

district over 30 years ago, when several new species were discovered. These birds were described and named by John Gould. Mr. J. W. Mellor reported that the Australasian Ornithologists' Union would be holding its annual congress this year in Adelaide, from 11th to 13th October, and following this a working camp-out on Kangaroo Island was being arranged. It was unanimously agreed to assist the Union in every way to make the congress a success. The Wrens and small Grass-Parrakeets were the birds under discussion for the evening, and interesting facts were noted. Mr. E. Ashby showed specimens of the Variegated Wren (*Malurus lamberti*), from New South Wales, Chestnut-shouldered Wren (*M. assimilis*), South Australia, and the Blue-breasted Wren (*M. pulcherrimus*), Western Australia, all of which displayed a somewhat similar form of markings. Mr. A. H. C. Zietz exhibited the Lovely Wren (*M. amabilis*) and a collection of the little Grass-Parrakeets, notably the Elegant (*Neophema elegans*), the Orange-bellied (*N. chrysogastra*), the Blue-winged (*N. venusta*), Pink-bellied (*N. bourkei*), and the Rock (*N. petrophila*). Capt. S. A. White showed specimens of the Rock-Parrakeet and the Varied Parrakeet (*Psephotus multicolor*), the last-named having been plentiful on Yorke Peninsula until the introduction of poisoned wheat for the Sparrows and rabbits.

Bird Observers' Club.

At the joint invitation of the hon. secretary (Mr. F. P. Godfrey) and Mr. Robert Hall, F.L.S., the sixth meeting of the above-mentioned Club was held at Oxford Chambers, Melbourne, on the evening of Wednesday, 30th September. Ten members and one lady associate were present. The existing "game laws" were criticised, and the hon. secretary was directed to communicate with Mr. C. W. Maclean, Chief Inspector of Fisheries, offering the Club's support in carrying out the same. The following papers were read and discussed:—By Mr. A. G. Campbell, on "The Gembrook Trip"; by Mr. E. J. Christian, "The You Yangs Trip." Mr. A. G. Campbell exhibited a series of Larks' skins; Mr. Robt. Hall, photos., &c., and a curious nest of a Restless Fly-catcher; and the hon. secretary a Brown Hawk. Supper was then served, and a vote of thanks to the chairman (Mr. Robert Hall) brought the meeting to a close.

The seventh meeting of the Club was held at the residence of Dr. George Horne, Clifton Hill, on Wednesday, 29th November, at 8 p.m. Ten members and two associates, besides a number of visitors, were present, the host occupying the chair. Mr. Frank Nicholls was elected a member. The only paper read was by Messrs. G. F. Howe and J. A. Ross, entitled "A Whittlesea Outing." Mr. A. G. Campbell exhibited and explained a number of Kangaroo Island birds, some of which were distinctly links between eastern and western forms. Mr. G. E. Shepherd spoke on the nesting habits of the birds of Mornington Peninsula. Mr. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., mentioned that Quails have been found breeding near Melbourne this season, and exhibited young of Stubble Quail hatched at the Zoological Gardens. Mr. Robt. Hall, F.L.S., commented on the plumage of the Blue Wrens in Miss Bowie's aviaries, a nest of young being exhibited as an illustration. After refreshments a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Dr. and Mrs. Horne and Miss Bowie.

Notes and Notices.

BIRD PROTECTION.—At the last meeting (11th December) of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria attention was drawn to the proposed excursion, per *Coogee*, to Western Port, Wilson's

Promontory, and some of the islands in Bass Strait. A fear was expressed that the concession to tourists to enter the reserve on the Promontory, which had with difficulty been obtained for the preservation of native fauna and flora, would furnish an opportunity for the destruction of native game. Amongst birds, Black Swans were mentioned, and instances cited that in other places wholesale shooting or deportation of live birds, which, during the moulting season, are virtually helpless, had been carried on to such an extent that these birds were virtually extinct. The meeting agreed unanimously that the Minister be asked to have the close season for Swans extended so as to cover the time during which the birds are moulting.

MR. Ed. Degen has recently left England for Uganda, in company with Prof. Minchin's mission for the further investigation of the "sleeping sickness," which appears to be making great havoc among the natives in certain parts of the Protectorate. He will collect specimens for the British Museum.—*The Ibis* (April).

NATIVE BIRDS PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Central Queensland Native Birds Protection Association was held at the Belmore Arms Hotel, Rockhampton, on 28th October. There were present:—Messrs. G. H. Coar (in the chair), F. Futter, R. G. M'Dowall, H. Moran, H. A. Chippendall, W. D. Wentworth, P. Somerset, J. Anderson, H. Lennon, and A. F. Kent (secretary). It was resolved to make every effort to stop shooting during the close season, which would commence on 1st November. All members promised to report any instances that came under their notice, and to make it their business to put down illegal shooting in every way possible. It was decided to make application to the police for instructions to be given to the officers in charge of country districts to enforce the regulations of the *Native Birds Protection Act*. Posters were ordered to be printed and issued to all State schools and country police stations, giving the names of all birds protected during the close season and those protected always. Two new members were elected.—*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton.

MR. Edgar F. Stead, as representing New Zealand, has been elected by the Council of the A.O.U. to take the place of the late Capt. Hutton on the Council.

"DICHOTOMOUS KEY TO THE BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA."—As the supply of extra copies is now somewhat limited, in future the price will be two shillings (postage extra) per copy. Applications for same may be made to the hon. secretary A.O.U.

COLOURED FIGURE FUND.—Reference to the balance-sheet will show that this fund is at low ebb. The loss on the

popular lecture during the Sydney session has been regained by Mr. Robt. Hall's lecture at the Adelaide. The hon. treasurer Mr. F. P. Godfrey) desires to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the fund:—Miss M. Brumby, 5s.; Admiral Bridges, 6s.; Dr. E. A. D'Ombrian, 5s.; Mr. G. Graham, 5s.; Mr. J. S. Gray, 20s.; Mr. E. J. Howard, 12s.; Mr. T. Iredale, 10s. 6d.; Mr. A. F. Smith, 5s.; Mr. Thos. Tindale, 5s.

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BIG GUN FIRING AND BIRD DESTRUCTION.—The following complaint by "Incubator" appeared in *The Argus* of the 23/11/05:—"On Saturday last I had 100 duck eggs in an incubator; 15 came out, all the rest were tapping and ready. A big gun was fired at Williamstown, causing sudden death to all the tappers. Could not this waste of ammunition be postponed until the season is over, say, end of February?" If the concussion causes such havoc amongst domestic fowls, how will the native birds that breed in the neighbourhood of the coast fare?

Publications Received.

Auk, The, XXII., Nos. 3 and 4, July–Oct., 1905.

Avicultural Magazine, The, N.S., Nos. 7–12, May–Oct., 1905.

Bayern, Ornithologische Gesellschaft in, Verhandlungen, IV., 1903.

Bird-Lore, VII., Nos. 3–5, May–Oct., 1905.

Condor, The, VII., Nos. 3–5, May–Oct., 1905.

Fourth International Congress of Ornithologists, 1905. (Cambridge University Press.) Pamphlets:—(1) Effects of Insularity (H. Gadow); (2) Leguat's Giant Bird (Alfred Newton); (2) Books, &c., exhibited by permission of committee.

Geelong Naturalist, The, Second Series, II., No. 1, Sept., 1905.

Linnean Society of N.S.W., Proceedings, XXX., Parts 1, 2 (with Supplement).

München, Ornithologischer Verein, Jahresbericht, III., 1901–2.

Oberholser, Harry C., Birds Collected by Dr. W. L. Abbot in the Kilimanjaro Region, East Africa. (Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., No. 1,411, pp. 823–936.)

Ornithologisches Jahrbuch, XV., Nos. 1–6, Jan.–Dec., 1904, and XVI., Nos. 1–4, Jan.–Aug., 1905.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. Close Seasons for Game in the United States and Canada, 1905.

Zoologist, The, Fourth Series, IX., Nos. 101–104, May–Aug., 1905.