cuckoo Shrikes were about in unusually large numbers, 32 were congregated on a dead tree at Fulham, whilst at the same time many more were flying around or perched on the surrounding trees. On 28th March, young White-plumed Honey-eaters were being fed by the parent birds.

Mr. Edwin Ashby showed two highly coloured Adelaide Rosellas from Echunga and Upper Sturt, and suggested that they were fairly old birds. Capt. White opined that as so many of these birds were now being shot in the orchards, and it took about eight years for them to get highly coloured, it was probable that few bright forms would be met with in the future.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year—

President—Capt. S. A. White, C.M.B.O.U.

Vice-President—Mr. Edwin Ashby, C.F.A.O.U.

Secretary—Mr. Robert Crompton, R.A.O.U.

Acting Secretary—Mr. F. M. Angel, R.A.O.U.

Editorial Committee—Capt. White, Messrs. F. R. Zietz, A. G. Edquist, Robert Crompton, and F. M. Angel.

The financial statement showed that, in spite of the great increase in the cost of publication of the "S.A. Ornithologist," the position was very satisfactory.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. F. M. Angel, who had so creditably carried out the duties of Secretary during the absence of Mr. Robert Crompton in Europe.

APRIL 25th, 1919.

Capt. S. A. White, C.M.B.O.U. presided. Messrs. A. Keith Ashby and J. Neil McGilp were duly elected members. The Chairman reported that he had been informed by the Hon. the Minister of Industry that a new permit would be granted to the Association in connection with the supervision of the Islands on the Coorong.

Mr. J. W. Mellor reported the first Flame-breasted Robin this season during the previous week at St. Kilda, also that Chestnut-eared Finches were nesting in the boxthorn bushes at Lockleys. The large Wattle Birds were very numerous at the latter place this year. Mr. R. C. Beck noted a large flight of Wattle Birds at Seaton, and the Golden-breasted Thickhead for the first time. Red-capped Robins were breeding in the vicinity, but he had been unable to locate the nest. Mr. F. R. Zietz stated that small flocks of Flame-breasted Robins had been reported passing along the Coorong. Mr. S. Sanders reported that the European Blackbird had been noticed at Yergo for the first time. Mr. Alan Lendon observed the Peaceful Dove in the Botanic Park.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to an account of the American Birds that came under Mr. Edwin Ashby's notice during his recent trip to the United States of America. Mr. Ashby graphically described the fine timber country, and wonderful forests and illustrated his remarks with a number of photographs of plants and nut-bearing trees, which form the main food supply of many of the birds and mammals. A fine collection of bird skins was exhibited, and the characteristics and habits of the species represented were explained. With the aid of some remarkably good gramophone records, the glorious songs and strange notes of many of the birds were brought home to the hearers. Mr. Ashby was heartily thanked for the very interesting lecture.

MAY 30th, 1919.

Capt. S. A. White presided.

The Acting Secretary (Mr. F. M. Angel) reported that in connection with the proposal to form a junior section of the Association, application had been made to the Royal Society for the use of their rooms for the meetings, which would be under the supervision of one of the Senior members of the Association. A favourable reply having been received, Mr. A. G. Edquist undertook to convene a meeting of suitable boys and to draft rules.

The President reported having visited Renmark with a government party in connection with the Agricultural Bureau and addressed a large meeting upon the value of our native birds to the orchardist. Considerable interest was manifested in the subject by the residents, some of whom stated that they

would now view the birds in a new light, and could see that it was to their interests to protect them.

Capt. White had also received a pressing invitation to speak at Narracoorte again. The members thanked Capt. White for the good work he has done in the country districts in spreading knowledge and interest in our feathered friends.

Mr. J. W. Mellor recorded Regent Honey-eaters on the Adelaide Plains for the first time, at Lockleys. Other birds of interest noted by this member for the month included 7 Straw-necked Ibis, a common Bronze-wing Pigeon, and numbers of Chestnut-eared Finches just out of their nests. Dr. Morgan reported having again visited the Cormorant rookery near Port Broughton, and witnessed a Cormorant capture a Hoary-headed Grebe. Vast numbers of Banded Stilts, covering acres, were observed on the return journey, and in the samphire country *Acanthiza rosinae* was noted. The doctor also reported 3 Hoary-headed Grebe on the Torrens during the month. Mr. Weidenbach stated that 2 large Wattle Birds and 2 Brush Wattle Birds were in the habit of roosting in the same tree at Glen Osmond. Mr. R. C. Beck observed a pair of Bustards near Wynarka.

The bird for the evening's discussion was *Sericornis maculatus*, and the following sub-species were represented.—*S.m. osculans*, *mellori*, *ashbyi*, and *rymilli*. Specimens exhibited were from the private collections of Capt. S. A. White, Messrs. J. W. Mellor, and F. E. Parsons.

Order Ardeiformes, Family Ardeidae, Genus *Notophox*.

Notophox norachollandiae (White-faced Heron)

Description—All upper surface, slaty grey, the wings being somewhat darker tinged with brown, the primaries as well as the tail-feathers being a deep slate colour, crown of the head and back of the neck rich slaty blue, sides of the neck, slaty grey. Face, throat, and forehead, white; elongated feathers on the breast, rich brown; under surface having a rich brown or rufous tinge; passing down the lower part of the neck is a stripe of deep buff brown; iris, yellow; bill, top mandible and tip of lower, black; base of lower mandible, yellowish white; feet and legs, yellow, a line down front, greenish brown.

Distribution—Found over the whole of Australia and the adjacent islands including Tasmania.

Habits—They are found on the banks of water courses, swamps, tidal flats, and reefs, around the shores of lakes and even small dams and waterholes. They wade through the water and over muddy flats in search of food, but do not stand motionless and watch for their prey to come to them, like the common European Heron; they are expert mouse catchers, and are to be often seen stalking about in dry grass, and stinkweed some distance from water in search of mice.

Flight—Straight, with slow heavy flaps of the wings. In flight the head is bent back until the back of the head rests between the shoulders, the legs are carried straight out behind.

Food—Tadpoles, frogs, crickets, small fish, crabs, yabbies (*Astacopsis*), mice, grasshoppers, and other insects.

Nest—Merely a rough platform of coarse sticks with a few smaller twigs to form a lining placed on a horizontal fork of a large tree from 20 to 50 feet from the ground, the nesting tree being generally selected near water, but sometimes a mile or more from water. They do not nest in colonies.

Note—When nesting, a harsh cry is made when upon the wing, generally when passing to and from nesting tree to feeding ground; **General Note**—A harsh croak-like sound, but not often uttered.

Eggs—Three to five in number, usually four, in a clutch, of a uniform light blue colour; average measurements of thirteen eggs—48.5 m.m. x 35.5 m.m.; Largest egg—49.0 m.m. x 38.0 m.m.; smallest egg—46.0 m.m. x 34.5 m.m.

Measurements of the bird in the flesh—Total length, 698 m.m.; wing, from body to tip, 469 m.m.; spread of wings, 1,168 m.m.; bill, 86 m.m.; tarsus, 107 m.m.

Notes from the Lake Frome District.

BY J. NEIL MCGILLP, J.P., R.A.O.F.

Geobasiliscus chrysochlorus addendus.

In all the nests of this bird, which have come under my notice, I have found the double structure, an open cup-shaped nest on top of a well-concealed covered-in nest with a carefully hidden entrance. A great deal of the structure is of sheep's wool, spider cocoons and small twigs, the lower compartment being beautifully lined with highly coloured feathers, an assortment which I should judge took some time to gather. The small soft pink feathers of the Rose-breasted Cockatoo were noted, also the green feathers of the Shell Parrots, small metallic ones of the Crested Bronzewing Pigeon, and other brightly coloured feathers. Every nest examined contained these bright feathers. Another strange feature I noticed in four nests, out of about a dozen examined, was the skeletons of three young birds. The death of the birds cannot be accounted for, unless the parents were killed, but it was noticed that these four nests which contained the dead birds, were built in Mistletoe, and the nests were covered with small ants. The question is, would the ants prove too much for the parent birds?

A Seagull was feeding with the fowls on the 28th February last, evidently on its way to surface water somewhere?

Several pairs of Grey Falcons have been seen lately (March, 1919). One pair was engaged in chasing finches from the tank to the hedge, a distance of about fifty yards, and often almost flying into the verandah in close pursuit of their prey. Some weeks ago no less than six of these birds were observed feeding on a Galah (Rose-breasted Cockatoo), which they had apparently just killed upon my approach. One tried to carry the Galah away, but after flying 50 or 60 yards was forced to drop it, on account of the weight. This is the first time I have seen more than two of these birds together.

Six Cormorants flew over here late one evening, flying very low. I was unable to distinguish for certain which species but they had every appearance of *P. hypoleucus*.

A List of the birds observed on Moolawatana Station, March, 1918 to March, 1919.

Dromiceius novae-hollandiac, Emu.

Synoicus ypselophorus sordidus, Southern Brown Quail.

- Austroturris velox*, Eastern Little Quail.
Pedionomus torquatus, Plain Wanderer.
Scolopelia curvata, Eastern Spotted-shouldered Dove.
Phaps chalcoptera, Bronze-winged Pigeon.
Ocyphaps lophotes, Crested Pigeon.
Microtribonyx ventralis whitei, Eastern Black-tailed Native Hen.
Porphyrio melanotus, Eastern Bald Coot.
Fulica atra tasmanica, Eastern Coot.
Polioccephalus polioccephalus, Hoary-headed Grebe.
Gelochelidon nilotica macrotarsa, Australian Gull-billed Tern.
Hydroprogne tschegrava strenua, Australian Caspian Tern.
Bruchigavia novae-hollandiae, Silver Gull.
Erythrogonys cinctus, Red-kneed Dotterel.
Lobibyrx novae-hollandiae, Spur-winged Plover.
Zonifer tricolor, Black-breasted Plover.
Leucopoliis ruficapillus, Red-capped Dotterel.
Elseya melanops, Black-fronted Dotterel.
Himantopus leucocephalus, White-headed Stilt.
Recurrirostra novae-hollandiae, Red-necked Avocet.
Stiltia isabella, Australian Pratincole.
Peltohyas australis, Australian Dotterel.
Burhinus magnirostris, Eastern Stone Plover.
Austrotis australis, Australian Bustard.
Mathewsia rubicunda, Australian Crane.
Threskiornis molucca strictipennis, White Ibis.
Carphibis spinicollis, Straw-necked Ibis.
Plegadis falcinellus, Glossy Ibis.
Spathero dia regia, Black-billed Spoonbill.
Platibis flavipes, Yellow-billed Spoonbill.
Notophox novae-hollandiae, White-fronted Heron.
Nycticorax caledonicus, Australian Night Heron.
Myola pacifica, White-necked Heron.
Chenopsis atrata, Eastern Black Swan.
Anseranas semipalmata, Pied Goose.
Chenonetta jubata, Wood Duck or Maned Goose.
Casarca tadarnoides, Mountain Duck.
Anas superciliosa rogersi, Black Duck.
Virago castanea, Chestnut-breasted Teal.
Virago gibberifrons, Grey Teal.
Malacorhynchus membranaceus, Pink-eared Duck.
Stictonetta naevosa, Freckled Duck.

- Nyroca australis*, White-eyed Duck.
Oxyura australis, Blue-billed Duck.
Biziura lobata, Musk Duck.
Phalacrocorax carbo, Black Cormorant.
Mesocorbo ater, Little Black Cormorant.
Hypoleucos varius hypoleucos, Eastern Pied Cormorant.
Microcarbo melanoleucos, Little Cormorant.
Catoptropelicanus conspicillatus, Eastern Pelican.
Circus assimilis, Spotted Harrier.
Circus approximans gouldi, Swamp Hawk.
Leucospiza clara, Grey Goshawk.
Accipiter cirrocephalus, Collared Sparrow Hawk.
Uroaetus audax, Wedge-tailed Eagle.
Hieraetus morphnoides, Little Eagle.
Haliastur sphenurus, Whistling Eagle.
Milvus korschun affinis, Allied Kite.
Falco longipennis, Little Falcon.
Falco hypoleucos, Grey Falcon.
Notofalco subniger, Black Falcon.
Ieracidea berigora, Striped Brown Hawk.
Cerchneis cenchroides, Nankeen Kestrel.
Spiloglaux boobook marmorata, Marbled Owl.
Tyto alba delicatula, Masked Owl.
Ducorpsius gymnopsis, Bare-eyed Cockatoo.
Eolophus roseicapillus, Rose breasted Cockatoo.
Leptolophus auricomis, Cockatoo-Parrot.
Barnardius barnardi whitei, South Australian Mallee Parrot.
Psephotus varius rosinae, Southern Many-coloured Parrot.
Northiella haematogaster xanthorrhoea, Yellow-vented Parrot.
Neonanodes elegans, Grass Parrot.
Mclopsittacus undulatus, Shell Parrot.
Podargus strigoides rossi, Mallee Frogmouth.
Acgothecles cristata, Owlet Nightjar.
Cyanalecyon pyrrhopygius, Red-backed Kingfisher.
Cosmacrops ornatus, Australian Bee-eater.
Eurostopodus argus, Spotted Nightjar.
Heteroseenes pallidus, Pallid Cuckoo.
Hirundo neoxena, Welcome Swallow.
Cheramoeca leucosternum stonei, Eastern Black and White Swallow.
Hylochelidon nigricans caleyi, Tree Martin.

- Lagenoplastes ariel*, Fairy Martin.
Whiteornis goodenovii, Southern Red-capped Robin.
Melanodryas cucullata rigorsi, Southern Hooded Robin.
Microrornis brevirostris viridescens, Greenish Tree-tit.
Lewinornis rufiventris maudeae (S.A. White), Central Australian Rufous-breasted Thickhead.
Rhipidura flabellifera whitei, South Australian Fantail.
Leucocirca tricolour, Black and White Fantail.
Seisura inquieta, Restless Flycatcher.
Pteropodocys maxima, Eastern Ground Cuckoo Shrike.
Coracina novaehollandiae melanops, Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike.
Lalage tricolor, White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater.
Cinclosoma castanotum, Chestnut-backed Ground Bird.
Hylacola sp., Ground Wren.
Sphenostoma cristatum, Wedgebill.
Morganornis superciliosus, White-browed Babbler.
Pomatostomus ruficeps, Chestnut-crowned Babbler.
Cinclorhampus cruralis, Brown Song Lark.
Epthianura albifrons, White-fronted Chat.
Parepthianura tricolor, Tricoloured Chat.
Aurepthianura aurifrons, Orange-fronted Chat.
Ashbyia lovensis, Desert Chat.
Acanthiza lineata?, Southern Striated Tit.
Acanthiza uropygialis condora, Pale Chestnut-rumped Tit.
Acanthiza pusilla hamiltoni, Red-rumped Tit.
Geobasiliscus chrysorrhous addendus, Port Augusta Yellow-rumped Tit.
Hallornis cyanotus, White-winged Wren.
Leggeornis lamberti assimilis, Purple-backed Wren.
Artamus leucorhynchus, White-rumped Wood Swallow.
Campbellornis personatus munna, Masked Wood Swallow.
Campbellornis superciliosus, White-browed Wood-Swallow.
Austrartamus melanops, Black-faced Wood-Swallow.
Grallina cyanoleuca, Magpie Lark.
Colluricincla harmonica victoriac, Grey Shrike Thrush.
Gymnorhina tibicen, Black-backed Magpie.
Bulestes torquatus ethelae, Southern Butcher Bird.
Oreocica cristata clelandi, Southern Crested Bell-bird.
Aphelocephala leucopsis whitei, White-face.
Austrodiacaenum hirundinaceum, Mistletoe Bird.
Pardalotinus striatus ornatus, Red-tipped Pardalote.
Cissomela nigra, Black Honey-eater.
Gliciphila albifrons, White-fronted Honey-eater.

Certhionyx variegatus, Pied Honey-eater.

Meliphaga sonora, Southern Singing Honey-eater.

Lichenostomus ornatus, Yellow-plumed Honey-eater.

Ptilotula penicillata icilaralensis, Cloncurry White-plumed Honey-eater.

Myzantha flavigula, Yellow-throated Minah.

Coleia carunculata tregellasi, Victorian Yellow Wattle Bird.

Acanthagenys rufogularis cygnus, Southern Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater.

Anthus australis adelaidensis, Southern Pipit.

Taeniopygia castanotis, Chestnut-eared Finch.

Corvus coronoides, Australian Raven.

Corvus benetti, Small-billed Crow.

INTRODUCED.

Passer domesticus, Sparrow.

Sturnus vulgaris, Starling.

Of the above one hundred and thirty-six Native birds observed, 70 are known to breed in this locality.

Regent Honey-eaters—Visit to the Adelaide Plains.

BY J. W. MELLOR, R.A.O.U.

The most remarkable bird noted for May, 1919, and the most pleasing record that I have made for the district of Lockleys, S.A., was the sudden appearance of the Regent Honey-eater (*Zanthomiza phrygia tregellasi*) during the latter part of April and early part of May. Although I kept a sharp lookout for the bird in other parts of the district, I was unable to detect it elsewhere than on my estate. The fine old gum trees here seemed especially to attract them, the native blue gum being the favourite, for it was amongst the gnarled boughs and limbs of these trees that the Regent Honey-eaters made their chief abode during their brief stay with us. They were evidently migrating, but from whence they came, or whither they went no data has been obtainable. I assumed that they were making for the Mount Lofty Ranges, as they have often been recorded by our local naturalists about Blackwood and Belair, and at

higher elevations in the ranges. Upon making enquiries after the birds' departure, however, I found that they had not made the Adelaide hills their rendezvous. Their visit to the Adelaide Plains I believe is unique, and it will be interesting to note whether, having once made this their line of migration, they will repeat the route in future seasons. The suddenness, of their appearance, and their equally quick disappearance, left no doubt in my mind that they were migrating rapidly, most likely forced on their journey by the exceptionally dry season experienced in this State. While they were with us they proved a beautiful sight and kept the locality gay with their bright plumage and remarkably sweet and continuous song. The latter is a flute-like warble, of silvery liquid notes, not unlike the song of the Oriole, but more lively and continuous.

The tameness of the birds was especially noticeable. They even came to the back door, and three or four at a time would drink at a bucket beneath the tap, or suck the water as it dripped from the nozzle of the tap. They were in numbers, even in the fowls' yard, and here I was able to note their habits at close quarters. Their food consisted chiefly of insects, which they sometimes caught in the gnarled boughs of the old gum trees, but principally by sallying out on the wing to catch them in mid air, and then flying to a neighbouring bough to eat the captured tit-bit.

The following notes from my ornithological notebook may be of interest to show the exact dates of arrival and departure, etc.—

April 28, 1919—"I noted a small covey of what I took to be these birds (*Regent Honey-eaters*) flying from a gum tree at Lockleys, late in the afternoon, there was about a dozen."

April 29.—"I made sure of the identity of the birds, by shooting one in a gum tree in the fowls' yard, there being several birds about during the day, but I did not get more than the one specimen, which I was exceedingly pleased to secure, as it was the first time that I had noted the birds down here. They were making a very sweet and pleasing warbling whistle, not unlike the notes of the Oriole, but not nearly so powerful, and continued this melody at intervals all day, as they searched amongst the boughs of the gum trees for their food. Ever and anon they sallied forth after a beetle, which they caught on the wing, and then flew into a tree to eat it."

April 30.—“Quite a number of these beautiful honey-eaters was about, and they even came to the back door, and drank from a bucket. They also came after insects in the fowls’ yard, there being no honey producing blossoms out. The sweet warbling notes were very pleasing, and being very ventriloquial, it seemed that they were in quite another part of the tree, or even in an adjoining one.”

May 1.—“I was greatly surprised on rising early to find that large numbers of the Regent Honey-eaters had arrived and were sporting about in the trees right at the back door. Before the sun rose, a large tree near by, contained numbers of them. In a short time, more and still more flew into the same tree, until it was literally alive with these gems of the honey-eating family. There must have been scores of them, all hopping about in the green foliage making the small boughs shake all over the tree. The birds seemed as though they were having an early morning bath from the damp leaves, and as the sun rose and shed its bright light on the scene, it made a beautiful and gorgeous sight. The bright yellow mixed with the black feathers of the birds shone out like gold as the sun gradually mounted. Everything seemed to sparkle, and it would be hard to find a more handsome sight than these glorious little birds presented. I went quite close to get the full view of the scene, but did not disturb their early morning meeting.

The long dry season in all probability was responsible for the appearance of the birds, as I had not seen them down here before, although they had been in the Mount Lofty Ranges in previous seasons, notably at Blackwood, but I think even there they could not have been so numerous as they have been at Lockleys to-day.”

May 2.—“Regent Honey-eaters still numerous, and several come to drink at the tap at the back door, quite tame and confiding.”

May 3.—“Birds still numerous in the trees.”

May 4.—“Regent honey-eaters about, but very scarce.”

May 5.—“Only saw one, the birds having gone as quickly as they came.”

May 6.—“Not a trace of the Regent honey-eaters left. They seem to have stayed only with us during their visit, for although I kept a sharp lookout for them elsewhere, in all likely places, I saw no sign of them.”

Re naming Australian Birds.

TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE.

Sirs,

In Vol. IV., Part 1 of this Journal, Mr. A. J. Campbell states that I have criticised his address "somewhat biasedly." Allow me to say that my statements were only in accordance with up-to-date ornithology. I should now like to comment upon Mr. Campbell's letter taking the salient points as they there stand.

1. Mr. Campbell quotes dictionaries and encyclopaedias, as to nomenclature being a science, but I venture to say that there are many things understood, which do not appear in such literature, but which could be proved easily enough. The naming of birds in the vernacular may not be scientific, but to name them scientifically with scientific names is certainly so, and therefore must be a science.

2. I know a little about the Army and the Navy, Mr. Campbell knows the Civil Service, and we all know that it is the general practice that the officers move up as vacancies occur in next of rank, but this is away from the point, for I contend this has nothing to do with Ornithology, why bring it in?

3. Mr. Campbell is modifying his views now, when he says "a good starting point for *some* (the italics are mine) Australian names, and those that are ornithologically correct," for Mr. Campbell led us to believe John Gould was his rock-bed priority.

4. Mr. Campbell quotes Prof. Macgillivray upon John Gould's works. He means at the time of their publication, but every progressive Ornithologist knows we have outlived them, and must have an up-to-date list.

5. Mr. Campbell must know that John Gould redescribed birds, which had been described years before him, and in Mr. Campbell's own words he says John Gould's scientific work is obsolete, but in other ways he is not.

6. Mr. Campbell should not state that I have made severe reflections on biological professors, for he knows well enough when I say "any Australian Ornithologist being deemed worthy to sit on the National Committee." I mean members of the *Old School* of Ornithology.

7. There is no wobbling on my side, but there certainly is with those who find their position untenable. Mr. Campbell put his broad plank of popular names on top of his narrow scientific one.

8. I feel sure those learned gentlemen, the Editors of "The Ibis" and "The Auk" must feel greatly flattered when they read Mr. Campbell's words,—“Moreover they showed careless criticism when they referred to ‘lack of’ or ‘that no synonymy’ was given,” when every one knows this to be correct. The list may have led up to all the literature known to the compilers, but others would like to differ.

9. How does Mr. Campbell know that I am not in close touch with members of the said Committee? To hear one say that all scientific work done in Moscow and Berlin prior to the war must be rescinded is absolutely ridiculous.

10. All ornithologists in Australia we know unfortunately are not progressive, but I am glad to think the majority now are, and Mr. Campbell must be realizing this at last. It is absolute nonsense to say “Mr. So-and-So is pushing the priority rule to an extent that is causing confusion.” I say Mr. So-and-So, (by which is implied Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, the author of that splendid work—“The Birds of Australia”) is only following the eminent Zoologists of the world. But let me tell Mr. Campbell this, as one who knows, that the makers of the Laws of Priority are carrying out the full meaning of the laws, and any one who tries to do otherwise is up against a stone wall at once. The next R.A.O.U. “Check List” will fall into line with the world's scientists, or I am very much mistaken. The Old School must give way in this as in other sciences. I have not been opposing this because an absolute majority of the R.A.O.U. have voted for a second edition of the Check-list *as called for by the International Code*. It should have been called a New Check-list, for it will have nothing to do with the old and worthless List.

S. A. WHITE,

“Wefunga.” 28-6-19.

A Sketch of the Life of Samuel White— Ornithologist, Soldier, Sailor, and Explorer.

By His Son, S. A. White, C.M.B.O.U.

XXI. THE ORNITHOLOGIST AND SAILOR.

In a few notes evidently made at the termination of his last trip, my father says—"I regret that I had neither time nor opportunity to make a Botanical collection, but one man cannot do everything. A collector's life, even if he confines himself to a few things, is an active and harassing one if he puts his heart into the work, or so I have usually found it and having assistants does not always relieve one altogether. At times I have sat skinning and curing specimens for days, from early morn till late at night, and at others scouring the scrub for some particular specimens and have been induced by some of my hunters to take a long journey through thick scrub, over hills, plains, or swamps in quest of some information which is interesting to me. Many times I have been out several days then hurried back, tired and weary, to cure the specimens obtained which has often taken nearly all night and I was so tired that it was impossible to write up my notes. Throwing myself on my bed if I had one I snatched a few minutes' rest before rising again with the dawn to begin a fresh day with hardly time to wash or partake of food and so it goes on for weeks and months, till frequently hard work and scanty living brings on some climatic fever, when one's labours suddenly cease for the time".

At times Samuel White seems to have jotted down his thoughts here and there. In some cases they were short scraps of notes; some of these which are before me were written after his last voyage and evidently he was musing over them for he says,—"I purchased a great deal from the natives when I was in the Aro Islands, and the birds they brought in would keep two men skinning, and hard at work at that, all day long. I induced them to persevere by liberal offers and payments. I made it a practice to make many presents to the natives and by treating liberally, induced them to bring hundreds of men and boys about me and most of them brought something they had collected, from a bird of paradise to a stone, or a broken shell. It was harvest time in the Aros during my visit, and these people had never seen anything like it before. During the time I was among these interesting natives I distributed


250 yards of calico, mostly coloured, hundreds of dozens of handkerchiefs, several hundreds of tomahawks, seventy dozen knives, 100 lbs. of beads, 10 cwt. of tobacco, twenty double barrel guns, 40 single barrel guns, 200 lbs. of powder, 20 bags of shot, 2,000 caps, ten dozen rugs, also tea, sugar, rice biscuits, and many other things besides 100 sovereigns. It can be well understood that some of these men said, 'Such times they had never seen before'.

It is greatly to be regretted that this great field Ornithologist should have left us before he had put into writing his great achievements in the science he loved so much, and for which he suffered so many hardships—hardships which eventually cost him his life. He was a man of such retiring nature that he avoided any notoriety that would be likely to follow many of his great achievements and made as little as possible of his work, but I know that he realized that he had much information which would be valuable to science, and I also know that if he had been spared, it was his intention to record much of his field work that it might be handed down to live after him. The subject of this brief sketch lived in those early days of a young colony when the wonderful pioneers required all the grit that a human being can possess, to make headway against those manifold difficulties which are always associated with pioneering. Consequently, my father's early tastes for natural history were much retarded, and in addition his parents, who did not realize the importance of their son's scientific research kept a check upon his hobby. In spite of all the obstacles thrown in his way Samuel White from his early childhood showed the greatest love for nature, especially birds, and during his boyhood days spent in a veritable bird paradise, at his old home at the Reedbeds, bird observation was always first in his mind. It was then he laid down the nucleus of a great collection and at the time of his death and long after, the earliest specimens collected were in a perfect state of preservation. Sad to say this great collection containing birds, which have now become extinct was scattered by the trustees to the four quarters of the Globe, a priceless collection which could never be assembled again, and this was done, of course against his express wishes and will. The great love for nature possessed by my father may have caused some who did not really know him, to think that he was eccentric; for instance he willed, that should he lose his life when upon one of his expeditions into the interior, no search should be made for his remains,

but to allow them to rest surrounded by nature which he loved so much. Apart from all this, this naturalist made many friends, and I have known ship's officers, travelling companions and others go to great trouble to find him years after they had met. He told a good after dinner story and charmed his friends with his natural courteous manners and the accounts of his many travels, and experiences, whenever they could prevail upon him to speak of them. He was naturally a fine horseman and there is no doubt he took much interest in the raising of stock during his station days, but ever uppermost in his mind were his beloved birds. It was a byword in the family that "Whatever Samuel took in hand he mastered", and this is well illustrated when I look back upon his proficiency in music, chemistry, photography, and entomology as well as ornithology, he was a navigator although he had not taken out a certificate; still his bringing back his yacht upon his last voyage through uncharted seas proved this. Samuel White was no mean artist and when quite a boy painted a number of the Native birds of his district, which are far more life-like in colour and contour than the illustrations in some ornithological works which have appeared since that time. My father had a wonderful influence over the aboriginies of both Australia and New Guinea. He travelled and lived amongst the wild tribes of both countries for years, but not once did he ever have trouble with them. There was an old full blooded aboriginal who knew my father as a boy, who travelled very many hundreds of miles to find him, and when told that my father was dead he wept and mourned his loss for days, this is but one of many striking marks of affection borne by the natives towards my father. I am afraid his good nature was often, very often imposed upon, but it gave him the greatest pleasure to do a good turn to another. During his sojourns in England (a trip which was a great undertaking in those days) he loved to meet his old army friends, and he spent many an evening before the fire chatting over military matters, for he had the true martial spirit of the Britisher. He was proud to be a Britisher, and proud of all that was British. Of course the meetings with such men as John Gould, A. R. Wallace and other Ornithologists were red letter days to my father, and every conversation with them was burnt deeply into his memory. At a time have I heard him quote John Gould and others in the old country upon ornithological matters. I feel sure John Gould the Author of "The Birds of Australia" knew

that it was beyond dispute when he stated in his great work the credit due to my father for his discoveries in Ornithology and said, "I know of no one of my correspondents in Australia who is so keenly alive to the science of Ornithology", and he should have added, "done so much field work". When Samuel White died he left a widow, and young family to mourn their great loss, and since that fatal day, they have kept evergreen the memory of that wonderful pioneer, and great field Ornithologist. It is to be hoped that this very brief sketch of a life by far too short, but still full of great interest, may convey to my readers some idea of the work accomplished by a great pioneer of this State, and of Australian Ornithology.





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1st OCTOBER 1919.

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R. CROMPTON, R.A.O.U.

A. G. EDQUIST

S. A. WHITE, C.M.B.O.U.

F. R. ZIETZ, R.A.O.U.

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F. R. ZIETZ, R.A.O.U.

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The Editorial Committee accepts no responsibility for the views or deductions expressed by any of its contributors. The Journal welcomes a free interchange of ideas with the object of extending the knowledge of our avifauna, but the author of each article is responsible for the opinions and deductions recorded.

South Australian Ornithologist.

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1st OCTOBER, 1919.

[PART 4.

The South Australian Ornithological Association.

June 27th, 1919.

The monthly meeting of the South Australian Ornithological Association was held in the Royal Society's rooms, North Terrace, on Friday evening, 27th June, 1919. Capt. S. A. White presided. Mr. J. Sutton, of Netherby, Mitcham, was nominated for membership. All members present were exceedingly pleased to hear that Surgeon-Major W. MacGillivray had returned from Europe fit and well, and looked forward to meeting him upon his return from Sydney, where he has gone on duty. Mr. F. Parsons described a wonderful sight of bird life recently at Kensington, where many parrots of the lorikeet family had congregated in the flowering blue gums. They were of three species, but their numbers were remarkable. Mr. C. H. Lienau stated that he had seen four male blue wrens in full plumage in company with two in brown plumage, feeding another brown bird, which was remarkable for this time of year. Mr. F. R. Zietz reported having seen the Rufous Thickhead (*Lewinornis rufiventris*) at Kingswood. Master Alan Lendon stated that he had seen the fantailed cuckoo and regent or warty-faced honey-eater in the Botanic Garden. Mr. J. Sutton had been observing the brown tree creeper at Mitcham, that was in the habit of roosting in a vent pipe. Mr. Edwin Ashby forwarded some interesting bird notes from the Blackwood district. He stated that one of the little bronze cuckoos had been rehearsing his spring notes. Many singing honey-eaters were now in the district, which is an unusual occurrence in the hills. The swift lorikeet had been seen at Blackwood on June 3 and 27. Several flame-breasted robins had been noted. The large wattle bird, as well as Blue Mountain parrots, were very numerous in his garden just at present. The Chairman stated that three swans presented a which directed attention to the great number of barn owls that had been found dead. The Chairman said he had had many

beautiful sight on a shady water at the Reedbeds that morning. The fantailed cuckoo had been heard calling in its mournful way for some weeks past. He also announced that all the blue wrens (*maluri*) had now changed into their full blue and black plumage, with the exception of one bird, which showed dark spots about the throat, denoting a change of plumage about to take place. He said a baldcoot had been seen flying high well over the big gumtrees at 4 p.m., this being an unusual sight, as these birds generally fly at night. The birds under discussion for the evening were:—The brown scrub wren (*Tasmanornis humilis*), a bird confined to the scrubs of Tasmania; Flinders Island scrub wren (*T. humilis flindersi*), described by White and Mellor after visiting Flinders Island, Bass Straits, in 1913; collared scrub wren (*Oreoscopus gutturalis*), which is found in the North of Queensland; scrub tit (*Acanthornis magnus*), only found in Tasmania; the long-tailed blue wren (*Malurus cyaneus*), described by Gamlin in 1789 from a specimen taken at Adventure Bay, South Tasmania; North Tasmanian blue wren (*Malurus cyaneus fletcheræ*), named after Miss Fletcher, of the Tasmanian Educational Department; Flinders Island blue wren (*Malurus cyaneus samueli*), being confined to Flinders Island; King Island blue wren (*M. cyaneus elizabethæ*), this also only being found on the island from which it derives its name; Victorian blue wren (*M. cyaneus henriettae*), being found only in Victoria; southern blue wren (*M. cyaneus leggei*), the type locality of this specimen being from the mangroves of the Port Adelaide River; Kangaroo Island blue wren (*M. cyaneus ashbyi*), this Kangaroo Island species was named by G. M. Mathews in 1912; blue wren (*M. cyaneus australis*), being found in New South Wales; silvery blue wren (*M. cyaneus cyanochlamys*), a beautiful bird having its habitat in southern Queensland and north New South Wales.

Owing to the restricted tram service, due to the Seamen's Strike, no meeting was held in July.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1919.

Capt. S. A. White presided over a large attendance. Mr. E. A. Brooks, of Buckland Park, was proposed as a member, and Mr. J. Sutton, of Netherby, was duly elected. The Secretary reported that the Government had granted the Association a licence to occupy the Islands in the Bird Protection Area in the Coorong. The Chairman read an extract from The South-Eastern Times, which had been handed in by Mr. F. R. Zietz, and

of the birds sent to him. The birds were in very poor condition, and opinions were divided as to whether the mortality was due to disease or starvation. The progress made by the Animals and Birds Protection Bill and the Fauna and Flora Bill in Parliament was discussed, and much satisfaction was expressed. There were many interesting notes from the month's observations. Dr. Morgan stated that he had been investigating the nesting place of the house martins, and had found that small depressions were made in masses of gum leaves under the eaves and situated on the wall plate of the house. In these depressions the birds laid their eggs. Mr. Mellor said that two barn owls which had been roosting in a creeper for some time had now left, and that it was quite likely they had gone to seek a nesting hollow; that the brush wattle birds had been mating at Lockleys, likewise the magpies early in August, and that the pallid cuckoo had been much in evidence with its strange note. Mr. F. R. Zietz had seen young magpies about early this year. Mr. A. Crompton reported that there was a magpie lark's nest in the Botanic Garden, situated over one of the dining tables, and that the land-rails had been seen at Stonyfell all through the year. Early in August he had observed wood swallows clustering at Upper Kensington. Mr. E. Ashby said the regent honey-eater was in numbers at Blackwood just now, and that brush wattle birds were very numerous. The swift lorikeet had been seen at Mitcham. Mr. K. Ashby stated that these birds were always flying from north to south. Mr. Sutton stated that the first pallid cuckoo had reached Netherby on July 31, at 5.8 p.m. He had seen the golden whistler on July 7 and 22, fantailed cuckoo on July 5 and August 16, Rufous-breasted whistler on July 7, spotted diamond bird on June 27 and to July 29. Mr. R. Beck reported that he had seen a magpie kill a blackbird whilst on the wing. The Chairman reported having seen the spinebill at Fulham on July 2 and 10, the black-tailed native hen on July 18, the pallid cuckoo on July 20, a bearded honey-eater's nest with two eggs on July 22 (the eggs had hatched out on August 1), and Rufous song lark had appeared this season on August 30. He exhibited some species of *Platycreus* (Adelaide parakeets), showing the linking up with the palest form found at Mount Remarkable and in the Flinders Range. Mr. Frank Parsons showed the skins of two dove-like prions, found on the beach at Brighton, and Mr. E. Ashby the helmeted honey-eater from Victoria.

Order Ardeiformes, Family Plegadidae, Genus *Carphibis*.

Carphibis spinicollis (Straw-necked Ibis).

Description—Upper Surface.—Dark brown to black, with a decided bronze tinge; shading from green to purple, the feathers being barred with deep black; upper tail coverts edged with green; tail, white; in the old males short, white feathers cover much of the neck with metallic green feathers on the top; strange straw-like appendages under the neck, resembling feather shafts, under which is a dark, metallic band; the remainder of the under surface, white; bare skin of the head, black; small bare space under the eye, pink; feet, ruddy brown to pink; bill, black; iris, brown.

Measurements.—Total length, 842 m.m.; wing, 384 m.m.; tarsus, 90 m.m.; bill, 192 m.m.

Distribution—Over the whole of Australia and many of the Islands off the coast, including Tasmania.

Habits—Gregarious, moving about in parties of a dozen to several hundreds, spread over the plains, swamps and grasslands during the day time, but generally make for timber to roost at night. A large party will arrive at the roosting place (large gum trees for preference) in the dusk; circle round once or twice to make sure all is safe, then settle on the branches high up; a few hoarse croaks, and they are perfectly quiet. While walking over the plains they travel fairly fast, but nothing escapes their quick eyes; they turn over manure, sticks, and bark with their bills, and thrust them into the cracks of the soil in search of crickets. They shift about according to the seasons. If protected, become very confiding, but if molested are wary birds.

Nest—If placed in a tree or shrub near water, it generally consists of sticks, of a flattened shape; if in the rushes, flags and reeds, these are bent down to form a platform, and very often a little drift wood is added. As a rule the nests are built in large colonies.

Eggs—Three to five in number, dull white; nearly always much stained, green shade inside shell; measures 60 to 69 m.m.: 42 to 46 m.m.; laid from September to November.

Flight—Powerful, and at times, elegant; they soar round and round in great circles before alighting. At times they rise to a great height and travel long distances.

Food—Grasshoppers, crickets, frogs, mice, and many kinds of insects, terrestrial and aquatic, freshwater snails, etc.

Call—A harsh croaking note, but on the whole they are very silent.

The Ibis is one of the most useful birds, and has been known to congregate in vast numbers in front of a plague of locusts, and to have stopped the progress of these insects. This bird is totally protected in South Australia, under the Animals and Birds Protection Act.

The Weights of Some Australian Birds.

—By A. M. Morgan, M.B., B.Ch.—

During a holiday in the South-East of this State last October, I took the opportunity to weigh each of the birds I collected, and also their brains, with the object of finding the percentage of the latter to the body weight. I also weighed all the eggs I collected. As regards the relative weights of the brains my results are so uneven that I think it would be well to obtain many more observations before publishing the results. Many factors may upset the balance in a small bird, such as much loss of blood, containing several shot, or being in poor condition; all of which would increase the relative proportion of brain to body. The weights of birds' bodies and eggs may, however, be of interest to some of our members, and I am therefore publishing them.

All weights are given in grammes, and the names are those in Mr. Mathews's 1913 list:—

Name of Bird.	Weight.
♂. <i>Hypotaenidia phillipensis</i> .—Buff banded Rail	237.4
♀. <i>Laporina pusilla palustris</i> .—Little Crane	22.2
♂. <i>Leucopoliis ruficapillus</i> .—Red-capped Dotterel	39.3.

Name of Bird.	Weight
♂. <i>Charadrius cucullatus</i> .—Hooded Dotterel	101.9
♂. <i>Actitis hypoleucos auritus</i> .—Common Sandpiper	49.0
♀. <i>Trichoglossus novae-hollandiae</i> .—Blue-bellied Lorikeet	112.9
♀. <i>Glossopsitta concinna</i> .—Musk Lorikeet	70.9
♀. <i>Platyercus crinitus</i> .—Rosella	116.1
♂. <i>Neonauodes chrysogaster</i> .—Orange-bellied Parrot	51.2
♂. <i>Alyone azurea victoricae</i> .—Blue Kingfisher	37.4
♀. <i>Cosmaerops ornatus</i> .—Bee-eater	25.8
♂. <i>Cacomantis rubicatus</i> .—Fan-tailed Cuckoo	50.3
♀. <i>Pachycephala pectoralis fuliginosa</i> .—White-throated Thickhead	23.2
♂. <i>Lewinornis rufiventris</i> .—Rufous-breasted Thickhead	25.6
♂. <i>Eopsaltria australis gularis</i> .—Grey-breasted Shrike Robin	39.3
♀. <i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i> .—Babbler	97.4
♂. <i>Acanthiza pusilla</i> .—Brown Tit	7.0
♀. <i>Acanthiza lineata</i> .—Striped Tit	7.7
♂. <i>Acanthiza pusilla hamiltoni</i> .—Red-rumped Tit	6.1
♂. <i>Eopsaltria australis viridior</i> .—Green-rumped Shrike Robin	23.8
♂. <i>Sericornis longirostris</i> .—Scrub Wren	13.8
♂. <i>Sericornis longirostris</i> .—Juv.	12.5
♂. <i>Sericornis maculatus mellori</i> .—Spotted Scrub Wren	12.7
♂. <i>Malurus cyaneus leggei</i> .—Blue Wren	10.1
♂. <i>Stipiturus malachurus tregellasi</i> .—Emu Wren	8.1
♀. <i>Sphenura broadbenti</i> .—Bristle Bird	55.1
♀. <i>Campbellornis personatus</i> .—Masked Wood-Swallow	36.1
♂. <i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i> .—White-face	12.3
♀. <i>Zosterops lateralis westernensis</i> .—Silver eye	8.9
♂. <i>Pardalotinus striatus substriatus</i> .—Striped Diamond Bird	11.2

Name of Bird.	Weight
♂. <i>Gliciphila melanops</i> .—Fulvous-fronted Honey-eater, <i>Juv.</i>	14.9
♂. <i>Meliornis novaehollandiae</i> .—Bearded Honey-eater	24.8
♀. <i>Meliornis novaehollandiae</i> .—Bearded Honey-eater	16.5
♀. <i>Myzantha melanocephala whitei</i> .—Noisy Minah	95.4
♂. <i>Myzantha melanocephala whitei</i> .—Noisy Minah	81.0
♂. <i>Coleia carunculata</i> .—Red Wattle Bird	144.0
♂. <i>Coleia carunculata</i> .—Red Wattle Bird	129.6
♀. <i>Authochaera chrysoptera intermedia</i> .—Brush Wattle Bird	95.4
♀. <i>Acanthagenys rufogularis cygnus</i> .—Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater	45.8
♀. <i>Zonaeginthus bellus</i> .—Fire-tailed Finch	14.1

The greater number of these birds are from the South-Eastern district, but a few are from Port Lincoln.

A number of clutches of eggs were weighed, and the relation to the weight of the bird estimated when the latter was known. The bird weighed was, in most cases, not the parent of the eggs.

Name.	Weight of eggs.	Weight of clutch	Per cent. of clutch to body weight	Per cent. of heaviest egg to body weight
<i>Porzana fluminea</i> (Spotted Crake)	1.7.4 2.8.7 3.8.5 4.8.3 5.8.1	41.0		
<i>Haematopus ostralegus longirostris</i> (Pied Oyster Catcher)	1.50.3			
<i>Leucopoliis ruficapillus</i> (Red Capped Dotterel)	1.8.3 2.8.3 1.6.7 2.6.7 1.7.9 2.7.7	16.6	42.4	21.2
Ditto.	1.6.7			
Ditto.	2.6.7	13.4	34.1	17.05
Ditto	1.7.9			
Ditto.	2.7.7	15.6	39.7	20.1

Name.	Weight of eggs.	Weight of clutch	per cent. of clutch to body weight	per cent. of heavi- est egg to body weight
<i>Charadrius cucullatus</i> (Hooded Dotterel)	1.13.5 2.12.9 3.12.9	39.3	38.5	13.2
Ditto.	1.12.5			
Ditto.	2.12.5	37.5	36.8	12.3
Ditto.	3.12.5			
<i>Circus approximans gouldi</i> (Swamp Hawk)	1.36.7			
<i>Platycercus eximius</i> (Rosella Parrot)	1.5.5 2.5.5 3.5.6 4.5.5 5.5.4	22.5	18.4	4.8
<i>Coracina noronchollandiac melanops</i> (Black-faced Cuckoo- shrike)	1.8.5 2.8.7 3.8.6	25.8		
<i>Colluricincla harmonica vic- toriae</i> (Grey Shrike Thrush)	1.6.1 2.6.5 3.6.5	19.1		
<i>Acanthiza lineata</i> (Striped tit)	1.0.8 2.0.7	1.5	19.4	10.3
<i>Geothlypis chrysarrhous sand- landi</i> (Yellow-rumped Tit)	1.1.09			
<i>Lumprococcus plugosus</i> (Bronze Cuckoo)	1.1.3			
<i>Anthochaera chrysoptera inter- media</i> (Brush Wattle Bird)	1.5.8 2.6.0	11.8	12.3	6.2
Ditto.	1.47			
Ditto.	2.4.9	10.9	10.0	5.1

Name.	Weight of eggs.	Weight of clutch	per cent. of clutch to body weight	per cent. of heaviest egg to body weight
<i>Acanthogenys rufogularis cygnus</i> (Spiney-cheeked Honey-eater) ..	1.5.8			
	2.5.1	10.9	23.27	12.6
<i>Zonacginthus bellus</i> (Fire-tailed Finch)	1.0.9			
	2.1.0			
	3.1.0	4.7	33.3	7.0
	4.0.9			
	5.0.9			
Ditto.	1.1.4			
	2.1.2			
	3.1.2			
	4.1.2	9.2	65.3	9.9
	5.1.4			
	6.1.4			
	7.1.4			

I found during my investigations that birds lose weight fairly rapidly after death, but in varying degree. I should think the temperature of the air would have some influence on this loss, and also the manner in which the bird had been killed; birds with large, open wounds would lose weight more rapidly than those dead from other causes. This cause probably accounts for the small weight of the Little Crake, noted above, the bird having been caught by a dog, and considerably mauled the day before it was weighed. A New-holland Honey-eater lost one gr. in weight between 7 p.m. and 9 a.m. the next morning, whereas a second bird lost only 0.1 gramme in the same period; a rufous-breasted Thickhead lost no weight; a Blue Wren lost 0.3 gramme; a Bee-eater lost 1 gramme; a Scrub Wren lost 0.2 gramme in 14 hours after death. The great relative weight of the clutch of the Fire-tailed Finch is very remarkable, especially as this bird lays an egg on each day until the clutch is complete; four of this clutch of seven are known to have been so laid. This means that the female loses nearly 10 per cent. of her body weight on each day, for seven days in succession—a really terrific strain upon her economy.

MORNING BIRD CALLS about the time the Day Breaks, Climatic Conditions, and Other Notes—By J. Sutton, R.A.O.U.

NAME OF BIRD.	July 29	July 30	July 31	Aug 1	Aug. 2 Heavy rain 6.53	Aug. 3 Fine	Aug. 4 Fine Windy
	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
1. <i>Maree</i> <i>Gymnorhina leuconota</i>	6.40 a	5.55 a	6.39 a	5.0 a	5.22 a	6.12 a	6.21 a
2. <i>Black and White Fantail</i> <i>Rhipidura motacilloides</i>	6.50 b	6.50 g	6.34 c	6.52 b	6.35 c	6.23 b	6.36 d
3. <i>Pallid Cuckoo</i> <i>Cuculus inornatus</i>	—	—	—	—	5.34 b 6.29 j	—	6.33 b
4. <i>Blackbird</i> <i>Merula melula</i>	6.57 i	6.50 h	6.48 f	6.52 c	6.53 f	6.35 f	6.45 i
5. <i>Laughing Kingfisher</i> <i>Dacelo gigas</i>	6.51 c	6.49 d	6.51 h	—	—	6.31½ e	6.35 c
6. <i>Noisy Miner</i> <i>Myzantha garrula</i>	6.51 d	6.45 b	6.39 b	6.54 g	—	6.31½ d	6.37 f
7. <i>Australian Brown Flycatcher</i> <i>Microeca fascians</i>	7.15 p	7.2 p	6.51 g	—	6.53 e	6.39 h	6.44 h
8. <i>White Plumed Honey-eater</i> <i>Ptilotis penicillata</i>	—	6.46 c	6.39 d	6.52 d	6.50 d	6.30 c	6.36 e
9. <i>Black Faced Cuckoo Shrike</i> <i>Coracina robusta</i>	6.56 h	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. <i>Fan Tailed Cuckoo</i> <i>Cacomantis rufulus</i>	6.53 g	6.49 e	6.43 e	—	—	6.40 i	6.47 j
11. <i>Wattle Bird</i> <i>Acanthochaera carunculata</i>	7.6 m	6.50½ i	6.53 i	6.54 f	—	6.50 k	6.49½ l
12. <i>White Bearded Honey-eater</i> <i>Meliphaga novea-hollandiae</i>	6.52 f	—	—	—	—	—	6.48 k
13. <i>Scarlet Breasted Robin</i> <i>Petroica legei</i>	—	—	—	6.59 j	—	6.37½ g	6.41 g
14. <i>White Eye</i> <i>Zosterops caerulea</i>	—	7.0½ o	—	—	—	—	—
15. <i>Welcome Swallow</i> <i>Chelidon neoxena</i>	—	—	—	6.57½ i	—	—	—
16. <i>Yellow Tailed Tit Warbler</i> <i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>	7.5 k	6.50 f	—	6.54 e	—	—	6.55 m
17. <i>Musk Lorikeet</i> <i>Glossopsittacus concinnus</i>	7.17 s	7.0 n	—	7.4 o	—	—	6.58½ p
18. <i>Brown Tree Creeper</i> <i>Climacteris picumna</i>	7.2 j	6.54 j	7.3 l	7.1 m	—	6.44½ j	6.57 o
19. <i>Grey Shrike Thrush</i> <i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>	7.15 o	6.58 k	7.34 u	7.2½ n	—	6.51 l	—
20. <i>Starling</i> <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	7.15 q	7.3 q	7.3½ m	7.0 l	—	6.51½ m	6.59 q
21. <i>House Sparrow</i> <i>Passer domesticus</i>	7.11 n	6.58½ l	6.59 j	6.57½ h	—	6.53 o	6.56 n
22. <i>Black Chinned Honey-eater</i> <i>Melithreptus gularis</i>	7.6 t	6.58½ m	7.2½ k	6.59 k	—	6.52 n	7.1 r
23. <i>Red Tipped Diamond Bird</i> <i>Pardalotus ornatus</i>	—	7.5 r	—	—	—	—	—
24. <i>Mappie Lark</i> <i>Grallina picata</i>	6.52 e	—	—	—	—	—	—
25. <i>White Naped Honey-eater</i> <i>Melithreptus atricapillus</i>	7.16 v	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. <i>Southern Stone Curlew</i> <i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	—	—	—	—	—	6.12	6.2 ½
27. <i>Boobook Owl</i> <i>Ninox boobook</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SUNRISE—NETHERBY, 29 mins. later than Adelaide	7.45	7.44	7.43	7.42	7.41	7.40	7.39
MOON							1st qr.

The Italics indicate the order in which the calls of the birds were heard on each particular day.

A dash means that the bird was not heard that morning.

The birds' names are arranged in order of priority on averages.

MORNING BIRD CALLS about the time the Day Breaks, Climatic Conditions, and Other Notes—By J. Sutton, R.A.O.U.

Aug. 5 Fine	Aug. 6 Fine	Aug. 7 Fine	Aug. 8 Rain	Aug. 9 Fine	Aug. 10 Fine	Aug. 11 Fine	Aug. 12 Ron Wind N.W.	Aug. 13 Fine Rain later	Aug. 14 Dull, Slight rain.	Aug. 15 Dull
a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
5.57 <i>b</i>	5.36 <i>a</i>	5.51½ <i>a</i>	6.7 10.35 pm	5.56 <i>a</i>	6.6½ <i>a</i>	5.50 <i>a</i>	—	2.12 <i>b</i> 5.45 <i>t</i>	1.1 <i>a</i> 5.40 <i>f</i>	5.24 <i>a</i>
6.26 <i>c</i>	5.0 <i>c</i>	6.29 <i>e</i> 11.24 pm	6.35 <i>c</i> 6.40 pm	6.5 <i>b</i>	6.8½ <i>b</i>	6.17 <i>b</i>	6.49 <i>b</i>	2.12 <i>a</i> 6.28 <i>f</i>	5.51 <i>b</i>	6.27 <i>b</i>
5.36 <i>a</i> 6.24 <i>t</i>	5.37½ <i>b</i>	6.22 <i>b</i> 11.24 pm	6.28 <i>a</i> 4.35 <i>t</i>	—	—	—	—	6.14 <i>c</i>	5.56 <i>c</i>	5.54 <i>c</i>
6.39 <i>i</i>	6.34½ <i>f</i>	6.35 <i>e</i>	6.42 <i>e</i>	6.26 <i>g</i>	6.27½ <i>h</i>	6.22 <i>c</i>	6.49 <i>a</i>	6.31½ <i>g</i>	6.20 <i>d</i>	6.3 <i>d</i>
6.32 <i>d</i>	6.37½ <i>j</i>	6.39 <i>h</i>	7.9 <i>q</i>	6.13 <i>c</i>	6.23 <i>e</i>	6.19½ <i>g</i>	—	6.36 <i>i</i>	6.25 <i>e</i>	—
6.33 <i>e</i>	6.41 <i>e</i>	6.47 <i>k</i>	6.43 <i>f</i>	6.28 <i>h</i>	6.21 <i>c</i>	6.27 <i>f</i>	6.49 <i>c</i>	6.28 <i>d</i>	6.26 <i>f</i>	6.26 <i>g</i>
6.36 <i>g</i>	6.21 <i>d</i>	6.32 <i>d</i>	6.42 <i>d</i>	6.25 <i>f</i>	6.22 <i>a</i>	6.23 <i>e</i>	6.49 <i>d</i>	6.31½ <i>f</i>	6.26½ <i>g</i>	6.20 <i>e</i>
6.33½ <i>f</i>	6.37 <i>h</i>	6.35½ <i>f</i>	6.44 <i>g</i>	6.32 <i>j</i>	6.30 <i>i</i>	6.23 <i>d</i>	6.53 <i>h</i>	6.28 <i>e</i>	6.30 <i>h</i>	6.28 <i>h</i>
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	6.38½ <i>k</i>	—	6.48 <i>i</i>	6.21½ <i>e</i>	<i>g</i>	—	—	—	6.38 <i>m</i>	6.35½ <i>k</i>
6.50 <i>l</i>	6.42 <i>l</i>	6.42 <i>i</i>	6.50 <i>k</i>	6.39½ <i>m</i>	6.27½ <i>f</i>	6.41 <i>i</i>	6.50 <i>e</i>	6.44 <i>l</i>	6.33 <i>j</i>	6.33 <i>j</i>
6.48 <i>k</i>	6.36½ <i>g</i>	6.38 <i>g</i>	6.53 <i>l</i>	6.35½ <i>k</i>	—	6.46½ <i>l</i>	6.52 <i>g</i>	6.42 <i>k</i>	6.34 <i>k</i>	6.23 <i>f</i>
6.38 <i>h</i>	6.37½ <i>h</i>	—	6.47 <i>h</i>	—	6.33½ <i>j</i>	—	6.58 <i>i</i>	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.44 <i>j</i>	6.44 <i>m</i>	6.42½ <i>j</i>	6.48 <i>j</i>	6.32 <i>i</i>	6.36½ <i>k</i>	6.37½ <i>h</i>	6.5½ <i>j</i>	6.37 <i>j</i>	6.38 <i>l</i>	6.31 <i>i</i>
—	—	—	—	—	6.48½ <i>p</i>	—	—	—	—	—
7.0 <i>q</i>	6.49½ <i>p</i>	6.59 <i>p</i>	7.1 <i>p</i>	6.21 <i>d</i>	6.46½ <i>m</i>	6.44 <i>k</i>	6.51 <i>f</i>	6.76 <i>h</i>	6.73 <i>i</i>	6.39 <i>l</i>
6.51 <i>m</i>	6.44 <i>n</i>	—	—	6.39 <i>t</i>	6.46 <i>l</i>	—	—	—	—	—
—	6.55½ <i>t</i>	7.1 <i>q</i>	6.58 <i>n</i>	6.43 <i>n</i>	6.49 <i>r</i>	6.43 <i>j</i>	—	—	6.40 <i>n</i>	6.47½ <i>o</i>
6.56 <i>p</i>	6.49 <i>o</i>	6.58 <i>o</i>	6.57 <i>m</i>	6.48 <i>o</i>	6.48 <i>o</i>	6.47 <i>n</i>	7.5 <i>l</i>	6.53 <i>o</i>	6.16 <i>o</i>	6.45 <i>m</i>
6.54 <i>o</i>	6.53½ <i>s</i>	6.56½ <i>n</i>	6.59 <i>o</i>	6.50 <i>p</i>	6.47½ <i>n</i>	6.47 <i>m</i>	7.1 <i>k</i>	6.52 <i>n</i>	6.51 <i>p</i>	6.49½ <i>p</i>
6.54 <i>n</i>	6.5 <i>r</i>	6.56 <i>m</i>	7.10½ <i>r</i>	6.51½ <i>q</i>	6.48½ <i>q</i>	6.58 <i>q</i>	—	—	—	—
—	6.51½ <i>q</i>	6.52½ <i>l</i>	—	—	—	6.56 <i>p</i>	—	6.49 <i>m</i>	6.53 <i>q</i>	6.46 <i>n</i>
—	7.0 <i>u</i>	7.6½ <i>r</i>	—	6.54 <i>r</i>	6.51½ <i>s</i>	6.51 <i>o</i>	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	6.12	—	—	6.3	6.22½	6.12	—	5.57	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.38	7.36	7.35	7.34	7.33	7.32	7.30	7.29	7.28	7.26	7.26
							F. moon			

The Magpie, Black and White Fantail, and Pallid Cuckoo call occasionally during the night. The Black and White Fantail frequently before midnight, especially when the moon is shining. The Magpies, and Black and White Fantails towards dawn, after their first call, continue singing until the main body of birds begin to call, then the two former cease singing.

MORNING BIRD CALLS about the time the Day Breaks, Climatic Conditions, and Other Notes—By J. Sutton, R.A.O.U.

NAME OF BIRD.	Aug. 16	Aug. 17	Aug. 18	Aug. 19	Aug. 20	Aug. 21	Aug. 22
	Fine	Fine	Fine	Cloudy Fine	Fine. Cold.	Fine. Cold.	Fine. Wd. sw Co.d.
1. <i>Maggie</i> <i>Gymnorhina leuconota</i>	a.m. 2.26 <i>b</i> 5.53 <i>f</i>	a.m. 4.33 <i>a</i>	a.m. 5.14 <i>b</i> 11.5 pm	a.m. 4.11 <i>a</i> 6.5 <i>j</i>	a.m. 5.6 <i>a</i> 5.50 <i>j</i>	a.m. 5.56 <i>b</i>	a.m. 5.25 <i>a</i>
2. <i>Black and White Fantail</i> <i>Rhipidura motacilloides</i>	2.24 <i>a</i> 5.55 <i>f</i>	6.0 <i>c</i>	4.27 <i>a</i> 5.21 <i>j</i>	6.5 <i>b</i> 4.19 <i>f</i>	5.50 <i>b</i>	5.56 <i>a</i>	5.30 <i>b</i>
3. <i>Pallid Cuckoo</i> <i>Cuculus inornatus</i>	—	4.37 <i>b</i>	5.24 <i>d</i>	—	—	—	6.25 <i>i</i>
4. <i>Blackbird</i> <i>Merula merula</i>	5.57 <i>c</i>	6.7 <i>d</i>	5.35 <i>e</i>	6.15 <i>e</i>	5.58 <i>c</i>	6.6½ <i>c</i>	6.8 <i>d</i>
5. <i>Laughing Kingfisher</i> <i>Dacelo gigas</i>	6.4½ <i>d</i>	6.9 <i>e</i>	5.21 <i>e</i>	6.13 <i>c</i>	6.9 <i>d</i>	6.7½ <i>d</i>	5.44 <i>c</i>
6. <i>Noisy Miner</i> <i>Myzantha garrula</i>	6.16 <i>g</i>	6.13½ <i>g</i>	6.12 <i>g</i>	6.16 <i>f</i>	6.10 <i>e</i>	6.11½ <i>f</i>	6.24 <i>h</i>
7. <i>Australian Brown Flycatcher</i> <i>Microeca fascians</i>	6.9 <i>e</i>	6.13 <i>f</i>	6.12 <i>f</i>	6.14 <i>d</i>	6.10½ <i>f</i>	6.7½ <i>e</i>	6.19 <i>e</i>
8. <i>White Plumed Honey-eater</i> <i>Ptilotis penicillata</i>	6.23 <i>j</i>	6.22½ <i>k</i>	6.20 <i>j</i>	6.24 <i>h</i>	6.21½ <i>i</i>	6.20½ <i>h</i>	6.24 <i>g</i>
9. <i>Black faced Cuckoo Shrike</i> <i>Coracina robusta</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. <i>Fan Tailed Cuckoo</i> <i>Cacomantis rufulus</i>	6.13 <i>f</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. <i>Wattle Bird</i> <i>Acanthochnera carunculata</i>	6.17½ <i>h</i>	6.16 <i>h</i>	6.15 <i>h</i>	6.18½ <i>g</i>	6.16 <i>g</i>	6.26½ <i>j</i>	6.32½ <i>l</i>
12. <i>White Bearded Honey-eater</i> <i>Meliornis novaehollandiae</i>	6.29 <i>k</i>	6.25½ <i>l</i>	6.19 <i>i</i>	6.29 <i>i</i>	6.19 <i>h</i>	—	6.31 <i>k</i>
13. <i>Scarlet Breasted Robin</i> <i>Petroica leggei</i>	6.42 <i>o</i>	—	—	6.32 <i>j</i>	—	—	—
14. <i>White Eye</i> <i>Zosterops caeruleus</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. <i>Welcome Swallow</i> <i>Chelidon neoxena</i>	6.21 <i>i</i>	6.22½ <i>j</i>	6.24 <i>k</i>	6.33 <i>k</i>	6.24 <i>j</i>	6.25 <i>i</i>	6.23½ <i>f</i>
16. <i>Yellow Tailed Tit Warbler</i> <i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>	—	—	7.1 <i>s</i>	—	—	—	—
17. <i>Musk Lorikeet</i> <i>Glossopsittacus concinnus</i>	6.41 <i>m</i>	6.9 <i>o</i>	6.39 <i>o</i>	6.41½ <i>m</i>	6.52 <i>o</i>	6.33 <i>l</i>	—
18. <i>Brown Tree Creeper</i> <i>Climacteris picinnna</i>	—	6.22 <i>i</i>	6.55 <i>q</i>	7.9 <i>q</i>	—	6.27 <i>k</i>	6.30 <i>j</i>
19. <i>Grey Shrike Thrush</i> <i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>	6.32 <i>l</i>	6.39 <i>n</i>	6.34 <i>l</i>	6.37 <i>l</i>	6.43½ <i>n</i>	6.36 <i>n</i>	6.53 <i>p</i>
20. <i>Starling</i> <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	6.42½ <i>p</i>	6.35 <i>m</i>	6.37½ <i>n</i>	6.43 <i>n</i>	6.34 <i>k</i>	6.35 <i>m</i>	6.42 <i>m</i>
21. <i>House Sparrow</i> <i>Passer domesticus</i>	6.41 <i>n</i>	6.40 <i>p</i>	6.37 <i>m</i>	6.43½ <i>o</i>	6.38½ <i>l</i>	6.37 <i>o</i>	6.44½ <i>o</i>
22. <i>Black Chinned Honey-eater</i> <i>Melithreptus gularis</i>	6.44 <i>q</i>	6.56 <i>r</i>	6.59 <i>r</i>	—	—	6.18 <i>g</i>	—
23. <i>Red Tipped Diamond Bird</i> <i>Pardalotus ornatus</i>	6.58½ <i>r</i>	6.43 <i>q</i>	6.39 <i>p</i>	6.45½ <i>p</i>	6.42 <i>m</i>	6.19 <i>p</i>	6.42½ <i>n</i>
24. <i>Maggie Lark</i> <i>Grallina picata</i>	—	7.7 <i>s</i>	—	—	—	—	—
25. <i>White Naped Honey-eater</i> <i>Melithreptus atricapillus</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. <i>Southern Stone Curlew</i> <i>Barbinius grallarius</i>	—	4.37	—	6.12	5.50	5.58	—
27. <i>Boobook Owl</i> <i>Ninox boobook</i>	—	4.40	4.27	—	—	—	—
SUNRISE—NETHERBY, 29 mins. later than Adelaide	7.25	7.24	7.22	7.21	7.20	7.19	7.18
MOON	—	—	—	Last Qr.	—	—	—

The Blackbirds' first song lasts about 10 minutes, but on the morning of August 20, he began at 6.18, and stopped at 6.33 (18 minutes). He began again at 6.56, and lasted until 7.55 (59 minutes).

The Honeyeaters—White Plumed Honeyeaters, and White Bearded Honeyeaters—begin to call very near to each other as to time, but the Sparrow and Starling are much closer.

MORNING BIRD CALLS about the time the Day Breaks, Climatic Conditions, and Other Notes—By J. Sutton, R.A.O.U.

Aug. 23 Fine. Cold.	Aug. 24 Fine.	Aug. 25 Fine.	Aug. 26 Fine.	Aug. 27 Fine.	Aug. 28 Fine.	Aug. 29 Fine.	Aug. 30 Fine.	Aug. 31 Fine.	Sep. 1 Fine.
a.m. 5.41½ a	a.m. 5.59 a	a.m. 5.59 a	a.m. 5.46½ a	a.m. 5.46 b	a.m. 5.37 a	a.m. 5.20 b	a.m. 5.35 b	a.m. 5.38 c	a.m. 5.19 b
5.46 b	6.5 b	5.51 b	5.47 b	5.46 a	5.39 b	5.12 a	4.10 a 5.32 f	5.6 a 11.23 pm	4.33 a 5.14 j
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.18 k	—	6.5 g
6.12 c	6.20 e	6.9½ e	6.1 d	5.58 e	5.51 e	5.57½ e	6.1 d	6.2½ d	6.5 f
6.13 d	6.8 c	6.2½ e	5.57 e	6.16 i	5.46½ e	5.57 d	6.13½ i	5.25 b	6.7 i
6.19 h	6.26 f	6.16 h	6.8 f	6.3 d	5.56 f	5.51 e	6.9 t	6.7½ e	6.1 d
6.13 e	6.18 d	6.9 g	6.8 g	6.3½ e	—	6.1 f	6.5½ e	6.9 f	6.1½ e
6.17 f	6.26½ g	6.15 d	6.9 h	6.12 g	6.10½ i	6.6 i	6.12 g	6.16 g	6.7 h
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.25 i	6.23 h	6.20 i	6.15 j	6.25 m	6.8 h	6.3½ g	6.4 c	6.21 k	6.1 c
6.18½ g	6.31½ j	6.21 j	6.14 i	6.12½ h	6.19 m	6.10½ j	—	6.17 h	6.8 j
—	—	—	6.25 m	—	6.16 j	—	6.12½ h	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	5.47 d	—	—	—	—
6.28½ j	6.31 i	6.24 k	6.23 l	6.19½ k	6.16 l	6.14 k	6.20 l	6.21 j	6.13 k
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.39 n	6.41½ n	6.12 f	6.4 e	6.9 f	6.4 g	6.5 h	—	6.24 l	—
6.32½ k	—	6.3 m	6.32 o	—	6.45 q	—	—	6.26 m	6.13 l
6.41 o	6.36 k	6.25 l	6.15 k	6.19 j	6.28 p	6.25 n	6.30 o	6.20 i	6.23 p
6.35 l	6.40½ l	6.34 n	6.29 n	6.22 l	6.16 k	6.22½ m	6.27 n	6.29½ p	6.18½ n
6.33 m	6.43 o	6.37 o	6.35½ p	6.28 a	6.25 u	6.20 l	6.26 m	6.29½ o	6.18 m
—	6.47 p	—	—	—	—	—	6.16 j	—	—
6.45½ p	6.41 m	6.39 p	6.37 q	—	6.26 o	6.26 o	6.34 p	6.29 n	6.20 o
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	5.48	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.17	7.16	7.15	7.14	7.13	7.12	7.11	7.9	7.8	7.7
			N. Mn.						

The Starling arrives in the morning from a North West direction, all the other birds roost about here in the big gums, but do not appear to roost in the same tree every night.

The Mopoke comes here occasionally. On two occasions there were two birds answering one another—one was a baritone, and the other a bass.

Notes from the Coorong.

BY JOSEPH GORDON HASTINGS.

The following notes are not very extensive owing to the excessive dryness of the season. For the same reason many species of birds have been very scarce. The Little Crakes, Land-rails, and Cranes are not in evidence now. This is due to the light rainfall, the absence of freshwater ponds and consequently no food. One Crake was seen, and a dead Land-rail picked up. The Blue Cranes which had been with us for so long disappeared three months ago. During a trip along the Coorong to the Murray Mouth within the last few days (August 27th, 1919), I did not see half a dozen Blue Cranes, and those I did see were near the lower end of the Coorong, where no doubt there is more food. I came upon several little parties of Water-hens at frequent intervals right up to Twelve Mile Point. Wherever there is any cover in the shape of bushes or reeds close to the water's edge, they seem to have become permanently established, for they have been there ever since the big flocks left several months ago.

The Bristle Bird is much in evidence on the Hummocks just now. For years I have heard this bird's note, but could not place it till a few weeks ago, when at Tawadgery, and then I crept up to a little party of them having a frolic behind a currant bush; they were whistling and calling in their strange notes. I was able to get a good view of them before they saw me. The Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo has been with us for the last four months; in former years they were only here in odd ones, but this year they are very numerous. Only recently I saw six close to the house, and upon another occasion four were seen; in each instance they were very busily occupied in looking for caterpillars, and were very successful.

The Australian Screech or Barn Owl has been seen very frequently during the last six months. One day when out in the back scrub I found two roosting in wells, and on the Hummocks I came across four others, three of which were dead; it is difficult to say if they had been shot by so-called sportsmen or not. These birds were seldom seen here up to the last few months, an odd one being seen in the course of several years, so that their appearance this year is very remarkable.

Seven Night Herons came to us in June; they camped in a gum tree, one of a plantation, and remained for a few days.

then went off in a southerly direction. Some weeks later another one put in an appearance, and stayed in the same tree for a day, and then passed on in the same direction. I had not been out in the scrub this nesting season till three weeks ago. I was then surprised at the few nests to be seen. I covered in three trips about 200 miles and did not see a dozen nests, whereas in former years there were nests everywhere. I was delighted one day while sitting quietly in the scrub to see a lovely bell bird come well into view, and strike up a beautiful musical note which was continually being changed into another key equally as sweet and musical. The Flame-breasted Robins have been very plentiful this season, and have been with us ever since June. One very remarkable thing connected with these birds is worth mentioning. Very late in the Autumn or early winter during a dry spell a bush fire burnt a lot of our fencing about eight miles back, and while we were repairing it, these Robins were to be seen everywhere picking up food of some sort. I did not think these birds ever left the open grass lands for the scrub country.

Birds Recorded from the Early Days up to the Present Time for the Reed Beds District.

BY S. A. WHITE, C.M.B.O.U.

We find in the early records of the Colony that the Adelaide Plains teemed in game when white man first put in his appearance. I know from the records of my forebears, who settled at the Reed-beds in 1836 that the district of the Reed-beds was the haunt of much bird life. This would be expected, for the River Torrens emptied itself out on to the land forming great swamps, which in their turn supported much cover for water fowl and other birds, the surrounding high sandy rises supported scrub chiefly composed of banksia and other shrubs bearing honey-laden flowers, which produced copious food for honey-eating birds. The big gum timber growing along the river formed the home for such birds as Tree Creepers and Giant Kingfishers, the Night Herons in hundreds roosted in

these giant trees, and on their limbs the Whistling Eagles, and White-fronted Herons built their nests. Amidst the low rushes and sedges on swampy ground the beautiful Ground Parrakeet was flushed to drop like a quail again to cover. The Swift Lorikeet came from Tasmania and visited the flowering gums, and the White Cockatoos screeched amidst the timber. Most of these birds have for ever gone from this district, while in some instances they are extinct as far as South Australia is concerned.

Thinking that it would be as well to record those species which have come under the writer's observation during his life time, and that of his father's, many of which have quite disappeared now, while there are a few species still hanging on to a small island of timber, an island unfortunately assailed on all sides by the devastating hand of so-called advancing civilization, and becoming smaller and smaller each year from these causes. Even property which has been in the family since the very first, and the timber thereon most jealously guarded, has of late come under the despoiler's hand, and the few remaining species of native birds are confined to a restricted area which threatens them with extinction. The original owners of the country (the Whites) are gradually dying out, and as we play our part, and leave the stage upon which we fought for the fauna and flora of the district, so gradually does the hand of nature disappear around us, and with the last member's exit (probably the writer) from this world's stage, so will the last vestige of the old times Reed-beds disappear. It is for these reasons above stated, that the writer believes that it would be well to record those birds as far as possible which once inhabited the Reed-beds district.

Dromiccius novahollandiae (Emu).—Once abounded in numbers upon the Adelaide Plains, but they were not within my recollection.

Coturnix pectoralis (Eastern Stubble Quail).—This bird was extremely plentiful in the eighties, and I have seen hundreds in a day amidst the long grass near the swamps, their short but loud note is still to be heard in the spring time, but where there is one now there were hundreds in the old days. When they nested profusely nearly every tussock of grass sheltered a nest.

Austrorturnix velox (Eastern Little Quail).—Was almost as numerous in the old days as the preceding species. I have flushed and seen dozens in flight at the same time; they also nested in numbers, but are rare now.

Phaps chalcoptera.—There are records by my father of this bird having been plentiful in the district, and I have an excellent water colour painting of the bird executed by him. This bird had disappeared before my time.

Perzana fluminea (Eastern Spotted Crake).—Was a common bird in my early days, and nested in the swampy country every year. I can well remember how delighted I was upon finding the first nest.

Zapornia pusilla (Eastern Little Crake).—This was an exceedingly common bird in the time of my boyhood, but it has not been seen for years now.

Perzanoiidea plumbea (Eastern Spotless Crake).—This was the least common of the three species, yet at times they put in an appearance in numbers. They are never seen now.

Microtribonyx ventralis whitei (Eastern Black-tailed Native Hen).—Appeared in great numbers in days gone by. Still visits us in small numbers; one in the garden this month, September.

Gallinula tenebrosa (Black Moorhen).—Very plentiful in days gone by, when they nested. Have not seen them for some years now; the last nest remembered was in 1904. The nest contained eight eggs.

Porphyrio melanotus (Eastern Bald Coot).—I have seen these birds in 1885-6 come out of the flags and reeds like a mob of sheep at sunset to feed along the water's edge. They are seldom seen now for the cover is gone.

Fulica atra tasmanica (Eastern Coot).—During very big floods when miles of country were under water these birds visited us in large parties. It is many years since they have been seen.

Pediceps cristatus (Australian Tippet Grebe).—The writer can remember these birds very distinctly, for they were often seen in the swamp in the early days.

Tachybaptus ruficollis norachollandiae (Black-throated Grebe).—Was to be seen all through the year, in the large open waters in the winter, and in the deep dark pools fringed by high reeds and flags in the summer.

Polioccephalus polioccephalus (Hoary headed Grebe).—A common bird in the old days; visits us occasionally now.

Gelochelidon nilotica macrotarsa (Australian Gull-billed Tern).—Often seen in small parties skinning over the water. Hardly ever absent in the early days during flood times.

Hydroprogne tschegrava strenua (Australian Caspian Tern).—This fine bird was often seen patrolling the swamps with its large red bill pointing downwards, and its strange harsh cry often heard.

Thalasseus bergii poliocercus (Crested Tern).—The writer has often seen a party of these terns resting closely together on a spit or sandbar.

Bruchigaria norachollandiae ethelae (Southern Silver Gull).—Always appeared in numbers during flood time as they do to this day.

Gabianus pacificus (Pacific Gull).—These splendid birds were regular visitors in the winter time, and it was seldom two or three were not about calling to each other in their loud harsh voices. Not seen for years now.

Erythrogonys ciuctus (Red-kneed Dotterel).—A common bird in days gone by, and bred here every year. A nest was seen three years ago.

Lobibyr norachollandiae (Spur-winged Plover).—A very common bird up to recent years; is still to be met with in the district. The fox is wiping the bird out. Bred every year in the district, but it is some years since a nest has been seen.

Zonifer tricolor (Black-breasted Plover).—A very common bird, and has bred every season in the district up to the present day.

Cirrepidesmus bicinctus (Double-banded Dotterel).—This was an occasional visitor to the sapphire flats in the early days, but it is a long time since they have been seen.

Leucopoliis ruficapillus (Red-capped Dotterel).—A common bird, nesting to this day on the bare drift sand.

Elsya melanops (Black-fronted Dotterel).—Once a very common bird nesting on the bare sand back in the grass land; have not seen a nest for many years now, although an odd bird or two are to be seen.

Himantopus leucocephalus (White-headed Stilt).—A regular spring and winter visitor, and they have bred in numbers up to quite recently.

Cladorhynchus leucocephalus (Banded Stilt).—An occasional visitor, but it is many years since they have been seen in the district.

Recurrirostra norachollandiae (Red-necked Avocet).—Only remember seeing these birds once or twice in the district during my life time.

Numenius cyanopus (Australian Curlew).—A wary bird, but often seen amidst the swamps during flood times, and if disturbed more than once they made over the sand dunes to the sea.

Vetola lapponica (Barred-rumped Godwit).—Occasionally seen during flood times.

Pisobia minuta ruficollis (Red-necked Stint).—Small parties of these birds were to be seen along the muddy margin of the water, or where the flood waters were drying up on the grass lands.

Limnocolinus acuminatus (Sharp-tailed Stint).—Still to be seen in large flocks wherever there is sufficient water. It was not uncommon to see these birds mingling with the preceding species as well as the following one. The three species of birds moving quickly in one huge mass over the wet mud where the receding waters had left much food for them.

Erolia ferruginea chinensis (Eastern Curlew Sandpiper).—A common bird up to the present time.

Rostratula australis (Australian Painted Snipe).—This was a common bird, and bred in the district. An odd pair is to be seen almost every year.

Stiltia isabella (Australian Pratincole).—Visited the district many years ago, and nested at Black Forest.

Burhinus magurostris (Eastern Stone Plover).—Once a very common bird, nesting in numbers. One would flush a dozen or more in an hour's walk, but they have almost completely disappeared. The fox is taking heavy toll of these birds.

Austrotis australis (Australian Bustard).—Once a regular visitor in the Autumn when they came after the black crickets, and it was quite a common sight to see several of these fine birds stalking over the fields and plains, but it is many years since one has been seen in the district.

Mathewsia rubicunda (Australian Crane).—These birds were plentiful when my grandfather settled in the district early in 1836, but the writer has never had the pleasure of seeing them here.

Threskiornis molucca strictipennis (White Ibis).—Once a fairly common bird; an odd bird or two is still to be seen in flood time. About three or four years ago while the district was under flood a flock of 20 to 30 of these birds was in the district for eight or ten days; they were very conspicuous in

their beautiful white plumage as they flew from the swamp to the gum trees to roost for the night.

Carphibis spinicollis (Straw-necked Ibis).—Seldom misses paying the district a visit during the winter months, especially during a wet winter. These visits will end soon, for every time they come their ranks are thinned by the vandal with the gun.

Plegadis falcinellus (Glossy Ibis).—According to my father they often appeared in the old days, and there is not the slightest doubt that there was one with a flock of *C. spinicollis* in the district two years ago.

Spatherodia regia (Black-billed or Royal Spoonbill).—An odd bird or two often came with *P. flavipes*, but they have never been seen in numbers in my time.

Platibis flavipes (Yellow-billed Spoonbill).—A regular visitor in fair numbers in days gone by, but it is many years since they have been seen.

Herodias alba sumatophora (White Egret).—These birds were never plentiful, but an odd bird here and there could be seen in wet winters up to quite recently.

Notophox norachollandiac (White-fronted Heron).—Always a common bird in the district, but of course much more so in days gone by. They breed every year in the district. Several pairs are nesting at the time of writing.

Myiola pacifica (White-necked Heron).—Once a regular visitor in the winter, but not seen now for some time.

Nycticorax caldonicus australasiac (Australian Night Heron).—Roosted in great numbers in the giant gum trees over my grandfather's home, the first in the district. There are still 20 to 30 birds left, and which return after nesting season to the pines at "Wetunga", going out to feed in the swamps at night, and returning to the pines to roost by day. They are gradually getting less and less.

Botaurus poeciloptilus (East Australian Bittern).—Now for ever gone, when they once could be found in numbers, their deep, weird, booming sound could be heard so frequently echoing along the thick flag and reed swamps.

Chenopsis atrata (Eastern Black Swan).—Always winter visitors, in the old days in numbers, but now in ones and twos. At time of writing there are four birds in the swamps.

Anserana semipalmata (Pied Goose).—My father records this bird for the district.

Cercopsis norachollandiae (Cape Barren Goose).—In the old days often seen on the grassy flats, but it is many years since the last was seen.

Chenonetta jubata (Wood Duck or Maned Goose).—A very common duck twenty years ago, but has not been seen in the district for many years.

Casarca tadornoides (Mountain Duck).—Once a common bird, but seldom seen now.

Anas superciliosa (Black Duck).—Once with us all through the year, nesting in large numbers, now an odd pair or so may have the luck to hatch a brood. Last season three young ones were brought to the river by the parent birds.

Virago castanea (Red-breasted Teal).—These birds are not nearly so numerous as the following species. They come each year in the winter, but not in numbers; there has been a small party on the water this week.

Virago gibberifrons (Grey Teal)

Visits the district in great numbers when there is water about, but one can see the thinning of their ranks each year.

Spatula rhynchotis (Australian Shoveler).—These birds have visited the district in great numbers in days gone by, and nested in hundreds amidst the clover in the fields near the swamps.

Malacorhynchus membranaceus (Pink-eared Duck).—A regular visitor in the old days, but seldom seen now.

Stictonetta naevosa (Freckled Duck).—During dry seasons in the interior this duck has visited this district in great numbers, but has not come under notice for some time now.

Nyroca australia (White-eyed Duck).—Visit the district with other ducks, but have not been seen in large flocks for some time now.

Oxyura australis (Blue-billed Duck).—My father records this duck, but the writer has not observed it.

Biziura lobata (Musk Duck).—Once very plentiful, never seen now.

Phalacrocorax carbo norachollandiae (Black Cormorant).—A common bird once; seldom, if ever, seen now. Observed a party on the sea beach which is only separated by the sand dunes from the swamps this year, 1919.

Mesocorbo ater (Little Black Cormorant).—Also a common bird formerly, but not seen now.

Hypoleucus varius hypoleucus.—Another common bird in days gone by; a few seen at times now.

Microcarbo melanoleucus (Little Cormorant).—Once a very common bird; an odd one or two may still be seen on the river at times.

Catoptropelicanus conspicillatus (Eastern Pelican).—In days of old this fine bird was often seen; but not now.

Circus approximans gouldi (Swamp Hawk).—Once a common bird as it soared over the Reed-beds and flags with elegant flight. It nested in the reeds and flags in numbers, gone.

Leucospiza novahollandiae (White Goshawk).—Recorded by my father, but not observed by the writer, although seen twenty miles to the north.

Urospiza fasciata (Australian Goshawk).—Once very numerous; still to be seen at times.

Accipiter cirrocephalus (Collared Sparrow Hawk).—Not been observed for a long time now.

Uroaetus audax (Wedge-tailed Eagle).—Once fairly common. Only seen at a great height, and very seldom now.

Hieraaetus morphnoides (Little Eagle).—Never plentiful, never seen now.

Haliastur sphenurus (Whistling Eagle).—Quite a common bird up to recent years, and it built and reared its young every year; very seldom seen now.

Elanus axillaris (Black-shouldered Kite).—Once a regular visitor, and nesting in the district up to two or three years ago; seldom seen now.

Falco longipennis.—Once fairly common; have not seen a specimen for years now.

Rhynchodon peregrinus macropus (Black-cheeked Falcon).—Very often visited us, but never in numbers; not seen for some years now.

Eracidaea berigora occidentalis (Brown Hawk).—Once a very common bird, and nesting in numbers when the writer was a boy. Have not noted a bird for years.

Cerchneis cenchroides (Nankeen Kestrel).—Once an extremely common bird, but seldom seen now.

Spiloglaux boobook marmorata (Marbled Owl).—Once a very common bird. Now an odd bird or so comes for a

while and disappears. The strange call of boobook has something fascinating about it upon a still moonlight night.

Tyto alba delicatula (Scrub or Barn Owl).—Once very plentiful, then almost disappeared, and again for a few years seemed to be on the increase, but the great mortality amongst them this year, 1919, has thinned them out.

Trichoglossus norachollandiae (Blue-bellied Lorikeet).—Visits us at intervals when gum blossoms are out or fruit is ripe. Have not seen them in great numbers for years now.

Glossopsitta concinna (Musk Lorikeet).—The notes for the preceding species will apply to this one.

Glossopsitta porphyrocephala (Purple-crowned Lorikeet).—Visits us in great numbers when the gums are in flower, and make the air resound with their shrill voices.

Glossopsitta pusilla (Little Lorikeet).—A few of these birds visit us in company with the preceding species as a rule, but are never numerous.

Calyptorhynchus funereus whiteae (Southern Black Cockatoo).—My father records this bird for the early days, and there is little doubt that they visited the *banksia* scrubs which existed then.

Cacatoes galerita (White Cockatoo).—Was a resident in the early days, but now only a few birds call once in every few years, but they do not remain, for all their feeding grounds are destroyed.

Ducorpsius gymnopis (Bare-eyed Cockatoo).—A small flock once or twice visited us, but never remained more than a few days.

Eolophus roseicapillus (Rose-breasted Cockatoo).—Small parties have visited the district from time to time, but not to stay.

Leptolophus auricomis (Cockatoo Parrot).—Once a common visitor in the autumn. Now seldom, if ever, seen.

Platyercus elegans adelaiae (Adelaide Rosella).—Once a common bird, now an odd bird or two will visit the district, and if not shot seem to make back to the ranges.

Platyercus crinitus (Rosella).—Once or twice in the writer's life time these birds have visited the district.

Psephotus haematonotus (Red-backed Grass Parrot).—Once a very plentiful bird, nesting in nearly all the gums along the river. Now disappeared, principally due to cats and the English starlings.

Neonanodes elegans (Grass Parrot).—Recorded as plentiful by my father in the early days.

Lathamus discolor (Swift Parrot).—There is a specimen in my collection collected at the Reed-beds in 1863. The writer has not observed it in the district.

Melopsittacus undulatus (Shell Parrot).—Visited the district in great numbers in the old days, and nested here; never seen now.

Pezoporus terrestris (Ground Parrot).—Once a common bird, a specimen in the writer's collection is dated 1850, snared by Tommy, the blackfellow, at the Reed-beds. Extinct in South Australia now.

Podargus strigoides rossi (Mallee Frogmouth).—Quite common in the early days; a few remain in the big timber.

Alcyon azurea victoriae (Blue Kingfisher).—Very numerous on the river once. A bird or two still to be seen at times.

Dacelo gigas (Giant Brown Kingfisher).—Numerous in the first place, then exterminated, later reintroduced; fair number about now.

Cyanalcyon pyrrhopygius (Red-backed Kingfisher).—My father records this bird for the district.

Sauropatis sancta (Sacred Kingfisher).—Very numerous formerly, now almost exterminated in the district.

Cosmaerops ornatus (Australian Bee-eater).—Once quite a common bird in the summer, seldom if ever seen now.

Eurostopodus mystacalis (White-throated Night-jar).—Once a common bird, now disappeared, cats and foxes having a hand in their disappearance.

Micropus pacificus (White-rumped Swift).—Visitors in the summer time, have only known them to settle once in the district.

Heteroscenes pallidus (Pallid Cuckoo).—A spring and summer visitor leaving us in late summer or autumn.

Cacomantis rubricatus (Fan-tailed Cuckoo).—These birds are with us all through the year.

Neochalcites basalis mellori (Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo).—These birds arrive with wrens in mid winter, and remain through the summer, Maluri being their chief foster parents.

Lamprococcyx plagosus (Bronze Cuckoo).—Once a common bird, rarely seen now.

Hirundo neoxena (Welcome swallow).—Remain in the district all through the year.

Cheramocca leucosternum stonei (Eastern Black and White Swallow).—Once a common bird building in the sand banks; seem to have disappeared now.

Hylochelidon nigricans caleyi (Tree Martin).—Not nearly so plentiful as in the days of yore.

Lagenoplastes ariel (Fairy Martin).—Once very common, building their retort-shaped nests under verandahs and bridges in the district, but seem now to have gone.

Microcca fascians (Brown Flycatcher).—In former years very common, reduced now to one pair as far as the writer can tell.

Petroica multicolor frontalis (Southern Scarlet-breasted Robin).—Odd birds visit us in the autumn.

Littleria chrysoptera phoenicea (Flame-breasted Robin).—These birds put in their appearance in the autumn, do not stay long, and pass on. My father records this bird in the forties.

Whiteornis goodenoxii (Red-capped Robin).—It is not often this bird visits this district.

Smicrornis brevirostris viridescens (Greenish Tree Tit).—Once plentiful, now gone; not seen for many years.

Pachycephala pectoralis fuliginosa (South Australian Yellow-breasted Thickhead).—Visits us rarely, but always in the Autumn.

Levinornis rufiventris inornatus (Southern Rufous-breasted Thickhead).—Like the preceding species this bird visits us at long intervals, and in the Autumn.

Rhipidura flabellifera whitei (South Australian Fantail).—Once a fairly common bird, now a rare visitor in the Autumn.

Leucocirca tricolor (Black and White Fantail).—A fair number in the district, but not nearly as many as formerly.

Seisura inquieta (Restless Flycatcher).—An autumn visitor becoming less and less as years go by.

Coracina novaehollandiae melanops (Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike).—An odd bird to be seen throughout the year, but in the autumn and early winter visit the district in numbers.

Lalage tricolor (White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater).—Formerly this bird visited the district every spring and nested; it is years since it has been seen here now.

Morganornis superciliosus (White-browed Babbler).—My father records this bird in the early days. For a time it seems to have been exterminated, but within the last seven or eight years it has appeared again, and is nesting.

Cinclorhampus cruralis cantatoris (Southern Brown Song Lark).—A spring visitor, remaining in the district to bring up its young. Not nearly as numerous as formerly.

Ptenoedus mathewsi vigorsi (Eastern Rufous Song Lark).—Like the preceding species visits us in the spring, and remains through the summer to rear its young. Once very numerous, now very scarce; some years they never put in an appearance.

Epthianura albifrons (White-fronted Chat).—With us all through the year.

Parepthianura tricolor (Tricoloured Chat).—Many years ago this bird came down in the summer to the samphire flats, but has not been seen for very many years.

Aurepthianura aurifrons (Orange-fronted Chat).—The notes of the preceding species will apply to this one.

Conopederas australis (Southern Red Warbler).—Once a very common bird, visiting the district to nest in thousands; now very few are seen.

Cisticola exilis (Grass Warbler).—Once very plentiful, now never seen.

Poodytes gramineus dubius (Southern Grass Bird).—Once in great numbers; now gone.

Geobasileus chrysorrhous perksi (Southern Yellow-rumped Tit).—Once a very common bird, nesting in all situations. Now it seems to have disappeared entirely.

Scoricornis maculatus osculans (Allied Scrub Wren).—Recorded lately by Mr. J. W. Mellor, and no doubt occurred in the earlier times.

Malurus cyaneus leggii (Southern Blue Wren).—Remains in the district all through the year, and seems to be holding its own fairly well in spite of the domestic cat.

Campbellornis personatus munna and *C. Superciliosus* (Marked Wood Swallow, and White-browed Wood Swallow).—Visits the district at long intervals, generally in numbers, and remains to nest.

Pseudartamus cyanopterus (Wood Swallow).—Very numerous formerly, now practically disappeared.

Colluricincla harmonica victoriae (Grey Shrike Thrush).—Remain in the district all through the year, and bring up their young. Not so numerous as formerly.

Grallina cyanoleuca (Magpie Lark).—A few are always in the district where they nest; not so numerous as formerly.

Gymnorhina hypoleuca leuconota (White-backed Magpie).—Fairly numerous in the district, and are holding their own fairly well.

Falcunculus frontatus flavigulus (Green-bellied Shrike Tit).—These birds were fairly numerous in the early days; there are a few pairs still in the district, and nest each year.

Aphelocephala leucopsis (White-face).—This was a very plentiful bird twenty years or so ago, nesting in old buildings and hedges in great numbers; it is practically gone now.

Neoclimia picumna australis (Southern Brown Treecreeper).—Once a very common bird; two years ago reduced to one pair, and it seems as if these have gone now.

Zosterops lateralis westernensis (Southern White-eye).—These birds still visit the gardens in summer and late autumn in great numbers.

Anastrodicacum hirundinaceum (Mistletoe Bird).—Once very plentiful; only seen on rare occasions now.

Pardalotus punctatus xanthopygus (Yellow-rumped Pardalote).—Once very numerous. My father's records in Gould's work show this.

Pardalotus striatus subaffinis (South Australian Pardalote).—Once numerous, now only seen occasionally.

Melithreptus lunatus adalaidensis (Southern White-naped Honey-eater).—A common bird years ago; hardly ever seen now.

Melithreptus gularis loftyi (Southern Black-chinned Honey-eater).—Very common thirty years ago; a pair or two still in the district.

Plectorhyncha lanceolata neglecta (Southern Striped Honey-eater).—Has been recorded for the district.

Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris loftyi (Mountain Spinebill).—A few birds visit us in the autumn and early winter. No doubt they were in numbers here when the banksias formed large areas of scrub.

Meliphaga sonora (Southern Singing Honey-eater).—A common bird once, now rarely seen.

Ptilotula penicillata whitei (Southern White-plumed Honey-eater).—An exceedingly plentiful bird once; still here in numbers but decreasing very fast.

Meliornis novae-hollandiae subassimilis (South Australian White-bearded Honey-eater).—A fairly numerous bird in the district, breeding here every year.

Mysantha melanocephala whitei (Southern Black-headed Minah).—Only appeared in the district in recent years; probably about six years.

Colcia carunculata tregellasi (Victorian Yellow Wattle Bird).—This bird visited the district in great numbers in the autumn years ago; seldom seen now, and then only an odd bird.

Anthochaera chrysoptera intermedia (Southern Red Wattle Bird).—These birds still nest and bring up their young in the district.

Acanthagenys rufogularis cygnus (Southern Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater).—This bird has visited the district of late years; have never known any early record of it.

Anthus australis adalaidensis (Southern Pipit).—Once very numerous, nesting in numbers on the grassland; very few left now.

Mirafra jaranica secunda (Lesser Bush Lark).—A common bird in the early days; seldom seen now.

Stagonopleura guttata philordi (Southern Spotted-sided Finch).—Once a regular visitor in numbers; now a few pairs visit the district to nest.

Zonacanthus bellus (Fire-tailed Finch).—This bird is recorded by my father for this district:


Taeniopygia castanotis (Chestnut-eared Finch).—Once very numerous; a fair number still visit the district at odd times.

Aegintha temporalis (Red-browed Finch).—Very numerous once; an odd flock of ten to a dozen birds still visits us at times to nest.


Mimeta sagittata (Australian Oriole).—Visits the district occasionally in the autumn, but it does not stay long.

Corvus coronoides perplexus (Southern Raven).—Very plentiful once, visiting the district in great numbers; rarely seen now.





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Part I.

THE
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1st JANUARY, 1920.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

R. CROMPTON, R.A.O.U.

A. G. EDQUIST

S. A. WHITE, C.M.B.O.U.

F. R. ZIETZ, R.A.O.U.,

Price, 2/-



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South Australian
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Secretary :

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The Editorial Committee accepts no responsibility for the views or deductions expressed by any of its contributors. The Journal welcomes a free interchange of ideas with the object of extending the knowledge of our avifauna, but the author of each article is responsible for the opinions and deductions recorded.

South Australian Ornithologist.

Vol. V.]

1st JANUARY, 1920.

[PART I.

The South Australian Ornithological Association.

• SEPTEMBER 26th, 1919.

The monthly meeting was held in the Royal Society's Rooms on 26th September, 1919, when Mr. Edwin Ashby presided.

Mr. E. A. Brooks of Buckland Park was duly elected a member.

Mr. J. Sutton noted a young White-naped Honey-eater at Netherby on 27th August, and during September several Scarlet-breasted Robins and 7 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes were about the same locality. A flock of about 50 Wood Swallows flew over at a great height on 15th September; the same member heard a great commotion among the Laughing-jacks in a gum-tree, and upon investigating saw one of these birds perched upon a limb, and another hanging underneath, attached to something about two feet long. The object resembled a small snake, but it was impossible to get near enough to positively identify same. The suspended bird was slowly twisting around as if dead, but finally, after several unsuccessful attempts to fly on to the limb, relinquished his hold, whereupon the sitting bird swallowed the whole affair.

Mr. R. Beck recorded a nest of the Stubble Quail, containing 8 eggs, at Seaton, which was subsequently cleared out by a fox.

Mr. J. W. Mellor reported a number of Fairy-martins at Fulham and Lockleys on 6th and 8th September, and, during the month, recorded the following nests close around his house at Lockleys, i.e., 3 Black and White Fantails, 2 White-plumed Honey-eaters, 2 Welcome Swallows, 1 Harmonious Shrike-thrush, and 1 Frontal Shrike-tit.

Native hens (*Microtribonyx*) have appeared in great numbers around Adelaide this year. Mr. Mellor stated that they were very numerous near the swamps at Fulham, running about

the grass lands in bands of 50 to 100. Mr. E. Ashby recorded a pair for the first time at Blackwood. Dr. Morgan stated that these birds nested in great numbers last year at Robe, where they were considered as new to the district. Mr. McGilp said there is none at Lake Frome this year.

Mr. J. N. McGilp exhibited a clutch of eggs of the Australian Dotterel from Moolooatana, and described interesting habits of the bird. An open nest is made in the claypans, and when leaving the nest the bird covers the eggs with loose earth, sticks and other debris. Mr. F. E. Parsons exhibited a specimen of the beautiful Scarlet-breasted Grass Parrot (*Neophema splendida*.) received from Moolooatana Station. This exceedingly rare bird has not been recorded for very many years.

An interesting account of a trip to a belt of mallee country between Woodchester and Wellington was given by Mr. Edwin Ashby, and a number of birds collected were exhibited. A specimen of the rare Blue-winged Grass Parrot (*Neonodes chrysostomus*) was secured. The speaker pointed out the desirability of making a reserve of several miles of this country in order to preserve some of the natural mallee country near to Adelaide. With this object in view, Messrs. Parsons and McGilp were appointed a sub-committee to ascertain how the country is held.

November 28, 1919.

Capt. S. A. White presided over a large attendance. A letter was read from the Minister for Industry, asking for two representatives of the association to attend a conference which is to be held shortly in regard to the new Animals and Birds Protection Act. The President and Mr. E. Ashby were deputed to attend the conference. A motion of sympathy was accorded Mr. J. W. Mellor in the loss of his mother (Mrs. J. F. Mellor). The Chairman spoke of the great interest Mrs. Mellor had taken in nature study, and especially with the doings of the field naturalists. Mr. E. Ashby and Mr. A. G. Edquist supported. Sympathy was also expressed with Mr. C. H. Lienau upon the loss of his father.

Mr. W. D. Bruce (Chief Inspector of Fisheries) was present as a visitor, and was asked to speak upon the new Act, which comes under his jurisdiction. The Chief Inspector said that 162 copies of instructions to accompany the new Act were being prepared, and would be sent out to every police

station in the State, this to coincide with the numbers attached to each bird in the Schedules of the Act, and arranged so by the President of the Association from Dr. Leach's "Australian Bird Book." One of these books would be supplied to each station, and in this way no mistake could be made. Mr. Bruce also referred to the coming conference, when he hoped finality would be reached in reference to the issuing of permits, which was now very unsatisfactory. The Chairman complimented the Chief Inspector upon his energy and zeal, and said that he was sure that the new Act was going to be administered as no previous one had been. The Chairman went on to say that he had had an interview with the Minister (Mr. Barwell); and there was little doubt that blunders made in the past would now be remedied as far as possible.

Mr. F. Parsons exhibited emu wrens, which he had discovered on Kangaroo Island lately, and which was a new subspecies. Mr. Parsons was congratulated upon his success.

The Chairman reported upon the work accomplished by the Royal Australasian Ornithologist's Union during the session in Brisbane this year. Members were pleased to learn that the vexed question of nomenclature was at last settled in Australia, and that the council would proceed as soon as possible with the preparation and publishing of a second edition of the "Official Check-list of Australian Birds," on the lines of the international code, and British list.

Mr. G. M. Mathews had received congratulations upon his being able to continue his great work, "The Birds of Australia," thanks to a private doner of £100 per year for three years, and £200 each year from the Commonwealth Government. This resolution received the hearty endorsement of the Association, and Mr. E. Ashby asked the members to join him in congratulations to the Chairman for his having been the means of obtaining the assistance mentioned for such a fine work. It was stated by the Chairman that a strongly worded resolution had been passed by the Royal Australasian Ornithologist's Union to the effect that Macquarie Island be proclaimed a sanctuary for the fauna of Antarctica, and that he would like the Association to do likewise. A motion was therefore unanimously carried urging the Tasmanian Government to lose no time in proclaiming Macquarie Island a sanctuary.

The Chairman brought Mr. Neville W. Cayley's work before the meeting, and said he was publishing a very fine book on the birds of Australia, with beautiful hand-painted plates. The work demanded the support of Australians.

"Flinders Chase" was now touched upon by the Chairman, who pointed out that it was at last a reality, and that he was glad to say the Minister (Mr. Barwell) was alive to the importance of this reserve; and would visit it in the near future. The Chairman was congratulated upon his fight for "the Chase."

Mr. W. C. Skipper wrote suggesting all parks and gardens in and around Adelaide should be proclaimed sanctuaries for native birds. Some members expressed the opinion that these were already sanctuaries under the City Corporation. The hon. secretary said he would make enquiries.

Mr. Ashby stated that Spiny-checked Honey-eater had been seen at Blackwood. This was unusual, and was no doubt due to the dryness of the season having driven the bird to the ranges. Mr. Mellor reported that Shell Parrots had visited Lockleys and the Reedbeds in numbers this season. He also gave interesting notes upon the visit and nesting habits of the Wood Swallows. Several Rose-breasted Cockatoos had also been seen at Lockleys. Master Allen Lendon gave interesting bird notes, and stated that he had seen a number of Little Water Crakes on the upper reaches of the Torrens. Mr. A. G. Edquist (Director of Science and Nature Study) showed cicada nymphs, and said that the imported starlings had been seen waiting for these to emerge from the ground, when the bird pounced upon it and devoured it. The beautiful colourations of the insects as they harden into the mature state were described. Mr. Ashby tabled a few specimens of the Victorian and New South Wales forms of Mountain thrush, to compare with specimens obtained by the Chairman in Queensland. The Chairman stated that Shell Parrots had visited Fulham after a lapse of many years. The White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater had also returned this year after many years absence. A great number of Black-tailed Native Hens had been in the district, and had caused damage, but one should be as patient as possible, for the drought was driving these birds, like many others, into restricted areas, and they would go when rain fell in the interior.

Order Galliformes, Family Phasianidae, Genus Coturnix.

Coturnix pectoralis.—Eastern Stubble Quail.

Description.—Male, head, neck, and back, reddish brown, streaked and lined with white and black, some of the feathers of the back are black with narrow irregular markings, a white line passing over the centre of the head, and one from the base of the bill over the eye and down the side of the neck; tail coverts darker, some feathers almost black; lores, sides of the face and throat rufous with a line of darker and mottled markings from base of bill to the neck, breast in some birds being almost black, and in some instances with outer webs white; feathers approaching the abdomen, white with a broad dash of black down the middle; feathers of the flanks, white bordered with black rufous on the outside, under-tail coverts and abdomen dull white lined with black, in some cases very faintly; under-wing coverts white; Iris yellowish brown; bill, slaty grey; inside mouth, flesh colour; feet and legs, pale flesh colour; nails, blackish brown. Measurements in the flesh—length, 205 m.m.; wing from body to tip, 154 m.m.; spread, 347 m.m.

Female.—Not so strongly marked, yet the mantle is much like the male for it has the strange pointed white markings down the centres of the feathers, and the black mark followed by rufous on the outside, the strong white line down the centre of the head and over the eye, and down the neck is also present in the female, but she generally lacks the rufous chin and throat which are dirty white, the long feathers of the flanks are mostly dull white, with faint markings of black and brown; the centre of the abdomen, dull white; length (in the flesh)—205 m.m.; wing from body to tip, 160 m.m.; spread 359 m.m. Occasionally the female assumes the male plumage.

Distribution.—New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia, with a sub-species in Western Australia

Habits.—Gregarious, moving from one district to another in great numbers, generally moving south in the spring to breed, they prefer the well grassed hill-sides or plains to timbered country, although they are often to be seen in the latter locality, they are also found in swampy country

when there is sufficient cover for them; when the food supply of a district is exhausted they move away to better one, and this is generally done at night. If protected this bird becomes very confiding and will frequent the garden near the house and rear it's young, killing much insect life amongst the plants.

Food.—Grass and other plant seeds, also much insect life, they destroy an immense quantity of noxious weed seeds.

Flight.—Strong and swift, rise very quickly from the ground, and making a loud whirring sound with the wings.

Call.—Shrill whistle of two notes which is very difficult to locate.

Nest.—Placed on the ground often in a depression amidst thick grass or under a tussock, in standing crops or the like, the nest is generally roughly formed of grass stems, rootlets, and the dry blades of grass.

Eggs.—Four to ten in number, vary much in colouration, some being lightly marked, while others have thick dark blotches, in other cases a deep dark zone is formed round the larger end.

The Birds of the Mallee.

By Edwin Ashby, A.L.S., M.B.O.U., C.F.A.O.U., &c.

It seems well worth while to give some account of a brief visit to a practically unexplored, as far as ornithologists and other scientists are concerned, belt of Mallee within easy reach by motor from the City of Adelaide. My companions were two of our most enthusiastic members, Messrs. F. A. Parsons and J. N. McGilp, and to them is due the credit of finding all the eggs obtained on the trip. We started from Blackwood a few minutes past 6 a.m., September 1st, 1919, and travelled via Mount Barker and Woodchester. The visit to the latter township took us a few miles out of our way, but we noted a grass parrot *Neonanoedes*, close to Woodchester, as it made off to a considerable distance we made no attempt to follow it up. We entered the belt of

mallee a mile or so beyond Woodchester and travelled continuously in the mallee for some miles along the road that was metalled 40 or 60 years ago, with the intention of its becoming the main coach road to Melbourne, via Wellington. The road as far as we traversed it is still in excellent condition for motoring. The original heaps of metal, broken probably more than half a century ago, are still met with every few chains, but as there is practically no traffic; the road has never needed repair. We penetrated the mallee for several miles and only met with one settler's cottage, and that was uninhabited. We met the owner of the few sheep that are run in this bush and he told us that a few pairs of the Mallee Hen *Leipoa ocellata* still nest each year about a mile off the road. We made some attempt to find a fresh nest but were unsuccessful, although we saw several old ones. The road is known as Chances Line, a gentleman of that name having been instrumental in getting the road made into the mallee at the public expense. We reached the furthest point of our journey by 9.15 a.m. and commenced our field work at that hour.

A *Phaps chalcoptera* (Bronzewing Pigeon) was flushed as we pulled up the car, but while several Bronzewings were seen the rarer *Phaps elegans* was not identified. One of the first true mallee birds met with was *Hylacola canta*, and later on several specimens were secured, the cock birds especially at sunrise pouring forth their sweet melody from the top of some low mallee or other bush. The movements of this bird are almost as mouse-like as those of the *Sericornis*. Mr. McGilp was successful in finding a nest with a full clutch of eggs partly incubated, placed under a fallen bough. We thought that both the Redthroat, *Pyrholaemus brunneus* and *Calamanthus campestris* were both heard and seen, as no specimens were obtained the identification must be considered doubtful. Of Honey Eaters, those most in evidence were the two *Gliciphila albifrons* **incerta*, and *G. malanops chandleri*, it was seldom that their whistle was not to be heard. Nests with both young and eggs of the latter species were found but only one nest in the course of building of the former. The low yet penetrating double call of the Scrub Robin (*Drymodes brunneopygia*) called our attention to its whereabouts and after a considerable amount of search it was seen running rapidly from clump to clump. A pair were shot, the female having a fully developed egg in its ovary.

Several were heard during the day, but the continuous wind made it difficult to locate sounds. Wattle Birds (*Coleia carunculata tregellasi*) were very numerous and several clutches of eggs obtained. The Spiny-Cheeked Honey Eater (*Acanthagenys refogularis cygnus*) were also common but no nests were found. Its loud, very attractive notes contributed towards the music of the scrub. *Meliornis norachollandiae* was hardly as numerous as the foregoing, the specimen shot did not appear to differ from the normal form. Several small flocks of the Brown Honey Eater (*Melithreptus atricapillus mallee*) were noticed, our attention being attracted to them by their familiar cry. The White-Eared Honey Eater (*Nesoptilotis leucotis depauperata*) was very numerous. Included in their repertoire are some notes suggesting a musical Bull Frog; another far less musical note, almost identical with the call note of *Ptilotis sonora*, we heard constantly through the bush, and ascribed it to the species. One can hardly think that Mr. Mathews was justified in separating the South Australian Mallee Bird from the Victorian form found in their mallee. In the 1913 list he calls one *mallee* and the other *depauperata*. No nests were found although the birds had evidently paired. We decided to make our night camp further back where the mallee had not been burnt out, and on our way there disturbed several *Neonauodes*. The motor was pulled up as quickly as possible and my companions soon got on the track of a flock which turned out to be *elegans*. Specimens were obtained several of them showing the abdominal orange blotch. On getting through the fence a little to the right of where the others had gone I flushed another parrot which settled in a low bush and I shot it with a small charge, and was delighted to find that it was a fine male *Neonauodes chrysostomus*, the Blue-winged Parrot, a bird I have been searching for for years. On firing the shot a small flock of about eight birds rose, but as I kept my eyes on the bird I had shot I did not see the direction the flock took. Concluding that Messrs. Parsons and McGilp were getting the same species, I was much disappointed and surprised to find that the flock they were after were all *elegans*. We came back next morning but were only able to flush that species. I have no doubt that there were two separate flocks, one of each species. This surmise is borne out by the fact that the *chrysostomus* was replete with fat, whereas all the *elegans* obtained were only in fair condition. The accident of following the wrong flock was most disappointing.

We noted three species of *Acanthiza*, the mallee form of *pastilla*, named by Mr. Mathews *hamiltoni*, or the Red-rumped tit, and *uropygialis*, the Chestnut-rumped Tit; but whether to ascribe this latter to the race called by Mathews, *angusta*, from the Port Augusta District, or to the Victorian *rathergleni*, one can hardly judge—the differences are so slight. The third species we were unable to identify. *Leggycornis lamberti morganii* (Southern Blue-breasted Wren) was fairly common. Mr. Parsons was successful in shooting a very nice male Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*) which was perched on a tall gum tree about half a mile from the mallee. The flute-like whistle of the Mallee Butcher-Bird (*Bulestes torquatus coleii*) were heard continually and a nest with two fresh eggs was found. The whistle of another characteristic mallee bird was heard from time to time—that of the Crested Bell-Bird (*Oreocica cristata clelandi*). I stood for some time listening to the ventriloquial powers of one of them. The little Yellow-rumped Pardalote (*Pardalotus xanthopygus*), as well as its more common relative, *Pardalotinus striatus subaffinis* were noted. Altogether 41 species were identified, apart from the birds whose habitat is more properly the hills, which were seen in going and coming.

The belt of country visited is rich in Mallee flora, two possibly three, species of *Boronia*; several *Prostanthera*; the Scarlet *Coccoloba*, and a mauve one that would be an ornament to any garden; many interesting and beautiful shrubs, including several species of *Acacia*, which were "mounds of golden glory"; a very fine series of Orchids (*Caladenia tentaculata*); the still more local *C. Cairusiana*; and the little *Pterostylis mutica*—besides a great many others that are familiar to those of us that dwell in the hills.

We hope that this brief account will open what is almost a new hunting ground, both for the Ornithologist and the Botanist. The nearest extensive belt of Virgine Mallee country to the City of Adelaide, is easily reached and penetrated by motor car. Enough has been said to show that the fauna and flora are typical of first-class mallee country and it may be that some of the rarer forms still exist in this large block of mallee, comparatively near our homes, that have been driven back elsewhere to the more distant parts of the State, by the encroachment of the farmers.

I should like to urge in the Government the desirability of making a "Fauna and Flora" Reserve of several square miles of this mallee. At present it is held, I believe, under leases that are of little profit to those that hold them—a few

hundred sheep only grazing over a large extent of bush. As a place easily reached from Adelaide where indigenous fauna and flora can be preserved it could be made a real educational asset to the State. Evidences of kangaroos were fairly numerous and one of our party saw a fine fellow quite close.

Neopheema splendida.

SCARLET CHESTED GRASS PARROT.

By F. E. Parsons, R.A.O.U.

This beautiful little parrot is among the "rara avis" of Australian forms; in fact there has for some time past been a suggestion that this bird must be added to the painfully growing list of Australian extinct birds. It is therefore with much pleasure that I am able to record that although apparently very few in numbers, the birds have not altogether disappeared.

Under date September, 1919, I received a female of this species, sent by Mr. L. K. McGilp from Moolawatana Station, North of Lake Frome, South Australia. It was picked up by one of the station hands, having been killed by flying into a netting fence.

Mr. McGilp not being sure of the species forwarded it to me for identification. In further correspondence, Mr. McGilp informs me that the man had noticed a few of these birds (some with scarlet chests) feeding on the ground in the sand hill country, and that about twelve months previously, he, in company with his brother Niel, had seen four birds of this species, also in the sand hill country, three green chested birds and one beautifully coloured male with the scarlet chest.

I am very pleased to have this addition to my collection. As far as I can ascertain, there are only two other examples of this species in South Australian collections, each of them a male.

It is a difficult matter to understand why this species and its near ally, the Red-shouldered Grass Parrot, have been so reduced in numbers, as Mr. Mathews says, "It certainly cannot be due to the scientific bird collector."

Any data regarding the life history of this beautiful form would be very welcome and those coming in contact with the

bird should eagerly observe and publish all possible particulars regarding its habits before it is too late.

It is interesting to here give the statements of four authors of outstanding works on Australian ornithology:—

John Gould: "Birds of Australia, Fol., Vol. 5." "It is a source of much regret to me that I am unable to give more than a very slight notice of the beautiful bird that forms the subject of the present Plate. The single specimen from which my description was taken came into my possession in 1840, unfortunately without any other information accompanying it than that it was a native of Swan River."

Campbell: "Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds." The only "observations" read: "Gould much regreted he was unable to give more than a brief notice of this beautiful and truly "splendid" Grass Parrakeet. We are not much better off to-day. I suppose it is no wonder because this bird has been characterised as very shy in disposition and nowhere numerous."

North: "Nests and Eggs of Birds Found Breeding in Australia and Tasmania." "As in Gould's time, so it is now, undoubtedly the rarest species of the genus '*Neophema* . . .'. The specimens in the Australian Museum Collection are from the Darling River, New South Wales, the Gawler Ranges, and other parts of South Australia."

Gregory Mathews: "Birds of Australia." "There appears little else to record about this species save that it appears to be absolutely extinct both East and West."

From the foregoing extracts it can be seen what a very little is known about this "little gem" and it is pleasing to think that is not yet too late to observe its life history, so that some information may be published for the benefit of future students in ornithology respecting this, "one of the most beautiful of all Australian birds."

Sept. 26, 1919.

New Sub species of Emu Wren.

by

F. E. PARSONS, R.A.O.U.

STIPITURUS MALACHURUS HALMATURINA.
KANGAROO ISLAND EMU WREN.

Twelve examples of Emu Wrens were obtained from Kangaroo Island, while on a short expedition in the company of

Mr. J. N. McGilp during October, 1919, and as might be expected in the case where these weak flying birds had been isolated on an island for undoubtedly a very long period, they show a very marked difference from all the mainland forms.

To put it concisely: Whereas the mainland forms have warm colors on the upper surface of chestnut brown crowns, brown and black backs, the Kangaroo Island forms have a "washed-out" appearance with light brown crowns, light gray and very dark gray backs.

We found that at the time of our visit these little birds were breeding, and most of the adult birds were accompanied by their brood of three young ones, with tails varying in length from about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to almost full length. Our experience of the situation these birds prefer was contrary to expectations. We did not find any birds in the cool, damp gullies, but in every instance they were encountered on the tops of dry, inhospitable flat-topped hills, covered with a low growth of "bull oak," "broom-bush," and "grass-tree."

DESCRIPTION.

Adult Male.—Forehead and fore-crown, sayal brown; the rest of the upper surface, light neutral gray, streaked with dusky neutral gray; upper tail coverts, light neutral gray; lores throat, and upper chest, dutch blue; centre of abdomen, whitish; flanks and lower chest, cinnamon buff; ear-coverts, deep neutral gray, with white centres; wings, very dark gray (almost black), but each feather margined light gray; iris, brown; legs and feet, brown; bill, very dark brown (almost black).

Adult Female.—The whole of the upper surface, light neutral gray, streaked dusky neutral gray, with just a very faint brown wash on the forehead; lores and whole of under surface, cinnamon buff, excepting centre of abdomen, which is whitish; upper tail coverts, light neutral gray; wings, very dark gray (almost black), but each feather margined light gray; iris, legs, feet and bill same as male bird.

Young Male.—The tail feathers were about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long; throat and lores, blue, but lighter in color than in the adult male; and the forehead and fore-crown is a gray instead of brown, as in the adult.

Note.—In the descriptions above, the colors are standardized against those in "COLOR STANDARDS AND NOMENCLATURE," by "RIDGWAY."

MEASUREMENTS OF KANGAROO ISLAND EMU WRENS.

SEX	TIP OF BILL TO BASE OF TAIL.	TIP OF BILL TO TIP OF TAIL.	REMARKS.
♂	7.0 c.m.	19.0 c.m.	Full tail, not worn.
♂	7.0 c.m.	17.7 c.m.	Tail slightly worn.
♂	7.0 c.m.	17.7 c.m.	Tail not worn.
♂	7.0 c.m.	19.7 c.m.	Tail not worn.
♀	7.0 c.m.	18.4 c.m.	Tail not worn.
♀	7.0 c.m.	17.7 c.m.	Tail slightly worn.
♀	7.0 c.m.	17.7 c.m.	Tail not worn.
♀	7.0 c.m.	17.7 c.m.	Tail not worn.

10-11-19.

Ornithological Nomenclature: its History and Reason.

by

GREGORY M. MATHEWS, F.R.S.E., Etc.

So much misunderstanding appears to exist in the minds of field ornithologists as to the rules governing the names of the birds they see, that I have been asked to give some simple explanations of the confusion apparent.

There are at present no rules governing the vernacular names used in connection with birds, as these must necessarily vary according to the usage of the country where the birds live, and the language used by the inhabitants thereof. In order to facilitate intercourse between bird observers in various countries, it has been unanimously accepted that the medium of Latin (a dead language) be used. Consequently, in the older days scientific treatises were written wholly in Latin, whether the writers were English, French or Swedes, as the case might be. As progress was made in mechanical means of locomotion in the last century, scientists became familiar with the vernacular of many countries, and Latin fell more and more into disuse. It may be interposed that at the end of the 18th century a French explorer arrived in a distant and almost unknown country, and was surprised to meet with a Roman Catholic missionary, the only European, but not a Frenchman: I believe Portuguese. They managed to converse in Latin!! Such a possibility to-day is unimaginable.

It was, however, impossible accurately to interpret the vernacular names without the medium of Latin, and so it became

customary to use a Latin phrase defining the object in conjunction with the vernacular. This Latin phrase was taken from one of the older Latin works, and consisted of the first two, three, or more words of the description, and in conjunction was quoted the name of the writer of the book. A brilliant idea came to a Swedish naturalist, though suggested indirectly in earlier works. This was uniformly to use only two Latin words instead of one, two, three or more. The Swede worked this system out for the whole of the natural history of the world, zoological and botanical. He was primarily a botanist, and he introduced a scheme of nomination very little different from some of his predecessors. In zoology also, in some branches, the same idea had been previously used, but never for the whole scheme of nature. Consequently as a basis, the work of Linnaeus became the standard text-book. It was manifestly imperfect, and in many details was inferior to monographic works of earlier date. Such a result was as certain then as now, because the specialist must always surpass in his local study the best endeavour of the general student. Nevertheless, the general work must appeal to a much larger body of users, and become accessible to more workers. Another interposition becomes necessary. It was the custom of the writer, as his book was wholly written in Latin, to use a Latinisation of his name. Thus Linnaeus, although the writer's name was Linne. However, in later years, through the fame of his work, Linne was ennobled, and he then reverted to his original name. Consequently, many workers, like myself, use the Swedish form though others quote the Latinised form. The method of Linne was to use a generic and a trivial name, the whole to form the binomial name of the species. Thus the genus *Corvus* included the bird previously designated with the single name, *Corvus*, and he introduced as the trivial name the word *Corax*, the specific name being *Corvus Corax*. Under the diagnosis he gave references to previous writers, so that identification is possible with those workers, and from them we can trace the bird by means of vernaculars. Only Latin was used by Linne, as his work was technically and truly a "Systema Naturae." Of course, jealousy was certain, and contemporary writers, particularly specialists, openly derided his system and his detail work. This leads us to Brisson, his famous ornithological contemporary, and undoubtedly a far superior bird student. Brisson had been engaged for years in the preparation of an "Ornithology" or a scheme quite novel and most ambitious. When this was nearly complete, Linne's tenth edition of his

Systema Naturae was published. Brisson, probably recognising the superiority of the nomination used, and the inferiority of the ornithological work, drew attention to the fact that he disagreed with it, and that his own work was prior in compilation, though later in completion. Brisson had, of course, used the polynomial method of naming his birds as to his species, though grouping them in genera, which, of course, was not novel, but had been more or less in use for years. His work, however, consisted of six volumes with detailed descriptions of the birds in French and Latin, while Linne's birds were compressed into a hundred and fifteen pages of short Latin diagnoses. It was consequently much easier to recognise birds from Brisson's work than from that of Linne, and his work was continually referred to. A twelfth edition of Linne's *Systema Naturae* was brought out, and in that he included the majority of Brisson's species, restricting to them binomial names. As above noted, the polynomial method of nomination consisted of one, two, three or more names. Confusion was later caused by quoting the names consisting of two words as if they had been proposed by users of the binomial method. Though attacked by the polynomialists, the binomial method immediately obtained universal usage, and in a very few years polynomialism became extinct. Writers in every language adhered to the Linnean method, and used only two words for the specific names, accepting the Linnean genera. As, however, Brisson had been a more thorough ornithologist, with more material, he had proposed more genera, and workers accepted some of these, additional to the Linnean ones, following Linne's own example, as he had accepted some in his twelfth edition. Again a complication ensued, as Linne had selected as a generic name a word commonly in use previously in connection with the bird. Brisson had independently done the same, and while in some instances the usage of both coincided, in others disagreement occurred, through there being two or more names previously in use by different workers.

New species were continually being recognised by students in every country, the "*Systema Naturae*" and the "*Ornithology*" indicating the species known. These were described by the discoverers, and as intercourse was slow and difficult, it soon became known that the same species had been independently named by two different people. At once the earnest ornithologist recognised the right of priority, and used the name given by the earliest discoverer, even when it had not been published first. Thus priority became customary, and has so been main-

tained until the present day. Yet, in every decade, some faddist has, from ignorance of the history as well as the reason of the use, railed against the recognition of priority, proclaiming the right of custom; but priority is the custom, and has always been since the days of Linne. When travel and literature increased largely, it became impressed upon all the scientific writers that only absolute acceptance of priority would enable definite recognition of birds throughout the world, and this was continually urged. Just one hundred years ago British ornithologists urged this fact, and as usual opposition came from a small coterie of non-scientific men, who desired to name the bird according to their own ideas of the suitability of the name selected. Thus the Goat-sucker does not merit its name, though custom had so named it. A latin equivalent, *Caprimulgus*, had been used by Linne, and was commonly in use, irrespective of its merits, as it was customary. One of the Englishmen, demurring to this name as unmerited, sought to improve it by substituting *Nyctichelidon*: this was similarly objected to by another, who proposed *Phalaenivora* as more appropriate; while a third recommended *Vociferator*. This was leading to absolute chaos, so that the leading scientists felt compelled to draw up a scheme of rules to govern zoological nomenclature. It will be thus seen that it was through disregard of custom, i.e., priority, that the Nomenclatural Laws became a necessity. This brings us down to the year 1842, from which year we date them, custom previously being the law.

The British Association for the Advancement of Science appointed a Committee to deal with the transgressions of custom and initiate a series of Rules which would be acceptable to working scientists, though faddists might still demur. It should be noted that it was considered necessary for the advancement of science that laws should be made. The secretary of the Committee was named Strickland, and from correspondence and conversation with the leading scientists in the world he drew up a set of Rules, and when these were corrected and assented to, they were published, and have provided the basis of all subsequent Rules. A short name was commonly used, though not official, viz.: "The Stricklandian Code," and it is possible that some readers may have considered this an arbitrary effort of an individual instead of an official resume of the opinions of the world's scientific leaders.

It is to be regretted that, with the same perversity that is still seen, certain individuals, jealous at not being consulted, deliberately attempted to belittle the code and its users. Never-

the less, it was used by the best workers for many years, but unfortunately many well-situated workers, through carelessness as much as malice, neglected to conform to the Rules. Of course, such ill-considered work suited the opponents who jibed at the Rules, and one well-known ornithologist suggested and employed the name which he considered had been used by the majority of writers up to his time, in direct contravention to the usage of priority. It is remarkable that none of his selections have been upheld save where priority coincided with his approval. However, the misuse of names, in conjunction with opposition, led to the reconsideration of the Rules, and in every reconsideration priority has been successfully shown to be absolutely necessary. In matters of detail alterations have been made but in the eighty years since the preparation of the Rules there has been no real amendment. The only important one was the recognition of the date of the beginning of binomial nomenclature. In 1842 a majority decided that 1766, the date of Linne's twelfth edition, should be accepted as the starting point, but exceptions were allowed. Consequently, after years of usage, these exceptions were standardized by reversion to 1758, the date of Linne's tenth edition, and the one in which he first and fully introduced the binomial system. The earlier Rules included means of altering names not classically correct, and this has been a source of trouble, many workers desiring to impress their classical knowledge at the expense of ornithology, but now this has practically been abolished. Of course, international jealousy was certain to cause interference, and while accepting the basis of the British Rules, other nations sought to provide improvements. Thus the French Zoologists, arguing that a Frenchman had anticipated Linne in introducing the binomial system in botany, and that other specialists had also used more or less binomial names in their works, decided that such workers should be considered. American workers, with no very ancient history to call upon, early determined upon the necessity of fixing the Stricklandian Code. Other countries had also details they desired to get acknowledged, and consequently as divergence was imminent International Laws were considered necessary. After discussion, these were fashioned, and are now in use. It soon became obvious that with the multitude of workers in every land great importance must be given to the technical nomination of animals discussed, especially when the anatomy and morphology were considered. Again anatomists and morphologists were the most careless workers in conjunction with names; they were

more interested in dissecting, neglecting the fact that their work is useless if their beast be wrongly identified. These continually argue that names mean nothing; yet all the time are desirous of establishing knowledge. Knowledge without names is chaos, and this fact has now been recognised. To attend to the technical difficulties that arise in connection with some names, an International Commission was appointed, and the Commission states an opinion upon debatable points, and these opinions are later considered by International Congresses, and become Laws.

The above short resume has outlined the development of our present nomenclatural laws, and it may help if more particular attention is given to a few points, such as the Law of Priority. The mere mention of the word priority in connection with names published long ago appears to cause irritation to some men who, in their own discoveries, endeavor to snatch days for the sake of priority. The unreasonable attitude is inexplicable, and a prioritarian should be consistent. I have noted that a British ornithologist endeavoured to select the best established name without recognising priority, and dismally failed; now we have an Australian claiming priority for a certain work because it was the standard, though well aware of his uncomfortable position in the fact that the work was so expensive and scarce as to be available only to a few workers. This is the more inconsistent because in his later, more popular, and easily accessible handbook, the author had changed a large number of names on the score of priority alone. It has been proved by usage and custom that only absolute priority is acceptable. If any opponent will but reasonably consider the matter, he will find it the only real solution. As instance, a bird is discovered in Australia, and described in the *Victorian Naturalist*. A few weeks afterwards the same bird is named with a coloured plate in the "Ibis." The latter work circulates all over the world, while the former does not. Is it justice that the writer in the "Ibis," or the first discoverer, should have the better claim? The Law of Priority enables the local writer to get his due. It is unfair to claim that the coloured plate of the better situated worker should be the standard, and that the hard working field naturalist should be ignored; yet this is being advocated indirectly by a well-known Australian.

Personally, I have advocated, and always will do, the absolute right of the first discoverer, irrespective of his greatness or the size of his work. Another instance: I have just discovered that a writer named John Cotton published a List of

Birds of the Upper Goulburn, Port Phillip, New South Wales, in the *Tasmanian Journal of Natural Science*, Vol. III. No. 5, July, 1848, p. 361, *et seq.*, and there named on p. 362 *Antho-chacca Rodorhyncha*, differentiating it from *Acanthagenys Rufogularis* Gould. This appears to have been overlooked by all Australian as well as British ornithologists, and refers to the bird I recently named *Acanthagenys Rufogularis Cygnis*. By the use of the Law of Priority I immediately use Cotton's name, and give him the credit for his discovery, though seventy years late. Would Australians be pleased were I to ignore it, and continue the use of my own name? I think not.

It seems to have been overlooked by the Australian opponent of the Law of Priority that it is as old as the binomial system and is the custom, and that the objectors who cite custom as their object are ignorant of what custom is. The Law of Priority is based on custom, and on the custom of one hundred and sixty years.

Genus splitting.—This is the most debatable subject in connection with ornithological nomenclature, and a few words may be given to it. Birds do not show well-defined differential features, as they have so much uniformity in development. Consequently, very minor characters are used for separating groups, and, moreover, no great stress can be laid upon the development of any one organ. The older ornithologists, endeavouring to classify birds, selected one organ alone, and naturally created groups of unequal value and incongruous components. Endeavouring to rectify such errors, many more groups became necessary, and as each student worked at a group, he accepted minor characters still as important, until apparently a superfluity of generic groups were existent.

Casual students then interfered, and without as careful examination lumped again, once more associating dissimilar entities. Recently all the more exact school have endeavoured to reconcile the two by means of close, detailed criticism of every organ, as well as consideration of the life history and evolution of the forms. In order to arrive at a perfect system, it is necessary to dissociate all the "lumped" genera, and then, as the knowledge of evolution increases, to reform these split genera into natural groups, according to the evolution and development of the species.

It is a remarkable fact that all specialists, "lumpers" in the beginning of their studies, become "splitters" as they study more closely the development of the forms. "Lumpers," it

may be remarked, can never advance scientific knowledge, because they ignore features which the specialist discovers to be very important. It is comparatively easy to associate birds which have been separated when the features are proved to be superficial, and not of evolutionary import. How difficult it is to correct errors in the "lumping" methods, is seen in the Hawks where Susehkin, by osteological study, indicated families where species had been tardily admitted. A recent "lumper" has given as his characters of a genus "same as indicated for family," yet he gives in his distribution of the family, "Australasia," where, up to the present, since the days of Latham and Vieillot, the genus has NOT been recorded. From such a diagnosis it is obvious that his genus is an incongruous mixture, and unworthy of acceptance. When the split genera are reassembled successfully, I do not think there will be much to concern us in ornithological nomenclature.

A Fortnight on Kangaroo Island (South Aus.)

By J. Neil McGilp, R.A.O.U.

On October 11, Mr. Frank E. Parsons and self left Port Adelaide per the "Karatta," and reached Kingscote, the chief port of the island, the same evening. The following morning we left for Stokes Bay, a distance of about 30 miles west from Kingscote. Upon arrival we were made very welcome by Mr. George Bell, who had so kindly invited us to stay with him.

We worked the country from the coast line at Stokes Bay well in towards the centre of the island. Although we found the walking fairly heavy and the scrub conditions rough on clothing, we were able to get through a fair amount of ornithological work.

The Emu Wren was obtained. This is the first time a skin has been obtained of the island form of this bird. Mr. Parsons is describing this new sub-species in this journal, under the name of *Stipiturus n. halmaturina*. We collected very few eggs, though many signs of breeding were observed and proved we were a little late for the general breeding season.

We were dissatisfied with the country that we worked a great deal of it being unsuitable for profitable production.

A few scattered areas were being farmed or grazed with sheep; judging the Flinders Chase Reserve in comparison with the country we saw, we are at a loss to understand why so much opposition was shown to the Reserve. We noted a single kangaroo in its native state but many tracks were observed, the same applies to a certain extent to the wallaby and possum, though a few of each were seen. We also saw a porcupine and a few goanna, but there must be a good many of these about, judging by the signs we observed.

We were greatly assisted in our work by our host, for he knows every inch of the locality and was able to direct us to favoured spots for bird life. Mr. Bell is a keen student of bird and animal life of the island.

While at Stokes Bay we heard that a nest and eggs of the Mallee Fowl had been found at Snug Cove, towards the western end of the island. We did not see any sign of this specie. We surmise that the nest was built by some of the birds liberated on the island.

The following birds were observed by us during our stay on Kangaroo Island, with a few notes on same. The nomenclature is after Mathews' Handlist of Australian Birds.

Eudypptula minor undina—A dead bird was picked up at Stokes Bay, on the coast.

Coturnix pectoralis—Plentiful on cleared areas.

Cosmopelia elegans neglecta—Saw a fair number of the Bronzewing, but not a specimen obtained.

Neonectris tenuirostris brevicaudus—Plentiful, observed on sea voyage and close to coast line.

Thalasseus bergii poliocerus—Noted a few pairs only.

Bruchigaria norcahollandiae ethelae—Very common on coast and on inland lagoons, near Wisanger.

Haematopus ostralegus longirostris—Observed at Kingscote on sandy beach; only two pairs noted.

Haematopus fuliginosus—Noticed several times on Rocks at Stokes Bay and Kingscote.

Lobibyr norcahollandiae—Plentiful wherever plain, open country was found. Eggs and young noted.

Zonifer tricolor—Not so plentiful as previously mentioned species. Eggs taken on Cygnet River. Clutch, 4 eggs; nest, a depression in ground, horse manure lining, and a ring of manure round eggs.

Leucopoliis ruficapillus—Noted a few times, mostly at fresh-water lagoon, near Wisanger.

Charadrius cucullatus—There appeared to be a pair of this specie on every sandy cove along beach, near Stokes Bay. A pair with three young were observed.

Himantopus leucocephalus—A large number were noted wading in shallow water of fresh lagoon, near Wisanger.

Burhinus magnirostris—One bird only observed, but many were heard calling at night.

Notophya novaehollandiae—These birds were observed along coast, rivers and lagoons.

Agelaeorhynchus caledonicus australasiac—Only one bird was noted; it roosted in low gums about 100 yards from homestead at Stokes Bay.

Anas superciliosa rogersi—Very plentiful, found breeding on Cygnet River. Seven young noted at waterhole (rain), in midst of a growing crop.

Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae.

Mesocorbo ater.

Hypoleucis fuscescens.

Microcarbo melanoleucus.

Fairly common round coast line.

Circus approximans gouldi—Only specimen noted near Wisanger, soaring over crops.

Trospiza fasciata—A pair noted at Pioneer Bend, on Cygnet River.

Accipiter cirrocephalus—A single representative noted at Stokes Bay.

Uroaetus aedon—Noted several times, but only at a great distance, and always on wing.

Hiracides berigora—Noted on two occasions.

Certhia cenchroides—Everywhere plentiful; a clutch of 4 eggs taken from hollow branch of gum, height from ground, about 18 feet.

Pandion haliaetus cristatus—A pair were seen resting on old nest on a rocky spur of coast line; the nest is used annually, evidently by these two birds.

Spiloglaux boobook haliaeturae—A few were seen, but a lot of calls heard at night; a female shot, contained a fully developed egg, which broke in the fall to earth.

Trichoglossus novaehollandiae—Very plentiful in timbered country and on Cygnet River; nesting in hollow. No eggs found, but a pair of young cut out of a large, dry gum.

Glossopsitta concinna.

Glossopsitta porphyrocephala.

Noted only at and near Kingscote.

Calyptorhynchus fulvicornis whitei—A few birds noted on Cygnet River.

Cacatores galerita rosinae—Two or three pairs noted.

Platycercus elegans melanopterus—Common where any timber abounds. Found breeding in hollow branches.

Cacomantis rubricatus—Fair number about, found nest of Blue Wren with Fantail Cuckoo egg, also parent Blue Wrens feeding fully fledged cuckoo.

Neochalcitis basilis mellori—Only occasionally seen. Nest of Blue Wren, with egg of this specie, found at Kingscote.

Hirundo neoxena—Common everywhere; found breeding under bridges and in sheds.

Hylodreidion nigricans calayi—Numerous.

Petroica multicolor halmaturina—Few of this species were noted.

Pachycephala sub-species—Two birds taken, but both appeared in immature plumage. Evidently *P.p. halmaturina*. Clutch, 2 eggs, and male parent taken at Kingscote.

Rhipidura flabillifera whitei—Fairly numerous; nest containing two heavily incubated eggs taken Cygnet River. Nest, a beautifully constructed "wineglass, with base of stem broken off" pattern, and placed in a fork of black fitree, overhanging the River. Found by following male as it hunted, and fed the female on the nest.

Leucocircia tricolor—Only a pair seen: seems to be very rare on Kangaroo Island. Its place is taken by — ?

Seisura inquieta—Which is very numerous. Noticed that this specie made the "grinding" noise only when poised in air, hovering over some object, but not when on ground, or sitting on posts—a very favourite position. Quite as tame as *L. tricolor* around homesteads; visited.

Coraciina noronchollandiae melanops—A large number observed in timbered country.

Hylacola cauta halmaturina—A great many of these birds were observed, but few nests with eggs found; a good number of "just flying" young about.

Cincloramphus cruentalis cantatoris—Plentiful on the open cleared land and in crops.

Epthianura albifrons—We noted a fair number of this specie, and found a nest "just building."

Acanthiza pusilla zietzi—Rather common: found breeding, and nests in course of construction.

Acanthiza lineata whitei—Wherever trees were found, we saw this active little species hunting through the leaves.

Sericornis maculatus ashbyi Numerous. Many nests were found, but the young had just left or the birds had been disturbed. No eggs were found.

Stipiturus melachurus halmaturina Parsons.

See description elsewhere in this issue of S.A. Ornithologist.

Pseudartamus cyanopterus—A few were noted; most plentiful near Wisanger.

Colluricincla harmonica halmaturina—Found breeding near Kingscote; 3 young in nest, in fork of low tree.

Gymnorhina hypoleuca leucanota—Plentiful.

Zosterops lateralis halmaturina—Found breeding, and very numerous.

Pardalotus punctatus xanthopygus.

Pardalotus striatus subaffinis.

Noted both species; the latter only found breeding.

Melithreptus atricapillus magnirostris—Numerous in scrub and trees.

Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris halmaturina—Plentiful, and found breeding; eggs and young found.

Gliciphila melanops braba—Found breeding; common bird of the scrub.

Nesoptilotis leucotis thomasi—Very few noted.

Lichenostomus cratitius—Plentiful in trees; found breeding, nest suspended in foliage; two eggs to clutch. Bird sat very closely.

Phylidomyris pyrhoptera halmaturina—Common along watercourses; eggs and young found.

Meliornis novaehollandiae halmaturina—Found breeding; all clutches found were of two eggs.

Anthochaera chrysoptera halmaturina—Plentiful near Kingscote; a few noted elsewhere.

Anthus australis adelaidensis—Found breeding, two eggs found near Pioneer Bend, on Cygnet River.

Steganopleura guttata philardi—Seen once only.

Aglintha temporalis loftyi—Fairly common; nest built inside of old crow's nest contained 4 eggs.

Carrus coronoides perplexus—Breeding; young found.

Strepera melanoptera halmaturina—Common.

Malurus cyaneus ashbyi—Plentiful everywhere; nesting freely in low acacia. A pair remained about the Homestead at Stokes Bay, and came within a yard or two of us, when they were hunting grubs, etc., in garden. The male being a very beautifully colored specimen, evidently several years old.

Native Companions on Kangaroo Island.

By J. W. Mellor, R.A.O.C.


The most interesting record that I have received for a long time came from Mr. M. L. Buick of American River, Kangaroo Island. Under date of October 26 he states *inter alia*:—"On my way to Kingscote a few weeks ago I saw twelve Native Companions, the first that I have seen on the island." This is indeed good news, and shows the great need for a large protection area on the Island. These birds, usually so shy and wary, seem to have gone to one of the busiest spots on Kangaroo Island, and it is to be hoped that they will be left unmolested there, as on the mainland they are fast becoming rare. The birds being so large their two eggs, which are laid on the ground, are easily found by foxes, and eaten, and even if the young manage to hatch out it is more than likely that they will fall a prey to Reynard.

Notes on the Frogmouth.


Forwarded by J. W. Mellor.

Some interesting notes upon the Mallee Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides rossi* Mathews), have come under my notice, which further bear out my contention that this bird does not say "more pork." Miss K. N. Powell of the Woodville High School, states:—"We had a rather uncommon bird, a podargus, or frogmouth, for about seven years. It was queer-looking in a way, had large yellow eyes, and soft feathers like those of an owl. It loved company, and at night would often sit on our dining-room window-sill. Twice when we had left it alone, and were sitting in another room, it came up the hall, and joined us. If alarmed he would stretch out his feathers, or rather flatten them along his body, so that he looked like a dead branch of a tree. Sometimes he would fluff himself out full, and the calls he made were somewhat similar to the noise of a motor bicycle. Occasionally we put a hand mirror down and let him stand on it, and he would perch and gaze down at himself for about twenty minutes at a time."





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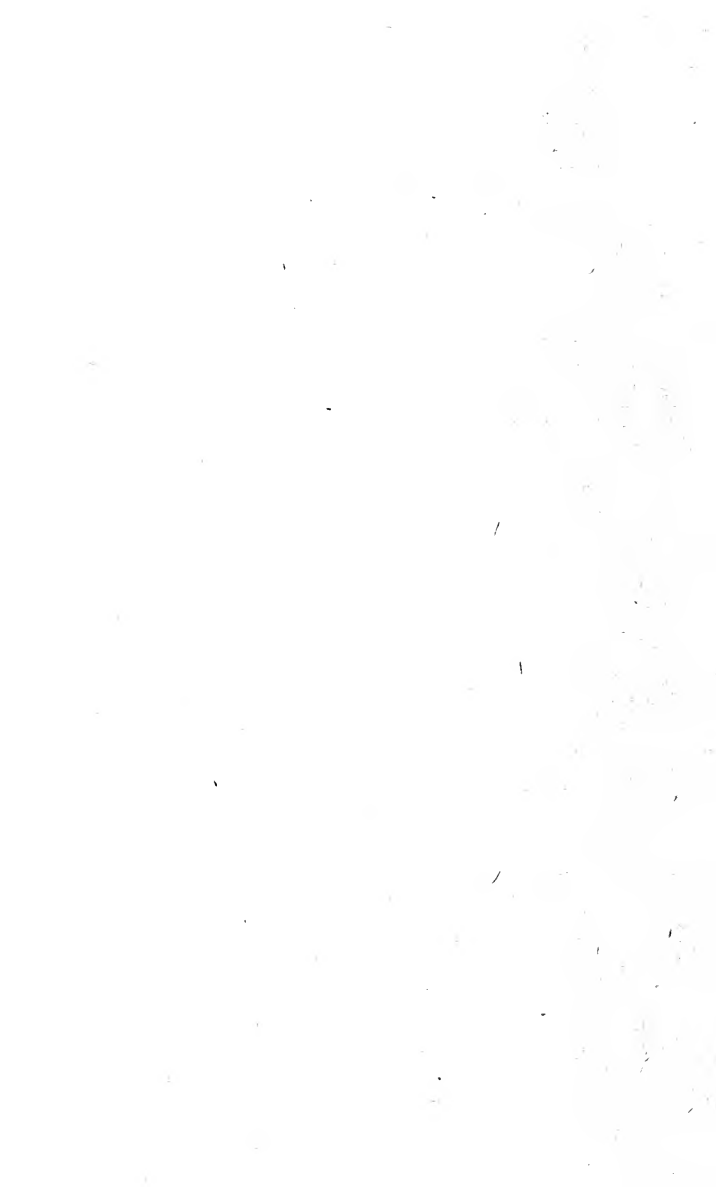
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The Editorial Committee accepts no responsibility for the views or deductions expressed by any of its contributors. The Journal welcomes a free interchange of ideas with the object of extending the knowledge of our avifauna, but the author of each article is responsible for the opinions and deductions recorded.

— THE —
South Australian Ornithologist.

VOL. V.]

1st APRIL, 1920.

[PART 2.

The South Australian Ornithological
Association.

DECEMBER 19th, 1919.

The monthly meeting was held in the Royal Society's Rooms on 19th December, 1919, Capt. S. A. White in the chair.

The Chairman reported that he and Mr. E. Ashby had conferred with the Secretary for the Minister of Industry, the Chief Inspector of Fisheries, and the Director of the Museum, re the issue of permits, and it was suggested that all persons so privileged should furnish a report each year, setting forth the number of specimens of each species collected for twelve months, and also that no exchange of specimens had been made outside the State without the written permission of the Minister. The members present thought the suggestions very good, and the best means of maintaining some supervision over those persons entrusted with permits.

It was reported that one or two officials of the R.A.O.U. had assisted Mr. Hatch in his endeavour to obtain the necessary permission to kill penguins on Macquarie Island. It was hoped that the rumour would be found to be without foundation, as any such action would earn the unqualified condemnation of this association.

A valuable addition to the Society's Library has come to hand, namely, Dr. Ridgway's Book of Color Standards, which will be a great help.

Dr. Morgan reported that on the last Saturday in September he had found the body of an Orange-fronted Chat near the Reedbeds.

Mr. J. W. Mellor stated that the Willy Wagtails that had previously reared a brood of young in his garden had again hatched out young.

Capt. White reported that a pair of Blue Wrens had constructed a nest in a cock of hay, the nest being almost cup-shaped, and lined with feathers.

Dr. Morgan exhibited a small collection of skins collected early in October. In company with Dr. Chenery, a trip was taken in the country near the junction of the River Darling and River Murray, and the doctor gave an interesting narrative of the birds met with. He reported having seen a flock of hundreds of Emus, and a very large mob of Kangaroos, which made a very impressive sight. Dr. Morgan considers that quite a thousand Emus were seen during the trip, but very few were nesting. It was noticed that a little way up the Darling River, the Noisy Minah (*Myzantha melanocephala*) ceased to occur, its place being taken by the yellow species (*M. flavigula*). This tends to prove the assumption expressed at previous meetings that the reason that *M. flavigula* did not occur along the banks of the Murray was not because the country was not suitable, but because the black-headed variety was too vicious and drove the yellow species back from the river.

An account by the Chairman, of the camp-out of the R.A.O.U in the Bunya Mountains, occupied the rest of the evening, and Capt. White promised to exhibit the skins collected and complete his narrative at the next meeting.

JANUARY 30th, 1920.

Capt. S. A. White presided.

The Secretary (Mr. F. M. Angel) read a letter from Mr. A. J. Campbell, of Melbourne, offering a photographic block of a Magpie for the front page of "The South Australian Ornithologist." The offer was most heartily accepted, and the Secretary was asked to convey the grateful thanks of the Association to Mr. Campbell for his thoughtful gift.

Mr. A. S. LeSouef, of the Zoological Gardens, Sydney, was nominated for membership.

Mr. J. W. Mellor reported Shell Parrots (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) breeding at Lockleys; whilst the White-browed (*Campbellornis superciliosus*) and masked Wood-swallows (*Artamus personatus*) had finished breeding, and very few now remained. Although quite out of the season, several birds were breeding, Sparrows having young in the nests, and the Noisy Minah (*Myzantha melanocephala*) was seen picking up rootlets to line its nest with.

Dr. Morgan mentioned that Blue Wrens were breeding late this season, he having recently observed a nest in the hills.

Mr. E. Ashby stated that the Red-backed Parrots (*Psephotus haemulonotus*) were returning to the hills daily.

Mr. A. Lendon noted the elegant Grass Parrot (*Xcophema elegans*) at Victor Harbour, and stated that the English Green Finch had reached the same district.

Mr. S. Sanders reported Australian Swifts (*Micropus pacificus*) on several occasions at Sturt, at times flying very low—a few feet from the ground.

Mr. F. R. Zietz recorded a Reed Warbler (*Conopodera australis*), Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenorii*), and the White-shafted Fantail (*Rhipidura albiscapa*), at Kingswood—most unusual visitors. The same member stated that the English Goldfinches were doing damage to the almond crop, and showed some of the kernels that had been attacked.

Mr. J. Sutton noted the Black-chinned Honeyeater (*Melithreptus gularis*), Spinebill (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*), at Mitcham.

The Chairman reported that he had accompanied the Hon. the Minister of Industry on a tour of inspection of the Coorong, and as a result, the Minister had decided to close the whole of the Coorong against shooting for the season. This announcement was received with great satisfaction by the members.

Capt. White also gave a report of a visit to Kangaroo Island, in the company of Mr. G. Laffer, M.P. The whole length of the Island was traversed, and much valuable information was obtained in connection with the Flinders Chase Reserve.

The Chairman gave a most interesting account of the birds met with during the recent R.A.O.U. camp-out in the Bunya Mountains, Queensland. With the aid of the specimens

collected, the wonderful bird life of that little known region was vividly portrayed. The glorious sight presented by the Rifle bird, Satin bower-bird, Regent birds, and the King and Crimson Parrots in their natural haunts, was referred to, and their habits graphically described. Many of the smaller birds also came under notice.

Capt. White was heartily thanked for the interesting and instructive discourse.

FEBRUARY 28th, 1920.

Capt. S. A. White presided.

The Secretary reported that Mr. J. Sutton had suffered a double bereavement by the death of a brother and sister, and it was resolved that a letter of sympathy be sent to Mr. Sutton.

Mr. A. S. LeSouef, of Sydney, was duly elected a member, and Professor J. Burton Cleland was nominated for membership.

Mr. J. D. Connor reported that Shrike Tits were eating the dry almonds in the gardens on the banks of the Torrens. Mr. Mellor stated that for many years they have been known to do this, but as the birds are scarce, the amount of damage done is very small.

Mr. J. W. Mellor reported the Boobook Owl calling at Lockleys, and mentioned that the English Starlings had suddenly left the gardens in his district. This was unaccountable, and most unusual at this time of the year, when the figs are ripening.

Other members reported the Starlings about as usual in other suburbs. Mr. Ifould noticed these birds settling on some sheep, but the reason for their so doing was not apparent.

Mr. W. Weidenbach noted the White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater at Glen Osmond.

Mr. F. R. Zietz stated that Minahs were very troublesome with the figs at Kingswood.

Mr. A. Lendon noticed a sparrow hawk (*Accipiter*) flying over the Adelaide Oval.

The Chairman reported upon a visit of inspection to the Flinders' Chase Reserve, on Kangaroo Island, by the Board of Governors and two Ministers of the Crown. The latter were much impressed with the possibilities of the Chase as a fauna and flora reserve, and as a tourist resort.

Two interesting finds were reported by Mr. Edwin Ashby. Accompanied by Mr. F. E. Parsons, a trip was made to Mt. Compass, where these members were successful in securing specimens of the King Quail (*Excalfactoria chinensis australis*) and the Emu Wren (*Stipiturus malachurus*). The former is a rare bird in South Australia, and this record is the first time that any of our members have seen it in this State. Mr. Ashby stated that unlike other members of the family, the King Quail does not make a whirring sound when taking to the wing. The Emu Wren was found not uncommonly, which is interesting as this bird has not been recorded from that district for thirty years.

The subject for the evening's discussion was "Emu Wrens," and a fair range of material from the S.A. Museum and the collections of Messrs. Ashby, Parsons, and Capt. White was tabled and compared. It was noted that the darkest forms occurred in Tasmania, and the Kangaroo Island bird recently discovered by Mr F. E. Parsons showed the lightest coloration. The Mt. Compass bird showed an intermediate stage between the Victorian and Kangaroo Island forms. One specimen of *Stipiturus malachurus ruficeps* from mid-West Australia was represented, and was considered by members as quite distinct from the Tasmanian, Victorian, and South Australian birds, and worthy of more than sub-specific rank.

Order Passeriformes, Family Ploceidae, Genus *Aegintha*.

Aegintha temporalis (Red-browed Finch)—Mr. G. M. Mathews has divided this bird up as follows, the type—South Queensland and New South Wales:—

A. temporalis tregellasi (Victorian Red-browed Finch)—Victoria.

A. temporalis minor (Little Red-browed Finch)—North Queensland.

A. temporalis loftyi (Mountain Red-browed Finch)—
South Australia.

Description—All Upper Surface—yellowish olive brown; head, dark slaty grey; under surface, grey, darker on flanks, almost white on throat; centre tail feathers, grey tipped with black, next two feathers almost black, remainder grey; primaries, dark brown, edged with grey; bill, deep red with ridge down centre of both mandibles, black; feet, yellowish flesh colour; iris red.

Distribution—Fairly wide, comprising the greater part of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

Habitat—Found in almost any situation, mountains, plains, near the coast, inland for a considerable distance; open and bush country alike.

Habits—Like other members of the family, this bird is gregarious, moving about in parties of a dozen to a hundred or more; in the open country they obtain much of their food upon the ground, hopping over the low seed-bearing, creeping plants in a very quiet and confiding manner. In the bush country they feed upon tall grass seeding heads and small berries of shrubs; they pair off at nesting time.

Flight—Fairly strong for so small a bird, and they shift considerably, according to food supply. When moving to another district, they will rise to a great height, with strong and straight flight.

Note—Rather weak, but pleasing, short, plaintive call.

Nest—The nest is a large pear-shaped structure, with the hole of entrance at the narrow end, leading by a narrow tunnel about three inches long to the nest proper, which is globular. It is very strongly built of fresh grasses, and lined with soft grass tops, and a few feathers, or a little rabbit's fur. It is usually placed within reach of the hand, but occasionally as high as 14 or 15 feet from the ground. Favourite nesting sites are the *Melaleuca* bushes, bordering the streams in the hills, and growing in damp gullies, but nests are also to be found in *Bursaria* and Kangaroo thorn bushes; usually several nests are found close together. Building begins at the end of October, and continues until January, two broods being often reared. The eggs are from five to eight in number, and pure white in colour.

Average measurement of 13 eggs—1.70 c.m. x 1.20 c.m.
Largest egg—1.80 c.m. x 1.20 c.m. Smallest egg—1.60 c.m. x 1.20 c.m.

The Birds of Rivers Murray and Darling and district of Wentworth.

(By A. Chenery, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., and A. M. Morgan, M.B., B.Ch.).

PART 1.

One of us (A. C.) has been resident in Wentworth for some years, while the other (A. M. M.) has made two trips on the Murray, and we have together examined the country between the S.A. border and the River Darling, from Belmore (about 40 miles north of the Murray) to Kudjee Lake and Cuthero Station, 100 miles by road up the Darling, as well as the country near the S.A. border on the Victorian side, for about 20 miles south of the River Murray. One of us has also, in company with Capt. S. A. White, examined the river bank and adjacent scrub from Rufus Creek to Renmark. Roughly speaking, four classes of country are met with—1. The river country, with its billabongs, swamps and lagoons, fringed with giant gums; 2. The box flats, bordering the outer edges of the gum country; 3. The sandhill country, timbered with mallee, sandal wood, black oak, many other shrubs and bushes, and occasional patches of pines; 4. Saltbush flats, lying between the sandhills.

Each class of country has its own avifauna, overlapping to a certain extent, but still fairly constant. The outlying lakes such as Yartla (fed from the Darling) and Kudjee (fed by Pine Creek from the Broken Hill district) resemble the river country in their vegetation and fauna.

Birds observed:—

Dromiceius novahollandiae (Emu). Still plentiful away from the beaten tracks, and breed freely in good seasons. Laying begins in May, and hatched clutches up to nine in number have been seen. Foxes are very destructive to the young, but are unable to break the eggs; however, they roll them away from the nests, where they may be found with teeth marks on

them. In dry seasons, such as the present, they are seen along the river frontage. A favourite food is the native peach or quong dong.

Leipoa ocellata (Mallee Hen)—Found in the Victorian mallee, south of Mildura in parts not yet subdivided; there are still a few birds on the N.S.W. side of the river, especially towards Euston. The only mounds seen were on Kulkyne Station, in the back country. These birds are rapidly decreasing in numbers, due to clearing of their natural cover, and their destruction by foxes. It is said that the loose sand falls in too quickly for a fox to dig out the eggs, but we do not vouch for this. They can apparently exist without water.

Coturnix pectoralis (Stubble Quail)—Plentiful in 1917, when they bred. Odd birds may be flushed in any year of average rainfall; none seen in 1919.

Austroturris velox (Button Quail)—Plentiful in the spring of 1917 in the Lake Victoria District. At other times they are occasionally seen in the mallee country. We have not found them breeding.

Geopelia placida tranquilla (Peaceful Dove)—Very common and very tame. They are found only on the river banks and box flats, and do not go into the back country. Nests are to be found from April to November.

Stictopelia cuneata (Little Dove)—Locally known as the "Darling Dove." They are found only near the river banks, but not so commonly as the preceding species. They nest in the fruit trees of the irrigation areas.

Phaps chalcoptera (Bronze-winged Pigeon)—Fairly common, usually occurring as single birds or in pairs. They favour the pine belts, but are also to be found near the river.

Ocyphaps lophotes (Crested Bronze-wing)—Found in numbers in both river and back country, but prefers river flats and tobacco bush country. In the late summer and autumn they collect in flocks of 20 or more. They nest freely in the district; on one occasion a bird was seen sitting on an old Grallina's nest.

Hypotaenidia philippensis australis (Landrail)—Quite plentiful in the Wentworth district in 1917 (a flood year). They bred freely in the lucerne patches of the irrigation area. The largest clutch seen consisted of eight eggs.

Microtribonyx ventralis (Black-tailed Native Hen)—Very plentiful in the seasons of 1917, 1918, and 1919, along the rivers and around tanks. Flocks of thousands were to be seen, and they proved very destructive to all green feed and crops of lucerne; a few odd pairs bred, because young ones were seen, but no nests with eggs were taken.

Gallinula tenebrosa (Dusky Moor Hen)—Occasional birds are to be seen along the rivers at all times. But in 1917 they were in numbers in the Lake Victoria district, and bred freely in the "polygonum" swamps. The largest clutch found was seven eggs.

Porphyrio melanotus (Bald Coot)—Usually a rare bird, but in 1917 they were in numbers on the swamps about Lake Victoria. They bred in that year.

Fulica atra tasmanica (Coot)—Always a few birds about, but very plentiful in 1917. They bred freely in the Lake Victoria and Rufus Creek swamps in that year. Clutches varied from five to nine eggs.

Podiceps cristatus christiani (Tippet Grebe)—Uncommon. They have been seen on the Anabranche, at Lake Victoria and at Kulkyn Lakes; not found breeding.

Tachybaptus ruficollis (Black-throated Grebe)—Found on the river swamps, and also in the tanks far from the river.

Polioccephalus polioccephalus (Hoary-headed Grebe or Dabchick)—Found in the same situations as the last.

Hydrochelidon leucoparvia (Marsh Tern)—Occurred in flocks on the Darling Swamps in 1917; they were not known to breed.

Gelochelidon nilotica macrotarsa (Gull-billed Tern)—In 1917 they were very plentiful in the flooded country near Wentworth. Many nests were found on a small flooded area, about 10 miles from the town. The usual clutch was two eggs, but there were a few clutches of three. The eggs were laid on the bare ground, with a little drift debris around them. They bred in November. Last year odd birds were seen on sandspits of the Murray, and a single bird was seen at Belmore, on a tank about 30 miles from the river.

Bruchigavia novaehollandiae (Silver Gull)—Generally odd birds are to be seen along the river, and on the swamps and lakes. Not breeding.

Erythrogonys cinctus (Red-kneed Dottrel)—Most of the inland tanks and swamps have a pair or more attached to them. In 1917 they bred freely, in the flooded area near Wentworth. Clutches of three and four eggs were found. It appears that some attempt at a nest is made by this species, but not such a definite nest as is made by the Black-fronted Dottrel in this district.

Lobibyx novaehollandiae (Spur-winged Plover)—Fairly common along the rivers. The foxes take a heavy toll of the young and eggs.

Zonifer tricolor (Black-breasted Plover)—Fairly common when season is good; they are not confined to the river country, but may be found far inland. Two nests were found, each containing four eggs, in August, 1919.

Leucopoliis ruficapillus (Red-capped Dottrel)—Fairly common. Found both on river banks and on inland tanks. Found breeding in 1917. One nest was found 200 yards from water, out in the salt bush.

Euseya melanops (Black-fronted Dottrel)—Quite plentiful; by far the commonest dottrel all over the district. Breeds regularly.

Himantopus leucocephalus (White-headed Stilt)—Very plentiful in 1917, and breeding freely in the flooded areas—known locally as the "Dog Bird," from its barking cry.

Recurvirostra novaehollandiae (Red-necked Avocet)—A common bird, both on river swamps and inland waters. Apparently only breeds in flood years. Many nests were found in 1917.

Canutus canutus rogersi (Eastern Knot)—Flocks were seen near Wentworth in 1917.

Rostratula australis (Painted Snipe)—Occasionally seen along the Darling in good seasons. A clutch of four eggs was taken in 1917.

Burhinus maguirostris (Stone Plover)—Fairly common near the rivers. A few pairs still breed near Wentworth. The foxes will eventually exterminate them on the mainland.

Austrotis australis (Australian Bustard)—We mention this bird only to say that it is now practically extinct in the district; neither of us have met with it.

Mathewsia rubicunda (Australian Crane or Native Companion)—We heard of this bird as having recently been seen at Lake Yartla and at Lake Kudgee, but did not meet with it ourselves. It is now a rare bird in the district.

Threskiornis molucca strictipennis (White Ibis)—A few birds are seen every year, and they were fairly plentiful in 1917.

Carphibis spinicollis (Straw-necked Ibis)—Quite a common bird, and its value recognised by the land owners. We heard that they bred in 1916, in the polygonum swamps in the Rufus Creek district, but did not meet with it breeding ourselves.

Spatherodia regia (Black-billed Spoonbill).

Platibis flavipes (Yellow-billed Spoonbill)—Both fairly common, but the yellow-billed species the more plentiful. These birds have a peculiar side to side movement of their bills when feeding, describing an arc of a circle. They breed in company with other waders in the high gum-trees of the river frontage.

Herodias alba symmatophorus (White Egret)—A regular inhabitant of the district. Quite numerous in 1917; over twenty birds could be counted at one time on the edge of the flooded country, as the water gradually flowed further and further over, probably after the insects driven out by the advancing water. There is a nesting place on the Murray, where the birds breed with Pacific, white-fronted, and night herons and spoonbills.

Notophojr novae-hollandiae (White-fronted Heron)—Very common. They breed in the gum-trees bordering the rivers, and in trees in flooded country, during flood years. They do not breed in companies as a rule.

Myola pacifica (White-necked Heron)—A common bird; seen more often on shallow lagoons and watercourses than on the rivers. It is a solitary bird; it breeds in the district, generally very high up in the river gums.

Nycticorax caledonicus australasiae (Nankeen Night Heron)—Plentiful in good seasons, and breed in several localities in the high gums along the Murray. They are fond of sitting out in the river just at dusk, but were never seen to catch anything.

Chenopsis atrata (Black Swan)—Common on all the inland lakes and large swamps. They breed only in good seasons.

Chenonetta jubata (Wood-Duck or Maned Goose)—Fairly plentiful in the district. Prefers inland waters to the main rivers. In 1918 an extraordinary clutch of twenty-four ducklings was counted by three observers at Netherby, on the River Darling.

Casarca tadornoides (Mountain Duck)—A rather rare bird in the district; a few pairs were seen at Lake Victoria, in 1917.

Anas superciliosa (Black Duck)—Very common. Breeds freely in the big gums in good seasons. No broods were seen in 1919.

Virago gibberifrons (Grey Teal)—Very common. Found in the same localities, has the same habits as the last bird.

Spatula rhynchotis (Shoveller)—Fairly plentiful on the inland waters, but rarely comes on to the river.

Malacorhynchus membranaceus (Pink-eared Duck)—Fairly common in good seasons. Breeds in the district.

Stictonetta naevosa (Freckled Duck)—A single bird was shot in the autumn of 1919.

Nyroca australis (White-eyed Duck)—Very numerous at certain times. They were on the Darling and Murray in thousands last summer, about December and January.

Biziura lobata (Musk Duck)—Not common. Pairs are seen occasionally on the swamps and permanent billabongs. They breed in the polygonum swamps.

Phalacrocorax carbo novae-hollandiae (Black Cormorant)—Common in the district. They nest in the flooded lake country in good seasons. Many nests are built on the same tree, in company with Darters. They are fond of the carp in the Murray.

Mesocarbo ater (Little Black Cormorant)—Fairly common in the district. Mostly on the Murray.

Hypoleucis varius hypoleucis (Orange-faced Cormorant)—Fairly common along the Murray and Darling.

Microcarbo melanoleucus (Little Pied Cormorant)—Plentiful in the district, and is to be seen all the year round, as are the other species.

Anhinga novaehollandiae (Darter)—This bird is met with occasionally along the Murray and anabranch of the Darling. It seems to prefer inland waters where there is not too much

current. Fair numbers of nests were met with at Kulkynne, on a flooded lake, and in a similar situation at Moorna. They seem to be the earliest layers, breeding in October and November. Many of the birds are black and white, but the mature birds are all black.

Catoptropelicanus conspicillatus (Pelican)—Common on the inland lakes and large sheets of water, and less commonly seen in the rivers themselves. It does not breed in the district.

Circus approximans gouldi (Swamp Hawk)—Uncommon. A few birds were seen hawking over wheat crops in the Renmark district.

Uroaetus audax (Wedge-tailed Eagle)—Plentiful, especially away from the river frontage. They are early breeders, and become very tame where they are not molested. Opinions are divided here, as elsewhere, as to the damage done to lambs by this bird.

Haliastur sphenurus (Whistling Eagle)—The commonest bird of prey in the district. They may be seen in numbers along the Darling and Murray Rivers, and also around all the inland Lakes, and the "box" timber of the anabranche. They breed in the high river gums.

Falco longipennis (Little Falcon)—Not a common bird, but odd pairs are to be seen occasionally. In October, 1919, a nest was seen with the bird sitting, in an unclimbable gum-tree, on the Darling, near Cuthero Station.

Falco hypoleucus (Grey Falcon)—A single pair seen on the Murray, near Chowilla Station, in 1917.

Iracidea berigora—Not plentiful. They keep mostly to the mallee country, and seldom come near the rivers; a number of pairs were seen on our trip of October, 1919, and although they varied somewhat in colour, no really light-coloured birds were seen, and most of them were quite dark.

Cerchuis cenchroides (Kestrel)—Always to be seen but more common in the back country. They nest in the hollow mallee, using the same hollow, year after year.

Spiloglaux boobook (Boobook Owl)—Fairly common on the Murray and anabranche frontages. They have not been met with in the back country.

Tyto alba delicatula (Delicate Owl)—A pair was seen with fledged young ones at Avoca Station.

(To be continued).

Some Weights and Temperatures of Birds.

—By A. M. MORGAN, M.B., B.Ch.—

The following weights and temperatures were taken during a trip (in company with Dr. Chenery) into the south-west corner of New South Wales, between the River Darling and the S.A. border, during October, 1919:—

Name of Bird.	Weight.	Weight of Brain.	Per cent. of Brain to Body Weight.	Temperatures.	Sex.
<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>	11.8	0.5	4.20	109 deg.	♂
<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>	12.0	0.55	4.58	108.8 deg.	♂
<i>Neoclima picumna</i>	32.0	1.0	3.12	108 deg.	♂
<i>Neoclima picumna</i>	28.0	1.0	3.57	109.6 deg.	♀
<i>Climacteris erythroptera superciliosa</i>	20.5	0.6	2.09	109.4 deg.	♀
<i>Lichenostomus ornatus</i>	18.5	0.7	3.78	112 deg.	♂
<i>Acanthiza uropygialis</i>	6.8	0.2	2.94	108 deg.	♂
<i>Bulestes torquatus</i>	89.0	2.5	2.82	109.4 deg.	♂
<i>Malurus melanotus</i>	8.5	0.2	2.34	108.6 deg.	♂
<i>Psephotus varius</i>	58.0	1.9	3.25	108.8 deg.	♂
<i>Myzantha flavigula</i>	54.0	1.7	3.14	107.8 deg.	♀
<i>Ptilotula penicillata</i>	17.5	0.7	4.00	106.8 deg.	♀
<i>Lalage tricolor</i>	27.0	0.5	1.85	108 deg.	♀
<i>Northiella haematogaster xanthorrhoea</i>	78.0	2.4	3.07	103.4 deg.	♀
<i>Pomatostomus ruficeps</i>	57	2.1	3.68	109.2 deg.	♂
<i>Corvus coronoides</i>	460.1	8.1	1.76	110.4 deg.	♂

Juv.

All temperatures were taken immediately after death with a Hicks 30 second thermometer in the cloaca. All weights are in grammes.

Eudromais australis (Australian Dottrel).

(By J. Neil McGilp, R.A.O.U.).

Having resided for many years in the inland of South Australia, I have had a great opportunity of observing the Australian Dottrel in its homeland; for this bird loves to roam on the dry, open plains in our Far Northern country.

During dry times, which, unfortunately, occur all too frequently in the interior of our island-continent, the Dottrel is found scattered about in small flocks of four or five in number, but after a break-up of a drought this species congregates in large numbers, frequently by the hundreds, for a few weeks. The breeding season follows closely upon a good rainfall, when these birds are usually noted in pairs. They often nest very closely to each other, on favoured patches of country.

This species has the usual dottrel-like habit of running a few paces, then standing with its body motionless, but with an occasional upward jerk of the head; after standing for a few seconds, the bird will again run on a few yards, and repeat the neck-jerking motion. I have never observed this species run more than a few yards without this peculiar action. The Australian Dottrel does not fly readily, preferring rather to run out of one's way and stand with its back towards the disturber, in which position it is very hard to observe, on account of its protective coloring. I have on many occasions noted a single bird and, thinking she might be breeding, got out of the motor or trap to hunt for a likely nest, only to find that when disturbed, dozens of these birds started to run from within a hundred yards or so of where my conveyance stood.

This splendid little bird does great work for mankind, being a great enemy to grubs and grasshoppers, and devours an immense quantity of these pests as it feeds by night as well as by day. I know this for a fact, for I have, with the assistance of the motor headlights, watched them at work on a thick patch of grasshoppers. At the first showing of the lights, the birds remained perfectly still, but after a few minutes began to feed about. At the slightest noise, all would stand bolt upright, till everything seemed safe again.

The Australian Dottrel will often squat down on the ground, and remain in this position for a considerable time, and one often passes them close by without their moving. Evidently

they rely for safety on their remarkable protective coloration, which so closely resembles the surroundings, that unless the bird has its breast towards one, which is very seldom, they are hard to discern.

They rarely seek shelter from the sun's fierce glare, seeming to enjoy the terrific heat of the "interior" summer. One does, now and again, see them standing or squatting in the shade of a fencing post, but it is seldom that one is disturbed from the shelter of a bush or tree. I have not observed the Dottrel in any timbered country; the open, sandy plains and stoney-topped tablelands, devoid of timber, is its true habitat. It runs with great speed, and flies very swiftly; I have on numerous occasions found dead birds along the sheep fences, having been killed by striking the wires when in swift flight.

The Australian Dottrel is one of the earliest birds to commence breeding after the rain breaks up a drought, and in a good season usually brings out a second brood. It rarely lays at all in a bad season, even should it remain droughty for an extended period. I have observed this species breeding in every month of the year except December and January. These two months are usually very dry, and I have not the slightest doubt but they would breed then if the season was favourable, for, like most of the inland species, their breeding season is solely regulated by the season.

When breeding operations start, the birds scratch out a small depression in the ground, or resort to a deep horse or cattle track (made when the ground is soft, after rain). The earth that is scraped out is formed into a small ring round the depression, and a few small stones or short, dry twigs are usually placed on this ring. I have found the depression in this condition four days before any eggs were laid. The eggs are laid on consecutive days, and usually in the early morning. The clutch, almost without exception, is three eggs. I have only found one clutch of two eggs out of dozens that I have noted. One one occasion, when driving horses in from our home horse paddock, one of the horses smashed a perfectly fresh egg out of the three that were in the nest. Ten days later, I noticed there were three eggs in the nest, so took the clutch; one egg was only slightly incubated, whereas the others were in an advanced state of incubation.

I once found that the Australian Dottrel had made a very artistic nest, using the curled-up pieces of silt from a clay-pan,

and short pieces of grass and half-green herbage to form the ring round the nest; there were three eggs in the depression.

When the sitting Dottrel is suddenly flushed from the nest, the eggs are found bare in the depression, with the ring of pebbles, debris or earth, clear of the eggs. If one stands back a short distance, the bird will return by short runs, and gradually draw closer to the nest. When the nest is reached, she stands with her back to one, and with head turned over shoulder, to watch. To all appearances she is standing motionless, but, nevertheless, after a while, succeeds in completely covering the eggs with the contents of the "ring" round the depression, and sneaks quietly away, and stands still for a very long time, until she is satisfied the danger is past, when she again sneaks up to the nest, and this time one can plainly see her scratch out the covering matter from the nest, and form the ring again.

If one slowly approaches a dottrel on the nest, so that the bird sees the danger at some distance away, she will usually attempt to cover the eggs before leaving. When the eggs are covered it is a very difficult thing to find them, unless one cares to spend much time and patience in waiting for the bird to return. The eggs, when freshly laid, are of a greenish color, but this changes to yellowish-brown after a few days. They vary a good deal in shape, some being tapered abruptly towards the small end, others are more oval in form. The clutch is usually very uniform; and the average size of many eggs I have measured is barely $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches by a little over 1 inch. The eggs are always placed point in towards centre of the depression or nest.

The young leave the nest shortly after they are hatched, and can even then run very smartly. If a brood a few days old is disturbed, the parent will give a call, and the young will squat down on the ground with head outstretched, and in the herbage if possible. They are very hard to locate when they are in this position, as their mottled appearance makes them look like little clods of earth. The mother, in the meantime, pretends injury, and flutters about trying to draw one's attention to herself. After a little while she gives a different call, evidently assured the danger was past. If one watches carefully, each little chick will stand perfectly still for a second, jerk the head, and run a few paces, just as the parent birds do. Again at the danger call from the mother bird, the young will disappear altogether for some time, but at a "clear" call, the

youngsters jump up, and proceed as before mentioned. I noted that the mother did not let the young go far without a "danger" signal. The chicks do not run together, but each seems to take its own course somewhere towards the mother. After a considerable time the whole family is removed from danger. I would like to mention that I have never managed to follow the three young after the second danger signal, being fully occupied in watching one little chick, and in the majority of cases, I have failed to follow the movements of any of them at all, after the third "danger signal."

I regret very much to state that these grand creatures are having a bad time through the destructive agency of the fox, which accounts for a great many of the eggs and the young, and although the Dottrel is fairly numerous, the time will surely come when the end of this hard worker for mankind will arrive.

When over on Kangaroo Island recently, I saw some of the "Flinders' Chase" country, but I doubt if these splendid dottrels could exist over there, it being different from the dry, arid plains of their homeland.

The Australian Dottrel, together with the Black-breasted Plover, Straw-necked Ibis, and Bennett's Crow (not the Raven) are, I venture to state, of great value on account of their fine destruction of grubs and grasshoppers. There are other species that are individually as valuable in this respect, but they do not come along in the splendid flocks at the right moment, as those I have mentioned.

Ornithological Nomenclature.

To the Editors, *S. A. Ornithologist.*

Sirs—As Mr. Gregory M. Mathews somewhat conspicuously does me the honour of referring to me, by direct inference in his article under the above heading, in your issue for January (p. 17), without desiring to enter into a lengthy controversy on the subject, I shall be glad, with your permission, to make a few brief remarks.

Mr. Mathews is to be commended for his well-written and lucid dissertation and his honest endeavour to enlighten us, and now is the time most opportune to ventilate the subject. To

begin, he says "The specialist must always surpass in his local study, the best endeavour of the general student." Precisely. Mr. Mathews would settle Ornithological Nomenclature (Special) by the rules of the Zoological Code (General). Ornithology is the most popular of the Natural Sciences. Think of the tens of thousands of young members of the Audubon Societies of America and the Gould Leagues of Australia. These are very important and should be carefully catered for. Does not *The Ibis* (1919, p. 771) hint that there is an "Ornithological Code," apart from the International one?

"The Law of Priority," Mr. Mathews proceeds to say, "is based on custom and on the custom of 160 years," to which he might truly add—*And we have not yet reached finality.* That there has been no practical finality to the law of priority, is to attack the foundation of the International code. And, if that code had worked well universally, why has it been found necessary to appoint the *Systema Avium* Committee to re-classify the birds of the world? The only real road to finality is to have *An Authoritative Name** (not necessarily bed-rock priority) declared by some competent commission, such as that proposed to deal with the *Systema Avium*, when many well-known and appropriate names will receive consideration.

To further quote Mr. Mathews—"A British Ornithologist endeavoured to select the best established name without recognising priority and dismally failed." If the late Henry Seebohm is referred to, that name has a halo of undying fame. He was by no means a "faddist," nor showed "ignorance of history" of ornithology, nor was "non-scientific." Mr. Mathews in his own "Birds of Australia," vol. VII., p. 465, states:—Seebohm was a "famous worker." Why does Mr. Mathews persist in putting the "cart before the horse"—Nomenclature always first; Ornithology, second? Seebohm "dismally failed," as a nomenclator, yet was a "famous worker," as an ornithologist.

Mr. Mathews claims to have rescued from oblivion (according to the law of priority) John Cotton's † long-lost name for a variety of the Spiny-checked Honey-eater—*Acanthochacra rod-orhyncha*. What iota of value would science lose if the name

*First suggested by Sir E. Ray Lankester, F.R.S., twenty-four years ago—See *P.Z.S.* 1896.

†John Cotton was the grandfather of the esteemed Hon. Secretary of the R.A.O.U. The late Mr. Cotton's valuable manuscript, well-illustrated, on Australian birds, which documents, most unfortunately, unaccountably disappeared many years ago.

were never resuscitated? None whatever. Why then use obsolete names that are valueless? Seeing Mr. Mathews gives an "ornithological opening" here, I may say that his supposed sub-species for the Victorian bird as differing from that of New South Wales is extremely doubtful. From much material, no tangible difference ("darker colouration above and below, especially noticeable on the breast"—is too poor) can be discerned between the birds of New South Wales (type loc.), Victoria, and adjacent parts of South Australia. Therefore, the Mathewian name *cygnus* with Cotton's *rodorhyncha* will both fall into the drag-net of Synonymy and Gould's time-honoured name *ruficularis* prevail for the South-east Australian bird, at least.

Mr. Mathews is deservedly solicitous for the rights of the original author. "irrespective of his greatness or the size of his work." "But many that are first shall be last," is an eternal truism. Moreover, if one consults the "History" of nomenclature he will find that the early American Committee has left on record "the rules to that end (uniformity of practice) should be formed with reference to principles and without regard to personality, and that therefore the matter of justice or injustice is, in this connection, without pertinence."

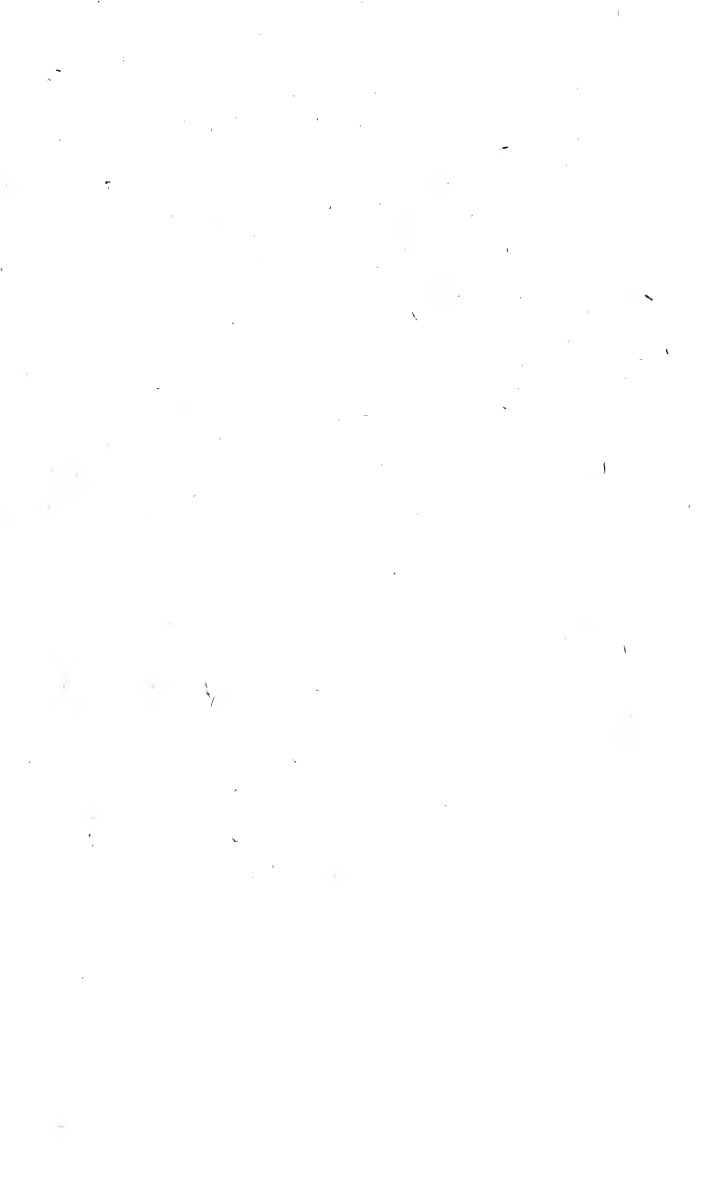
In a strictly technical sense there is nothing inconsistent with the history of the original law of priority and the use say, of Gouldian names (those, of course, that are ornithologically correct) for Australian forms, because the original definition of the law of priority did not say, or presume to say, when Australian Ornithology should begin—with Gould, or any other author. It merely, for the sake of convenience (and without regard for justice or injustice to anyone) stated, the law of priority was "not to extend to antecedent authors" to the Linnaeus "Tenth Edition," which obviously does not affect Australian ornithology, the beginnings of which were a century later than Linnaeus. The suppositious case *re* the same bird having been described in *The Victorian Naturalist*, then in the *The Ibis*, the latter description to prevail, because of the accompanying coloured plate, as being analogous to Gouldian names for Australian forms, cited by Mr. Mathews is evidently strained and altogether misleading. Neither is it excusable to say Gould's names should not be standardised, because his great folio work is "expensive and scarce." Instead of Gouldian, some names Mr. Mathews would have us use are absolutely unique, being wholly obsolete and references unobtainable.



Finally, in the pure technical matter of *Genus splitting* Mr. Mathews was a "lumper" in his "Reference List," in *Novitates Zoologicae* (1912), and turned a somersault and became a "splitter" in his "1913 List." Now, he states in the concluding lines of his article, "*when the split genera are re-assembled successfully*, I do not think there will be much to concern us, in ornithological nomenclature." Let us hope so, and like at the conclusion of some pleasant novel, the heroes of the plot or the contending parties shake hands and everyone is happy, for ever afterwards. I am, &c.,

A. J. CAMPBELL,

"Bul-ga-roo," Box Hill, Victoria. 21/1/20.







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Part 3.

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1st JULY, 1920.

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A. G. EDQUIST

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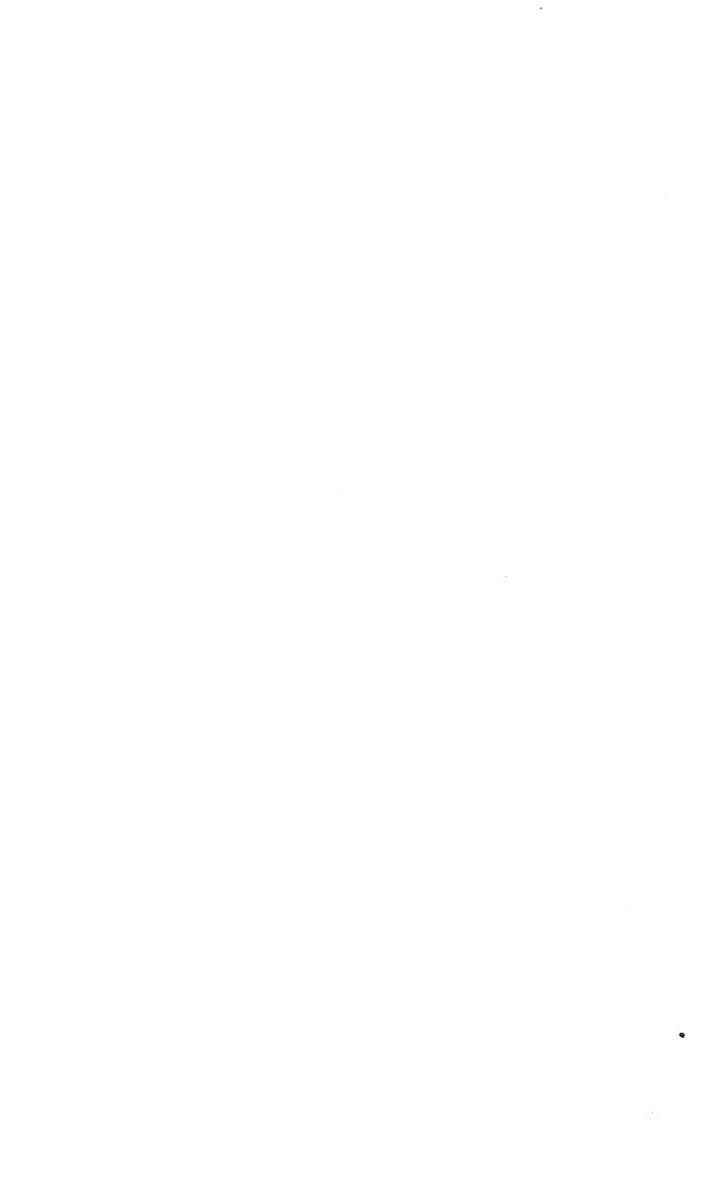


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Secretary :

J. NEIL MCGILP,
"Origma," Napier Terrace,
King's Park, S.A.



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The Editorial Committee accepts no responsibility for the views or deductions expressed by any of its contributors. The Journal welcomes a free interchange of ideas with the object of extending the knowledge of our avifauna, but the author of each article is responsible for the opinions and deductions recorded.

— THE —

South Australian Ornithologist.

Vol. V.]

1st JULY, 1920.

[PART 3.

The South Australian Ornithological Association.

MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—March, 26th, 1920.—

The twenty-first Annual Meeting was held in the Royal Society's Rooms, Friday evening, 26th March, 1920, Capt. S. A. White in the chair.

Professor J. Burton Cleland was duly elected a member. The resignations of Mr. Thos. Gill, C.M.G., and Mr. L. Jury, were received with regret.

Mr. A. Crompton recorded a Bee-eater and a Landrail at Stonyfell, and the Boobook Owl was heard every night. Dr. Morgan noted a Little Falcon at the golf links, Seaton, on 21st March. Whistling Eagles were observed at Lockleys by Mr. J. W. Mellor, while Minalis and Large Wattle-birds were about in numbers. The same member reported that he frequently came across the bodies of Magpies that had been electrocuted by contact with the electric power wires along the Henley Beach Road. Mr. A. R. Riddle kindly undertook to bring the report under the notice of the Electric Supply Co. Mr. W. Weidenbach drew attention to the unusual numbers of Magpies near the city, and stated that he recently counted 43 of these birds at Glen Osmond in ten minutes. Mr. J. Sutton observed a Brown Flycatcher at Netherby, and also a White-naped Honey-eater attacked and killed by a Magpie. Mr. K. Ashby stated that Parrots were about in thousands during the month at Blackwood, mostly Blue-mountains and Lorikeets. Spine-bills and Mistletoe birds were also recorded. Capt. White reported that Boobooks were about at Fulham, but very quiet, also a few Delicate Owls.

The Association is indebted to Mr. A. R. Riddle for bringing under its notice the Mazda C2 electric lamp, with the use of which the colours can be distinguished almost as accurately as by daylight.

Mr. Keith Ashby gave an interesting account of the birds observed by him during a holiday in the Big Timber country of Gippsland.

Before proceeding with the election of officers for the ensuing year, the Chairman gave a resume of the good work accomplished during the past year, and the valuable finds recorded by members.

The election of officers resulted as follows—

President—Mr. Edwin Ashby.

Vice-President—Mr. F. E. Parsons.

Secretary—Mr. J. Neil McGilp.

Editorial Committee—Messrs. F. M. Angel, A. G. Edquist, S. A. White, F. R. Zietz, and the Secretary (ex officio).

Regret was expressed that Mr. F. M. Angel, who had been Acting-Secretary for the past four years, was relinquishing the Secretarial duties, and a hearty vote of thanks was recorded for his valuable services.

The Cash Statement, which was adopted, showed a small surplus of receipts over expenditure during the year, which, in view of the greatly increased cost of publication of the journal, was considered very satisfactory.

—April 30th, 1920.—

Mr. Edwin Ashby presided.

The Acting Secretary (Mr. F. M. Angel) read a letter from the Institute of Science and Industry, inviting condensed reports of meetings and important papers dealt with from scientific bodies for publication in the "Science and Industry" journal. It was resolved to fall in with the suggestion.

Attention was drawn to the fact that Volume IV. of the "S.A. Ornithologist" contains four parts only, as against 8 parts in Volumes II. and III. Mr. F. M. Angel stated that through a mistake on the part of the publishers, Vol. V. was commenced for the current year, instead of continuing under Vol. IV., and the Editorial Committee propose to limit the

present volume to 4 parts also, so that Volumes IV. and V. can be bound together to bring the size up to previous ones. Subsequent volumes will comprise 8 quarterly parts.

The resignation of Mr. R. Henderson as a member was received with regret.

Mr. A. R. Riddle reported that he had conferred with the Manager of the Adelaide Electric Supply Co. regarding the electrocution of Magpies reported at the last meeting. The different systems employed by the Company for conveyance of current to the suburbs were lucidly explained by Mr. Riddle, when it was seen that the danger to bird-life was almost confined to the Henley Beach system. No alteration to this line was contemplated by the Company at present, but the Manager would be pleased to hear of any complaints or suggestions from the Association.

The principal business of the evening was the Chairman's account of the birds observed during his recent trip to Tasmania and Gippsland. His description of the wonderful mimicry of bush calls by the Victorian Lyre-bird was particularly interesting.

Members were pleased to hear that, at the request of the South Australian Government, the Customs officers of the whole of the Commonwealth have been instructed to exercise special vigilance to prohibit the importation and exportation of all protected fauna in the South Australian schedule.

Notes of observations for the month were received from Capt. S. A. White, Messrs. J. W. Mellor and J. Sutton.

—May 28th, 1920.—

Mr. Edwin Ashby in the chair.

The resignation of Mr. F. E. Parsons from the office of Vice-President was received with regret, and Mr. F. M. Angel was elected to fill the vacancy.

A letter was received from Mr. Parsons, stating that owing to the ravages of weevils, the late Dr. Angove's collection of bird skins had been destroyed, and as he feared that the collection of eggs would share a similar fate, if not rescued, suggested that an effort be made to secure the collection for the Association or the S.A. Museum. It was thought very desirable that the Association should have a collection handy for reference, and, as the eggs in question would form a valuable nucleus, it was resolved to ask the present owner if he is willing to present the

egg collection to the Association if suitable accommodation be found.

Mr. A. G. Edquist exhibited the silver trophy presented some years ago by members of The S.A. Ornithological Association, for annual competition among the public schools, for the purpose of encouraging a love and knowledge of our native birds.

Mr. R. Beck showed a pair, partly eaten by *Zosterops*, in which a large number of pepper berries had been secreted by the birds.

Mr. Keith Ashby tabled a fine specimen of *Neostrepera versicolor* (♀) from Yinnar, Gippsland, and Mr. Edwin Ashby a skin of *Myzantha melanota* from Karoonda, S.A.

In order to ensure ample time for the main business of the evening, a resolution was passed, fixing 8.45 p.m. as the time for the commencement of same.

The principal subject for consideration was Capt. S. A. White's report on the birds on the Nanco Irrigation Area. At the invitation of the New South Wales Government, a bird survey of the district was made for the purpose of determining which birds are beneficial or destructive. Supported by reliable data, and records of stomach contents of birds taken in the district, a lengthy report, with recommendations, has been prepared by this member.

Bird notes for the month were received from Messrs. E. Ashby, F. E. Parsons, J. W. Mellor, J. Sutton, A. Crompton, and Capt. S. A. White. The occurrence at the Outer Harbour of the Blue-winged Parrot (*Neonardes chrysostomus*), reported by Mr. F. E. Parsons, is worthy of special mention.

Retiring Chairman's Address.

The retiring chairman gave a brief address upon the work accomplished during his term of office covering the last two years. He said, "Ornithologists could congratulate themselves upon much which had been accomplished. First of all an Act called the "Animals and Birds Protection Act" was drafted owing to the want of better protection for our wild animals and birds. The bill lapsed in the first session of this Parliament, but was brought in again in the second session as a lapsed bill, and after being much mutilated became law. Although several strong measures were cut out still it is a great improvement upon the old Act, and all must look for amendments in

the future. Your chairman was successful in arranging for numbers to be placed before the name of each protected bird in the Act which corresponds with the number in Dr. Leach's "Australian Bird Book" and now the Government has supplied each Police Station with one of these books, so there will not be any mistake in identifying the bird. One of the most important happenings in the history of the State of South Australia (from a Biological and Botanical point of view) was the constituting of Flinders Chase, Kangaroo Island, because within this great reserve many species of the fast disappearing avifauna on the mainland can be introduced and saved for all time." The retiring president said "In company with Mr. G. R. Laffer, M.P., a representative for the district (the Premier being prevented from going at the last moment) visited Kangaroo Island. The whole question was discussed with the Kingscote District Council. After a long discussion the Council agreed that they would no longer oppose the fixing of the boundaries of the Chase. This action was closely followed up by your president who had frequent interviews with the Hons, the Premier, Attorney General, and Mr. Laffer, M.P., to ensure having the reserve properly constituted by Act of Parliament. Members of the Ministry gave a promise to that effect, and later on these promises were right royally carried out, for the Bill passed both Houses practically without alteration. After twelve years of fighting the great Reserve is now a reality. The Board of Governors controlling Flinders Chase has been formed and is now hard at work in the management of this fine sanctuary. 200 square miles of country is really not large enough, but the Act provides for extension.

The protection of the Association's Islands in the Coorong is maintained and your President during term of office made numerous visits to the birds breeding grounds. Both swan and pelicans reared a fair number of young birds the last three nesting seasons. Good sound work has been put in by many members of the Association. Dr. Morgan has made several trips, which he has written up in his usual very thorough manner for "The South Australian Ornithologist." Mr. F. Parsons made a good discovery in a new sub species of Emu Wren on Kangaroo Island. Mr. L. K. McGilp's meeting with the scarlet-chested grass parrot (*N. splendida*) in the country north of Lake Frome, September, 1919. Last but not least your retiring President is deeply indebted to the loyal backing of the Association, especially to the Hon. Secretary (Mr. F. M. Angel) who has rendered such valuable assistance to the Association and Ornithologists in general, and it is with greatest regret that I hear of his resignation as Secretary.

Order Passeriformes, Family Proceidæ, Genus Zonæginthus.

Zonæginthus bellus (Fire-tailed Finch).—Mr. Gregory M. Mathews has made only one *sub-sp.* of this bird, i.e., *Z. bellus samueli* (Kangaroo Island Fire-tailed Finch), giving New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia as the habitat of the dominant species, and Kangaroo Island as that of the *sub-sp.*

Description—Sexes are almost alike in colouration and markings; under surface, greyish brown, crossed by very narrow lines of black; upper surface, brown, crossed by very narrow bands of black; a line across the forehead black; lores, black; eyelid, black and rump and tail coverts, bright scarlet; vent and undertail coverts, black and often a black spot in centre of abdomen; tail feathers, greyish brown with dark stripes across each feather; iris, dark brown; feet, pinkish flesh-colour; bill, crimson. The Kangaroo Island bird is darker in plumage.

Distribution—Found over the coastal scrub countries of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, and almost over the whole of Tasmania.

Habitat—In this State (South Australia) the Fire-tailed Finch is found in the wetter coastal parts, and as a rule frequents scrubby, moist country or, when undergrowth is fairly thick growing, under timber. They are to be met with in the Myponga and Black Swamp country, and from Kingston to the Victorian border.

Habits—Move about in small parties till pairing time, when they take up their nesting sight, and move very quietly, and are to be found within a few hundred yards of their nest at any time. Like so many other members of this family, their food consists of the seeds of rushes and grasses, also berries.

Flight—Not long sustained as one would suppose in scrubby country, strong, yet erratic; when out in the open it is swift upon the wing.

Note—Rather low and mournful.

Nest—Dome-shaped and constructed of dry grass and straw, and usually much larger than those built by other members of the family.

A nest taken at Robe on October 24th, 1918, was built of grass and fine tea tree twigs and lined with the down of

Clematis seeds and rabbits' fur. The nest was pear-shaped, with a long entrance tunnel leading into a globular egg cavity. It measured—length 22 c.m.; height overall, 17 c.m.; length of cavity 13 c.m. It contained seven fresh eggs. The nest was placed in a tea-tree on the edge of a small lake and was about six feet from the ground, two other nests from near the same locality were 15 ft. from the ground.

EGGS Pure white in colour, seven eggs measured were exactly the same size 1.85 x 1.35 c.m. Clutch from four to seven.

The Birds of Rivers Murray and Darling and the District of Wentworth.

PART II.

—By A. Chenery, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., and
A. M. Morgan, M.B., Ch.B.—

Glossopsitta porphyrocephala (Purple-crowned Lorikeet).—A fairly common bird all over the district.

Calyptorhynchus banksii (Banksian Cockatoo).—Found on the Darling, from Albermarle to Wilcannia. The young have been taken by men on river boats.

Cacatoes galerita (Sulphur-crested Cockatoo).—A very common bird along the Murray. It does not go out back to the mallee country.

Lophochroa leadbeateri (Pink Cockatoo).—Fairly common in the back country, where it nests in the hollow mallee trees. It only comes into the river in dry seasons. They all had young in the nest in October, 1919.

Ducorpsius gymnopsis (Bare-eyed Cockatoo).—Does not come below Burlundy, 40 miles north of Wentworth by road, on the Darling, but more plentiful further north. It is often seen in company with *C. galerita*.

Eolophus roseicapillus (Galah).—Very plentiful in parts of the district; most numerous in the back country, where it breeds in the hollow mallees. After the breeding season, they congregate in large flocks.

Leptolophus auricomis (Cockatoo Parrot).—A migratory species, arriving usually in September, from the North. It is found almost exclusively in the mallee, and never remains about the river gums.

Polytelis anthopeplus (Black-tailed Parrot or Rock Pebler).—Found in limited numbers along the Darling as far up as Pooncarie, but is not found near the Wentworth end of the river. It is a fairly common bird lower down the Murray. It is a shy bird, except when near the nesting hole, which is always in a tall river gum. They go a long way back into the mallee to feed.

Platyercus flaveolus (Yellow Parrot).—A common bird along the river frontages. It never goes far from the river gums.

Barnardius barnardi (Mallee Parrot).—The commonest parrot in the district. It is met with both along the river frontages and in the mallee.

Psephotus haematonotus (Red-backed Parrot).—A very common and tame species found along the river banks and in box country. It does not go far back from permanent waters.

Northiella haematogaster ranthorrhoea (Yellow-vented Parrot).—Plentiful in the mallee and sandalwood country, but does not come in to the river gums. A specimen collected at Lake Victoria has red under tail coverts, while others collected from the same flock had them yellow.

Psephotus varius (Many-coloured Parrot).—Fairly common in black oak (*Casuarina sp.*), where it nests. It is never seen along the river frontages.

Mcopsittacus undulatus (Shell Parrot).—A migratory species. It comes down from northern districts in September in numbers, depending on the season. In 1919 very few appeared, while in 1917, they were present in hundreds of thousands.

Podargus strigoides (Tawny Frogmouth).—A fairly common bird in the mallee and box country.

Acgothales cristata (Owlet Nightjar).—A common bird in the mallee and box country, where it nests in the hollow spouts.

Dacelo gigas (Great Brown Kingfisher or Laughing Jack-ass).—Very common along the river frontage, but becomes rarer as one leaves the gum country. They are destructive to both the young and eggs of other species. The smaller birds treat them as natural enemies.

Cyanoleyon pyrrhopygius (Red-backed Kingfisher).—A migratory species, arriving early in October. It keeps mostly to the open country, where it breeds in any suitable bank.

Sauropatis sanctus (Sacred Kingfisher).—Also a migratory species, arriving in September. It prefers the gum country along the Murray and Darling.

Cosmacrops ornatus (Bee-eater).—Arrives late in September, and is common in the sandhill country; only a few arrived in 1919.

Eurostopus mystacalis (White-throated Nightjar).—Rarely seen, but more often heard at night. A single specimen was flushed from near the river bank at Chowilla, on the Murray, in 1917.

Heteroscenes pallidus (Pallid Cuckoo).—Arrives in the district at the end of July, though odd birds remain throughout the winter. It sings all night at times, during a moon. It is not known to breed in the district.

Neochalcites basalis (Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo).—Fairly common in box and mallee country.

Lamprocoptes plagosus (Broad-billed Bronze Cuckoo).—Plentiful in good seasons, very few in 1919. The commonest hosts here are *A. uropygialis* and *Hallornis cyanotis* (White-Winged Wren); an egg was also found in a nest of *Smicrornis brevirostris*. They arrive in July.

Hirundo neosena (Welcome Swallow).—Common and present throughout the year. A pair builds each year under the punt at Wentworth, which crosses to and fro over the river all day.

Cheramocca leucosternon (White-breasted Swallow).—Common near Renmark and between that place and Morgan, where they breed in the banks of the limestone pits along the road, and in the banks of the river. Less common further up the river, though odd pairs are still to be met with along the Murray and Darling and other water-courses.

Hylochelidon nigricans (Tree Swallow).—Plentiful in the Wentworth district, and remains all the year round.

Lagenoplastes ariel (Fairy Martin or Bottle Swallow).—The most numerous swallow; every cliff and suitable bank on the Murray and Darling has its group of nests; they also breed under large fallen trees, bridges and the eaves of houses. At the Wentworth public school and post office the nests have to be repeatedly hosed down. The recess under the tank of the water tower at Renmark has a triple row of nests around it.

Microcca fascians (Brown Flycatcher).—Common. It is met with along the rivers and in the back country

Whiteornis goodenovii (Red-capped Robin).—Common in the box flat country, and in the scrubby back country.

Melanodryas cucullata (Hooded Robin).—Sparingly distributed throughout the district. They are very local in their habits. They breed early, a nest having been found in August with young.

Smicronis brevirostris (Short-billed Tree-tit).—A very common bird in the box country, and is to be met with to a less extent in the mallee.

Lewinornis rufiventris (Rufous-breasted Thickhead).—A common bird in the out-back country.

Gilbertornis rufogularis gilberti (Gilbert's Thickhead).—Not met with near the rivers. Prefers the acacia or "current bush" country.

Rhipidura flabellifera (sub-spec.).—An autumn visitor only; does not breed in the district.

Leucocirca tricolor (Black-and-White Fantail, or Wag-tail).—Present in pairs all the year round, very local in their habits. They breed early sometimes, having young in the nest in August.

Seisura inquieta (Restless Flycatcher).—Present throughout the year in pairs, and fairly common. The female makes a loud, clear call, once repeated, when sitting on the nest.

Pteropodocys maxima (Ground Cuckoo-Shrike).—Met with in small parties of five to seven in number, always in open country, such as scattered sandalwood, black oak, or pine timber. They spend much time on the ground, and are shy birds.

Coracina novae-hollandiae melanops (Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike).—Not common. Met with occasionally in pairs, both along the rivers and in the back mallee country. Of three nests found in October, 1919, two were in sandalwoods and one in a mallee.

Lalage tricolor (White-shouldered Caterpillar-bird).—Arrives in the district in September, and remains to breed. They are more plentiful in good seasons; very few came in 1919.

Cinclosoma castanotum (Chestnut-backed Ground-bird).—Occurs in the mallee near Renmark, but has not been seen further up the river.

Morganornis superciliosus (White-browed Babbler).—Very common.

Pomatostomus ruficeps (Chestnut-crowned Babbler).—Not so common as the last, and found mostly in the back country. It appears to prefer open bluebush country with belts of timber at intervals.

Cincloramphus cruralis (Brown Song-lark).—Plentiful and breeding in good seasons. In 1919, a dry season, scarcely one was to be seen or heard.

Ptenoedus mathewsi (Rufous Song-lark).—Comes in numbers in good seasons.

Epthianura albifrons (White-fronted Chat or Tin-Tac).—Common all the year round.

Parepthianura tricolor (Red-fronted Chat).—Plentiful in the back country in 1917, a good year. In 1919, only odd pairs were seen.

Aurepthianura aurifrons (Orange-fronted Chat).—A regular spring visitor, but fewer in dry seasons.

Conopoderas australis (Reed-warbler).—Fairly common where any reeds are still growing along the water-courses. They were fairly plentiful in 1917, in the cane grass swamps, and were found breeding in the same year in polygonum swamps.

Poodytes gramineus (Grass-bird).—A very common bird when the polygonum and cane grass swamps are full.

Acanthiza nana (Lemon-breasted Tit).—Only found in pine and needle-bush country. They are unevenly distributed and very local in their habits. They are occasional hosts of the Narrow-billed Bronze-cuckoo.

Acanthiza uropygialis (Chestnut-rumped Tit).—The commonest tit in the district; found almost exclusively in the back country.

Geobasileus chrysorrhous (Yellow-rumped Tit or Tom-tit).—Not at all plentiful. They spend much time on the ground.

Pyrholaemus brunneus (Red-throat).—Common in the saltbush flats near Renmark, and a single bird was heard near Lake Victoria Station. They were not seen elsewhere.

Malurus cyaneus leggii, *sub.-sp.* (Blue Wren).—A few birds were seen and one collected on a flooded polygonum swamp at Rufus Creek in October, 1917.

Malurus melanotus (Black-backed Wren).—Found only in the outback scrub; not at all commonly seen. But they are quiet and shy, and could easily be overlooked.

Hallornis cyanotis (White-winged Wren).—The commonest wren in the district. They are confined to the saltbush flats. They breed in August and September.

Leggeornis lamberti assimilis (Purple-backed Wren).—Fairly common. They are met with in pairs in the scrubby acacia country, and in the "old man" saltbush growing between the trees on the box flats.

Artamus leucorhynchus leucopygialis (White-rumped Wood-Swallow).—A migratory species, arriving at the River banks in September. They do not go in flocks, and are never found far from water. We found nests in hollow spouts, well below the opening, in old magpie larks' nests, and one in the perpendicular fork of a box tree.

Campbellornis personatus (Masked Wood-Swallow).—A yearly visitor: it arrives from the North, late in September, in large flocks in company with the next bird.

Campbellornis superciliosus (White-browed Wood-Swallow).—Similar in habits and movements to the previous bird.

Austrartamus melanops (Black-faced Wood-Swallow).—Migratory, but not in flocks. It prefers sparsely timbered plain country, away from the rivers.

Pseudertornis cyanopterus (Dusky Wood-Swallow).—A resident species generally in pairs: found both near the river and in the box country. This bird and *C. superciliosus* and *personatus* have a delightful subdued song, interspersed with imitations of a few bars of the songs of other birds.

Colluricincla harmonica (Grey Shrike Thrush).—A common bird. They are found in pairs both in the river timber and in the scrub country, but less plentifully in the latter; they commonly nest in the tops of broken stumps.

Grallina cyanoleuca (Magpie Lark).—A very common bird. It is met with in great numbers on the river frontages, and a pair or so are usually to be found around each tank out back.

Gymnorhina tibicen (Black-backed Magpie).—The common species in the district. Never seen in great numbers.

Gymnorhina leuconota (White-backed Magpie).—This bird is probably present in small numbers. A very tame pair inhabited the Wentworth common for a time, but they were possibly escaped cage birds.

Cracticus nigrogularis (Black-throated Butcher-bird).—Not common and confined to the river gums and box flats. They are very local in their habits, and may be heard in the same small area every spring. They have a beautiful note during the breeding season, and also throughout the year in the early morning. They are fond of chasing and pouncing upon spar-

rows, which know them as natural enemies, give the warning cry at once, and dart from cover. One was seen holding a sparrow by the leg on the ground, unable to get enough purchase to knock it on the ground, and afraid to let go for a fresh grip. The sparrow was released, and hopped promptly under the wood pile.

Bulestes torquatus (Collared Butcher-bird).—A fairly common bird, both in the river frontages and in the outback scrub. They are most destructive to small birds, and are robbers of the worst character.

Orcoica cristata (Crested Bell-bird).—A common bird in the acacia shrub, and occasionally met with on the box-flats. They decorate their nests here, as elsewhere, with live caterpillars; nesting begins in August.

Aphelocephala leucopsis (White-face).—A common and universally distributed species. They are very early breeders.

Neositta ptilcata (Black-capped Treerunners).—Rare birds in the district. They are met with occasionally in small flocks in the casuarina country. They do not come into the rivers.

Climacteris erythrops superciliosus (White-browed Tree-creeper).—Found almost exclusively in casuarina country. They are shy and very silent, and are easily overlooked. The nest is difficult to locate.

Neoclima picinna (Brown Tree-creeper).—A common bird in the box flats and in the river gums. Sometimes, but more rarely, met with in the mallee scrub.

Zosterops lateralis (Silver-eye).—A visitor only in the autumn and late winter. They do not breed in the district.

Austrodicaeum hirundinaceum (Mistletoe Bird).—Plentiful in the spring months, and odd pairs to be met with all the year round.

Pardalotus punctatus xanthopygius (Yellow-rumped Diamond Bird).—Fairly common in the mallee scrub about Renmark and Paringa. They were not met with near Wentworth.

Pardalotus striatus (Striped Diamond Bird).—Common both along the rivers and in the mallee scrub country.

Melithreptus gularis (Black-throated Honey-eater).—Uncommon. Pairs are met with occasionally in the box flats year after year.

Melithreptus atricapillus (Brown-headed Honey-eater).—Fairly common bird in the box country; also met with in the back scrub country; they move about in small flocks.

Plectorhyncha lunceolata (Striped Honey-eater).—Not common. Pairs are met with occasionally in the box flats in the district. They are met with occasionally in small flocks

Cissomela nigra (Black Honey-eater).—Uncommon. A bird was collected at Lake Victoria in October, 1917, and a few appeared near Wentworth in late October, 1918. They were not known to breed.

Gliciphila albifrons (White-faced Honey-eater).—Migratory and fairly plentiful in the spring months. Frequents acacia and sandalwood scrubs when these are in flower. They nest sometimes in sandalwoods, a few feet from the ground, and sometimes in low bushes a few inches from the ground. The nest is a very poorly constructed affair for a honey-eater.

Meliphaga sonora (Singing Honey-eater).—Not at all common, but odd pairs met with occasionally, especially in tobacco bush flats.

Lichenistomus ornatus (Yellow-plumed Honey-eater).—Strictly confined to the mallee; generally found in small colonies. They are very local in their habits.

Ptilotula penicillata (White-plumed Honey-eater).—Very common in the river gums and box flats. It does not go inland.

Myzantha melanocephala (Noisy Minah).—A very common bird in the river gums of the Murray and lower part of the Darling; on the upper part of the Darling its place is taken by *M. flavigula*, which here comes into the river gums.

Myzantha flavigula (Yellow-throated Minah).—A very common bird in the back country. They only come into the frontages where the Noisy Minah is absent. This bird and the Raven may be the only birds met with for miles when travelling in the back country during the summer.

Coleia carunculata (Red Wattle-bird).—A rare bird; only met with in the mallee, and then seldom.

Acanthagenys rufogularis (Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater).—A very common and resident species. It is found in all classes of country.

Entomyzon cyanotis (Blue-faced Honey-eater).—A fairly common bird, strictly confined to the river gums.

Microphilemon orientalis (Yellow-throated Friar Bird).—Common on the river frontages. They are migratory, arriving in September.

Anthus australis (Pipit or Ground Lark).—A common bird on the plains.

Staganopleura guttata (Spotted-sided Finch).—Odd birds have been seen at the Curlwa irrigation settlement.

Taeniopygia castanotis (Chestnut-eared Finch).—Fairly common on the irrigation settlements.

Chlamydera maculata guttata (Yellow-spotted Bower Bird).—Uncommon; a few birds were seen at Kulkynne Station, on the Murray. From reports it appears that this bird is now much rarer than it was a few years ago.

Corvus coronoides (Raven).—Common throughout the district.

Corvus bennetti (Small-billed Crow).—An inland bird. It seems to prefer open country, away from the rivers.

Strepera sp.—A bird of this genus is occasionally met with in the mallee country. They are exceedingly shy, and so far no specimen has been obtained for identification.

Struthidea cinerea (Grey Jumper).—A small family of these birds was located at a tank on the road from Wentworth to Cuthro, but on the tank drying up they left.

Corcorax melanorhamphus (White-winged Chough).—A common bird, both on the box flats and in the mallee. They are sometimes met with long distances from known water.

Gippsland Bird Notes.

—By Edwin Ashby, F.L.S., M.B.O.U.—

It was my privilege to spend a few days of the first week in April at Yinnar, Gippsland. Yinnar is just a hundred miles from Melbourne.

My last visit to that part of Australia was in the winter of 1886, or 34 years ago. Where previously was virgin forest, untouched by the presence of man, is now miles and miles of rung timber. The place I camped at in 1886 was nine miles beyond the next station (Boolara), in the "big timber country." Two birds I met with there appear absent at Yinnar; they are the Victorian Large-billed Scrub-Wren (*Scricornis magnirostris howei* Mat.), which was there creeping about like a mouse, amongst the ferns of the creek bottom, and the Victorian Pink-breasted Robin (*Erythrodryas rodinogaster inexpecta* Mat.), which was then fairly numerous in a small piece of rung timber, only an acre or so in extent. The cock birds seemed to know their protective colouration, and would settle with their backs

towards me on the charred and blackened surfaces of fallen timber. I found it necessary to wait till they turned their conspicuous breast, before one could shoot them.

Now for the birds that are still around Yinnar. Of the parrots, the day before my arrival, the Victorian King Parrot (*Alisterus cyanopygius neglectus* Mat.) was seen near the homestead, but no further specimens put in an appearance during my stay. In the open valley bordering Middle Creek, Rosellas (*Platycercus eximius*, S. & N.) were very numerous, but they were not seen back in the scrub, their place there being taken by the following species. The Crimson Parrot (*Platycercus elegans Gmelin*), while sometimes seen in small flocks in the timbered ranges, was in the forest more often seen in twos or threes, always highly coloured specimens, mostly males, sometimes females, which are a little less highly coloured. Not once did I see any highly coloured adults in the orchard, in the valley near the homestead, although large flocks of the young birds, green and red, were always to be found eating the fruit there. This seems to be the usual habit, for my friends thought that the highly coloured birds of the forest were a different species, because they did not mix with the green ones.

There were several Gang Gang Cockatoos (*Callocephalon galeatum* Lath.) feeding in the tops of the gums on the borders of the forest, their strange, murmuring notes guiding us to their position, and a very fine cock-bird was secured.

Along the banks of Middle Creek, under the shade of the willows, the Victorian Mountain Thrush (*Oreocincla lunulata dendyi* Mat.) was quite common, and a fine specimen was obtained. It is a little lighter than specimens from S.A., but differs very widely from the specimen I shot at Mallanganee, N.S.W., on 9th November, 1912, this latter evidently being (*O. heinci Cabanis*). My son, A. K. Ashby, who has just returned from the same locality, brings back a skin of the Victorian Spotted Ground-bird (*Cinelosoma punctatum neglectum* Mat.), which is rare in the locality, and was not seen by me. This specimen differs considerably from South Australian specimens in my selection, and needs further investigation.

Psephodes olivaceus scrymgeouri Mat. (Victorian Coach-whip Bird)—which, in the Yinnar district, is always known as "Stock-whip Bird;" is fairly common, but at this season of the year the birds hardly made a sound, except one very wet day, when they were making their astounding "crack" in fine style, we obtained a fine female; it is curious how often a female is shot when the huntsman is following the notes of a male.

The Green-rumped Shrike-Robin (*Eopsaltria australis viridior* Mat.) is fairly common in the tree-fern gullies, but also occurs in the open forest; several specimens were secured.

The White-throated Tree-creeper (*Climacteris leucophaea leucophaea* Lath.) was very busy everywhere, and was shot in the endeavour to find the rare Red Eye-browed Tree-creeper, which was collected in the same place by Mr. A. K. Ashby in the spring. It seems that they had quite left the locality, and must have visited the spot for breeding purposes.

The Victorian Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis longirostris longirostris*, Q. & G.) did not appear to be nearly as numerous as it is at Mount Dandenong, but this may have been due to the fact that the birds were not calling at this season of the year. The Victorian Blue-Wren was very common, and seemed a very robust type, one immature male being taken in mistake for a *Sericornis*.

The Grey Crow Shrike (*Strepera cuculicaudata* Vieill) was also obtained, and is referred to in following article.

The Victorian White-eared Honey-eater (*Nesoptilotis leucotis melanodera*, Q. & G.) was secured, but does not seem to be a common bird in this district.

Rhipidura flabellifera victoriac Mat. (Victorian Fantail)—was numerous. A specimen shot shows a great contrast to the Tasmanian form, the latter in every respect being very much darker.

The Victorian Brown-Tit (*Acanthiza pusilla macularia* Mat.) was everywhere busily gathering insects, without any apparent rest.

Tasmania: Notes.

—By Edwin Ashby, F.L.S., M.B.O.U.—

A few notes on the birds collected and observed on the occasion of a very brief visit to Tasmania in the last week in March this year may be of interest to the readers of the "S.A. Ornithologist." An afternoon was spent in the somewhat low scrub on the opposite side of the Derwent to Hobart, and some miles up the river. The date was the 20th March; a flock of the little Black-headed Honey-eater (*Melithreptus affinis affinis* Len.) flew over our heads as we left the jetty, and settled in some low trees. Their note is low, but penetrating, and reminds one of the fami-

liar note of *M. brevirostris*. The first specimen shot was in immature plumage, the crown being brownish green, instead of the typical black. Next to the Melithreptus, the commonest bird in the patch of timber adjoining the river was the Tasmanian Yellow-throated Honey-eater (*Nesoptilotis flavicollis flavigula* Gould); this handsome Honey-eater, with its grey-green to bright, yellowish-green plumage and brilliant yellow throat enlivens the bush with its constant loud calls.

One picks out notes that remind one of the White-eared Honey-eater, and also the loud whistle of the Singing Honey-eater, but in addition it has a repertoire all its own, full, rich, melodious notes, one series of which has been likened to the words "get over," repeated many times.

Another bird common in this scrub was the Tasmanian Crescent Honey-eater (*Phylidonyris pyrroptera inornata* Gould) why inornata I cannot imagine. For a specimen shot later on South Bruny Island has a jet black crescent mark, delicate pencilling on the throat, and bright yellow on the wings, forming a combination as vivid and effective as the best specimen I have seen from the mainland.

A specimen of the charming Fire-tailed Finch (*Zonaeginthus bellus bellus* Lath.) was shot; its scarlet rump shone with intense lustre in the sunshine, and when handled, the delicate olive scalloped marked back, and grey scalloped marked underside, make it easily one of Tasmania's handsomest birds, and one of Australia's most charming finches. The next bird to be collected was the Dusky Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera albiscapa* Gould); many of these little "gnat catchers" were flitting about with ever restless movement, uttering their call—"chit chit." I think that completes the list of species collected in that spot, but Scarlet-breasted Robins were represented by several pairs; a large flight of Spine-tailed Swifts were hawking at a considerable height, and every now and again swooping down between the tree tops. I was intending to get a specimen, or rather, try to, after I had secured specimens of several of the smaller birds, but in half-an-hour's time all the Swifts had cleared out, and I saw no more of them during my stay in Tasmania. Musk Lorikeets and Tasmanian Minahs were busy in a neighbouring orchard.

A Tasmanian White-bearded Honey-eater (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae canescens* Lath.) was collected; it diverges somewhat from others I have collected in Tasmania; but I doubt, if a series of the insular birds were mixed up with the mainland ones, that they could be separated except by means of their labels.

From the 22nd to the 25th of the same month I was at Lunawanna, South Bruny Island; the weather was very wet and I had but little time to spare, apart from the strenuous marine work I was engaged in. I collected skins of the Whistling Shrike Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica strigata Swainson*); the rufous eyebrow and spangled breast are rather striking features, also as I have before noted its whistle is superior, and in some respects distinct, from the mainland birds. Also a Tasmanian Raven (*Corvus coronoides tasmanicus Mat.*) was shot, feeding on the flotsam of the beach. Certainly this bird has an exceptionally robust beak, as compared with the birds of the mainland.

The Brown Scrub-Wren (*Tasmanornis humilis Gould*) was noted; all the species of Honey-eaters heretofore noted as near Hobart were seen on the Island, with the addition of the Tasmanian Spine-bill, which was very numerous. Several of the Grey-tailed Thickhead (*Pachycephala pectoralis glaucura Gould*) were seen, but they were not in song. I was pleased to see the Tasmanian Wattle Bird (*Dryobates paradoxus Daudin*) feeding on Honeysuckle (*Banksia*) blossoms.

The Pink-breasted Robin (*Erythrodryas rodinogaster Drapiez*) is found in the secluded fern gullies on the Island. What I take to be Swamp Quail (*Synoicus ypsilophorus*) is fairly numerous at Lunawanna, but all agreed that there were two forms, the smaller still numerous, and the "very much larger one", rarely, if ever, seen on the Island.

I am able to record, on what I consider quite reliable information, the fact that the Tasmanian Tawny-crowned Honey-eater (*Gliciphila melanops crassirostris Mat.*) has, recently put in an appearance at Lunawanna. I knew it occurred, although rare, on the north-east coast of Tasmania, and a friend of mine took a clutch of eggs there, but this far southern locality is quite new to me.

Australia's Mocking Bird.

—By Edwin Ashby, F.L.S., M.B.O.U.—

The Victorian Lyre-Bird (*Menura novae-hollandiae victoriae* Gould).—Although the season for the Lyre-Birds to be calling had not arrived, Easter Monday, being very wet, one of my friends suggested that we should go into the Fern Gullies, and try and hear this wonderful bird, as heavy rain seems to

brighten them up. We had hardly reached a deep gully (that had once been rung out, but is now fast going back into luxuriant scrub) with rain pouring down, when we heard a Lyre-Bird calling "chunk, chunk," with a metallic ring in this loud note, which my companion told me was the bird's natural note, not an imitation cry. We took off our mackintoshes, because of the swish they make as one pushes through the scrub, and hoped the rain would ease off a bit, as we preferred not to be soaked to the skin. The bird was calling some quarter of a mile away, on the top of the ridge, of which the fern-gully formed the foot.

On reaching the top of the ridge, we found that the bird we were after was still a quarter of a mile further on, but another then commenced calling nearer to us, so we, with the greatest care, worked our way, moving only when the bird was calling, and stopping dead when the bird was silent, and at last, by this method, succeeded in working our way through the scrub till we were under 50 yards from the bird. We then waited for a long time, enjoying the treat of its wonderful performance.

(1) It had been uttering its original cry for some time—"chunk, chunk," repeated in duplicate, with a short breathing space between each repetition.

(2) It went through the flute-like whistle of the Butcher-bird (*Bulestes torquatus olindus* Mat.), giving the full run of liquid, flute-like notes of that bird to perfection. Then a pause, while the Lyre was listening, then came

(3) the strange, long-drawn-out notes of the Gang Gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon galeatum* Lath.). These were repeated several times, and again absolute silence, followed by

(4) the two long-drawn-out notes of the Coach-Whip Bird, ending with the resounding "crack" for which that bird is noted. Again silence, and then the flute-like notes of the Butcher Bird greeted our ears; in fact, these notes recurred several times throughout the performance.

(5) The impressive silence was followed by the weird wailing notes of the Funeral Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus funereus rathanotus* Gould), several wails being given before the next silence.

(6) Then came the harsh, guttural call of the Wattle Bird, (*Colcia carunculata tregellasi* Mat.), so familiar to us all; this followed by the swish and rustle of the bird's beautiful tail as he shook it over his back, and rustled the long tail feathers together. We were just too far away to get this sound properly. This part of the performance was immediately followed by

(7) the piping flute notes of the White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca leuconota* Gould); again a stillness that could be felt, and

(8) then came the shrill whistle of the Crimson Parrot (*Platycercus elegans elegans* Gmelin), very similar to that of the Adelaide Rosella, which most of my readers know so well. Silence was then followed

(9) by the call of the Grey Crow Shrike (*Neostrepera versicolor* Vieill.) but better known as (*S. cuculicaudata* Vieill.), a bird I have never seen in any other part of Australia, and it is just 34 years since I previously collected it within 20 miles of Yinnar. In spring and summer this bird keeps to the higher ranges and forest country, only coming down to the orchards as winter approaches.

(10) After a short pause we listened to a perfect imitation of the familiar whistling of the Victorian Grey Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica victoriæ* Mat.); the usual "Bob, bob Whitehead" series of notes was most plain.

(11) The whistle of another parrot was distinguished by my companions, but being unfamiliar to me, I did not recognise it, namely the Victorian King Parrot (*Alisterus cyanopygius neglectus* Mat.); its whistle was rather dovetailed in with others.

(12) The last production that we were able to easily recognise was that of the Victorian White-throated Thickhead (*Pachycephala pectoralis youngi* Mat.); only a portion of the full Nightingale-like notes of this splendid songster were produced, but there was no doubt as to their identity, the typical "swish sound" completing the series.

(13) In addition to the foregoing, the twittering of some of the small insectivorous birds were imitated splendidly.

While we were careful to record the series, the order of production was not accurately preserved; for instance, the Butcher Bird's long run of flute-like notes was produced several times during the performance, as were the notes of several others—the Wattle Bird and the Thickhead, being imitated more than once.

To the above record of the performance of this particular bird as heard by the writer, my friends with whom I was staying (and who have lived 30 years in the locality) were able to add some interesting examples of the powers of mimicry of the Lyre Bird.

Mr. John Walker, when in the Jumbuck Range of mountains, saw a Lyre Bird fly and settle in a spot not 20 feet away from where he stood; he kept perfectly still, when the bird commenced imitating a bitch dingo with pups, the whimpering of the litter of pups as they tried to follow their parent as she travelled through the bush, was, he tells me, quite perfect.

This record is of particular interest, as nowadays it is difficult enough to get an opportunity of hearing dingo pups in the bush, much less to hear a perfect imitation thereof.

Mr. Joseph Walker told me of an instance, when he was close to a Lyre Bird which was imitating the clink and ringing sound made by the knocking together of two metal wedges used by the woodsmen in felling timber; this sound is common when the wedges are thrown down after splitting a log. He also heard the bird imitate perfectly the sound of a crosscut saw. My son also in the same locality watched a cock Lyre Bird going through a wonderful performance on a log, and amongst its other items was the sound of stapling a wire fence; the peculiar ringing sound caused by the vibration of the wire was got to a nicety; all these records have been obtained on the Walkers' property.

On paying a second visit to the same gully where I had listened to the cock's performance, I heard in the bottom of the gully a loud, guttural note, repeated in couplets, best described as "chunk chunk," but less metallic and more guttural than the cock-bird's natural note; this had also a sort of quaver in it, quite distinct from the other. I managed to get quite close, and then saw the boughs of a tall wattle moving as a heavy bird jumped from bough to bough, thus ascending the tree till 15 or 20 ft. high, when the bird (a hen) volplaned down to the bottom of the gully in full view about 20 paces away from me, tail held straight out behind.

Matching Colours by Artificial Illumination.

—By Arthur R. Riddle.—

Every student of Natural History must, at some time or other, have regretted the shortcomings of most artificial illuminants, in that they failed to adequately show up the colours existent in specimens. Whilst the trouble has been mitigated to some extent with each advance in artificial lighting, one could not until recently make a colour comparison of extreme accu-

racy by their aid. Colours matched by artificial illumination were found to be not quite accurate when daylight was brought to bear on them. The response to industrial necessity has now given us a source of illumination, which is wonderfully near daylight. Due chiefly to intensive industrial work, stimulated by war needs, a demand existed for an artificial source of illumination which would approximate daylight in so far as its radiation was concerned. This was felt especially in the textile industry, and wherever colour had to be matched. The Research Laboratories of the largest electric lamp concern in America, took up the problem, and the Mazda C-2 lamp was the sequel. Certain structural modifications were made, but the chief factor is the bluish glass which has been used. This was selected after close research in order to provide a filtering medium, such that the spectrum of the filtered radiation would closely approximate the spectrum of solar radiation. For all work where colour is concerned, the lamp has proved to be ideal. It is an interesting experiment to take lamps representative of the various milestones in the evolution of electric lighting, and wire them up so as to make them immediately ready for comparison. Take the following four lamps—

Carbon Filament Lamp.

Vacuum type Metal Filament Lamp.

Mazda C gas-filled Metal Filament Lamp—commonly called $\frac{1}{2}$ -watt type.

Mazda C2 gas-filled Metal Filament Lamp—commonly called the "Blue Glass" or "Daylight Lamp."

The radiation from the Carbon Filament Lamp appears fairly white when it is the only source of illumination. It instantly assumes a reddish-yellow tinge when the vacuum lamp is switched on. This lamp in turn appears yellow by comparison with the $\frac{1}{2}$ -watt type, which is very brilliantly white, but even the $\frac{1}{2}$ -watt type suffers by comparison with the type C2. By comparing the first and last lamps, one can hardly believe that the radiation from the former ever did appear white. Whilst the ordinary $\frac{1}{2}$ -watt type is a great advance on previously existing types, and gives a radiation approximating very closely to the ideal, the C2 lamp goes further, and stops little short of perfection.

As concerning current consumption. One can say roughly, avoiding technicalities essential to accuracy, that for equal candle powers, the ordinary metal filament lamp takes only one fourth of the current used by the carbon filament lamp. Simi-

larly, the $\frac{1}{2}$ -watt and daylight types of lamps take only about one half of the current used by the metal filament vacuum lamp. The sales of both the Mazda lamps are controlled by the Australian General Electric Company.

New Record for South Australia.

—J. Neil McGilp, R.A.O.U.—

Red-winged Parrot (*Aprosmictus erythropterus*).

On the 21st January, 1920, a Red-winged Parrot was taken on Moolawatana Station. This station is approximately 100 miles from New South Wales border, and 500 miles from Adelaide.

My employe stated that he noticed the bird in a large Gum Creek, and, as it was new to him, he shot it with a .32 bore rifle, after much difficulty, as the parrot was very shy. He also reported that when flying, the bird had a peculiar action, not unlike the *Grallina cyanoleuca*, and that it had a loud screech, which continued most of the time it was on the wing.

The presence of this and many other birds is accounted for by the very severe droughty conditions now raging over North-Western N.S.W.

It was on Moolawatana Station that the *Neophema splendida* (female) was recently secured.

Bird Notes for the Month of May.

Mr. J. Sutton, of Netherby, a suburb of Adelaide, writes—May 6: "Saw six Wood-Swallows (*Pseudartamus cyanopterus*) near the South Terrace Croquet Club grounds; Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina noronchollandiae melanops*) seen at Netherby—one on the 7th, one on the 14th, four on the 16th, one on the 24th; White-shafted Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera whitei*)—one seen at Netherby on the 25th; *Pardalotus punctatus* (Spotted Diamond Bird)—one seen at Netherby on the 16th; *Ninox boobook* (Mopoke) are about again at Netherby; heard at night on 21st and 22nd, and at 6.25 a.m. on 28th.

Mr. F. E. Parsons—*Taeniopygia castanotis* (Chestnut-eared Finch)—observed a nest in a pine tree at Brighton on 21st; Flame-breasted Robin (*Littlewa chrysoptera*)—three seen

at Oaklands, the 24th; Blue-winged Parrot (*Neonanodes chrysostomus*)—a small flock of the "Blue-winged Parrots" seen at Outer Harbour, the 27th.

Mr. Edwin Ashby, of Blackwood, in the Mount Lofty Ranges—"Owing to the heavy flowering of the peppermint gums (*Eucalyptus odorata*) and the blue gum (*E. leucorylon*) all the common Honey-eaters and Lorikeets have been about, in exceptional numbers, though the Blue Mountains (*T. novae-hollandiae*) are less numerous than they were, owing to the orchards having been cleared of fruit. About the second week in May, Regent Honey-eaters (*Zanthomiza phrygia*) put in an appearance, and have been very numerous since, their call note being heard continually throughout the day.

I heard the Fantailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis rubricatus*) on the 26th, but there are very few about, or they are not calling freely.

A stranger appeared on the 29th, in the form of the Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*).—This is so essentially a plain or dry country bird that its occurrence in these hills is of especial interest.

The usual autumnal visit of the Adelaide Rosellas (*Platycercus elegans adalaidae*) occurred early in the month.

The Tawny-crowned Honey-eater (*Gliciphila melanops chandleri*) appear to be more numerous than usual, and we have heard their charming whistle for the last two or three months.

Capt. S. A. White, on the Adelaide Plains, at the Reed-beds—Spiny-cheeked Honey-eaters (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*) are still with us, and calling loudly all day.

Southern, Scarlet-breasted Robin (*Petroica multicolor frontalis*)—Has been in the garden throughout the month. South Australian Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera whitei*) is also staying on very late with us this year. Red-browed Finch (*Aegintha temporalis loftyi*) have been about in large numbers all through the month.

Observed two Magpies chasing an English Blackbird on the 19th, and they kept up the chase for quite a time, through trees and undergrowth, but did not make a capture. Upon the same date a Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*) was seen flying very high.

Numbers of Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes (*Coracina novae-hollandiae melanops*) have been about during the month.

When the first rains fell, after such a long, dry spell, a little water ran out into the swamps, which attracted great

numbers of Teal (*Virago giberrifrons*) and a few Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*). A large flock of Pied Geese (*Anseranus semipalmata*) had been seen on the lower Murray flats.

J. W. Mellor, Lockleys, S.A., reports—

At Lockleys noted numbers of Chestnut-eared Finches still about in the boxthorn bushes in the paddocks, they were building their little straw nests in these bushes, and living in them during the cold nights, and so kept warm, as the nests were lined with feathers.

The Noisy Minahs keep about all the year round, and frequent the large red and blue gums. During the month they were very noisy, and the weather keeping dry, they would come to the tap in fruit garden, which is generally kept "dripping," there they would drink from the nozzle, several clinging to the tap at once. Magpies were also plentiful, they keep about in the large gums, and come into the garden and pick up large grubs and insects. Murray Magpies are also about all the year, although no water is here for them, they come to the tap and get their drink, and are quite tame, coming right up to the door in quest of food.

The Laughing Jacks are also tame, and come about the house and look out for mice, and are often seen "flopping" down in their usual clumsy manner after the large goat moth as it emerges from the ground just after a shower of rain. They also like the large worms, and are seen tugging away at them, getting a firm hold in their bills, and laying back with all their might until the worm at last gives way, and Jack goes laughing away to some convenient place to eat this dainty morsel. The Fantail Cuckoos have been about all the month both at Lockleys and Fulham, and feeding on grubs, etc., but making not the slightest noise, their presence generally being made known by the native birds chasing them, and calling loudly. In this respect, the "Greenie" or White-plumed Honey-eater is the most common.

Several Whistling Eagles were seen at Lockleys, but always singly, and flying above the large gum trees.

White-plumed Honey-eaters, and New-Holland Honey-eaters, or "Yellow-wing" as it is often called, have been plentiful in the bushes and trees, likewise the Singing Honey-eater, the two latter species liking the thick boxthorn as a shelter.

Blue Wrens also favour this shelter at Lockleys, the sharp thorns seem to be a protection from their enemies.

Several times during the month Goshawks (*Urospiza fasciata*) were about near the fowls' yard, and were chased by large flocks of European Starlings; White-backed Magpies were also after them in that district.

Adelaide Rosella and Murray Magpie.

—By J. W. Mellor, Lockleys.—

A somewhat strange incident came under my notice recently which is worthy of note. I was perplexed several times at hearing the "kneedeep" call and other notes of the Murray Magpie coming from the thick foliage of a lemon scented pine near my back door. For the time being I was non-plussed, never having seen these little birds in this situation, although they are about in the more open trees such as the red gums. So I determined to make a close observation to clear the matter up, and upon carefully going near the place, what was my surprise to find no other bird than an Adelaide Rosella which was imitating the call notes of the Murray Magpie so well and truly that it needed to be watched carefully before one could believe their own eyes and ears. After "keeping an eye" on this parrot for some days, I found that it was "keeping company" with a Murray Magpie, which it would follow about from tree to tree in quite a general way, feeding about on the seed foods and making both its own call and that of its companion. There being very few Rosellas about, this bird had evidently become lonely and wanted a mate, having taken up with a bird of quite different habits, yet they seemed "good company" nevertheless.





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THE
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1st OCTOBER, 1920.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

F. M. ANGEL, R.A.O.U.
A. G. EDQUIST
S. A. WHITE, C.M.B.O.U.
F. R. ZIETZ, R.A.O.U.

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A. G. EDQUIST
S. A. WHITE, C.M.B.O.U.
F. R. ZIETZ, R.A.O.U.

Secretary :

J. NEIL MCGILP,
"Origina," Napier Terrace,
King's Park S.A.

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The Editorial Committee accepts no responsibility for the views or deductions expressed by any of its contributors. The Journal welcomes a free interchange of ideas with the object of extending the knowledge of our avifauna, but the author of each article is responsible for the opinions and deductions recorded.

— THE —
South Australian Ornithologist.

VOL. V.]

1st OCTOBER, 1920.

[PART 4.

The South Australian Ornithological
Association.

MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—Meeting held on 25th June, 1920.—

Mr. Edwin Ashby in the chair.

Dr. Morgan reported having seen a Caspian Tern on Torrens Lake during the month. Mr. J. Sutton noted a Fantail Cuckoo on the 15th, and two Crimson Parrots on 23rd June, at Netherby.

Mr. J. W. Mellor observed Black Swan, Teal, and Black Duck on water at Reedbeds, also Whistling Eagle and a Little Falcon. Mr. E. Ashby reported that the swift Lorikeet had appeared at Blackwood during the month; a flock of quite 20 Red-rumped Parakeets was seen on 20th June, and that Stone Plovers were heard calling in the evening of 24th June, this being the first time recorded at Blackwood for some considerable time.

The principal business of the evening was the examination of Maluridae and other bright plumaged birds by means of the "Daylight" Electric Lamp. With this light it was found that a minute comparison of colours was possible.

Mr. A. R. Riddle was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for providing and manipulating the "Daylight" Lamp.

Mr. Zietz drew attention to an article in the "Children's Hour" on "The White backed Magpie," in which the nesting and other habits were incorrect, evidently being taken from the life history of the English Magpie. Mr. Zietz was asked to point out the mistake to the Editor.

It was resolved that a delegate be nominated to represent the Association at the Science Congress to be held at Hobart, Tasmania.

It was decided to place the Field Naturalist section of the Royal Society and the Perth Museum on the honorary list of recipients of the "S.A. Ornithologist," and that a complete set of back numbers and future issues be sent to each.

—Meeting held 30th July, 1920.—

Mr. F. M. Angel presided.

The Chairman referred to the great loss the Association had sustained by the death of Mr. Symonds Clark, who was a foundation member and past President of the Association. A letter of heartfelt sympathy had already been sent to Mrs. Clark.

Capt. White and Mr. J. W. Mellor eulogised the splendid work accomplished by the late Mr. Clark, and it was resolved that the Association place on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the Association and for the preservation and protection of our native birds.

A letter was received from Mr. J. W. Hosking, tendering his resignation as a member on account of pressure of professional duties. It was decided to ask Mr. Hosking to reconsider the matter.

Acknowledgements of receipt of the "S.A. Ornithologist" were received from the Director of the Perth Museum and the Hon. Secretary of the Field Naturalist Section of the Royal Society.

A letter was received from Mrs. Angove, advising that she had no power to donate the late Dr. Angove's egg collection to the Association, but she would enquire what could be done in the matter.

Capt. White reported that the next session of the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union would take place in Perth about the middle of October, and also stated that the Committee was at work on the new check list.

Bird notes for the month were received from Professor J. B. Cleland, Capt. White, Messrs. J. W. Mellor, F. R. Zietz, E. and A. K. Ashby.

Capt. White exhibited a very fine pair of Freckled Duck from Narrung.

The rest of the evening was taken up in comparing and discussing the following species of *Maluridae*—*M. melanotus*, *M. splendens*, *M. callainus*, *M. leucopterus*, *M. cyanotus*.

—Meeting held on 27th August, 1920.—

Mr. Edwin Ashby presided.

A letter was received from the Hon. Minister of Industry, asking for a report on the alleged fruit-eating habits of the Goldfinch. It was decided to adjourn this discussion until the next meeting, to enable members to consult their notebooks, and secure further data, and the secretary was instructed to write the Hon. Minister to this effect.

Mr. Mellor reported Boobook Owls calling loudly at Lockleys. A very large gum-tree had to be cut down on his property. This had been the home of Screech Owls for some time. A kerosene tin full of pellets, sparrow heads, mice remains, etc., had been collected from the hollows, and was sent on to the Museum for tabulation.

Mr. Ashby also sent a number of pellets of the Boobook Owl from Blackwood on to the Museum.

Mr. A. K. Ashby showed a skin of the Landrail. This bird had been caught in a rabbit trap at Yenar, Victoria, and, being considered a new bird in that district, was sent along for identification. Members thought that it was somewhat larger than those found round Adelaide. Mr. A. Crompton said that the Landrail was often seen roosting in orange trees. The Chairman asked Mr. Crompton to secure date, etc., so that this interesting habit could be placed on record.

The Chairman reported that the Swift Lorikeets were numerous about Blackwood, and were feeding principally on the seeds of the Peppermint Gum, and were not frequenting the honey-laden flowers of the Blue Gum nearly as much as he had expected. Mr. A. K. Ashby mentioned that this species has a very sweet warble.

A resolution was passed, expressing much appreciation of the Daylight Lamp; but members thought it might be lowered a little, thereby allowing a closer comparison of colours.

Bird notes for the month were handed in by Messrs. J. W. Mellor and Edwin Ashby.

A discussion then took place on the following species of *Maluridae*

M. lamberti, *M. elegans*, *M. cruentatus*, *M. leucotus*, *M. melanocephalus*, and *M. leucopterus* (the Black and white Wren from Barrow).

Order Passeriformes, Family Ploceidæ, Genus Stagonopleura.

Stagonopleura guttata (Spotted-sided Finch).—Mr. Gregory M. Mathews has made one sub-sp. for Victoria and South Australia, calling it *S. g. philordi*.

Description.—Upper surface and wings, brown; rump and upper tail coverts, scarlet; tail, black; flanks, black, each feather having a white spot; broad, black band crosses the breast; lores, black; crown of the head, grey; under tail coverts, abdomen, and throat, white; bill, coral-red line of bluish purple at base; eyes, coral-red, with bluish eyelash; feet, brown.

Distribution.—Dispersed over most parts of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

Habitat.—The bird does not seem to be confined to any one class of country, for it is found in the Ranges, and out upon the plains, and is to be met with in open timbered country, grass land, and even in thick scrub.

Habits.—Much like other members of the family; gregarious during many months of the year and only pairing off at nesting time.

Flight—Strong and straight and will rise to a great altitude when shifting from one district to another.

Note.—A long-drawn, low, and mournful note.

Food.—The seeds of many rushes and grasses.

Nesting Season October to December.

Eggs—Pure white, rather elongated. Average measurement of 13 eggs 1.93 c.m. x 1.33 c.m., largest egg 2.05 c.m. x 1.35 c.m., smallest egg, 1.85 c.m. x 1.25 c.m.

Nest—Large structure composed of dry grass, twigs, leaves, etc. A nest taken near Stone Hut was entirely covered with bright yellow everlasting flowers woven into the structure of the nest.

Notes on *Aphlocephala nigricincta* (Black-banded Whiteface), and other Birds.

By J. Neil McGilp, R.A.O.U.

This species was noted in flocks of from two to six in number. The call is much sweeter and very different from the ordinary Whiteface, and this bird spends more of its time on the ground. Though we were camped on a bore stream I did not note this species coming into water, although often seen within a

quarter of a mile of it. All other birds observed in the district were noted at the water. This Whiteface started to nest, in common with Orange-fronted Chat, White-winged Wren, and Chestnut crowned Babbler, three weeks before the drought broke. The nest is a bulky, retort shaped structure, the outside being of twigs or branchlets of the "Rolly poley" (Buck Bush), and inside this a layer of dried flower stems and flower pods, with a final snug lining of soft feathers. The noticeable thing about the nest is the long, narrow entrance, one I measured being 9 in. long, and only $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter; this is only scantily lined with feathers for about half the distance from the egg chamber. The nesting places noted were in a Buckbush, (usually a half-green one, which showed up the nest conspicuously, it usually being of a very dark colour; the nest was also found in a prickly acacia, called "Dead finish;" the reason for the name can be readily understood if one accidentally comes in contact with it. I noted that both birds took part in building the nest. They left the nest together, and only one, the female, I presume, in returning carried material, the other bird accompanied her to the bush, whereon he sat and whistled until the former had placed the material in the nest. Then the mate flew off alone, and returned with material which the female who had remained, took and placed in the nest. After this, both birds flew off to again repeat this system; this was done without variation for over an hour, though, of course, I was not able to identify the female. The clutch appeared to be of two eggs, only, for only one clutch of three was noted, and several nests containing two very young birds were observed, but as I left the district a few days after the rain, I was not able to note if the young from the nest had the black band. Very few eggs were hatched out before the rain. Did these birds know that the drought was to break or was it a good guess?

These birds do not resent one touching the nest, or eggs or young, which is rather strange, as it is necessary to almost destroy the long, narrow entrance in order to inspect the contents of the nest.

Epthianura aurifrons (Orange-fronted Chat).—This bird commenced breeding about three weeks before the rain. The clutch was two eggs; only one of three was noted out of fifty nests visited. I noted a rather peculiar habit in these pretty creatures. The male sits on the nest from daylight (or as soon as I was able to see) up till 10 o'clock, and though scores of times I visited the nests to test this, I failed to flush the female during these hours, and the male was never flushed from

the nest after that hour. I made a particular study of this, as my work took me past a number of nests, and the result was always the same. I do not know when the male goes upon the nest, but I have flushed the female just at dusk in the evening on dozens of occasions. The female, I noted, was the best actor or actress in pretending lameness to draw danger from her nest. The male appeared the less venturesome, no doubt on account of his brighter coloration.

—Birds on Bore Stream.—

It was very interesting to note that towards sundown all the water birds seen, i.e., Swans, Black Duck, Pink-eared Duck and Teal, Avocets, Cranes (*Antigone*), Red Cap and Black-fronted Dotterel, came up near the Bore head (here the water was almost at the boiling point), and passed the night in or near the warm water, returning to their feeding ground in the early hours of morning. The birds evidently appreciate warmth as well as human beings during the cold nights we experienced during May. We were not camped about the Bore head, so they did not leave that part on account of our disturbing them. In fact, it was noticeable that where we camped (about two miles downstream), the bulk of the birds were close to the camp during the day. I think, on account of the sheep watering, they were able to get food that was disturbed by the sheep.

The first bird to call in the morning was *Sphenostoma cristatum pallidum* (the Wedgebill); we called him "Daylight Bird." These were very numerous, but did not appear to have started nesting operations, though they always seemed to be in pairs. They have a very sweet call, but did not sing much during the day time. Numbers of birds, including *Antigone*, were killed by the fox, which, on our arrival, was very numerous, but for a time, at least, the birds will not be molested, for we destroyed a great many foxes during our sojourn in the sandhill country.

The Birds of Kuitpo Forest.

By S. A. White, C.M.B.O.U., C.F.A.O.U.

Through the kindness of Mr. H. Corbin, consulting Forester to the Government and Lecturer in Forestry at the Adelaide University, the writer has made several very enjoyable trips to the forest under his supervision, at first, on bird observing and pleasure bent, and later an official inspection, as the Chariman of the Forestry Committee of the Advisory

Board. The Forest of Kuitpo is about 30 miles south of Adelaide, situated in the ranges, the nearest railway station is 12 miles away, at Willunga. Some of the highest peaks and ridges reach 1,200 to 1,300 feet above the sea, and the average rainfall must be about 30 inches. The Forest comprises some 8,000 acres, and is as yet mostly covered in native trees. The red gum (*Eucalyptus rostrata*) covers much of the creek flats which are heavily soaked with water for five or six months of the year. Most of the big trees have been felled, and a regeneration of healthy saplings is covering the ground, and in many places forming a fine timber belt along the valleys. Many of the slopes and ridges are covered in stringy bark (*E. obliqua*) but in most cases the ravages of fires have left their marks only too noticeable upon the trees. In places there is some thick scrub consisting of a stunted form of *Eucalyptus cosmophylla*, stunted Blue Gum *E. leucorylona*, and Pink Gum (*E. fasciculosa*), scrub She-Oak (*Casuarina aristata*), and white-flowering *Leptospermum*. This scrub is growing on the poorer parts of the Forest lands. Large areas have been planted with *Pinus insignis* and *Pinus maritima*, these are in plots of different ages and are doing well. Large areas of the native timber are being cleared off, all marketable timber going through the mill and then a fire is passed over the area to make ready for the planting of soft woods. The first thing that strikes an Ornithologist is the absence of bird life in the pine forests, it is only when some native trees have grown up among the introduced timber that any of our small birds will be found in ordinary weather, but when strong winds are blowing many birds take shelter in the warm dry pine forest. The Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus funereus whiteae*) visits the pines in numbers to feed upon the seeds. It must be said that bird life is really scarce over the forest area, and this is due no doubt to the felling of the natural timber and the burning off after felling. The nesting places of many species are destroyed as well as the old feeding trees, and as the pine areas are extended so the majority of the birds must find a home elsewhere. There are parts of the area which are being planted with hard woods principally various members of the *Eucalyptus* family. These will form feeding grounds for any species of birds, also a sanctuary, but these trees will not be allowed to stand long enough to form nesting hollows for many useful birds.

The following is a list of the birds observed during the writer's short trips to Kuitpo Forest, but it should be under-

stood that the list is not an exhaustive one, for there may be many birds which visit the forest at different times of the year.

Ortygodes varius (Eastern Painted Quail)—Observed one bird only on the hill side amidst fairly thick scrub country.

Cerchneis cenchroides (Nankeen Kestrel)—One bird seen in the open timbered country.

Spiloglaux boobook marmorata (Boobook Owl)—Heard a bird calling during the night in the red gum country.

Trichoglossus norachallandiae (Blue-bellied Lorikeet)—A small flock of these birds flew overhead on their way probably to some feeding trees.

Glossopsitta porphyrocephala (Purple-crowned Lorikeet)—A blue gum (*Eucalyptus leucorylon*) being in blossom it was pleasing to watch these active little birds diligently searching every flower in search of honey, invariably hanging head downwards in reaching the flowers at the extreme end of the branches.

Calyptorhynchus funereus whiteae (Southern Black Cockatoo)—There seems to be quite a number of these birds which spend most of the year in the forest, they have discovered the oily and sweet pine seeds. Hearing the strange calls of these birds I moved quietly and noiselessly over the soft pine needles, right under them while hard at work tearing open the pine cones with their powerful bills. The remains of pine cones were strewn around, torn into shreds by these Cockatoos. Mr. Corbin tells me the birds do very little damage, at times they may break off the central shoot of the pine when alighting upon it, and sometimes they will bite off the shoots. These birds prefer the seeds of *Pinus maritima* to those of *Pinus insignis*, this is easily understood when we know that the seeds of the former are larger and much more easily got at in comparison to the latter tree.

Platycercus elegans adelaidae (Adelaide Rosella)—This bird is found in many parts of the forest, their loud call notes were heard many times.

Psephotus haematotus (Red-backed Parrot)—Several small parties of these parrots were seen.

Dacelo gigas (Great Brown Kingfisher)—This typical bird of the ranges is to be found all through the gum country in the Forest, but nowhere plentiful.

Hirundo neoxena (Welcome Swallow)—About the Forester's house, the saw mill sheds etc.

Hylodichthys nigricans calayi (Tree-Martin) —These little swallows were met with in many parts of the Forest generally in fairly large parties.

Microeca fascians (Brown Flycatcher)—An odd pair or two met with through the gum country.

Smicrorhis brevirostris viridescens (Greenish Tree Tit)—This bird was heard in the tree tops on one occasion only.

Leucocircia tricolor (Black and White Fantail)—One or two seen in the gum country, and round the Forester's house.

Acanthiza lineata (Southern Striated Tit)—This is one of the most plentiful birds in the Stringy bark country, they are very lively little chaps, and are to be seen at the very tops of the trees searching amongst the leaves, and at other times they are hopping about in the low bushes, and at times even upon the ground, calling to one another nearly all the time.

Malurus cyaneus leggei (Southern Blue Wren)—A few small parties seen at different times but not plentiful.

Pseudarcantopus cyanopterus (Wood Swallow)—One or two seen in the open timbered country.

Colluricincla harmonica victoriæ (Victorian Grey Shrike-Thrush)—The melodious clear call of this useful bird was often heard amidst the big gum country, and at times they were met with as they flew from the ground where they had been searching for insects, grubs, etc.

Grallina cyanoleuca (Magpie Lark)—Two birds were seen out in the open timbered country along the creek.

Gymnorhina hypoleuca leucanota (White-backed Magpie)—A few birds seen at different times, but not numerous.

Xooclinus picumna australis (Southern Brown Treecreeper)—The sharp call note of this bird was often heard as he ascended the tree trunks.

Pardalotinus striatus subaffinis (South Australian Pardalote)—A pair of these birds seen in the gum saplings attracted attention by their familiar call.

Meliphaga lunata adclaidensis (Southern White-naped Honey-eater)—A small party in the tops of the Stringy bark gums calling loudly.

Ptilotula ptilinota whitei (Southern White-plumed Honey-eater)—This is a fairly common bird in the red gum (*Eucalyptus rostrata*) country, and was often seen in small parties searching for food in the saplings.

Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera indistincta (Southern Crescent Honey-eater)—The clear ringing note of this bird was often heard in the thick scrub, and it seems to occasionally visit the pine forest.

Meliornis noronchollandiae subassimilis (South Australian White-bearded Honey-eater)—This widely distributed bird was often met with both in the scrub and open timbered country, it certainly shows a preference for thick scrub when *Banksia* and other feeding trees abound.

Myzantha melanoccephala whitei (Southern Black-headed Minah)—An odd bird or so was met with in the big gum country, they were not plentiful.

Anthochaera chrysoptera intermedia (Brush Wattle Bird)—This bird was heard upon one occasion in the thick scrub, it does not seem to be a common bird.

Bird Notes for June 1920.

Mr. J. Sutton reports from Netherby—June 15th. A Fan-tail Cuckoo (*Cacomantis rubricatus*) seen, but not calling; two Adelaide Rosellas (*Platyceurus elegans adclaidae*) observed.

Mr. J. W. Mellor says—"During the first week in June numbers of Black Swans (*Chenopsis atrata*) in flocks of 15 to 20 seen at the Reedbeds, most likely travelling to their breeding places. Numbers of Teal (*Nettion gibberifrons*) were seen feeding in the swamps. Black ducks (*Anas superciliosa*) were also there, but these birds were in pairs, and small flocks. It will soon be time for them to nest; they are pairing off, and will, no doubt, nest if they get the chance. The Brush Wattle Birds (*Anthochaera chrysoptera intermedia*) are about in the garden at Fulham; they did not leave during the winter. They nested in the orange and lemon trees in the early spring, and, bringing up two or three broods, did not finish breeding till late autumn, two being the number of eggs laid in each case.

Noted several Noisy Minahs (*Myzantha melanoccephala whitei*) at Fulham; they were calling and making their usual loud noise. These birds have nested for some time at Lockleys, and seem to stay there all through the year; they seem to have extended their range to Fulham this year. Noted several Whistling Eagles (*Haliastur sphenurus*) at Lockleys, in the open paddocks and amongst the big gums. A little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*) was seen upon one occasion, flying very swiftly, and occasionally settling in some of the big trees; the small birds made a great fuss at the approach of their enemy. English Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were seen eating the berries of the pepper tree at Fulham; the olives being scarce and just ended.

in all probability has forced these birds to take any food within their reach. Chestnut-eared Finches (*Tacniopygia castaneotis*) are still numerous at Lockleys, sleeping in the old grass nests built in the box-thorn bushes, which they warmly lined with feathers. Screech Owls (*Tyto alba delicatula*) were calling in the trees at night at Lockleys, especially in the early part of the evenings, when they start to go forth for food. Purple-crowned Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*) were about both at Lockleys and at Fulham; the blue gums being now in flower form an attraction for these birds. The Fantailed Cuckoos (*Cacomantis rubricatus*) have been about at Lockleys during the month. The small birds followed the cuckoos from tree to tree, calling loudly and pecking at them."

From Mr. E. Ashby, of Blackwood, in the Mount Lofty Ranges—"On June 11, my son (A. K. Ashby) identified Swift Lorikeet (*Lathamus discolor*) flying over at Blackwood; 6th, three of these birds flying over garden, and later one seen in the flowering blue gums near the house. Same date, Regent Honey-eaters (*Zanthoniza phrygia tregellasi*) calling freely. 20th, saw a score of Red-rumped Parrots (*Psephotus haematonotus*) in one flock just outside my property; Adelaide Rosellas (*P. e. adalaidae*) numerous, and Blue-bellied Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus novae-hollandiae*; still about. 24th—This evening the Stone Plover (*Burhinus magnirostris*) was calling; have not heard them for a long time previously."

From Capt. S. A. White, on the Adelaide plains, at the Reedbeds, June 2—Spiny-cheeked Honey-eaters (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*) calling; also heard the first Fantail Cuckoo (*C. rubricatus*). 20th—Spiny-cheeked Honey-eaters calling. Several Fantailed Cuckoos about, Scarlet-breasted Robin in the garden, numbers of Magpie Larks (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) flying over during the day. Brown Flycatchers (*Microeca fascians*) singing sweetly all day. 25th—Several Swans (*C. atrata*) on the water in the swamps; both Teal and Black Duck plentiful.

BIRD NOTES FOR JULY, 1920.

Capt. S. A. White noted, July 1—Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater (*A. rufogularis*) still at the Reedbeds.

July 2.—Black-chinned Honey-eater (*Melithreptus gularis*) calling loudly and fluttering in flocks.

July 5.—Great numbers of Silver Gulls about.

July 8.—Black-chinned Honey-eater (*M. gularis*; very noisy; several Blue Wrens (*Malurus cyaneus leggii*) in full plumage.

July 10.—Scarlet-breasted Robin (*Petroica multicolor frontalis*) in the garden; Black-chinned Honey-eaters, very noisy, mobbing together in the air, calling loudly, and descending to the ground in a mass; Spiny-cheeked Honey-eaters calling; Fantail Cuckoo calling.

July 17.—Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater calling; also Black-chinned Honey-eater. Many Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes (*Coracina norachollandiae melanops*) about. Harmonious Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*) calling loudly. Bronze Cuckoo (*Lamprolaima plagusus*) calling. Spotted-sided Finch (*Stagonopleura guttata*) giving forth their mournful call. Silver eyes (*Zosterops lateralis westernensis*) searching the fruit trees for insects. Swans flying over, going South, during the afternoon; one or two seen in the swamps during the week.

July 28.—Spiny-cheeked Honey-eaters disappeared. Greater numbers than usual of the Night Heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*) which have been roosting in the pine trees during the day time this year up to this month, when many have left for their breeding rookeries, but some of last year's birds still remain.

Professor J. Burton Cleland, reported that he had examined the stomach of a New Holland Honey-eater (*Melnornis norachollandiae*) which had been picked up under an almond tree in blossom; a fungus growth was found in the wall of the stomach, which caused the bird's death, and that this growth could easily have been caused by these birds taking the germs from the flowers. The Professor heard the Boobook Owl calling on the night of the 25th.

Mr. Zietz (Ornithologist to the S.A. Museum) reported that the nest and two eggs of the large Wattle-bird had been sent in. The Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne taschegrara strenua*) had again been seen on the Torrens (Dr. Morgan having reported it for the same locality a month earlier). The good work done by the Shrike-Tit (*Falcunculus frontatus*) by the destruction of tree galls; some galls were exhibited from a shea-oak tree, each gall being torn open by the means of this bird's powerful bill in search of the grub which forms the gall.

Messrs. E. and K. Ashby reported the first Bronze Cuckoo at Blackwood on the 16th, and on 13th July, twelve Swift Lori-keets were observed flying low. A Boobook owl, which had been under observation for some time, was found shot on 25th July, and the occurrence was reported to the police. Twelve pellets from this bird were collected.

Mr. J. W. Mellor reports from Lockleys, on the Adelaide plains—

July 1.—White-fronted Herons returned to Lockleys, and took up their abode in the large red gums, where they have bred each year for a considerable time past, owing to the protection given them. Within a day or two the birds paired off, and kept to themselves. If another bird came near, harsh, discordant notes were given out, seemingly in protest of such encroachment. Nesting started soon after the arrival of the birds, which selected the topmost limbs and branches of the high gum trees, out of ordinary harm's way, but I am afraid that later in the month the birds had been disturbed by guns being fired in the vicinity one night, presumably by someone after opossums, as these animals were also present. The next night the herons had shifted their quarters to some smaller gum trees close to my house, but here it is not so suitable for nesting, being too near the main road, but it is to be hoped that the scaring of the birds is only temporary, as the spot where they have formerly built and reared their young is ideal. During the night in their new quarters the birds were very agitated, and on one coming near another, sharp snapping of bills could be heard, with the usual angry "kop, kop, kop," and harsh grunting noise made in the throat. During the daytime the herons are numerous in the swamps at the Reedbeds, just east of Henley Beach, where they wade about in the shallow water up to their knees, ever and anon probing their bills into the mud and grass weed to secure some aquatic insect or a frog.

Birds have started to nest early at Lockleys. Noted a Magpie (white-backed) carrying hair to line its nest on July 10. All the month a pair has been particularly pugnacious, swooping down on anything and everything crossing the paddock, the flock of tame turkeys getting their share of the battle, and each time the birds come at them the gobblers all join in an angry chorus, and keep it up for a considerable time, getting more and more agitated each time, and louder in their indignation at being attacked.

On July 17, noted a White-plumed Honey-eater carrying web and bits of fine grass, etc., to construct its nest in a lemon-scented pine near the back door. The nest was well on its way to completion by the end of the month.

The Noisy Minahs are also pairing, and are very noisy and quarrelsome with each other, also with any other bird that comes near them. A pair of them is nesting in a high red

gum. I noted them first carrying nesting material on July 17, and the nest was well on towards completion by July 30.

On July 21, noted a Whistling Eagle at Fulham, flying about the large gum trees.

The Fantail Cuckoo was calling in various localities all the month, and was being chased by smaller birds.

Boobook Owls have been calling at Lockleys, also the Delicate Owls have been very vigorous in their "screeching" in the gums at night.

Noted the Little Falcon about, flying swiftly.

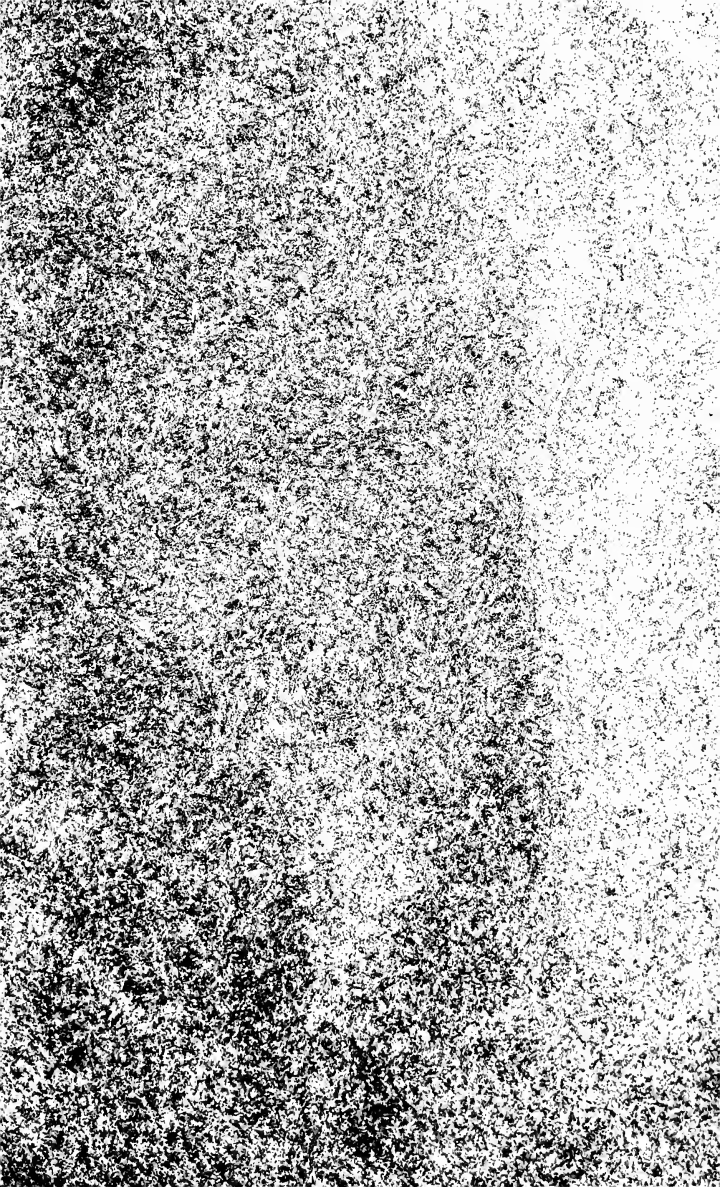
Quite a number of Black Ducks are about the shallow swamps at the Reedbeds, since the 1st of the month, when close season started, and the birds seem to know that they are protected, as they are to be seen quite near the Henley Beach road, sporting in the water, or basking in the sunshine on the edge of the large pools, where food is abundant at this time of the season. They are mating up now, and are often seen in pairs, preparing for nesting.



A few pairs of sordid Wood-swallow are still to be seen at Fulham, they having been about all the season, and apparently intend to prolong their stay for nesting this year.

Zebra Finches are still about at Lockleys and Fulham, feeding in small flocks on the seed of weeds in the gardens.

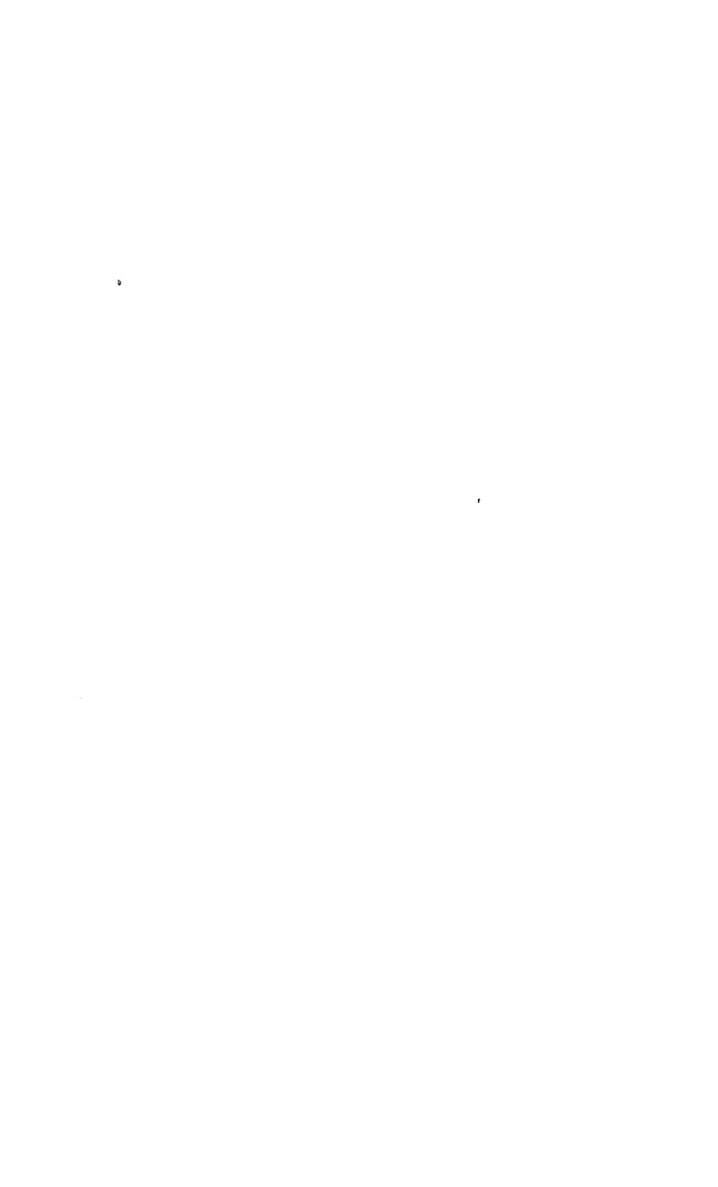
Noted a Nankeen Kestrel hovering near an old hollow tree at Lockleys on July 29, where it usually lays its eggs and rears its young each season; judging by the actions of the bird it seemed to be looking up its old nesting haunt again.

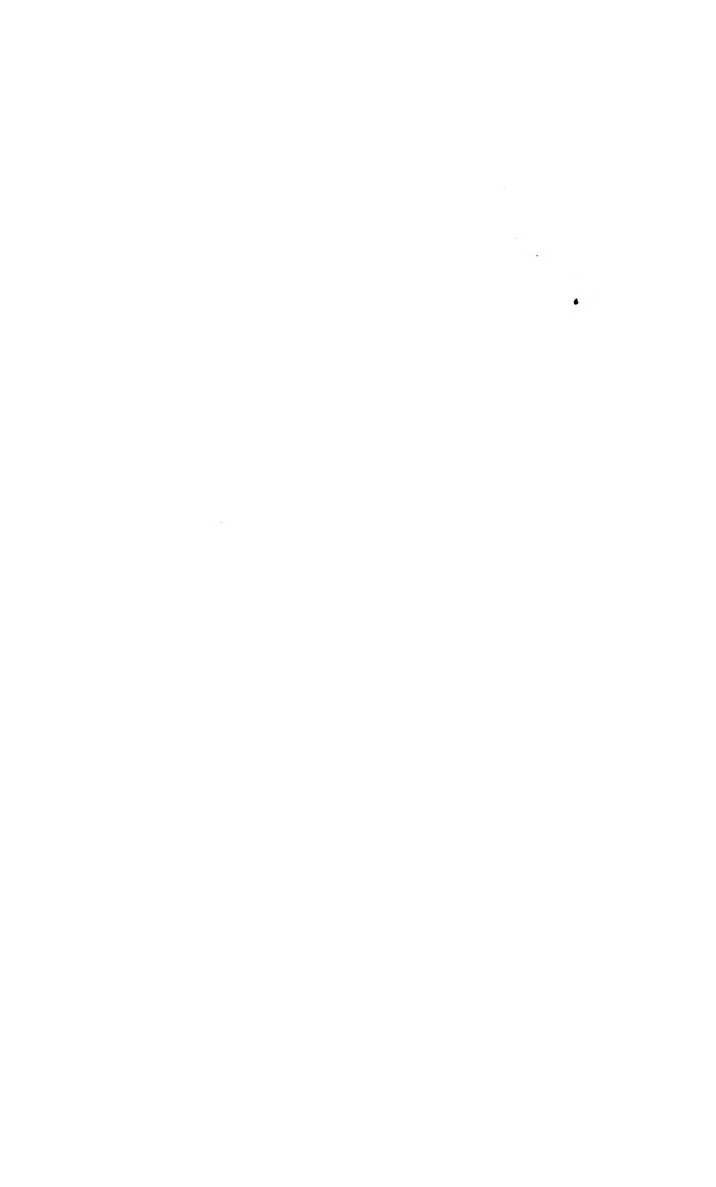






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