

(5) A new inquiry as the starling becomes reduced in numbers, in order to gauge accurately its food habits under new conditions.

Failing some such action as indicated above, the agriculturist and fruit grower will be left faced with a growing enemy which is devastating their crops, and inimical to their interests, and the country with a portentous factor which is adding to the scarcity of home-grown food. In short, the starling has become a plague in the land and a source of great national loss.

Reviews

["Results of Dr. E. Mjöberg's Swedish Expeditions to Australia, 1910-1913," xviii. Studies of the Birds in North-West Australia, by Rudolf Soderberg, with 5 plates and 25 text figures. Stockholm, 1918.]

After many delays, due, at least partly, to the Great War, the interesting and valuable report of the detailed painstaking investigations of Dr. Rudolf Soderberg in the fascinating North-West has reached us.

In a brief preface, Dr. Soderberg acknowledges assistance rendered by the Perth Museum, and gives the welcome information that the birds collected by the expedition are now in that museum. Unfortunately, this wise procedure was not followed by other authors of works on Australian birds, and comparatively few Australian types are now available to Australian ornithologists. Reference to the work of Messrs. A. J. Campbell, Tom Carter, Bowyer-Boyer, Rogers, E. T. Hill, R. Hall and J. S. Timmey is also made, and a bibliography of works containing reference to the avifauna of the North-West is given.

A good map of Western Australia shows the faunal regions, and the localities where the expedition worked in the far N.W., near Broome and Derby.

The geographical conditions, including climate, the Savanna landscape and the rains and their effects on animal life are intelligently discussed. The presence of many tree-climbing lizards is shown to be responsible for the placing of nests well out on the periphery of the trees, where, although apparently conspicuous to enemies "from without," they are really well protected from the greater enemies "from within" the tree. The camouflage of the beautifully-constructed nests of the Tree Runner, the Scarlet-breasted and Yellow-breasted Robins, is well shown in photographs. The remarkable mimicry by a young Stone Plover of a lizard is illustrated.

The birds of each order are treated in the arrangement of Sharpe's Hand-list of Birds, as shown in Mathews' Hand-list Supplement of *The Emu*, 1908. It is explained that as the species were identified in 1912 according to that list, before the issue of Mathews' later lists, the nomenclature of the 1908 Hand-list has, for the most part, been adopted. Notes on the

adult, young, and variants, the moulting and the ecological conditions are given for the different birds. Special attention is devoted to the feather and moulting conditions.

["Golden Wattle: Our National Floral Emblem." By A. J. Campbell, C.M.B.O.U., author of "Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds" and Life Member Wattle Day League of Victoria. Osboldstone & Co., Temple Court Place, Melbourne. 63 pages, quarto, with 28 illustrations, 5 coloured. Price, £1/1/-.]

Though this is a bird journal, yet there is a close connection of birds with trees, rendered closer in this case by the author being for years Hon. Editor of this Journal, and also life member of the Wattle Day League of Victoria.

The author, a pioneer in Australian nature study, particularly in bird and tree study, has, after many years of study and photographing, produced a handsome, well-illustrated volume of our beautiful often heavily scented wattle, a work worthy to be a companion volume of the valuable "Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds."

The dedication reads: "To all who love our National Flower—with its flossy wealth of golden glory and leaves of loveliness—the wattle, this work is humbly dedicated by A Wattle Lover."

The foreword by Sir William J. Sowden, K.C.M.G., Adelaide, President Federal and South Australian Wattle Day Leagues, draws attention to the author's efforts in promoting the cult of the wattle blossom, in developing Australian sentiment for the wattle, and in securing the recognition, already practically Empire-wide, of Wattle Day. Sir William concludes with "an expression of the great gratitude which is due to the author from Australia's sons and daughters in general, and members of the Wattle League in particular for the patriotic and national inspiration which he has imparted."

The letterpress is developed from the interesting lecture given by the author in arousing interest in the Wattle Day movement. It is beautifully and appropriately illustrated by selected pictures by the author—an expert photographer. A symbolic meaning has been added by the inclusion of draped figures in many of the pictures.

Printer, block-maker, and binder have done their parts well, and the book deserves the support of all interested in Wattle Culture, and the development of an Australian national sentiment.

State Secretaries' Reports

TASMANIA.

Considerable progress has been made in Tasmania recently as regards bird protection, and the "Animals and Bird Protection Act," which is controlled by the Police Department, is of great assistance in this direction. Reports were received that the Silver Gulls and other sea birds were being molested in