

The book is finely printed, and is creditable alike to author and publishers. It is one of the best examples of a class of work which is becoming increasingly popular in Great Britain.

The author states in his preface that the work represents an attempt to give an historical and distributional account of the vertebrate inhabitants of Cheshire. The natural boundary of the county encloses many square miles of marsh land politically belonging to another county, and the sea area is extended beyond the actual territorial waters. The author has wisely chosen geographical rather than political boundaries. Cheshire is a maritime county in the north-west of England, comprising about 1,028 square miles; and four-fifths of the total surface is occupied by a fertile plain, of a slightly undulating character. There is a tract of high land, however, and the country is blessed with pleasant streams and small lakes or meres. Evidently a good observing ground for the ornithologist.

About two-thirds of the volume is devoted to bird-life. Two hundred and thirty-one species are said to occur, which, compared with other English counties, is poor. Of special interest are the author's remarks on bird protection. Despite the fact that the existing regulations are violated by game preservers and game-keepers, the acts and orders are fortunately contributing to an increase in the numbers of certain species. The section dealing with migration makes interesting reading, even for an Australian ornithologist. To the British student of bird-life the whole work should prove invaluable.

Bird Observers' Club.

THE June meeting of the Club was held at the residence of Mr. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., Royal Park. Dr. Chas. Ryan and Mr. Le Souëf were joint hosts, and at their invitation about 15 members assembled for dinner. At the meeting Mr. Le Souëf presided. Mr. H. W. Wilson reported that matters in connection with the Gould League of Bird Lovers were progressing favourably. The hon. secretary called attention to the action taken in England regarding bird protection and the plume trade. Messrs. Le Souëf, Mattingley, and Nicholls and Dr. Bryant took part in the discussion which followed. It was suggested that one way of checking the plume trade would be by making it an offence to wear the plumes of protected birds. Dr. Bryant said that the Game Association of Victoria was in sympathy with the bird protection movement, and that sportsmen who offended against the game laws were made to regret it if discovered. It was resolved that Messrs. A. H. E. Mattingley, A. J. Campbell, and the hon. secretary form a sub-committee to deal with the matter and consult with Major Semmens. The hon. secretary was instructed to inform the Prime Minister (Mr. Fisher) that the club supported the action being taken by the British authorities. After the formal business had been disposed of, the remainder of the evening was devoted to inspecting photographs of Australian birds exhibited by members. Nearly 200 prints were displayed, the majority by Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley. Other exhibitors were Messrs. D. Le Souëf, A. J. Camp-

bell, T. H. Tregellas, E. B. Nicholls, and the hon. secretary. A vote of thanks for their hospitality was accorded Dr. Ryan and Mr. Le Souëf.

The July meeting of the Club was held at the residence of Surgeon-General Williams, Prahran, the host presiding. Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley reported, in regard to the action taken in England to afford fuller protection to bird-life and place checks on the plume trade, that Major Semmens had been consulted and had promised the support of his department in any efforts made by the club. The hon. secretary read a communication from the Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, received in reply to a letter sent to the Prime Minister asking that the Federal Government support the action of the British authorities in the matter of bird protection. Mr. Atlee Hunt stated, *inter alia*, that the destruction in the Territory of Papua of Birds-of-Paradise, Goura Pigeons, Ospreys, and White or Lesser Herons had been prohibited by a proclamation published in the *Government Gazette* on 31st October, 1908. As regarded the prevention of the destruction of birds in Australia, that was a matter for the various State Governments. The letter was received. Mr. H. W. Wilson reported that the Gould League of Bird Lovers was progressing satisfactorily. About 18,000 certificates had been distributed, and the finances were in a sound state. It was decided that efforts be made to promote branches of the League in other States. Mr. Wilson was thanked for his valuable services to the League. It was decided that Bird Day be celebrated in Victoria on 28th October, 1910.

The chairman related some interesting observations of the behaviour of the Indian Minah in his garden. Mr. T. H. Tregellas read a paper on Australian song birds. He compared several familiar species with the European Skylark, Blackbird, Thrush, and Goldfinch, and praised the native songsters highly. The chairman and Messrs. A. J. Campbell, A. H. E. Mattingley, Dr. Bryant, and others took part in the discussion. It was mentioned that the Skylark had become a nuisance as a seed-eater in New Zealand. Dr. Bryant gave some reminiscences of early days in Gippsland, and spoke of the medley of bird song he had been wont to hear in the incult bush. Mr. J. A. Leach quoted John Gould and Alfred Russel Wallace in praise of the Magpie's minstrelsy. Interesting bird notes were contributed by Messrs. F. E. Wilson (*re* Emu eggs being broken by stock-riders), C. F. Cole, L. G. Chandler, and the hon. secretary (dates of arrival of the Fan-tailed Cuckoo, *C. flabelliformis*), and A. H. E. Mattingley (Starlings, Minahs, and Java Doves eating larvæ of the cockchafer beetle). Exhibits.—Mr. L. G. Chandler, skin of Mountain-Thrush (*G. lunulata*); Mr. A. J. Campbell, skins of *Climacteris melanura* and other species from North-West Australia, exhibited on behalf of Mr. H. L. White, Belltrees (N.S.W.); Surgeon-General Williams, mounted specimens of the Rifle-Bird and Birds-of-Paradise (? sp.) from German New Guinea.

South Australian Ornithological Association.

THE monthly meeting of this Association was held at the rooms of Dr. R. H. Pulleine, Adelaide, on the 3rd August, Dr. Pulleine presiding. The hon. secretary reported upon the progress of the movement to place the Mallee-Fowl on the National Reserve on Kangaroo Island, and having received the donation from the Government of