

£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.

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS. — Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, F.L.S., M.B.O.U., &c., official representative of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union at the Berlin Congress, 1910, reports that he and other delegates received every attention, and left the German capital with regret. The papers, &c., read at the Congress will be published in one volume.

AN EXPLANATION.—In reference to the finding of a Bronze-Cuckoo's egg with a clutch of Pardalote's, mentioned in *Emu*, vol. x., p. 49, Mr. H. L. White explains that Mr. H. Keane, of Supper-street, Marrickville, Sydney, sent him the clutch, and to Mr. Keane belongs the credit of finding the "curious clutch," which was taken at Flemington, near Sydney, on the 23rd October, 1908.

COLOURED FIGURE FUND.—The hon. treasurer wishes to acknowledge receipt of contributions to the Coloured Figure Fund made during the year which ended 30th June last, as follow:—E. D. Barnard (Q.), 4s.; F. L. Bernie (Q.), 5s.; E. J. Christian (V.), 4s. 6d.; H. W. Ford (V.), 2s. 6d.; G. Graham (V.), 5s.; W. Lawford (V.), 10s.; Col. Legge (T.), 5s.; A. Mattingley (V.), £1; S. Morrison (V.), £1 10s.; A. W. Swindells (T.), 5s.; Thos. Tindall (V.), 5s. In addition to these amounts, Mr. H. L. White contributed £16 18s. 1d. for some of the illustrations in Parts 2 and 3 and all the illustrations in Part 4 of Vol. IX.

TRINOMIALS *v.* BINOMIALS.—In the late Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe's last work, "Handlist of Birds," vol. v., he pronounces this prophetic warning:—"Some exception has been taken to my recognition as species of all the forms described as sub-species or races with trinomial names. My views on this subject have often been stated, and as for trinomials I look upon the system as destructive. I consider that the burden imposed upon zoologists who follow this method for the naming of their specimens will become too heavy, and that the system will fall by its own weight. That races or sub-species of birds exist in nature no one can deny; but, to my mind, a binomial title answers every purpose."

A DEATH TRAP.—We are indebted to Mr. A. S. Le Souëf, of Sydney, for the following note:—"Mr. H. K. Anderson gives some interesting notes on a death trap for Swans and Pelicans in the Northern Territory. This is Lake Buchannon, 80 miles from Pentland. During the wet season the lake fills up, and thousands of water birds resort there for breeding purposes, including immense numbers of Black Swans and Pelicans; but it is only in exceptional seasons that any of the latter get away alive, for the lake gradually dries up as the summer comes on, and, as there is no outlet, becomes very salt, and all the Cygnets and young Pelicans, and all the fish which have come down from the creeks, die, and the place is a mass of decaying animal matter. Most of the old birds die too, for they will not leave the young, and gradually get weak and ill from the increasing salinity of the water, and, if they would, are unable to get away."