

was his extensive paper on the birds of the Moonie River District (vol. XXXVIII, p. 30). Other contributions appeared in *The Emu* as follows: XXVIII, 134 (with Arthur Elliott); XXXI, 263; XXXII, 273; XXXIV, 28, 196; XXXV, 129; and XL, 193. In addition Hindwood's paper on the birds of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (vol. XXXIX, p. 219) has some of Elliott's photographs as illustrations, including a fine picture, probably the first taken, of the Yellow Rosella. Photographing of this bird by several members was made possible by Aubrey Elliott's ladder tripod, a specially-prepared contrivance which he carried around in a utility truck and assembled for work at great heights.

Before settling at Dorrigo, Elliott was farming at Cam-bewarra, near Nowra. Prior to his death he was preparing a lengthy paper on the birds of that district for *The Emu*, and, in addition, had promised, at the request of the Editor, several shorter papers on individual species. It is hoped that some were completed and may be used, later.

Arthur Elliott writes that his brother was never happier than when in the bush watching or photographing birds, and when in the company of those similarly interested. The associations with the birds and the bush and those friends were strong upon him, and, when he felt that he was passing on, his request to Arthur was to "tell the bird-men." He is survived by his wife and young son.—C.E.B.

Recent deaths of well-known ornithologists abroad include Rear-Admiral Hubert Lynes on November 10, 1942; William Plane Pycraft on May 1, 1942; and Clinton Hart Merriam on March 19, 1942.

Reviews

Recent New Species.—Since the publication of Meise's list prepared for the Ninth International Congress, 53 new species have been described. In 'New Species of Birds described from 1938 to 1941' (*Auk*, vol. 60, no. 2, Apl. 1943, p. 249) John T. Zimmer and Ernst Mayr analyze the novelties and another described in 1937 but not dealt with by Meise, the former dealing with the New World forms and the latter with the Old World species. In some cases an examination of more material is essential. Most of the new birds come from islands, high mountains or isolated habitats. Only in such places are any further discoveries likely.

Of the forms described 25 are recognized as good species or to be considered so lacking more exact detail, 15 are subspecific, 11 are synonyms and 3 probably hybrids. Included in the first group are *Petroica archboldi*, "perhaps remotely related to *P. rosea* and *rhodogaster*," *Philemon brassi*, "an isolated species without close relatives," and *Archboldia papuensis*, a "good genus and species," all from New Guinea and described by Rand in *Amer. Mus. Nov.*, no. 1072, 1940. The second group includes *Taeniaparadisea macnicolli* Kinghorn, probably referable to *Astrapia feminina* Neumann which is known only from the female; *A. mayeri*, another 'new' species, relegated to the synonymy of *feminina*, is known only from the male.—C.E.B.

The Little Owl.—Introduced into England at the end of last century, this bird, accused of attacks on poultry and game, was vindicated by Hibbert-Ware's enquiry in 1938. Some, of course, would not be convinced. About 1906 it was taken to New Zealand—and accused of similar misdeeds. Prof. B. J. Marples has been able to champion it there as the result of his enquiry described in 'A Study of the Little Owl, *Athene noctua*, in New Zealand.' (*Trans. Royal Soc. N.Z.*, vol. 72, pt. 3, pp. 237-252, Dec., 1942). In New Zealand, too, there were numerous people showing "a remarkable lack of reasoning power" and a lack of "appreciation of the value of evidence."

A total of 242 stomachs were examined. Insect food was predominant, and only 22 birds contained bird remains—19 birds in all—the average being .08 of a bird per owl. Perhaps there is some reflection on the mixed avifauna of New Zealand in the fact that, of the nine bird species represented, seven (possibly eight) were also introductions. Castings and nest contents showed a greater percentage of bird remains. [The nature of food supply must naturally determine what is taken—Lockley on Skokholm records Little Owls feeding largely on storm-petrels. One 'larder' contained over 200 birds.]

The investigation extended to measurements, weights and seasonal variation, examination for parasites, consideration of sex ratio, and other features.—C.E.B.

South Australian Ornithology.—The March, 1943, issue of the *South Australian Ornithologist*, vol. xvi, pt. 5, contains many interesting accounts and notes, with J. Neil McGilp the chief contributor. His 'What is a Sight Record?' is of value as indicating the views of yet another bird-man of repute who avers that reliable sight records should be accepted. It corrects lists published in the S.A.O. and gives authorities for some records therein queried—in other words it brings the South Australian list up to date.

This reviewer agrees, from editorial experience, with Mr. McGilp's note on the confusion between *Meliphaga plumula* and *M. ornata* in bird lists—apparently the name 'Yellow-plumed' for the latter helps the confusion. The earlier bird does not appear to extend east of Port Augusta.

In 'The Murray Mallee and its Birds,' McGilp deals with several species in the Pinnaroo country. The Mallee Whip-bird was not noted on a recent trip. The 1941 season Scrub-Robin with two eggs is again referred to as a record. Since the author has severed associations with the R.A.O.U. he has evidently not seen the note of Collins's record. (*Emu*, vol. XLII, p. 70, Oct., 1942). A number of people will surely be surprised to read that the Crested Pigeon was first recorded in the district only eight years ago. A note on the Plain Wanderer near Peebinga is included. This reviewer also saw one at Manya North in 1942.

On page 8 Mr. E. F. Boehm records *Ashbyia lovensis* from Sutherland—a pair was collected. This is a considerable southwards extension.—C.E.B.

Mathews on Forster, and other Notes.—Under 'Additions to the List of Australian Birds and other Notes,' Gregory Mathews (*Aust. Zool.*, vol. 10, pt. 2, p. 161, April, 1943) deals chiefly with Forster's *Magazin*, dealt with by Iredale in *The Emu*, vol. XXXVII, p. 95. Mathews writes of the earlier edition of 1791, taking the few names that are applicable back beyond 1794 mentioned by Iredale.

Other matters dealt with are a record of *Cymochorea castro cryptoleucura* "collected in Australian waters," a note on Salvado's work, 1851, which includes *Pelecanus spectabilis* that will replace *P. conspicillatus westralis*, and an early account of the feeding of a petrel (Forster's translation of *Hunter's Historical Journal*, 1793).—C.E.B.