

The Ibis, Vol. II (13th Ser.), No. 2. "Some Remarks on the Genus *Hylacola*," by G. M. Mathews.

Native Fantasy in Australia. By A. H. Chisholm. See review in this part.

The Victorian Naturalist, Vol. XLVIII, No. 12 and Vol. XLIX, Nos. 1 and 2.

A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China. By J. D. D. La Touche. Vol. II, part 2. See review in this part.

Report of Bird Observers Club

The annual meeting was held on March 21, 1932, and disclosed a successful year, membership reaching 55. For the first time in the history of the club and probably of any similar body, a lady, Miss M. L. Wigan, was elected as president. Her interest in the study of birds and her work in promoting it among the juniors is well known. The retiring president, Mr. H. V. Miller, who held office for two years, was heartily thanked for his genial and efficient services. The secretaryship remains in the capable hands of Mr. H. E. Stevens.

At the adjourned meeting an "A. J. Campbell Lecture" on King Island was given. The first expedition of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria was organised in 1887 to this little-known spot, and the natural history of the island thoroughly investigated. King Island had a sinister reputation of 30 shipwrecks before the second lighthouse was built, and for the poison plants which dogged the first attempts at settlement. Its early history is interesting in view of the coming centenary of Melbourne. Lieut. Murray, in 1801, sighted and named it a few days before entering Port Phillip, ahead of Flinders, who was approaching the straits from the west and later landed on King Island, finding it with "plenty of wood and water and full of animals." The Emu found there was the smallest form known and became extinct about 1835, no evidence but a few bones remaining. The island bird life in 1887 comprised 69 species, of which 52 were common to both Tasmania and the mainland, but 13 belonged to Tasmania only. The very old lantern slides made by the wet plate process were remarkably brilliant.

The outing in April was to Mt. Macedon, but we ran into cloudland, and while sight-seeing and bird-observing were disappointing, we were compensated by seeing nature in receptive mood, gathering the autumn rains into the forest country and replenishing the mountain springs. The descent again on to the plain country was a marked contrast in environment. The April meeting was devoted to discussion on some of the old time minutes of the club. Mr. Stevens gave an account of a visit to Werribee Gorge and Mr. Heathcote described Bullengarook Ranges, not far away. A fine autumnal day, May 1, saw the club in the Dandenong Ranges among panoramas that were perfectly delightful, but a violent contrast came when we examined the area burned in January last, and noted the almost complete absence of life, particularly of small fry, in the forest swept by the bush fires. The former beauty and interest to the nature lover may never again be reached.

At the meeting in May Mr. J. A. Kershaw gave an illustrated lecture on Wilson's Promontory, covering the early history until the year 1908, when it became a national park, and describing in an attractive manner all the facilities for, and points of interest to, the tourist, besides many phases of natural history in this remarkable 100,000 acres of granite.

Another series of study meetings at the National Museum has been inaugurated, and the committee cordially invite anyone interested in birds to attend. Meetings are fixed for the fourth Monday in each month, entrance by the small gate in Russell Street. 7.45 p.m. sharp.