

SHORTER NOTICES

It is not possible for the Editor of 'Literature' to check the bibliographical accuracy of all titles and references supplied by contributors.

Australasian Publications

Ecology

DAVIES, S. J. J. F. Aspects of a study of Emus in semi-arid Western Australia. *Proc. ecol. Soc. Aust.* 3: 160-166.

The pattern of rainfall in the Murchison district, WA, is considered with the topography of the area and the distribution of plants eaten by Emus. Heavy rain in summer and winter of the same year is essential for successful breeding by Emus and production of mature Mulga pods.

J. McK.

Osteology

BOCK, W. J. and McEVEY, A. 1969. Osteology of *Pedionomus torquatus* (Aves: Pedionomidae) and its Allies. *Proc. R. Soc. Vict.* 82: 187-232.

The skeleton of *Pedionomus* is described and compared with those of *Turnix* and *Ortyxelos*. *Turnix* and *Ortyxelos* are closely similar to each other in most features of their skeletons, but differ from *Pedionomus* in the skull, sternum, pectoral girdle, wing and synsacrum. Only elements of the hind limb are similar in these genera. The osteology supports the current taxonomic status of *Turnix* and *Ortyxelos* as separate genera in the family Turnicidae. It is suggested that the Pedionomidae should be maintained as a separate family. Several aspects of the definitions of palate and nostril types are discussed with the conclusion that the Turnices possess a schizognathous palate and a schizorhinal nostril.

Based on authors' abstract.

Species

CLELAND, J. B. and SIMS, E. B. 1968. Food of the Glossy Black Cockatoo. *S. Aust. Orn.* 25: 47.

The subject is the occurrence in SA of *Calyptorhynchus lathamii* in relation to the availability of its favourite food, i.e. the seeds of *Casuarina stricta*. Locally the Glossy Black Cockatoo is confined to Kangaroo Island though it possibly once occurred on the adjacent mainland where there has been widespread destruction of sheoaks.

H.T.C.

GLOVER, B. 1968-9. Bird Report 1966-67, Bird Report 1967-68. *S. Aust. Orn.* 25: 27-45, 72-84.

These are summaries of observations made during the year by a large number of contributors; the species concerned are listed in systematic order. There are many useful observations; e.g. a reference to the first sighting of the Dominican Gull *L. dominicanus* near Adelaide, and the taking of a Little Tern *S. albifrons* at L. Alexandrina 24 January 1967.

H.T.C.

COOPER, R. P. 1969. Multiple feeding habits of wrens. *Aust. Bird Watcher* 3: 145-150.

After reference to long-standing questions concerning the behaviour of the genus and to Rowley's recent enlightening work on it, brief field notes record multiple feeding by the Black-backed Wren *M. melanotus*, Blue-and-white Wren *M. leuconotus*, Variegated Wren *M. lamberti*, Purple-backed Wren *M. assimilis*, and Red-backed Wren *M. melanocephalus*. A. McE.

Pollination by Birds

MEES, G. F. 1967. A note on the pollination of the Kangaroo Paw *Anigozanthus manglesii*. *West. Aust. Nat.* 10: 149-151.

Pollination of this flower appears to be done by the Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus superciliosus* and less frequently by the Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*. The structure of the flower is such that pollen is deposited on the back of the bird not on its head, the more usual place. Questions

concerning the range of the plant and the bird, self-pollination, and seed dispersal, are raised. A. McE

Bibliography

HINDWOOD, K. A. 1969. The making of a book—Some Useful Australian Birds. Aust. Bird Watcher 3: 155.

Interesting details forming the background to the publication of 'Some Useful Australian Birds' by Walter W. Froggatt, 1921, are given and include reference to William Marshall's water-colours and to Victorian books of the same era. It will be of interest also to book collectors to note that K.A.H., from whose pen such papers are a speciality, has moved into the 'twenties. A. McE.

Zoogeography

McDOWALL, R. M. 1969. Extinction and endemism in New Zealand land birds, 17: 1-12.

This land bird fauna is small and Australian in origin with little speciation. Over the past 1000-2000 years it has experienced many extinctions, particularly among older species. H.L.S.

Overseas Publications

Systematics (Egg White Protein)

HENRICKSON, H. T. 1969. A comparative study of the egg white Proteins of some species of the avian order Gruiformes. Ibis 111: 80-91.

Protein patterns together with the historically conventional characters suggest that a relationship exists between the Rallidae, Heliornithidae, Eurypygidae, Turnicidae, and Peophiidae; and that the Gruidae and Aramidae are not far removed from this assemblage . . . The Otidae have a very different pattern which, together with the unusual combination of classical characters, suggests that the bustards should be removed from the order.

From author's summary.

Genera

FRY, C. H. 1969. The recognition and treatment of venomous and non-venomous insects by small bee-eaters. Ibis 111: 23-29.

Worker bees are de-venomed by an innate sequence of beating the insect and rubbing its abdomen against a perch. Non-Hymenoptera, including some insects which superficially resemble bees, are recognized as non-venomous and are not rubbed, but beaten until immobilized. Bee-eaters appear to have a partial immunity to venom.

Based on author's summary.

Species

PORTENKO, L. A. 1968. Studien an einigen seltenen Limicolen aus dem nördlichen und östlichen Siberien III. J. Orn. 109: 96-115.

The Pectoral Sandpiper *C. melanotos* breeds in Siberia as far west as western Taimyr Peninsula. Birds arrive in eastern Siberia at the end of May at the earliest and in the western region early in June. Males leave the breeding grounds after their mates begin brooding. During the male's display the skin and feathers of the pectoral area hang down like an apron, and the air pockets at the sides of the neck seem to be blown up. Apart from the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *C. acuminata* the nearest related wader appears to be the Ruff *P. pugnax*. The nests are placed in tundra swamp and tussocks.

E.F.B.

Bibliographical Note: Glimpses of Australian Bird Life

An unlisted (?) booklet by Robert Hall is here described with grateful acknowledgement to Mr and Mrs A. Grant, Toorak, Melbourne, for permission to examine their copy. The work is not listed by Whittell or Ferguson.

Title-page: GLIMPSES / OF / AUSTRALIAN / BIRD LIFE / THIRTY-ONE ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHS / [double rule, ends joined] / DIRECT FROM NATURE / [shorter double rule] / WITH NOTES BY / ROBERT HALL, F.L.S., C.M.Z.S. / Author of "The Useful Birds of Southern Australia" / "A Key to the Birds of Australia" / Joint Author of "Nature Studies in Australia" / Melbourne: / T. C. LOTHIAN, 49 ELIZABETH STREET. / 1906. /

Collation:

Size: 152 mm. x 122 mm.

Signatures: [1]⁸ 2 - 4⁸

Pagination: [1 - 3] 4 - 63 [64]

Analysis of Contents: [1] Title-page; [2] Dedication; [3] Foreword; 4 - 63 Text and photographs; [64] Advt.

The booklet is glued in stiff white wrappers which are damaged in the copy examined. Front cover: [Within a fancy rule frame,] [photograph of albatross feeding a young bird.] GLIMPSES OF / AUSTRALIAN / BIRD LIFE. /

Spine: GLIMPSES OF AUSTRALIAN BIRD LIFE 1/ - / Imprint: Printed inside back cover: WALKER, MAY & CO., / PRINTERS / 25 MACKILLOP STREET. / MELBOURNE / [fancy rule and thistle] /

The contents consist of thirty-one black-and-white photographs of Australian bird species with five to seven lines of text facing each one.

The Dedication TO / US FOUR / is explained in the Foreword where acknowledgement is given to A. H. Mattingley for placing 'at my disposal the use of most of the subjects'. The Frontispiece cost H. P. C. Ashworth 'twenty days in obtaining it'. The remaining pictures are 'by my own camera', in conjunction with Arthur B. Lord. Included are plates showing the Black-winged Crow-Shrike (B.-w. Currawong) 'feeding anxious young' and Crested Penguins taken by Hall on Kerguelen Island.

Tess Kloot, Librarian.

CORRECTION

Sixty Camera Studies of Australian Birds

Mr Donald Trounson has drawn our attention to the fact that this book, reviewed above on page 190, is a production of the Australian Women's Weekly for which he and Miss Clampett were commissioned to provide the photographs. It had nothing to do with the National Photographic Index of Australian Birds, and the photographs in the book were in no way supported by funds contributed to the Index. Unfortunately the review gave a contrary impression.