

## Review.

["An Australian Bird Book."—A complete Guide to the identification of Australian Birds, by J. A. Leach, D.Sc., President of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, Colonial Member British Ornithologists' Union, Corresponding Fellow American Ornithologists' Union, Sometime President Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, etc., Hon. Editor "The Emu," Organising Inspector of Nature-Study, Education Department, Victoria, Author of "Australian Nature-Studies." With introduction by Frank Tate, C.M.G., I.S.O., M.A., Director of Education, Victoria. Published by arrangement with the Education Department, Victoria. Whitcombe and Tombs Limited, Christchurch, Wellington, Dunedin, N.Z., and London, Melbourne, 1923]

"How this ornithological compendium, or "Australian Birds in a Nutshell," was written and published for 3/6 is marvellous. Its author and his enterprising publishers have indeed given to the world a unique book. Australians especially will be greatly indebted to Mr. Leach for his untiring labours, and to the long-sightedness of his department in sanctioning the publication of such a useful "bird book," the just reward of which must surely be many editions." That prophesy twelve years ago\* has been literally fulfilled in the present edition—the fifth; revised and enlarged.

The old edition was somewhat limited to "birds found in Victoria," although many Victorian species are found throughout Australia. In the supplement of the present work, there are added over 300 species, so as to include a brief and concise description of every Australian species, together with a total of 20 coloured blocks, depicting 177 species, besides half-tone and line reproductions of between 400 and 500 species (which for drawings, etc., the author makes full acknowledgment to others).

Being convener of the new Check-List Committee, Dr. Leach is abreast of the times in both vernacular and scientific names, and has adopted the names which will probably appear on the new list—names for all time, it is hoped.

The following illustrates the practical utility of the book for identification purposes. An ocean waif was blown inland near Geelong, and was found by some State school scholars, who took the captive to the headmaster. The boys produced "Leach's book," and proved the little bird to be the Wilson Storm-Petrel, bred, no doubt, among the ice-fields of Antarctica. The specimen in due course was presented to the National Museum, where its name was confirmed, and the specimen, in perfect state of plumage, with its interesting history, is now exhibited in the bird-gallery of that institution.

The best thanks of the nation are due to the talented and painstaking author for a handy work that will stimulate the rising

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\*See previous Review—*The Emu*, Vol. X., p. 350.

generation in the study of ornithology, and thus carry on the science when the present-day workers have laid down their pens. The book is beautifully printed, and more than well worth its enhanced value—7/6. (Communicated).

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[Smithsonian Institute, United States National Museum, Bulletin 121. "Life Histories of North American Petrels and Pelicans and Their Allies," by Arthur Cleveland Bent, of Taunton, Massachusetts.]

This important "Bulletin," like its predecessors by the same author, contains a mass of laborious work of a painstaking and accurate kind. Mr. Bent has dealt lucidly and simply with his subjects. The great order Tubinares, or Tube-nosed Swimmers, is of world-wide interest, and many of its species appeal to Australians in particular. Mr. Bent's nomenclature differs in a few instances from that of the amended Australian Chick-list. The following are the Australian species mentioned, with the name adopted by Mr. Bent in parenthesis where different: — *Diomedea chrysostoma* (*Thalassogeron c. culminatus*), *Diomedea chlororhynchus* (*Thalassogeron chlororhynchus*), *Phœbetria palpebrata*, *Macronectes giganteus*, *Priocella antarctica*, *Daption capensis*, *Puffinus carneipes* (*Ardenna carneipes*), *Puffinus assimilis*, *P. griseus*, *P. tenuirostris*, *P. pacifica* (*Thyelodroma pacifica*), *Puffinus cinereus*, *Pterodroma inexpectata*, *Oceanites oceanicus*, *Fregetta leucogaster*, and *Pelagodroma marina*.

## Obituaries

### THE LATE MR. JOSIAH EDWARDS CHUBB.

The Union has lost another member by the death of Mr. J. E. Chubb, which occurred on June 3rd last, at Auburn, Victoria.

The late Mr. Chubb was born on November 24th, 1862, at Yeovil, Somerset, England, and at an early age exhibited a strong instinct for Natural History. He became apprenticed to a furrier and taxidermist. When out of his time he sailed, in 1884, for New Zealand, with the intention of visiting relations there. Passing through Melbourne, naturally, he made his way to the National Museum (then at the University), where he chanced to meet the Director (the late Sir Frederick McCoy). Seeing Chubb's credentials, the Professor invited him to undertake an urgent temporary job—to prepare an exhibit of birds, mammals and fish for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition (1886). The exhibit was awarded a first-class medal and certificate.

Mr. Chubb was then requested to report on the condition of the mammals, birds, etc., in the Museum, which report led to his appointment as taxidermist from July 1st, 1885. Therefore he had 38 years' service to his credit. But nothing testifies more eloquently to his worth than his handiwork displayed in the