

["Birds of Britain." By J. Lewis Bonhote, M.A., F.L.S., &c. With 100 illustrations in colour selected by H. E. Dresser from his "Birds of Europe." London, Adam and Charles Mack. 1907.]

MR. Bonhote has written a bulky book of a distinctly popular character on the "Birds of Britain." When an author shall have arisen to write a similar work on the "Birds of Australia," then the masses will begin to be enlightened and take an interest in the ornithology of their country, and the birds themselves be saved.

In addition to the descriptions and plates of the birds themselves, Mr. Bonhote's notes are extremely valuable and interesting because "taken at first hand straight from Nature." The book includes every species which has been known to occur in Great Britain, and in this connection it is interesting to note amongst the "casuals" such Australian birds as the Black-browed Albatross (*Diomedea melanophrys*), Allied Petrel (*Puffinis assimilis*), Sombre Petrel (*P. griseus*); the tiny ocean wanderer, the Yellow-webbed Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*), &c., &c.

The coloured plates are excellent examples of "three-colour" work, and are evidently reproductions from original drawings by the far-famed J. G. Keulemans. In the beautiful plate of the Song-Thrush (*Turdus musicus*)—a bird which has been acclimatised for years in Victoria—it will be observed that the species has grown lighter coloured at the antipodes than the rich dark European example figured in the book.

### South Australian Ornithological Association.

THE bi-monthly meeting of the South Australian Ornithological Association was held at Dr. A. M. Morgan's on Thursday evening, 19th December, 1907, Dr. Morgan presiding over a good attendance. The hon. secretary reported that the "Powder Magazine Reserve" at Dry Creek had now been proclaimed a "Bird-Protection Reserve" under the *Birds Protection Act* of 1900, as recommended by the Association, and that the Commissioner of Crown Lands had also acceded to the request of the Association in placing the Kestrel (*Cerchneis cenchroides*) upon the totally protected list. Mr. M. Symonds Clark reported having been instrumental in having the Emu totally protected in South Australia. The destruction of the Black Swan was deplored, and several members bore testimony to the manner in which half-castes and blacks destroy the eggs of this bird, in taking them by hundreds during the breeding season. As a stay on the wholesale use of firearms by small boys, who roam about seeking what they may shoot, it was thought that the District Councils and municipal bodies should strictly enforce the *Firearms Act* in reference to pea-rifles, and make the owners take out licences. The hon. secretary reported having, with Captain S. A. White, represented the Association and the State at the Seventh Congress of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union, which was held in New South Wales and Queensland last October and November, when useful business had been transacted, including the opening of a debate upon the unification of the game laws and bird protection laws throughout the Commonwealth, and that it had been resolved to invite official representatives from each to attend the next Congress, to be held in Melbourne at the latter end of 1908. The hon.

secretary was instructed to procure lists of totally protected birds from each of the States, so that the Association could be well informed when it was time to act. Mr. A. H. C. Zietz, F.L.S., reported having seen at Meningie, S.A., the Black-eared Cuckoo (*Mesocalius palliolatus*) being fed by a pair of Red-throats (*Pyrrhuloxia brunneus*), and showed the birds in question to prove their identification. The subject of the evening was notes upon the birds seen on the A.O.U. Seventh Congress trip, by Mr. J. W. Mellor and Captain S. A. White. Mr. Mellor reported having identified 135 species during the trip, the major part of which were seen during the "camp-out" on the Tweed River, when a profitable time was spent. The S.A. representatives had travelled about 4,000 miles by train, which had taken up much time, and left far too short a period for actual field work. Captain White and Mr. Mellor showed several skins of birds collected by them on the Tweed River, permission for procuring special skins having been kindly granted by the New South Wales Government.

The first meeting of the year of this Association was held at the residence of Dr. A. M. Morgan, Angas-street, Adelaide, on Thursday evening, 16th January. Dr. Morgan presided. The hon. secretary reported having written to the Municipal Association and the District Councils Association with reference to the better observance of the *Firearms Act* by boys carrying pea-rifles, who are required to take out licences when using them. The attention of the Commissioner of Crown Lands was drawn to the fact that Black Swans were being shot in contravention of the *Birds Protection Act* of 1900, also that birds were being caught in the Northern Territory and exported. Mr. M. Symonds Clark tabled correspondence from the Commissioner of Police relative to bird protection in various parts of the country, which showed that more knowledge about totally protected native birds was needed even amongst officers themselves. Captain S. A. White read interesting notes upon various birds breeding at the Reedbeds this season. Mr. J. W. Mellor reported having seen the Tawny-fronted Honey-eater (*Glycyphila fulvivrons*) at the Reedbeds during this month. A number of exhibits were shown, including some sternum bones by Dr. A. M. Morgan, to illustrate the variation in certain families. Mr. M. Symonds Clark showed feathers of the Alexandra Parrakeet. Captain S. A. White exhibited a number of birds obtained in the Tweed River district, including the Satin Bower-Bird (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*), the Variegated Wren (*Malurus lamberti*), and the Yellow-rumped Shrike-Robin (*Eopsaltria chrysorrhoa*).

### Notes and Notices.

Mr. H. L. WHITE, A.O.U., Belltrees, Scone, New South Wales, desires to purchase certain rare Australian birds' eggs. None but well-authenticated full clutches will be considered. Reference, Mr. A. Mattingley, hon. secretary A.O.U.

SURGEON-COLONEL C. S. RYAN, P.M.O., Victoria, a member of Council of the A.O.U., is about to visit England on a brief holiday. It is also Colonel Ryan's intention to visit some of the eastern countries of Europe—notably, Turkey, Hungary, and Russia. At the last meeting of the Council of the A.O.U. the ex-president was empowered to convey greetings to similar societies in the old world when opportunity afforded.

ANOTHER ORNITHOLOGIST GOES ABROAD.—The members of the South Australian Ornithological Association met at "Wetunga," Fulham, on Thursday evening, 6th February, to