

nomenclature is just as great in zoology (and botany) as in chromatography; and to ignore this necessity is neither scientific nor sensible, but on the other hand is nothing less than suppression or perversion of an obvious truth. The only question that can possibly exist in the mind of those who have this matter to deal with is the degree of difference which should be recognized in nomenclature, and in this respect there is excuse for more or less difference of opinion, according to one's ability to discern differences and estimate the degree of their constancy, the extent and character of material studied, and the amount of time which has been devoted to its investigation. No doubt many of the forms which the author has recognized as sub-species in the present work may appear trivial to others, especially those who have not had advantage of the material upon which they are based; but in all cases it has been the author's desire to express exactly the facts as they appear to him in the light of the evidence examined, without any regard whatever to preconceived ideas, either of his own or of others, and without consideration of the inconvenience which may result to those who are inclined to resent innovations, forgetful of the fact that knowledge cannot be complete until all is known. This question of species and sub-species and their nice discrimination is not the trivial matter that some who claim a broader view of biological science affect to believe. It is the very foundation of more advanced scientific work; and without secure foundation no architect, however skilful, can rear a structure that will endure."

Australasian Ornithologists' Union.

ROUGH MINUTES OF 32ND MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE A.O.U.,
HELD AT THE RESIDENCE OF DR. C. S. RYAN, 37 COLLINS-STREET,
17TH AUGUST, 1905.

Correspondence was received from the following:—

The Hon. the Premier of Tasmania, stating that he was in communication with the Hon. the Premier of New Zealand with a view to co-operating with regard to the protection of Penguins at Macquarie and other islands south of New Zealand, as desired by the Council of the A.O.U.

The President of the Marine Board of South Australia wrote stating that he would have pleasure in meeting the desire of the Council of the A.O.U. as far as possible, in that they would place the steamer *Governor Musgrave* at the disposal of the Council and members of the A.O.U. attending the Annual Session, and would convey them to the "camp-out" at Kangaroo Island, at the same time pointing out that the steamer did not usually visit Kangaroo Island until December, but that they would arrange to make their trip fit in with the time of the Session programme. He also enclosed a plan of Kangaroo Island.

Mr. J. W. Mellor also wrote, informing the hon. sec. that he had ascertained that Middle River would be the most advantageous site for the camp-out, both as regard the suitability for landing and the study of the avifauna of the island.

The president, Captain Hutton, F.R.S., wrote from England, stating that he had unfortunately been unable to attend the first meeting of the International Ornithological Congress held in England, but had attended the second meeting, and found that Mr. F. M. Littler, F.E.S.,

who had been appointed co-delegate, had been representing the Union, and he (Captain Hutton) had thought it best to leave the representation in his hands.

A communication was read from Mr. A. G. Campbell relative to his "Dichotomous Key," in which he stated that the Key would cover about 40 pages of *The Emu*. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to print the Key as a supplement to *The Emu*.

The hon. sec. pointed out the desirability of having the Union's journal copyrighted so as to include the copyright of the "Dichotomous Key," which matter was left to the hon. editors.

Letters were read and dealt with from the following:—F. M. Littler, W. Pidsley, A. Fowler, L. Harrison, T. W. Richards, A. Crossman, C. F. Belcher, and the Director Field Columbian Museum, Chicago.

The following new members were duly enrolled:—L. Harrison, Sydney; F. K. Calder, Fremantle; E. Brooke Nicholls and C. P. Kinane, Melbourne.

Mr. Robert Hall, F.L.S., C.M.Z.S., at the desire of the Council, kindly consented to give his lecture "A Naturalist's Tour in Siberia and the East," at the forthcoming Annual Session in Adelaide.

It was decided that in the event of the president, Captain Hutton, F.R.S., being unable to write a presidential address, owing to his absence in Europe, the task would therefore devolve upon one of the vice-presidents, and that Dr. Charles Ryan be asked to be good enough to assist the Council by preparing an address.

South Australian Ornithological Association.

THE bi-monthly meeting of the South Australian Ornithological Association was held at Dr. A. M. Morgan's residence, Adelaide, on Friday evening, 7th July, 1905. Mr. F. R. Zietz presided over a good attendance.

Mr. J. W. Mellor reported that the Australasian Ornithologists' Union Congress would meet in Adelaide during October, and that it was the intention of the Union to hold an excursion to Kangaroo Island. It was resolved to assist the Union in every way to make the Congress a success.

Mr. F. R. Zietz read some interesting notes upon the crossing of various species of Australian Finches in England, resulting in some curious hybrids.

Mr. J. W. Mellor drew the attention of the members to the fact of a second Moa's egg having been found in New Zealand recently, the first specimen having been unearthed forty years ago. It was sold for £100.

The chief business of the evening consisted of the examination and discussion of the Honey-eater genus *Melithreptus*. Mr. A. H. C. Zietz, F.L.S., showed specimens of nearly all the species found in Australia, and gave some interesting notes upon them, especially in reference to a new species found recently by Mr. F. R. Zietz on Kangaroo Island, and which had been described by Mr. A. J. North, of the Sydney Museum, and designated the Long-billed Honey-eater (*M. magnirostris*), its nearest ally being the Brown-headed Honey-eater (*M. brevirostris*). Mr. Zietz also showed a pair of Chestnut-bellied Quail (*Excalfactoria lineata*), got at Dismal Gully, near Victor Harbour, S.A., and a specimen of the Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola orientalis*) from Milang, S.A. Mr. J. W. Mellor exhibited a specimen of