

knowledge of the country, as the expedition under Mr. Conigrave's command went into depot for several weeks at the spot where Mr. Burns eventually met his death. When attempting to recover wounded Ducks from a small lily-covered lagoon, Mr. Burns became exhausted, and, despite every endeavour on the part of Bishop Trower, was drowned. The body was subsequently taken in an open boat by the bishop to Wyndham, a distance of 70 miles, and was interred in the local cemetery, Mr. Burns had been a member of the Union for the past three years, and the sincere sympathy of its members is extended to his relatives.

Description of New Parrot.

BY (DR.) W. MACGILLIVRAY, R.A.O.U., BROKEN HILL, N.S.W.

THE discovery of a new and distinct addition to our Parrakeets is due to the enthusiasm and energy of another member of our Union, Mr. M'Lennan. When collecting at Cape York, 1910-1912, he heard several times of a Parrot inhabiting the country in the vicinity of the Pascoe River, and which, from various descriptions given, he thought to be an *Eclectus*, or some allied form. He prevailed upon me to allow him to proceed to the Pascoe River, which enters the sea on the East Coast of Cape York Peninsula, about 20 miles, as the Crow flies, to the north of Lloyd's Bay. When proceeding up the river in search of a suitable camping-place, one of the first objects which attracted his attention was a strange Parrakeet, which flew from the scrub lining the banks of the river. Its call and flight were unfamiliar to him.

I have now received from him a male and female of what seems to me not only a new species, but a new genus. It may be placed in the family *Cyclopsittacidae*.

Although partaking in general of the characters of this family, and of the two genera, *Neopsittacus* and *Cyclopsittacus*, of which it is composed, it differs sufficiently, in my opinion, from both to warrant it being placed in a distinct genus, for which I propose the name *Pseudopsittacus*, the distinctive characters being:—Bill—upper mandible crimson, merging into orange-yellow at the tip; lower mandible dark brown, gonys moderately broad and flattened, with one distinct central ridge; nostrils bare. In the female the bill is wholly olive-brown. Tail short; rectrices twelve, and of equal length.

***Pseudopsittacus maclennani*, gen. and sp. nov.**

Male.—Forehead, lores, cheeks, and ear coverts rose-red; the posterior feathers of the ear coverts tipped with blue; crown, occiput, and nape cobalt blue. The rest of the upper surface grass green, with the exception of a small chestnut-red patch on the tertiary coverts of each wing, and the rectrices, which are yellowish-green with brown shafts, and a brighter green edging to the webs. The chest, abdomen, and flanks a lighter shade of green

than the back. Under tail coverts yellowish-green, margined with brighter green, under surface of rectrices yellowish-green. Under wing coverts bright blue, outer webs of primaries bright green, the first being only margined with green, the shafts and inner webs brown.

Mr. M'Lennan's field notes on the soft parts are:—

"Testes slightly enlarged. Irides, outer circle silvery cream, inner circle greenish; skin round the eye pale olive, eyelid darker; upper mandible crimson, merging into orange-yellow at the tip; lower mandible dark brown; skin round nostrils olive-green; throat flesh colour; tongue—upper surface whitish, under surface blackish; legs and feet olive-green, soles of feet paler, claws brown. Crop contents—three kinds of seeds; gizzard contents—small grains of blackish gum and half-digested seeds.

"Length in flesh, $9\frac{1}{8}$ inches; wing, $7\frac{1}{16}$ inches; wing outspread, $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches. 14th July, 1913."

Female.—The whole of the head, neck, face, cheeks, and ear coverts purplish-brown, the rest of the plumage similar to the male.

Field note (Mr. M'Lennan's) on soft parts:—

"Ovary normal. Irides silvery cream, inner circle greenish, skin round the eye pale olive, eyelids darker; bill olive-brown, nostrils olive-green; throat flesh colour; tongue—upper surface whitish, under surface blackish; legs and feet olive-green, soles of feet paler, claws brown. Crop contents—small grains of blackish gum and half-digested yellow seeds and bean.

"Length, 9 inches; wing, $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches; wing outspread, 18 inches. 20th July, 1913."

Next Annual Session R.A.O.U.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

OWING to the vaccination restrictions in Western Australia, the visit to that State has been postponed, and instead the annual session will take place in Adelaide during November. Members will be informed as to precise date and programme by the usual circular.

The most important feature of the session will be the "working excursion" on a River Murray steamer. Members will embark at Murray Bridge and be landed at such stages along the river as are best for bird-observing. There will be excursions into unexplored Mallee, wading tramps through lagoons, inspection *en route* of the famous Cockatoo cliffs, &c.