

the Red-eyed Honey-eater (*Melithreptus lunulatus*) and the cup-shaped pendent nest of the Black-throated Honey-eater (*M. gularis*), and a specimen of the Blue Kingfisher (*Alcyon azurea*). He also reported that quite a number of native birds, not regularly seen, had this season put in an appearance at the Reed-Beds, near Adelaide, and were enjoying the strict protection accorded them by the residents generally, notably large numbers of the Magpie-Larks (*Grallina picata*), Dusky Wood-Swallows (*Artamus sordidus*), Yellow-rumped Diamond-Birds (*Pardalotus xanthopygius*), Mistletoe-Birds (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*), Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes (*Graucalus melanops*), Varied Cuckoo-Shrikes (*G. mentalis*), and the Flame-breasted Robin (*Petræca phænicea*) had not long since returned from Tasmania, while the Tree Martin (*Petrochelidon nigricans*), through being protected and given places wherein to keep snug in winter, had remained in the district all the year round. Honey-eaters were also numerous in varied species, some of which had not been seen for several years past. Mr. F. R. Zietz showed a number of sternum bones of rare birds. Dr. Morgan exhibited oological specimens, notably the eggs of several of the Melithrepti, and also a bright blue Kingfisher from the Philippine Islands. Captain S. A. White reported that numbers of Whistling Eagles (*Haliastur sphenurus*) and Striped Brown Hawks (*Hieracidea berigora*) had lately taken up their abode on his property at the Reed-Beds, and were proving highly beneficial in killing young rabbits—a fact that should afford them protection from being ruthlessly shot and killed. Captain White also pointed out the absence of the Land Rail (*Hypotaenidia philippinensis*) this year, and as a consequence caterpillars and wire-worms were extremely plentiful, ravaging the vegetable crops.

### Bird Observers' Club.

THE third meeting of the Club was held on the 14th June, at the residence of Mr. A. J. Campbell, Armadale. About a dozen members were present, Mr. Campbell being voted to the chair. Miss H. Bowie, Dr. C. S. Ryan, Dr. G. Horne, and Mr. E. Scott were elected members. The figure of the male Blue Wren was adopted as the emblem of the Club. The following papers were read and discussed:—"Notes from Kyabram," by C. F. Belcher; "Note on White-bellied Storm-Petrel," by G. E. Shepherd; "A Moorland Pool," by C. L. Barrett. Mr. Robt. Hall made some interesting remarks on rare skins, which he exhibited, while Mr. A. G. Campbell illustrated his "Dichotomous Key" by the genera *Strepera* and *Melithreptus*.

The fourth meeting of the B.O.C., which took the form of dinner at Oxford Chambers, Melbourne, was held on the 19th July. After dinner there was the usual monthly meeting, Mr. D. Le Souëf occupying the chair. Mr. Fred. Linacre was elected a member. A table of field excursions was arranged. The papers read were:—"Pardalotes Nesting," illustrated by photographs, by C. P. Kinane; "Fruit-eating Birds," by A. G. Campbell; and "A Day at the You Yangs," by F. P. Godfrey. Mr. A. G. Campbell exhibited a series of Pardalote skins, and Mr. F. P. Godfrey a nest of the White-bearded Honey-eater taken at midwinter (July).

The usual monthly meeting (fifth) took place at the residence of Mr. Donald Macdonald, Balaclava, on the 23rd August. Through the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald, fourteen members sat down to

dinner. At the meeting afterwards the host was voted to the chair. After discussion it was resolved to limit the twenty-five memberships for the present to gentlemen, but lady associates would be admitted up to the number of five. The following papers were read and discussed:—"A Trip to the West," by E. B. Nicholls; "A Trip to Gembrook," by E. J. Christian; "On the Ejectment of Young by the Cuckoo," by A. Mattingley. Mr. C. L. Barrett exhibited two types of Scrub-Wrens' eggs, Mr. A. G. Campbell skins of various Acanthizas, while the host showed numbers of interesting trophies obtained during his trying experiences in the memorable siege of Ladysmith, notably a portion of a dark "mealy" loaf—his last day's ration served in the beleaguered city.

### Notes and Notices.

"A Dichotomous Key to the Birds of Australia" is issued as a "Supplement" to this number of *The Emu*. Any members requiring extra copies of the "Supplement" may have them at one shilling each (postage extra) on application to the hon. sec. of the A.O.U.

A conference, representing New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, was held in Melbourne recently to deal with the question of the Murray River fisheries. Amongst resolutions agreed to was the following:—"That it be recommended that action be taken by each of the States with a view to the destruction of Shags, Pelicans, and turtles in inland waters."

At a meeting of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria held 14th August, 1905, Mr. H. J. Coles stated that during the past few weeks seventeen Grass-Owls (*Strix candida*) had been forwarded to him from various localities. Fifteen of the birds had been picked up dead, and were in very poor condition.

In connection with the next (Adelaide) Annual Session of the A.O.U., the hon. sec., Mr. A. E. Mattingley (address, Custom-House, Melbourne) has issued the following circular:—

"The fifth Annual Congress of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union will be held in Adelaide from 11th to 13th of October, and the Council would be glad if as many members as possible were to attend. Thereafter (on the 14th October) will be a 'working excursion' to and 'camp-out' at Kangaroo Island, for about 10 days. Those who intend to camp will need to bring blankets and eating utensils; other necessities will be supplied. Members leaving Melbourne by evening express on the 10th October can obtain a return ticket through the hon. secretary at the cost of £2 5s. It is the intention of the President of the Marine Board of South Australia to place the steamer *Governor Musgrave*, which will be visiting Kangaroo Island, at the disposal of members who intend camping out. The total cost of the 'camp-out' will therefore be about £1 or £1 5s. The hon. secretary would be glad to know if you will be able to attend, and the title of the paper, if any, you desire to contribute to the Congress."