

instant when following us, she *invariably* sprang up on to some stump or tree nearest to hand, and it had occurred to me that we could gain advantage from this habit. I had not explained all this to Mr. Chandler, hence his hesitation. When all was ready I went to the nest to make the young bird call, and when the female appeared proceeded slowly right between the camera and the stump (fern), the bird following in my footsteps, about 12 paces behind. When she was between the camera and the stump I stopped, and she followed suit. Presently, as was her usual habit, she began scratching and raking for food. Directly her eye was off me I lay down, and when she looked up and missed me she sprang up to the nearest resting-place from which to get a better view—namely, the bush pedestal. Mr. Chandler pressed the bulb and the photograph was taken. If only I could have had a snap of Mr. Chandler's own surprised and delighted face when he emerged from his cover, my happiness would have been complete. We took a number of photographs, each from a chosen spot. In one case I had just scratched the bird's head with my stick. While I was doing that later on she took the end of the stick in her claws and contemptuously threw it aside. Photographs of Lyre-Birds' nests were taken, some of them in the state to which the birds nearly always reduce them after a season or two, if they are near or on the ground, probably in searching for food, for the decaying sticks and leaves offer shelter for grubs and so forth. The lining of the old nests is frequently used for new nests. We noted that the female bird did not sit in the nest at night with her young, though the latter was not three weeks old. This fact, I think, is not generally known.—L. C. Cook. Poowong, Victoria.

From Magazines, &c.

Ornithological Journal.—The second number (April, 1914) of the new quarterly magazine, *The South Australian Ornithologist*, has been issued. It contains four important "Additions to a List of the Birds of Australia," by Gregory M. Mathews, F.R.S.E.—a new species of Owl, *Tyto galei*, an entirely new genus allied to *Zosterops*, *Macgillivrayornis claudi*, and two new sub-species of Finches, named respectively *Egintha temporalis macgillivrayi* and *Neochmia phaeton albiventer*. The habitats are given as the Pascoe and Claude Rivers, Northern Queensland. These discoveries were made by two members of the R.A.O.U.—Dr. Wm. Macgillivray, Broken Hill, and Mr. J. A. Kershaw, F.E.S., National Museum, Melbourne, to whom credit is due. Their field-notes will appear later in *The Emu*. Mr. Mathews also contributes an interesting historical "Note on *Platycercus hæmatogaster*, Gould," while there are other popular field-notes on different birds by local subscribers.

Habits of the Kea.—The following is published in the *Lyttelton Times* (N.Z.) of 14th March, 1914, in the column entitled "In Touch with Nature," conducted by Mr. James Drummond, F.L.S., F.Z.S.:—"The quaint habits of Keas in their own realm are dealt with in a note from Mr. E. R. Waite, Curator of Canterbury Museum, who, while on a holiday visit to Mount Cook, in the middle of February, found time to make a few observations of these birds. At the Ball Hut, where he counted the unlucky thirteen, he was surprised at their confidence and their utter fearlessness. Later, when the members of the party became better acquainted with these mountaineers, an opinion was expressed that in bare-faced impudence they rivalled the notorious Weka. As soon as the visitors reached the hut Keas gathered about them, or assembled on the ridges of the building. From there they condescended to take pieces of food offered to them on the points of alpenstocks. As long as the visitors remained standing the birds kept at arm's length; but when the visitors sat down the birds lost all fear, and established terms of familiarity. Two, three, or more quarrelled for the gratification of trying to remove big nails from glacier boots or to untie the laces. One of the birds turned its attention to the dress worn by Miss Greenwell, a member of the party, and it was found that an action which was believed at the time to be dictated merely by innocent amusement had resulted in several holes being pecked in the fabric. Mr. Waite, by sitting on the ground watching for opportunities, had no difficulty in catching the birds by hand while they were absorbed in an inspection of his clothing. When released, they retired to a short distance, but they soon overcame their surprise and were once more in the grip of the spirit of inquisitiveness. This trait was demonstrated in other places besides the vicinity of the hut, as Mr. Waite caught a Kea at the top of a moraine overlooking the Hochstetter icefield. Black-backed Gulls were the only other birds seen as high as the Ball Hut. There were only two Gulls there, but as soon as the party set out on its tramp across the glacier one of them took wing, and it was seen sitting on a rock near the Malte Brun Hut, waiting the strangers' arrival there. Their guide told them that that particular individual usually treated visitors in that way. As if in corroboration of his statement, the Gull, on their return journey, passed over their heads, presumably after having devoured the edibles they had thrown away after they left the hut. Mr. Waite reports that the native Pipit—commonly, but wrongly, called the Native Lark—is often seen in the vicinity of the glaciers, but that the avifauna is mostly represented by the introduced Blackbirds, Larks, Chaffinches, and Yellowhammers."

Member Honoured.—Dr. J. A. Leach, co-editor of *The Emu*, and author of "An Australian Bird Book," has been elected a Colonial Member of the British Ornithologists' Union.

Review.

["Antarctic Penguins." By Dr. G. Murray Levick, R.N. London: William Heinemann. (Through Geo. Robertson and Co. Pty. Ltd., Melbourne.)]

THIS volume on the "true inhabitants" of the Antarctic regions, by the zoologist of the British Antarctic Expedition, 1910-13, deserves the highest praise. It is a most important contribution to ornithological literature, and at the same time charmingly written. Even a person not specially interested in bird-life should be able to read "Antarctic Penguins" with pleasure. The author deals with the Adelie Penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*), giving the results of patient observations made chiefly at Cape Adare rookery, "a neck of land jutting out from the sheer and ice-bound foothills of South Victoria Land northwards for a distance of some twenty miles." The sides of the cape rise sheer from the sea. There is no foothold save at the extreme end, "where a low beach has been formed, nestling against the steep side of the cliff, which here rises almost perpendicularly to a height of over 1,000 feet." The first part of the book is devoted to an account of the arrival of the Penguins at Cape Adare, and what takes place during the fasting period. The first birds arrived on 13th October; on 16th October there were about twenty. The numbers continued to increase till the rookery was crowded. The nest-building is described, and the manner in which the Penguins quarrel and fight, and rob each other of nesting material (stones).

Part ii. deals with the domestic life of the Adelie Penguin, laying and incubation of the eggs, the bird's habits in the water, their games, care of the young, and the later development of the social system. Here is a sample of the author's quality:—

"As a band of spotless bathers returning to the rookery, their white breasts and black backs glistening with a fine metallic lustre in the sunlight, met a dirty and bedraggled party on its way out from the nesting ground, frequently both would stop, and the clean and dirty mingle together and chatter with one another for some minutes. If they were not speaking words in some language of their own, their whole appearance belied them, and as they stood, some in pairs, some in groups of three or more, chattering amicably together, it became evident that they were sociable animals, glad to meet one another, and, like many men, pleased with the excuse to forget for a while their duties at home, where their mates were waiting to be relieved for their own spell off the nests."

In an appendix, descriptions of the plumage and soft parts of *P. adeliae* and of some variations in plumage are given. There is a short chapter on M'Cormick's Skua Gull (*Megalestris mac-cormicki*) and a note on Emperor Penguins (*Aptenodytes forsteri*). The illustrations are a notable feature of the volume; they are numerous and excellent.

The review of "A List of the Birds of Australia," by Gregory M. Mathews, F.R.S.E., is unavoidably held over.