

alloc, Victoria, in the early fifties collecting—EDS.] says, what is *hit* is *history*, and what is *missed* is *mystery*."

He might well grow enthusiastic on such an occasion as this :—

"Suddenly a Thrush flew off its nest with a loud cry, and alighted in a tree within easy shot. I glanced at the nest, snapped a cap at the bird with one barrel, and brought her to the ground in a second. I picked her up, expecting to find a Redwing, but was surprised and delighted to find the rare Dark Ouzel. I lost no time in climbing the tree, and had the pleasure of bringing down the nest with five eggs—so far as I know the first authenticated eggs of this species ever taken."

An ornithologist's paradise is thus described—time, midnight, 12th July :—

"We climbed up the steep bank (of the Yenesei) and found ourselves in a wild looking country, full of lakes, swamps, and rivers, dead flat in some places, in others undulating, even hilly. This was the true Siberian tundra, brilliant with flowers, swarming with mosquitos, and *ful of birds*."

There is no naturalist's expedition, however successful, but begets idle regrets. Notwithstanding the mass of material (over 1,000 skins), and the amount of information obtained, the author of the "Birds of Siberia" concludes thus :—

"I now bade adieu to the tundra, with feelings somewhat akin to disappointment and regret. My trip might be considered almost a failure, since I had not succeeded in obtaining eggs either of the Knot, Sanderling, or Curlew Sandpiper. Nevertheless I was glad to turn my face homewards."

About Members.

IT is understood that Mr. A. W. Milligan has been appointed "Honorary Ornithologist" to the Perth Museum.

Amongst the original members and founders of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union are six members of the British Ornithologists' Union, namely :—Mr. J. J. Dalglish (Scotland), Mr. C. W. De Vis (Queensland), Col. Legge (Tasmania), Mr. D. Le Souëf (Victoria), Mr. J. C. M'Lean (New Zealand), and Prof. Newton (England).

Mr. Clarence Smart, with two of his cousins, spent a pleasant fortnight in November, camped on the Gippsland Lakes. Over 100 species of birds were identified, but only six were secured as new for his collection, including the Black-faced or Carinated Fly-catcher and the Sanguineous Honey-eater. Mr. Smart reports that the latter was fairly numerous in some of the dense gullies running down to the Lakes.

The Furneaux Group of Islands was visited in the latter part of November by a party of members, consisting of Dr. C. Ryan, Mr. R. B. Ritchie, Mr. D. Le Souëf, and Mr. C. F. Belcher.

They had an interesting time, and were able to photograph the nests and eggs of several birds, including the Pied and Sooty Oyster-catchers, the Hooded and Red-capped Dottrels, the Pacific and Silver Gulls, also the beautiful rookery of the Australian Gannets and White-breasted Cormorants. They were enabled to see the wonderful flight of the Mutton Birds as they come in after sunset to the nesting holes—a sight to be seen and remembered. They were rather early for some of the sea birds, as the Crested and the White-fronted (Southern) Terns had not commenced laying, and the Silver Gulls (*Larus novæ-hollandiæ*) were only just starting. Caspian Terns had mostly young ones. A few nests of the Brown Quail were found and young ones seen. The Cape Barren Geese were noted on several islands, and a nest found from which the young had only just been hatched, the two pretty little youngsters being caught and let go again. The Gannets had all fresh eggs, having evidently only just commenced laying, and they are later this season than usual. The fish they often disgorged before flying away weighed in some cases three pounds.

Obituary Notice.

GILLESPIE.—On the 7th October, 1901, at his residence, Dartford, Staniland-avenue, Malvern, John T. Gillespie, aged 36 years, late with Alex. Cowan and Sons Limited.

HE who walks with Nature walks close to the great heart of the God of Nature. The late Mr. J. T. Gillespie was a true disciple of Nature—withal a modest and retiring one—with a leaning towards oology. His collection is a valuable one, mostly the result of his own field outings. He had conscientious scruples about mercenary dealings with birds' eggs, and was never known to purchase specimens, much less to sell them, though he did not object to enrich his cabinet by fair exchanges.

Our late naturalist was also an expert amateur photographer, securing at recent inter-State competitions several important prizes. His last prizes were won as lately as June at Sydney, where he secured third award (bronze medal) for a set of lantern slides, and special award (gold medal) for the best single picture in the exhibition, the prize picture being a pair of young Laughing Jackasses artistically posed on a rough-barked piece of stick.

At the age of 16 Mr. Gillespie entered the employment of Messrs. Alex. Cowan and Sons, where, by diligent application to business, he rose to be deputy-manager of the Australian branch, Melbourne.

About 18 months ago Mr. Gillespie showed signs of tuberculosis, which too rapidly wore down his young and useful life,