

Mr. North's "distributions" have been exceedingly carefully recorded, but he has inadvertently omitted Western Australia from the range of so common a bird as *Megalurus gramineus* (Grass-Bird), and New South Wales from the range of *Calamanthus albiloris* (*fuliginosus*).<sup>\*</sup> He has, however, endeavoured to appropriate priority of *Sericornis magnirostris* (Large-billed Scrub-Wren) for Victoria (compare Campbell's "Nests and Eggs," p. 247, 1900). Although *Pomatorhinus ruficeps* (Chestnut-crowned Chatterer) is found in North-Western Victoria, it has never been found south of "The Divide," as Mr. G. A. Kearland's field note indicates. *P. superciliosus* is evidently the species intended. Mr. Kearland, to whom Mr. North must be greatly indebted, has contributed quite a fund of field observations to the "Special Catalogue." Here is a very graphic, if not exciting, one on page 328, which might be entitled "Egg-collecting Under Difficulties." Writing about the Cinnamon-coloured Ground-Thrush (*Cinclosoma cinnamomeum*) of the great interior, Mr. Kearland states:—

"During the journey of the Calvert Exploring Expedition in Western Australia, I took my first clutch of these eggs, under rather peculiar circumstances. I was staying behind collecting, when Mr. C. F. Wells called out that he had discovered a nest of this Ground-Thrush containing two eggs. He offered to mind my camel whilst I waited for the return of the bird. My camel became restive, and Mr. Wells called me to 'Come on.' I secured the eggs; but the nest, which was simply a few acacia leaves placed in a slight depression under a low bush, fell to pieces on being lifted. I wrapped one egg in my handkerchief, and had placed it in the quart-pot on my saddle, when 'Warrior' (the camel) tried to get away. I mounted with the egg in one hand, my gun in the other, and the reins in my teeth. The camel bolted after the caravan, which was about a mile away on the opposite side of a boggy clay-pan. Instead of following the track, he tried a short cut, with the result that he floundered through the mud, and nearly lost his rider, but on nearing the team he became steady, and the eggs were safely packed."

### Notes and Notices.

ANENT "Lighthouses and Bird Observations," and continuing Mr. Superintendent Johnston's reminiscences (from page 64) on King Island, he writes:—"A few years ago numbers of 'Grey Duck' visited us, appearing the end of December and leaving again in March. A peculiarity about these Ducks was that when shot at in the small lagoons they never rose, but fluttered ashore and took to the scrub, consequently a good dog scored against the gun. Early in January 12 of these Duck struck the Cape Wickham lantern as one bird. The keeper on watch got 8 on the balcony and 4 more were picked up at the base of the tower in the morning. Of late years they have been very scarce."

<sup>\*</sup> Rec. Aust. Mus., vol. iii., p. 14 (1897).

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB.—Lovers of nature and field students will hail with satisfaction the formation of a Field Naturalists' Association at Hobart. In all Australia where could be found a better and more beautiful collecting and observing ground than the environments of Mt. Wellington? The objects of the Club are the encouragement of the study of nature, and the collection, preservation, and systematic classification of specimens, to be promoted by periodical meetings and excursions, the formation of a library, and the publication of papers and proceedings when deemed advisable. The office-bearers for the year are:—Chairman, Dr. Gerald Smith; vice-chairman, Mr. Samuel Clemes; secretary and treasurer, Mr. E. A. Elliott; committee: Messrs. E. S. Anthony, A. Conlon, M. W. Harrison, A. M. Lee, A. Morton, and J. E. Smith.

### Coloured Figure Fund.

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### Bird Preservation in New Zealand.

AT the Sydney session of the A.O.U. Colonel Legge referred to the interest taken by members of the Union in bird preservation, and spoke of the lamentable extinction of interesting birds in New Zealand, such as the *Notornis*, the Quail (*Coturnix novæ-zealandiæ*), the Macquarie Island Rail, one of the *Cyanorhamphus* genus of Parrakeets, &c., &c.

He alluded to the praiseworthy efforts of the New Zealand Government to preserve other interesting endemic forms, such as *Apteryx*, *Ocydromus*, &c., in the "bird sanctuaries" of Resolution Island and Little Barrier Island.

The subject of the further preservation of these restricted New Zealand forms was dealt with by the Committee of the Biological Section, A.A.A.S., under Colonel Legge's presidency, and as the result he took the opportunity, when in Wellington, of officially addressing Sir Joseph Ward, in whose department the subject of bird preservation is dealt with, on the preservation of the very interesting "Flightless Rail" of the Chatham Islands (*Cobalus modestus*), which has become almost extinct from several causes—clearing of low scrub, destruction of the rough pasturage by sheep, and finally by the ruthless onslaught of the fast-