

up and down the river was again referred to, and it was thought advisable to request the authorities to keep a sharp look-out for law-breakers. Mr. E. Ashby showed specimens from the Lower Murray districts, and explained some interesting habits and distinctions in same. Among other specimens were the Little Eagle (*Nisaetus morphnoides*), Nankeen Night-Heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*), Black Shag or Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Pied Cormorant (*P. hypoleucus*), Chestnut-backed Ground-Thrush (*Cinclosoma castanonotum*), the Shy Scrub-Wren (*Hylacola cauta*), and the eggs of the last-named bird. Mr. Robert Zietz (ornithologist to the Museum) stated that half a dozen Cormorants had been shot for scientific purposes, and that he had examined the contents of each bird's stomach, which were found to contain numbers of fresh-water crayfish or yabbies, with but one or two non-edible fish. That went to prove that the birds did more good than harm.

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### Bird Observers' Club.

THE monthly meeting of the Bird Observers' Club was held at the residence of Dr. G. Horne, Queen's-parade, Clifton Hill, on Wednesday evening, 20th December, 1911. Twelve members accepted Dr. Horne's invitation to dinner, and two additional members attended the meeting. Before dinner the aviaries were inspected, a fine pair of young Maned Geese being the centre of attraction. A beautiful specimen of the Yellow-tufted Honey-eater was also much admired. At 8.30 o'clock Dr. H. W. Bryant, president, took the chair. A discussion took place in connection with the Gould League of Bird Lovers. On the motion of Mr. Chas. Barrett, seconded by Mr. O. W. Rosenhain, it was decided that fraternal greetings be sent to the committee of the New South Wales Gould League of Bird Lovers. Mr. L. G. Chandler, hon sec., said he had written to Major Semmens regarding the protection of Mutton-Birds at Cape Woolamai, and had not yet received a reply. Mr. A. J. Campbell thought that there was not the slightest danger of the rookery becoming deserted. The birds were late in arriving this year, but were as numerous as ever. Several members spoke on the subject, and it was decided that no action be taken in the matter until the secretary heard from Major Semmens. Mr. F. E. Wilson read an interesting paper on a trip to the Mallee. Mr. Wilson discovered a new Honey-eater, and Mr. F. E. Howe, F.Z.S., his companion, secured specimens of the undescribed female of the Mallee Emu-Wren. A series of bird-skins collected during the trip was shown, also photographs of the nests of the Scrub-Robin and the Mallee Emu-Wren. A long discussion on the paper followed. Drs. Bryant and C. Ryan, Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley, C.M.Z.S., and the hon. secretary were appointed as a sub-committee to meet a committee of the Game Protection Society to discuss the proposed game-bag limit. Mr. Mattingley stated that he had been informed that poison laid for rabbits in the Alexandra district had destroyed innumerable Great Brown Kingfishers and Magpies. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the host and hostess.

The first meeting of the Bird Observers' Club in 1912 was held at the residence of Mr. O. W. Rosenhain, "Koala," Balaclava-road, East St. Kilda, on Wednesday evening, 17th January. Mr. Rosenhain had invited members to dinner, and thirteen accepted the invitation. At 8 o'clock Dr. H. W. Bryant, the president, took the chair, and the hon. secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting. The hon. sec. then read two letters from Major Semmens, and reports from Inspector Rowson, of the Fisheries and Game Department, and Constable M'Donald, of Wonthaggi, regarding the Mutton-Bird rookeries on Phillip Island. A lengthy discussion took place, and it was decided that the birds should have some measure of protection. Mr. A. J. Campbell moved, and Mr. C. Barrett

seconded, that a sub-committee be formed, consisting of Messrs. E. B. Nicholls, D. Le Souëf, and T. H. Tregellas, to go into the whole question and submit a report at the next meeting of the club. Mr. L. G. Chandler, the hon. sec., read a paper on the White-browed Field-Wren (*Calamanthus albiloris*), which was discussed by several members. Mr. A. J. Campbell commented on the early opening of the Quail season, and moved that the hon. secretary write to the Minister of Agriculture asking him to receive a deputation which would protest against the early opening of the season. Mr. J. A. Leach, M.Sc., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Mr. T. H. Tregellas read the balance-sheet of the Buckland fund lecture. After expenses had been paid a balance of £3 11s remained. This money was handed over to Mr. O. W. Rosenhain to pass on to Mr. Buckland. Mr. D. Le Souëf was congratulated by members on being elected a corresponding member of the American Ornithologists' Union. Mr. Leach drew the attention of members to the wholesale destruction of birds at the Sandringham Golf Links, where poison was being laid for rabbits. The exhibits were:—Skins of *Calamanthus albiloris*, *C. fuliginosus*, and *C. rubiginosus*, by A. J. Campbell; skins of *Calamanthus howei*, eggs of *Stipiturus malachurus*, with egg of Fan-tailed Cuckoo and eggs of *Calamanthus albiloris*, by F. E. Wilson; series of lantern slides of birds in their native haunts, by Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley; skins of *Calamanthus albiloris*, and photographs of young *C. albiloris* in nest, by Mr. L. G. Chandler. A vote of thanks was accorded the host and hostesses, and on behalf of the club the president wished Mr. Rosenhain and his son, who were leaving shortly for Europe, a pleasant voyage. The host suitably responded, and the meeting terminated.

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### Notes and Notices.

**Brisson.**—There has been discussion recently in scientific circles of the old world, and incidentally in the pages of *The Emu* between Mr. Mathews and Mr. Milligan, as to whether or not the genera of Brisson's "Ornithology" (1760) should be accepted under the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. According to "Opinion 37," just received, the International Commission has ruled (voting 9 to 1) that Brisson's generic names of birds are available under the code.

**Albinism.**—It is interesting to note, in phases of albinism among Parrots, the hue the feathers assume; for instance, in a Rosella (*Platycercus*), the green becomes yellow, the blue becomes white, but the red does not usually change. I have not known of a case of melanism among birds, but have of albinism among all our Australian birds except the Cranes.

I remember seeing a skin of the Blue Tahiti Lory in the Liverpool Museum which was white, following the same rule as is general among Australian Parrots.—D. LE SOUËF. Zoological Gardens, Melbourne.

**A Lesson from America.**—I see that New York State—the most important State in the union—has just passed two acts of great importance to its wild bird fauna generally. One, the Bayne law, makes it unlawful to sell or offer for sale, in New York, any wild game. At one stroke, therefore, the market for the ill-gotten