

Bibliography of the Writings of the late Count Salvadori.

In the *Rivista Italiana di Ornitologia* for June, 1924, Count E. Arrigoni degli Oddi publishes a brief account of the life of the late Count Tommaso Salvadori, accompanied by a valuable list of his published original papers, numbering 338, and almost all dealing with ornithology. Salvadori described 27 new genera and 490 new species, lists of which are given. A large proportion of the new species were from the Papuan and Malayan regions, and the following Australian birds were described by him: *Monarcha canescens*, *Ninox peninsularis*, *Pitta krefftii*, *Platycercus erythropeplus*, *P. xanthogenys*. The validity of all of these species is still doubtful. He introduced new generic names for two Australian birds: *Histriophaps* for *Columba histrionica*, and *Neothema* for *Euphema bourkii*.

Salvadori wrote three of the volumes of the *Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum*: No. 18, *Psittaci*, or Parrots, 1891; No. 15, *Columbae*, or Pigeons, 1893; and No. 19, dealing with the *Chenomorphae* (Flamingoes and Ducks), *Crypturi* (Tinamous), and *Ratitae* (Emus, Kiwis, etc.), 1895. His other important works included: "A *Catalogue of the Birds of Sardinia*, 1864; *The Fauna of Italy*, Part 2, Birds," 1871-2; *Catalogue of the Birds of Borneo*, 1874; *Prodromus of the Ornithology of Papua and the Moluccas*, 1876-1883; *Catalogue of the Birds of the Kei Is.*, 1879; *Ornithology of Papua and the Moluccas*, 1879-1883; with Supplements, 1889-1891; "Genera Avium Families, *Stringopidae*, *Nestoridae* and *Cacatuidae*," 1905; "Families *Loriidae* and *Cyclopsittacidae*," 1910.

His great work on the Birds of the Papuan region will long cause his name to be remembered by Australasian ornithologists. —W.B.A.

Obituary

MRS. A. NORTON, R.A.O.U.

Mrs. A. Norton (*née* Sybil Wright) died at Tamworth, N.S.W., on December 17, 1924, after an operation. All members of the Union who were acquainted with the deceased lady will sympathise deeply with her husband and relatives in their untimely loss. The late Mrs. Norton was a keen lover and student of bird life, and did much in an unobtrusive way for the protection of the birds in the district near her home. She was content to observe the habits of the birds in their daily life, and during the last years of her life, when in poor health, she derived great pleasure from watching the birds around her.

In October, 1921, Mrs. Norton, with her sister, Miss Wright, took part in the R.A.O.U. Camp at Wallis Lake, and she contributed a paper entitled "Bird Notes from Boree (New England

Plateau)" to the *Emu*, Vol. 22, page 39. She also contributed some shorter notes, and, if her life had been spared, would undoubtedly have published more of her observations.

The following extracts from the last letter received from her by the writer, dated October 27, 1924, seem worthy of permanent record in the *Emu*.

"About three weeks ago I had quite an interesting afternoon in the country about 20 miles in a south-westerly direction from Tamworth. We spent our day on a hillside covered with big, old, dead timber with young vigorous sapling trees growing up through it. There were numbers of birds about, flocks of little Spotted-sided Finches, Tits and White-faces, Caterpillar-eaters, Pardalotes (that say 'chip-chip'), Magpie-Larks, Red-backed Parrots, Rosellas, White-plumed and Languid Honeyeaters—all our ordinary birds, in fact. But what I was most interested in were a pair of Hooded Robins and the Rufous Song-Larks. There were, I am sure, dozens of the latter, flying in their rather clumsy way from tree to tree and singing incessantly. I was able to study them better than I have ever been able to do before, and made the discovery that they have two entirely different songs—a 'flying' song and a 'sitting' song! They kept entirely to the dead trees and almost altogether to the topmost branches. I did not see one descend to the ground, though once or twice they alighted on logs. They kept flying from one tree to another, and whilst they flew invariably sang the ordinary, *forced* kind of song that we know so well. But the very instant that they lit on a bough that song ceased, as though cut off by a knife, and the bird sat rather hunched up and clumsily (something like a cuckoo). If it sat for some time it would presently begin to quiver and shake all over (as if making a great effort) and to utter low trilling notes, then would break into a beautiful, full, mellow, musical run of notes not in the least like the 'flying' song. I have often wondered why the Bird-book calls their song 'one of the richest and sweetest of Australian bird-songs.' I do not call the 'flying' song either rich or sweet, but the 'sitting' song could be so described. I am thinking of writing a note to the *Emu* about it." . . . "There was a curious rocky knob near where we were, and I climbed up it. I don't know what the rocks are, but they are bright red and piled up into a great cairn. It is covered all over with a thick low growth of some mimosa-like shrub, covered with clematis vines. I thought I might find some fresh birds there, but only saw some Gerygones and a family of ordinary Blue Wrens. These were, however, interesting in that *two* little blue males and one female were busy feeding three little babies in a low bush. I have heard of a bachelor-uncle Wren (so to speak) lending a hand to bring up the children, but had not seen it before for myself. By squeaking, as I sat quietly under a big, red boulder, I brought both papa and uncle fussing round my feet within a foot or two." —W.B.A.