

Reviews .

[*South Australian Ornithologist*, vol. xiv, pt. 2.]

Prof. F. Wood Jones, writing on the breeding of the White-faced Storm-Petrel on South Australian islands, makes the following statement:

"There are certainly more than twenty islands on the south coast of Australia where this bird breeds in far greater numbers than it does in the little Mud Island colony. It breeds on our southern off-shore islands in millions; and the present writer has examined more than a dozen colonies on different islands lying off the coast of South Australia."

Such a statement is overdue, as Victorians have been led to understand that Mud Island was one of the very few and the largest breeding colony of these birds. The author lists a large number of the breeding islands, which stretch around the coast from the Abrolhos to some of the coastal islands of New South Wales. Like most sea-birds these Storm-Petrels have a large number of enemies, ranging from Pacific Gulls and Hawks to tiger snakes. The snakes when killed early in the morning almost invariably contained a dead adult bird. Natural enemies the breeding birds can cope with, but the destruction of a breeding area by the trampling of livestock, as on Sibsey Island, is unfortunate. It is probable that there is plenty of room for expansion, however, on some of the islands at present totally or partially unoccupied by Petrels. The author's recent notes on our sea-birds is filling a long-standing gap in Australian field-observation.

D. W. Brummitt records the finding of three nests of the Little Bittern at Bool Lagoon on December 30, 1936. The number of nests of this species recorded from Bool Lagoon in the last few years must exceed the total number of previous records for the whole of Australia. The writer, carefully examining regurgitated fish, found that Crested Terns (and therefore presumably others) catch fish between their mandibles and not by spearing.

Many other general notes are included.—R.S.M.

[*The Auk*, vol. LIV, no. 2.]

"Ornithology of the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition." By Paul A. Siple and Alton A. Lindsey.—Fifty-four species of birds were identified, twenty-three of these being non-oceanic birds which came aboard ship between New York and Panama. The known non-breeding ranges of three species of Albatrosses were extended by considerable distances. Snow-Petrels were found nesting fifty-one miles from their nearest possible source of food—open water. Excellent notes on a variety of species are included, the most interesting probably being those on the Emperor Penguin.

"Recent Observations on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker." By Arthur A. Allen and P. Paul Kellogg.—This series of

observations of a rare American species is interesting to Australians as an example of thoroughness in observation methods on a scale never approached in Australia except with one or two species such as the Lyrebird and Satin Bower-bird. "A pair of 24-power binoculars set on a tripod was trained on the nest-opening, and from daylight, April 10, until 11 a.m., April 14, continuous observations during the hours of daylight were made either by the writer or by James Tanner." Excellent photographs of the birds at the nest and sound films of the birds' notes were obtained. Several pairs were under observation and in each case the "Ivory-bills" managed to hatch their eggs successfully but lost the young from the nest from an unknown cause. It is suggested that this may account in some part for the rarity of the species.—R.S.M.

Correspondence

ORNITHOLOGY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

To the Editor

Sir,—In his very interesting account of "The History of Ornithology in South Australia," Prof. Cleland writes (*Emu*, vol. XXXVI, p. 198): "The small bay Flinders anchored in at the Isle St. Francis, he called Petrel Bay—as far as I know the first use in Australia of the name of a bird in geographical nomenclature." This was in February, 1802, but in 1797 Flinders had named the Swan Isles, off the north coast of Tasmania (Collins, *New South Wales*, vol. 2, p. 159) and in 1799 Flinders and Bass named Albatross Island in Bass Strait (Collins, *loc. cit.*, p. 173). Flinders was by no means the first to give the names of birds to geographical features of Australia. We may perhaps disregard the name "*Psitacorum terra*" appearing on a French globe of 1603 on a land mass roughly in the position of north-western Australia. But it seems strange that Prof. Cleland should have forgotten that the Swan River in Western Australia was named by Vlaming in 1697 from his discovery of Black Swan upon it. Bustard Bay in Queensland was named by Captain Cook in 1770 in memory of the Australian Bustard killed and eaten there by his company.—Yours, etc.,

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A number of the original paintings by Mr. Neville Cayley of colour plates appearing in *The Emu* are still available. Early applications, to the Hon. General Secretary, should be made. The paintings are only available to members—at one guinea each.