

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

£10 towards defraying the expenses. Financial support was also forthcoming from Sir S. J. Way and Mr. Michael Hawker, in addition to names previously mentioned. Dr. A. M. Morgan read a letter from Dr. J. B. Cleland, of Sydney, with reference to parasites in and upon birds, and requesting that specimens should be sent to him for examination and classification. Mr. M. Symonds Clark brought before the members a copy of a letter received by the Commissioner of Crown Lands from the secretary of the Victorian Gun Clubs Association, asking that South Australia should come into line with the other States in connection with the close season for Ducks and other game, which does not end until the last day of January. It was resolved to support the request. Captain S. A. White reported that the next congress of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union would be held this year in Brisbane, the delegates leaving this State on 29th September. Following the general business meetings, a working excursion was to be conducted amongst some of the islands in the Great Barrier Reef in the Government steamer *Fitzroy*.

SAVE THE PELICAN.—The subject of the evening was the protection of the Pelican, which has lately been placed on the unprotected list. Captain White read a paper in support of the protection of this most peculiar native bird, which, if not soon given a close season, may become extinct. He pointed out a precedent in America, where they erroneously thought that this bird was responsible for the decrease in fish supplies, and when the birds were all but exterminated. Mr. J. W. Mellor supported the protective policy, and gave evidence of the large flocks of these birds seen on the Coorong and on Lakes Alexandrina and Albert in the seventies, and upon visiting these localities about twenty years later they had been reduced to a few birds, and were now getting more scarce in these localities. The hon. secretary read a number of letters from experts in the other States who had sent in notes upon the Pelicans, and the majority were in favour of protecting the bird, pointing out that, although it did eat fish, it was not through this source that the scarcity arose. A weighty letter was read from Mr. Frank Farnell, the chairman of the New South Wales National Park Trust, who has made the breeding of fish a lifelong study, and gone to great expense in hatching fish to supply the inland waters with fresh inhabitants. He stated that the Pelican was totally protected in New South Wales for fear that the species would become extinct, and in his opinion the destruction worked by the birds amongst fish was infinitesimal compared with other sources of destruction.

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### Notes and Notices.

A NEW AUSTRALIAN PARROT.—Dr. Van Oort, in *Notes Leyd. Mus.*, xxxii., p. 71, has described a sub-species of *Psephotus chrysoterygius* as *P. blaauw* from living birds in Mr. Blaauw's aviaries. They were originally from Northern Australia.

A BLACK SWAN'S NEST.—Mr. H. V. Edwards, Bega (N.S.W.), found and photographed an autumnal Black Swan's nest in a salt lake on 10th May last. It was about 3 feet in diameter and about 18 inches above water, and contained seven eggs, fairly well incubated.