

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The monthly re-union of members in the R.A.O.U. room at 2 Temple Court, Collins-street, Melbourne, has been fixed for the first Wednesday in each month, at 8 p.m. The subject for the August meeting will be "Penguins," illustrated by lantern slides, specimens, &c. The subject in September will be "Honey-eaters," and that for October "Crows and Crow-Shrikes." Members are requested to bring or send any specimens, lantern slides, or photos. they may have of these birds.

The Council welcomes suggestions from members as to subjects for future meetings. They would also strongly impress on members the value of keeping a record of the arrival and departure of migratory birds, and any details they may note regarding the same.

The Greatest Victory for the Birds of America.

BY W. T. HORNADAY.

WITH record-breaking celerity the international treaty between Canada and the United States for the federal protection of all the migratory birds of North America north of Mexico has been ratified by Congress, and is now a law. It was initiated over two years ago by Senator George P. M'Lean, of Connecticut, in a Senate resolution. At that time President Wilson wrote a letter to Secretary Bryan, approving the idea, and requesting its advancement.

After a great amount of labour in Canada, in which Dr. G. Gordon Hewitt, of the Canadian Department of Agriculture, played a very important part, the treaty was finally sent down from Ottawa early in August for ratification by this country. On 16th August it was signed by Secretary Lansing and Sir Cecil Arthur Spring-Rice, British Ambassador.

By the President it was transmitted to the Senate on 22nd August. It went to and through the Committee on Foreign Relations in a few hours; and Senator James A. O'Gorman, fully resolved to secure action at this session, was designated to take charge of it on the floor of the Senate. For several months past Senator M'Lean has been hard at work paving a broad and smooth road for its passage.

On 29th August it was brought before the Senate, and quickly ratified by a two-thirds majority. The swiftness with which Congress did its part in the matter amazed and delighted the defenders of the birds. That quick action is the Senate's answer to the very bitter and abusive attacks that have been made on the federal migratory bird law and its defenders by Senator James A. Reed, of Missouri, and a few of his duck-shooting constituents who vehemently demand duck-shooting in spring as a special privilege.



White-shafted Fantail on nest after a shower of rain, Vasse River, W.A.

PHOTO. BY MR. P. D. MONTAGUE, S.A.

Once more the United States Senate has added to its fine and quite unbroken record in the enactment of sane and reasonable wild-life protection laws. The ratification of that treaty is the most important and far-reaching step in the protection and increase of birds that ever yet has been taken in any country! It extends the strong arm of federal protection over about 1,022 species and sub-species of the most valuable and interesting birds of North America.

The news of the event of 29th August will be read with thrills of pleasure by the millions of farmers, forest owners, bird-lovers, and sportsmen who are interested in the increase and perpetuation of the birds of North America.

Except to Senator Reed, the people of the United States owe to the President, the entire Senate, and above all to Senator McLean, a profound and lasting gratitude.

Camera Craft Notes.

White-shafted Fantail on Nest.—Owing to its tameness, the White-shafted Fantail is one of the easiest subjects for bird-photographers, yet the accompanying illustration, taken by Mr. P. D. Montague, will not easily be beaten. The nest, with its characteristic tail beneath, was situated in a bush overhanging the Vasse River, near Busselton, Western Australia, and the water forms a background to the picture. The photograph was taken during a shower of rain, and drops of water cover the back and tail of the Fantail and hang from the twigs of the bush. The Western White-shafted Fantail was named *Rhipidura preissi* by Cabanis in 1850, but there can be little doubt that Mathews is correct in regarding it as merely a sub-species of the bird found all over Australia. Its nest and its habits, at all events, are similar on both sides of the continent.—W. B. ALEXANDER.

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Nesting of the Yellow-throated Honey-eater (*Plilotis flavigula*) in Northern Tasmania.—During the month of October, 1916, I had the pleasure of accompanying Mr. H. C. Thompson to a gum-tree hill which is used by several pairs of "Yellow-throats" as a breeding-ground. The bush therèabouts looked very beautiful with white clematis and blue *Comesperma* twining among the scrub, while maidenhair fern grew in profusion over the moist soil. The nests of the Honey-eaters were placed in large *Lepidosperma* tussocks, and were of the open cup pattern. A pair of adults fed their young on the ground close to us; the latter were lately fledged, and had yellow throats and ear-tufts, were of a yellowish tint on the upper surface, the head darker than in the adult, but a tuft or two of nesting-down still remained there. The parents were in beautiful golden plumage. The