

South Australian Ornithological Association.

THE monthly meeting of this Association was held in the Institute, North-terrace, on Friday evening, 24th November, 1911, Captain S. A. White presiding. There was a good attendance. The hon. secretary drew attention to the depredations taking place with regard to that familiar little bird, the "Shepherd's Companion" (*Rhipidura tricolor*). It was resolved to draw the attention of the police to the matter, as these birds are totally protected. Mr. J. W. Mellor, who represented the association at the recent session of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, held in Sydney, gave a short *résumé* of the proceedings and the working excursion to the Ourimbah scrub, in the Gosford district, where about seventy species of birds were observed. Captain White gave an account of his trip taken to the mallee country about the Bow Hill district, whither he went a few weeks ago to study the birds in connection with Mr. Gregory M. Mathews' book in course of publication. The season proved somewhat dry and hot; nevertheless, Captain White was fortunate in securing a couple of specimens of the Red-throated Thickhead (*Pachycephala rufogularis*) and several other interesting species of birds, including the Chestnut-backed Ground-Thrush (*Cinclosoma castanotum*), the Striped Grass-Wren (*Amytornis striatus*), and the Mallee Miner (*Myzantha melanotis*), which he exhibited in illustration of his remarks. Mr. F. R. Zietz exhibited specimens from the Adelaide Museum collection for comparison with the mallee specimens. These included the Noisy Miner (*Myzantha garrula*), Dusky Miner (*M. obscura*), and the Yellow-throated Miner (*M. flavigula*), Gilbert Thickhead (*Pachycephala gilberti*), and a series of Grass-Wrens—Striped (*Amytornis striatus*), Goyder (*A. goyderi*), and *A. gigantura*. Mr. Mellor also exhibited specimens. Mr. J. W. Hosking showed a Field-Wren (*Calamanthus campestris*) from Mount Gambier. Messrs. M. S. Hawker, J. Bathgate, H. Simpson, and A. H. Clark were elected members of the Association.

Notes and Notices.

Special Notice.—Members are kindly reminded that only matter for publication should be addressed to the Editors, *The Emu*. General correspondence should be addressed to the hon. secretary, while subscriptions, &c., should be forwarded direct to the hon. treasurer (whose address, and that of the hon. secretary, appears on the wrapper of this journal). Members will also please recollect that subscriptions are *payable in advance*—a necessity for the proper upkeep of *The Emu*.

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Field Ornithology in South Australia.—In connection with Mr. Gregory Mathews' work, in course of publication, Capt. S. A. White has been, during a series of trips, voluntarily collecting specimens for that author. Capt. White, who was accompanied by Mrs. White, has kindly promised for this journal a series of his field observations, commencing with an excursion to Eyre Peninsula, undertaken last August. This account will appear in

the next issue of *The Emu*. Capt. White's re-discovery of *Pachycephala rufogularis* of Gould will be read with extreme interest (*vide* p. 212).

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Destruction of Mutton-Birds at Cape Wollamai.—Melbourne papers contained some startling accounts of alleged cruelty to the birds by eggers during the recent season, notably by visitors from Wonthaggi; but the evidence of such experienced eggers as Messrs. John Brunning, Chas. Ed. Gorman, and others from Somerville failed to substantiate any general acts of cruelty. They state a bird here and there may have been accidentally mutilated, while the barbed-wire protection to the marram-grass plantations ensnared and destroyed many birds flying at night. The authorities of the *Game Act* have under consideration at present a special report of an inspector who visited the rookeries on Wollamai during the eggng season.

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Western Emu-Wren.—In a footnote, page 105, *The Emu*, vol. viii. (1908), I state:—"The Western Australian form of the Emu-Wren differs from the eastern bird by the general upper surface being lighter coloured (greyish instead of brownish), and by the width of each of the curious tail-feathers being only about half the width of those of Eastern examples." (The filament-like structure of the tail is also finer in the Western bird.) Since, principally in connection with the Check-list Committee, more material has been examined, which appears to point to the difference mentioned as constant; therefore, with the concurrence of the Committee, I suggest for the Western bird the name *Stipiturus westernensis*.—A. J. CAMPBELL. Melbourne.

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Traffic in Bird-Plumage.—Recently (according to the *Morning Bulletin*) members of the Rockhampton Chamber of Commerce waited on the Queensland Agent-General (Sir Thomas Robinson) to bring under his notice matters of importance pertaining to industrial development, &c. Mr. Wm. M'Ilwraith (brother of Mr. Thos. M'Ilwraith, the author of "The Birds of Ontario"), as a member of Council of the R.A.O.U., pointed out that, notwithstanding what the Union was doing, and the various State enactments for the proper preservation of wild birds, illicit destruction and export of bird-plumage were still carried on.

Sir Thomas Robinson said that he had listened carefully to what Mr. M'Ilwraith had to say, and he would be only too pleased to act upon the suggestion. He would take an early opportunity of bringing the matter before the High Commissioner (Sir George Reid) and the other Agents-General, and if it were found that birds were being imported from the Australian States contrary to the prohibition issued there, he was sure that the Customs authorities of Great Britain would be pleased to see what could be done in the matter.