

| R.A.O.U. Check-list.                                 | B.O.U. List.                       | Mathews' 1913 List<br>and A.A.R. |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 38.—158. <i>Calidris arenaria</i> ..                 | Do.* ..                            | <i>C. leucophæa</i>              |
| 39.—159. <i>Limicola sibirica</i> ..                 | <i>L. falcinellus sibirica</i>     | Do.                              |
| 40.—160. <i>Pisobia ruficollis</i> ..                | <i>Tringa acuminata ruficollis</i> | <i>P. m. ruficollis</i>          |
| 41.—162. <i>Pisobia acuminata</i> ..                 | <i>Tringa acuminata</i>            | <i>Limnocinclus acuminatus</i>   |
| 42.—163. <i>Ancylochilus arquatus</i> sub-           | <i>Tringa ferruginea</i>           | <i>Erolia ferruginea</i>         |
| 43.—164. <i>Tringa canutus</i> ..                    | Do. ..                             | <i>Canutus canutus</i>           |
| 44.—177. <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> ..              | Do. ..                             | Do.                              |
| 45.—182. <i>Ardea cinerea</i> ..                     | Do. ..                             | Do.                              |
| 46.—184. <i>Herodias symmatophorus (timoriensis)</i> | <i>Egretta alba timoriensis</i>    | <i>H. alba symmatophora</i>      |
| 47.—189. <i>Garzetta immaculata</i>                  | <i>Egretta garzetta nigripes</i>   | <i>E. g. immaculata</i>          |
| 48.—194. <i>Ardetta pusilla</i> ..                   | <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>          | Do.                              |
| 49.—211. <i>Querquedula querquedula</i>              | Do. ..                             | Do.                              |
| 50.—212. <i>Spatula clypeata</i> ..                  | Do. ..                             | Do.                              |
| 51.—219. <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>                  | Do. ..                             | Do.                              |
| 52.—255. <i>Falco melanogenys</i> ..                 | <i>F. peregrinus</i>               | <i>Rhynchodon peregrinus</i>     |
| 53.—262. <i>Pandion leucocephalus</i>                | <i>P. haliaëtus</i>                | Do.                              |
| 54.—270. <i>Strix delicatula</i> ..                  | <i>Flammea flammea</i>             | <i>Tyto alba</i>                 |
| 55.—358. <i>Chætura caudacuta</i>                    | Do. ..                             | Do.                              |
| 56.—686. <i>Molacilla similima</i>                   | <i>M. flava</i>                    | <i>Budytes flava</i>             |

\* "Do." signifies the same name as in the column to the left.

## Correspondence.

To the Editors of "The Emu."

SIRS,—After perusing Mr. Gregory M. Mathews' "A List of the Birds of Australia," one cannot but be struck with the lack of knowledge regarding the geographical distribution of many of our species. I append a list of some of the birds with whose habitat I am most conversant, together with a few corrections or omissions that are noticeable. Perhaps other Australians will help in this direction.

Page 9.—*Turnix maculosa melanota*. Include Victoria (Northern).

Page 18.—*Phaps chalcoptera chalcoptera*. Include Tasmania.

Page 91.—*Nettion gibberifrons* is omitted, and this species must be listed. Perhaps Dr. W. Macgillivray would give some information about this bird.

Page 102.—*Circus assimilis assimilis*. Include Tasmania.

Page 102.—*Circus approximans approximans*. Include Tasmania.

Page 104.—*Accipiter c. cirrocephalus*. Include Tasmania.

Page 105.—*Uroaetus a. audax*. Include Tasmania.

Page 114.—*Spiloglaux boobook maculata*. Include south-east Victoria.

Page 115.—*Hieracoglaux c. connivens*. Include Victoria (general).

- Page 117.—*Tyto longimembris walleri*. Include Victoria.  
 Page 141.—*Geopsittacus occidentalis*. Include north-west Victoria.  
 Page 149.—*Cyanalcyon p. pyrrhopygius*. Include northern Victoria.  
 Page 157.—*Neochalcites basalis mellori*. Include Tasmania.  
 Page 165.—*Lagenoplastes a. ariel*. Include Tasmania.  
 Page 170.—*Smicrornis b. bredirostris*. Include Victoria (Ringwood).  
 Page 172.—*Gerygone o. olivacea*. Include Victoria (Wangaratta).  
 Page 192.—*Monarcha m. melanops*. Include Eastern Victoria.  
 Page 209.—*Conopodera a. australis*. Include Tasmania.  
 Page 220.—*Neosericornis l. lathamii*. Include eastern Victoria.  
 Page 226.—*Leggeornis lamberti assimilis*. Include north-west Victoria.  
 Page 251.—*Climacteris erythroptis superciliosa*. Include western New South Wales and north-west Victoria.  
 Page 268.—Add *Grantiella picta borealis*, Northern Territory.  
 Page 286.—*Myzantha f. flavigula* is found associated with *M. f. melanotis*, north-west Victoria.  
 Page 292.—*Tropidorhynchus c. corniculatus*. Add Victoria (Fern-tree Gully).  
 Page 301.—*Aidemosyne modesta*. Add Victoria.  
 Page 310.—*Chlamydera m. maculata*. Add north-west Victoria.  
 Page 314.—*Corvus bennetti bennetti*. Add north-west Victoria.

Lately, in *The Emu*, opinions regarding the collector have been expressed. Some members of the R.A.O.U. would not have a nest, egg, or bird touched, and if this conservatism should spread our scientific knowledge of geographical and economic ornithology must be limited. Of course, one cannot condone indiscriminate collecting, but surely (even if it is with us) it could be regulated.

It is likely that a second edition of the "Official Check-List" will be published, and, if so, it is to be hoped that it will be drawn up by a committee representative of Australian ornithologists, embracing both scientific cabinet workers and workers in the field. One cannot do without the other. Such a committee, I think, would have a good chance of presenting a perfect list to the people for whom it intends to cater.

FRANK E. HOWE.

Canterbury (Vic.), 16/5/15.

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*To the Editors of "The Emu."*

SIRS,—I think that the ornithologists of Victoria should seriously consider the advisability of using their influence with the Education Department to induce it to alter the date of "Bird Day." When birds are engaged in nesting and their nests contain eggs or fledglings we are instrumental in causing their haunts to be invaded throughout the State by thousands of impetuous children, who, though their intentions are good, cause incalculable harm, and I venture to say that of the hundreds of nests discovered and examined on "Bird Day" very few would be occupied a week later.

My own experience is that boughs are often broken by the scholars, the nests sometimes pulled about, and the eggs frequently cracked, and there is occasionally one in a school who has no scruples in returning later and removing eggs from nests. It needs an expert to examine a nest containing either eggs or young in such a way that the owners will not desert it, and we read of pincers and spoons being used in the operation.

Surely a date as far removed as possible from nesting season would be far more appropriate for "Bird Day" than the date now observed.

Holbrook, Poowong (Vic.), 13/5/15.

L. C. COOK.

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#### DESTRUCTION OF BIRDS BY WILD CATS.

*To the Editors of "The Emu."*

SIRS,—Mr. A. J. Campbell expresses the opinion that cats are primarily responsible for the disappearance of certain species of birds.\* While I am unable to offer an opinion as to the cause of the disappearance of the birds named by him, I can heartily support his suggestion that a committee be appointed to report on the question of bird destruction by wild domestic cats.

The toll taken by the pea-rifle, the grain cart, and the alleged sportsman is undoubtedly heavy, but, in my opinion, wild and tame domestic cats claim a far greater number of the more valuable insectivorous birds. Unfortunately, wild domestic cats have established themselves in many unsettled or thinly settled parts of the Commonwealth, where, formerly, birds were molested only by their indigenous enemies, or, perhaps, rarely, by a visiting naturalist.

In 1909-1910, while collecting in the far north-west of Kimberley, I was surprised to find cats on the mainland and adjacent islands, where they had been liberated, no doubt, from passing or visiting trepang and pearling craft. During a more recent expedition across the continent, I frequently saw these animals between Oodnadatta and Alice Springs and through the western Macdonnell Ranges. They were seen again in the Macarthur and Roper River country, across to the Katherine, and northwards to the coast. There are obvious and practically insuperable difficulties in dealing with this pest in the great areas referred to, but in the more settled States the economic value of our fast-diminishing bird-life should justify drastic action, or, at least, serious consideration of a subject which, as Mr. Campbell remarks, will have to be faced sooner or later.

Few will dispute the fact that cats do a certain amount of good by destroying rabbits and other vermin, which are more effectually checked by artificial means, but it is very much open to doubt

\* *Emu*, vol. xiv., part 3.

whether the good they do in this direction is commensurate with the loss sustained by the destruction of our birds.

GERALD F. HILL.

Darwin, Northern Territory, 11th Feb., 1915.

### Bird Observers' Club.

THE monthly meeting of the Bird Observers' Club was held at the Olderfleet Tea Rooms, Melbourne, on 21st April, 1915. Mr. D. Le Souëf, president, occupied the chair. Mr. K. M'Mcicken was the host. Mr. F. E. Wilson read a report of the sub-committee appointed to deal with the question of "ringing" birds. An interesting letter from Dr. H. W. Bryant, describing his experiences on a visit to the Cairo Zoo, was read. Several members mentioned the extraordinary movements of birds owing to the drought conditions. Many birds, it was stated, found it difficult to find food on account of the scarcity of insect life. The president read a copy of the measure that had been passed in the United States of America prohibiting the importation of all plumes except those of domestic poultry and Ostriches. The president showed a copy of the new list of British birds, compiled by a committee of the B.O.U.

Mr. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., retiring president, occupied the chair at the annual meeting of the Club, held on 26th May, at The Olderfleet Tea Rooms, Melbourne. The annual report stated that many valuable papers had been read at the meetings, while numbers of lantern slides were shown and interesting specimens exhibited. Attention had been given to bird protection and other important matters. Six members, who were serving the Empire, had been given extended leave of absence. The balance-sheet showed the financial position was very satisfactory. The following office-bearers were elected:—President, Mr. Charles Barrett; hon. secretary, Mr. George Finlay; hon. treasurer, Mr. G. Dyer.

Mr. Barrett, in sketching the history of the Club, said that it was born on 12th April, 1905, when a number of enthusiastic bird-lovers met at his residence, Were-street, Brighton Beach. Those present were Messrs. A. J. Campbell (who presided), F. E. Howe, A. H. E. Mattingley, D. Le Souëf, J. A. Kershaw, C. F. Belcher, A. G. Campbell, Fred. Godfrey, R. P. Godfrey, C. P. Kinane, and C. Barrett. Several others had been invited, but were unable to attend. After a full and free discussion, the meeting decided that a Bird Observers' Club should be formed, number of members to be limited to 25. All the founders of the Club were still living, but some had, for different reasons, ceased to be members. Before the Club was formed "bird men" in Melbourne were wont to meet occasionally at each other's homes, to chat over field observations and exhibit and exchange specimens; many delightful bush rambles were also made in company. The idea of the Club must have been floating in several minds before steps were taken to give it practical shape. The Club had had some vicissitudes, but it had never languished, and to-day it was more firmly established than ever.

Mr. Le Souëf gave a most interesting lecture on "Birds' Nests and Eggs," illustrated by a fine series of lantern slides from photographs taken in many parts of Australia.