

Obituary Notice.

MR. Kendall Broadbent died on the 16th January last at his residence, Stoneleigh-street, Albion, at the age of 73 years. Mr. Broadbent was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1837. He arrived in Victoria some 58 years ago, and was first engaged with his father in contracting work. Relinquishing this, however, Mr. Broadbent turned his attention to ornithology, and he was recognized as an authority on the Australian avifauna. For the last 30 years he had been attached to the Queensland Museum staff as collector and taxidermist. He visited New Guinea as a member of the Stone expedition about 38 years ago, contracting fever, which practically never left him. On one occasion he suffered shipwreck near Hinchinbrook Island, suffering severe privations. The Queensland Museum has lost a tried and trusty friend, a naturalist of no mean order, and one who will be sorely missed and difficult to replace. Out of respect to his memory the institution was closed on the day of the funeral. Mr. C. W. De Vis, the former Curator, writes:—"It would be difficult to find Mr. Broadbent's superior, even at 60 years of age. He had every qualification for the work, was only happy in exercising it; he was thoroughly honourable and intensely loyal to his friends. I miss him very much, and shall always hold his memory in deep respect and with affection."

Members of the R.A.O.U. who visited Brisbane during the annual session last year will recollect Mr. Broadbent's kind and courteous bearing when showing the visitors through and explaining the ornithological collections. They little guessed that was to be the last function of the kind he would attend.

The late veteran collector has traversed the whole of Eastern Australia and Tasmania, besides making several visits to New Guinea. His principal trips and the dates thereof are:—Portland Bay (1858), Gippsland (1862), Brisbane Scrubs (1864), Darling Downs (1865), Cardwell and *Maria* Expedition to New Guinea (1873), Cape York, Gulf of Carpentaria, and New Guinea (1874-5), Cairns and New Guinea (1878-9), Tasmania and South Australia (1879-80), five trips to Cardwell (between 1880 and 1889),* Charleville (1883), Cape York and Gulf of Carpentaria (1883-4), Barcardine and Central Queensland (1887), and Bellenden-Ker Range (1889).

South Australian Ornithological Association.

THE annual meeting of the above-mentioned Association was held at the rooms of Dr. R. H. Pulleine, Adelaide, on the evening of 31st March, Captain S. A. White presiding. There was a good attendance.

* "Birds of Cardwell and Herbert River Districts (N.Q.)" published in *The Emu*, vol. x., pp. 233-245, comprises the field observations of the last trip, and for that reason, perhaps, the value of the contribution is now enhanced.

The hon. secretary, Mr. J. W. Mellor, read the twelfth annual report, which showed that during the year one of the members, Mr. A. G. Edquist, had been most energetic in working up a Gould League for the protection of birds, and that 135 public schools in that State had formed clubs, with a membership of 5,000 children, all pledged to study and protect native birds. A regrettable action during the year was the placing of the Pelican on the totally unprotected list, and a strong protest was being made to the Commissioner of Crown Lands by various scientific bodies.* The report showed that the most noteworthy work of the Association during the year was the liberation of Mallee-Fowl (*Lipoa ocellata*)† on the National Reserve at Cape Borda, Kangaroo Island, which had been successfully carried out by the secretary (Mr. J. W. Mellor) on 24th February last. Representatives of the Association had attended the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union Congress in Brisbane in October, had visited the Capricorn Islands, and other places in Queensland, and had done good work in ornithology, while several members had been successful in finding new birds during the year, and describing and naming them. The financial statement showed a credit balance, and Mr. J. W. Mellor was congratulated upon his energy and ability in so successfully piloting the institution from its infancy to date. Mr. E. Ashby gave some notes upon several interesting birds, with illustrations. Captain S. A. White read a paper upon a trip recently taken to Mount Tambourine, in Southern Queensland, in which he graphically described the ascent and descent in a "buckboard," and gave interesting notes taken of the various birds seen in this naturalists' paradise. Captain White showed a number of birds to assist him in bringing before his hearers the gay scenes of plumage to be met with in the tropics. The annual election of officers for the ensuing year resulted thus:—President, Captain S. A. White; vice-president, Mr. E. Ashby; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. J. W. Mellor; these officers to form the general committee of management.

The following monthly meeting was held at the rooms of Dr. R. H. Pulleine on the evening of 28th April, Captain S. A. White presiding. Mr. E. Ashby reported having arranged with the Royal Society for the use of their rooms in the Institute, North-terrace, for future meetings of the Association, and a vote of thanks was carried to the Royal Society for their generosity in granting the request. A vote of thanks was also accorded Dr. Pulleine for past favours in the free use of his rooms for meetings. Mr. J. W. Mellor reported having, with several other members of the Association, recently visited Yorke Peninsula, and identified 60 species of native birds in three days. Mr. F. R. Zietz stated that the first Flame-breasted Robin (*Petroica phænicea*) this season had returned from its southern breeding grounds, and had been observed at Kingswood, near Mitcham, on 23rd April, which was considered early. Dr. A. M. Morgan noted the Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) building its mud nest on 1st April in Adelaide. Mr. A. Crompton stated that great numbers of Blue Wrens (*Malurus cyaneus*) had taken up their abode at Stonyfell, Magill, where they were so tame that they would eat bread crumbs thrown to them each day at certain hours. Mr. E. Ashby made some interesting remarks regarding some rare and peculiar birds from the Northern Territory and from Mount Dandenong (Victoria). Amongst specimens from the former place were the Black-tailed

* See p. 45 this issue.

† See p. 35 this issue.

Tree-creeper (*Climacteris melanotus*), White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike (*Graucalus hypoleucus*); and Cinnamon Ground-Thrush (*Cinclosoma cinnamomeum*), and Desert Wren (*Calamanthus isabellinus*), from Central Australia, and others; while from Victoria the Coachwhip-Bird (*Psophodes crepitans*), Red-browed Tree-creeper (*Climacteris erythroptis*), and the Olive-coloured Thickhead (*Pachycephala olivacea*), and various Flycatchers and Honey-eaters, were of exceptional interest when their habits and actions were explained by Mr. Ashby.

Notes and Notices.

Papers for Bird Day.—Brief ornithological articles, illustrated if possible, are invited from members of the R.A.O.U. who are willing to contribute, for the departmental *School Papers* of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia respectively. The articles should be in the hands of the hon. secretary, Mr. H. W. Wilson, Teachers' Training College, University Grounds, Carlton, Victoria, by about the end of August.

Buckland Bird Protection Fund.—Recognizing the great work Mr. James Buckland has done in keeping the Plumage Prohibition Bill before the British Parliament and public, his friends desire to tender him a practical testimonial. Subscriptions may be sent to the hon. treasurer, R.A.O.U., Mr. Z. Gray, Bridport-street, South Melbourne.

Corrections.—In the list of members of the R.A.O.U. published in the last issue of *The Emu* the following amendments are necessary:—

- “Dytiscus” is a *nom de plume*, not the name of Capt. Henry Brew's house, Ballarat.
- HORDTEN, C. H. VON DER (Broome), should read PFORDTEN, C. H. VON DER.
- A. HAMILTON (Wellington, N.Z.), not H. HAMILTON.
- MRS. ROBERTS, “Beaumaris,” Hobart, is the only lady who enjoys the distinction C.M.Z.S. (Corresponding Member Zoological Society, London).

A Wise Minister.—Application was made to the Acting Minister for External Affairs (Senator Findley), on behalf of a projected bird-canning company, with a capital of £25,000, for permission to slaughter birds on the Alligator River, Northern Territory. The company asked immunity from any restrictions upon their hunting for a period of six years. It was proposed to kill about 300 birds per day during the season, or a total of about 35,000 birds a year. It was claimed that Wild Ducks and similar game birds were so plentiful that this number would not be missed. The Minister has refused the application. He said that, instead of granting any such privileges as were sought, he would rather favour a policy of protecting game.