

who had been appointed co-delegate, had been representing the Union, and he (Captain Hutton) had thought it best to leave the representation in his hands.

A communication was read from Mr. A. G. Campbell relative to his "Dichotomous Key," in which he stated that the Key would cover about 40 pages of *The Emu*. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to print the Key as a supplement to *The Emu*.

The hon. sec. pointed out the desirability of having the Union's journal copyrighted so as to include the copyright of the "Dichotomous Key," which matter was left to the hon. editors.

Letters were read and dealt with from the following:—F. M. Littler, W. Pidsley, A. Fowler, L. Harrison, T. W. Richards, A. Crossman, C. F. Belcher, and the Director Field Columbian Museum, Chicago.

The following new members were duly enrolled:—L. Harrison, Sydney; F. K. Calder, Fremantle; E. Brooke Nicholls and C. P. Kinane, Melbourne.

Mr. Robert Hall, F.L.S., C.M.Z.S., at the desire of the Council, kindly consented to give his lecture "A Naturalist's Tour in Siberia and the East," at the forthcoming Annual Session in Adelaide.

It was decided that in the event of the president, Captain Hutton, F.R.S., being unable to write a presidential address, owing to his absence in Europe, the task would therefore devolve upon one of the vice-presidents, and that Dr. Charles Ryan be asked to be good enough to assist the Council by preparing an address.

South Australian Ornithological Association.

THE bi-monthly meeting of the South Australian Ornithological Association was held at Dr. A. M. Morgan's residence, Adelaide, on Friday evening, 7th July, 1905. Mr. F. R. Zietz presided over a good attendance.

Mr. J. W. Mellor reported that the Australasian Ornithologists' Union Congress would meet in Adelaide during October, and that it was the intention of the Union to hold an excursion to Kangaroo Island. It was resolved to assist the Union in every way to make the Congress a success.

Mr. F. R. Zietz read some interesting notes upon the crossing of various species of Australian Finches in England, resulting in some curious hybrids.

Mr. J. W. Mellor drew the attention of the members to the fact of a second Moa's egg having been found in New Zealand recently, the first specimen having been unearthed forty years ago. It was sold for £100.

The chief business of the evening consisted of the examination and discussion of the Honey-eater genus *Melithreptus*. Mr. A. H. C. Zietz, F.L.S., showed specimens of nearly all the species found in Australia, and gave some interesting notes upon them, especially in reference to a new species found recently by Mr. F. R. Zietz on Kangaroo Island, and which had been described by Mr. A. J. North, of the Sydney Museum, and designated the Long-billed Honey-eater (*M. magnirostris*), its nearest ally being the Brown-headed Honey-eater (*M. brevirostris*). Mr. Zietz also showed a pair of Chestnut-bellied Quail (*Excalfactoria lineata*), got at Dismal Gully, near Victor Harbour, S.A., and a specimen of the Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola orientalis*) from Milang, S.A. Mr. J. W. Mellor exhibited a specimen of

the Red-eyed Honey-eater (*Melithreptus lunulatus*) and the cup-shaped pendent nest of the Black-throated Honey-eater (*M. gularis*), and a specimen of the Blue Kingfisher (*Alcyon azurea*). He also reported that quite a number of native birds, not regularly seen, had this season put in an appearance at the Reed-Beds, near Adelaide, and were enjoying the strict protection accorded them by the residents generally, notably large numbers of the Magpie-Larks (*Grallina picata*), Dusky Wood-Swallows (*Artamus sordidus*), Yellow-rumped Diamond-Birds (*Pardalotus xanthopygius*), Mistletoe-Birds (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*), Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes (*Graucalus melanops*), Varied Cuckoo-Shrikes (*G. mentalis*), and the Flame-breasted Robin (*Petræca phænicea*) had not long since returned from Tasmania, while the Tree Martin (*Petrochelidon nigricans*), through being protected and given places wherein to keep snug in winter, had remained in the district all the year round. Honey-eaters were also numerous in varied species, some of which had not been seen for several years past. Mr. F. R. Zietz showed a number of sternum bones of rare birds. Dr. Morgan exhibited oological specimens, notably the eggs of several of the Melithrepti, and also a bright blue Kingfisher from the Philippine Islands. Captain S. A. White reported that numbers of Whistling Eagles (*Haliastur sphenurus*) and Striped Brown Hawks (*Hieracidea berigora*) had lately taken up their abode on his property at the Reed-Beds, and were proving highly beneficial in killing young rabbits—a fact that should afford them protection from being ruthlessly shot and killed. Captain White also pointed out the absence of the Land Rail (*Hypotaenidia philippinensis*) this year, and as a consequence caterpillars and wire-worms were extremely plentiful, ravaging the vegetable crops.

Bird Observers' Club.

THE third meeting of the Club was held on the 14th June, at the residence of Mr. A. J. Campbell, Armadale. About a dozen members were present, Mr. Campbell being voted to the chair. Miss H. Bowie, Dr. C. S. Ryan, Dr. G. Horne, and Mr. E. Scott were elected members. The figure of the male Blue Wren was adopted as the emblem of the Club. The following papers were read and discussed:—"Notes from Kyabram," by C. F. Belcher; "Note on White-bellied Storm-Petrel," by G. E. Shepherd; "A Moorland Pool," by C. L. Barrett. Mr. Robt. Hall made some interesting remarks on rare skins, which he exhibited, while Mr. A. G. Campbell illustrated his "Dichotomous Key" by the genera *Strepera* and *Melithreptus*.

The fourth meeting of the B.O.C., which took the form of dinner at Oxford Chambers, Melbourne, was held on the 19th July. After dinner there was the usual monthly meeting, Mr. D. Le Souëf occupying the chair. Mr. Fred. Linacre was elected a member. A table of field excursions was arranged. The papers read were:—"Pardalotes Nesting," illustrated by photographs, by C. P. Kinane; "Fruit-eating Birds," by A. G. Campbell; and "A Day at the You Yangs," by F. P. Godfrey. Mr. A. G. Campbell exhibited a series of Pardalote skins, and Mr. F. P. Godfrey a nest of the White-bearded Honey-eater taken at midwinter (July).

The usual monthly meeting (fifth) took place at the residence of Mr. Donald Macdonald, Balaclava, on the 23rd August. Through the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald, fourteen members sat down to