

On the motion of Mr. J. A. Ross, seconded by Mr. C. W. Wilson, it was decided to contribute one guinea towards the expense of the Flinders Memorial Tablet. Mr. C. F. Cole stated that the Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chalcococcyx basalis*) was seen at Auburn (Vic.) during April and June. Mr. T. H. Tregellas also had evidence of the presence of the Bronze (*C. basalis*), Fantail (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*), and Pallid Cuckoos (*Cuculus pallidus*) at Launching Place (Vic.), the birds still being there. On the motion of Mr. L. G. Chandler, seconded by Mr. A. J. Campbell, Mr. C. P. Conigrave was nominated as a member of the Club. On behalf of Mr. H. L. White, of New South Wales, Mr. A. J. Campbell exhibited two types of skins of *Ptilotis gracilis*, from Queensland, and skins of *Prion ariel* and *P. desolatus*, from New South Wales.

The monthly meeting of the Club was held at the Mia-Mia Tea Rooms, Collins-street, on 17th July. Messrs. C. Barrett and E. Brooke Nicholls acted as joint hosts. Mr. C. Price Conigrave was elected a member of the Club. A letter from Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley, dealing with the scheme for the advancement of the Club, was read. A discussion followed on the report of the sub-committee which had been appointed to deal with the question. It was finally decided that an amendment proposed by Mr. A. J. Campbell be incorporated in the report, and that the suggestions be sent to members. Mr. C. Barrett read a paper entitled "Method in Bird Observing." The subject was an interesting one, and the paper was discussed by several members. Mr. Barrett contended that it was more necessary to study the habits of birds than to describe eggs and nests. A life-history of the bird from a nestling was what we required. Mr. E. Brooke Nicholls read a list of migratory and partially migratory birds, which had been compiled by Mr. A. J. Campbell. Mr. Davis, of New Zealand, was welcomed to the meeting by the president, and he responded by a brief account of some New Zealand birds. Mr. T. H. Tregellas mentioned that he had recently received a letter from a friend living near Kerang. Big gun shooting was carried on around Kerang, on the swamp, and Ducks were being shot in the close season. It was resolved that the hon. secretary write to the Chief Inspector of Game, drawing his attention to the matter. Mr. J. A. Kershaw stated that five Lyre-Birds had been liberated at Wilson's Promontory. Interesting nature notes were contributed by Messrs. C. F. Cole, Stone, and other members.

### South Australian Ornithological Association.

THE monthly meeting of this Association was held on Friday evening, 31st May, in the Royal Society's Rooms, North-terrace, Mr. E. Ashby presiding. Among other matters, a motion was passed in favour of recommending an amendment to the *Birds Protection Act* by adding the scientific terms to the birds' ordinary names. It was also recommended that Mathews' "Hand-list" should be taken as a standard, seeing that it is the most up-to-date one published. Mr. H. E. Laffer, of the Agricultural Department, was nominated as a new member. Part 2 of Mr. G. M. Mathews' *Austral Avian Record* was discussed, owing to its containing a long list of new sub-species. It was the opinion of many members that owing to the splitting into so many sub-species of the birds the study of Australasian Ornithology was confusing. The subject of the evening was the genus *Acanthiza*, and there was much discussion thereon. Mr. R. Zietz (Ornithologist to the Adelaide Museum) showed a fine series of these small birds for comparison. Mr. Ashby also showed some interesting forms of these birds. Capt. S. A. White brought several species of *Acanthizas*, among them *Acanthiza whitei*, from Kangaroo Island, lately described by Mr. G. M. Mathews as a new sub-species of *lineata*.

The monthly meeting of the Association was held at the Institute, North-terrace, on Friday evening, 29th June, Mr. E. Ashby presiding. A letter

was received from the secretary to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, stating that "the Spit" and adjacent islets at Kingscote, Kangaroo Island, had been proclaimed a bird reserve for over three years, and promising to have notices placed there to warn persons of the liability of trespassing to molest the birds. Several letters were read asking permission to take young Seagulls from these breeding places, but as the locality was now protected no permits could be recommended. Mr. H. E. Laffer was elected a member of the Association. Captain White tabled "Bulletin No. 3" of *The Emu*, describing several new birds and eggs, also two volumes of the *Ibis*. Mr. J. W. Mellor showed several species of Scrub-Wrens (*Sericornis*), notably two species from the lowest and highest elevations of the Adelaide district, and upon which experts both in Australia and Europe are differing in their opinion of nomenclature. The subject of the evening was a discussion upon the *Malurus* family, the best known representative about Adelaide being the Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneochlamys*). A series was shown to illustrate the wide distribution of the bird in Australia, and the variations they assume in different localities. Mr. F. R. Zietz, the Museum ornithologist, displayed a fine series from the Adelaide public collection, containing the majority of the known species in Australia, and these were of great use in comparing specimens from private collections. Mr. J. W. Mellor tabled a rare species from the north and far north-west of this State, and described by Mr. A. J. Campbell, of Melbourne, as the White Wren (*Malurus whitei*), named in honour of the good work done by the late Mr. Samuel White. Mr. E. Ashley and Captain White exhibited Blue Wrens from Kangaroo Island, King Island, Tasmania, and the mainland, including the White-winged Wren (*Malurus leucopterus*), from the southern and northern parts of South Australia.

### Notes and Notices.

**Back Volumes of "The Emu."**—Two complete sets (vols. i. to xi.), also some parts (now out of print), may be had on application to the editors.

**Emu-Skins and Lyre-Bird Tails.**—According to advice received from Mr. James Buckland, at the feather sales in London, 7th August, 765 Emu-skins brought from 6s. to 10s. 6d. each. Another inferior lot, of 222 skins, realized from 1s. 3d. to 2s. 3d. each, while 120 of the large curved feathers out of Lyre-Birds' tails brought 2s. 6d. each. How do these feathers get out of Australia?

**California Academy of Sciences.**—Dr. Leverett Mills Loomis, Director of the Museum, writes:—"In spite of the fact that the California Academy of Sciences collection contains over 2,000 Albatrosses and Petrels, and in spite of the fact that I have drawn largely on the museums and private collections of the United States, I find myself hampered by lack of material in reviewing the Tubinares. I will, therefore, be greatly obliged if you will send me the address of a reliable collector in Australia and one in New Zealand, from whom the Academy can purchase specimens of the Albatrosses and Petrels frequenting Australian and New Zealand Seas."

**Acanthiza macularia (Gray).**—To assist me in the preparation of a monograph on the *Acanthizæ*, Mr. F. E. Wilson, the hon. secretary of the R.A.O.U., kindly placed at my disposal his private collection of *Acanthiza* skins.

On examining a large series of *A. pusilla*, and closely allied