

## Branches Reports

### TASMANIA

In view of the fact that the presidential address (published in *The Emu*, Vol. XXXII, pt. 3) deals with Tasmanian ornithology, and Mr. Arthur L. Butler, R.A.O.U., gave an address to the Congress on the work of the Tasmanian Animals and Birds Protection Board, it is hardly necessary for me to report at any length on Tasmanian affairs. Generally speaking, the year has been one of steady progress, and the Tasmanian members of the Union have carefully watched for directions in which study of bird life might be improved, as well as assisting protective legislation as far as possible. One outstanding item may be mentioned. As the result of representations placed before my fellow-members of the Board, the Black Swan was placed on the list of totally-protected birds. Representations have been made to the Government in order to prevent the regulation being given effect to, but we hope to give convincing reasons in support of the protection, and I hope to be able to report shortly that the Black Swan has been fully protected in Tasmania.

CLIVE E. LORD,  
Branch Secretary.

### NEW SOUTH WALES

During the session ended the attendances at the Ornithological Section of the Zoological Society, around which most bird work in this State centres, have been maintained and there has been no lack of interest in the proceedings. Before dealing with the routine events of the season two outstanding items must be emphasized as indicative of the energy and quality of our members. Mr. Neville W. Cayley, R.A.O.U., published *What Bird is That?*, a book almost unique in that it was planned and carried out entirely by the artist-author, who prepared the plates from his own designs and saw the whole through the press. It achieved a phenomenal sale, proving that it filled a want, and has been favourably reviewed all over the world. The Society has enrolled Mr. Cayley among its List of Fellows, making the third from this section to achieve that high honour, the total number of Fellows being only ten. We congratulate Mr. Cayley, and the section must be proud of his success.

Mr. Alec. H. Chisholm, R.A.O.U., followed his previous successes with *Nature Fantasy in Australia*, mainly dealing with the flora, fauna and geology of Sydney-side. This book, written in his delightful literary style, has received acclamation everywhere. Our congratulations are again well-

merited. Again before passing on we may note the progress of the Avicultural Section, a companion to our own, and the inception of which was mainly due to the initiative of our secretary, Mr. Cayley. Mr. Cayley's later book, *Australian Finches in Bush and Aviary*, adds further to his laurels. As contributors to *The Emu*, *Australian Museum Magazine*, etc., Messrs. Hindwood, Marshall and others have continued with essays, the former with his historical account of the Emu Wren, furnishing an essay comparing more than favourably with any published in any part of the world. Mr. Marshall, has been investigating bird life in mid-Queensland. Our photographers have been by no means idle, Mr. Norman Chaffer taking up cinema photography, and, advised by one of our veteran photographers, Mr. J. P. Ramsay, producing pictorial results equal to the world's best.

We had the pleasure of the attendance of members of the American Harvard Expedition, and were able to provide a good evening, so that we were complimented upon our activity.

The meetings may be epitomized thus:—

July 17, 1931.—Mr. P. A. Gilbert, "Birds of Eastern N.S.W., their migratory movements and nesting habits," illustrated with his own lantern slides.

August 31, 1931:—The American scientists, Dr. Glover M. Allen, Dr. Philip J. Darlington and Mr. Ralph Ellis, junr., were welcomed, and paintings were exhibited by Mr. E. Gostelow and Mr. N. W. Cayley; lantern slides were shown and lecturettes were given by Messrs. P. A. Gilbert, K. A. Hindwood, J. R. Kinghorn, and A. J. Marshall, dealing with the fauna they might meet with.

September 18, 1931.—Mr. N. W. Cayley, "Owls," illustrated with his paintings of all the Australian species. A discussion on Owl calls ensued, and some vivid imitations, notably one of the Powerful Owl, by Mr. K. A. Hindwood, were rendered. The untimely death of Mr. B. C. J. Bettington had to be regretfully recorded.

October 16, 1931.—Mr. M. S. R. Sharland, "Birds of Tasmania and Victoria," with unexcelled lantern slides. Welcome back to Mr. E. J. Bryce from his world tour.

November 20, 1931.—Mr. E. J. Bryce, "Through Persia and the Caucasus," illustrated with lantern slides. A delightful account.

December 18, 1931.—Mr. A. J. Marshall, "Denizens of the Bush," illustrated with lantern slides.

January 15, 1932.—Mr. Norman Chaffer exhibited motion pictures of Rufous Fantail, Satin Bower Bird, and Brown Warbler. Mr. J. R. Kinghorn showed an English motion picture of the life of the Kestrel for comparison.

February 19, 1932.—Mr. J. S. P. Ramsay showed his excellent series of motion pictures of many species, and Mr. N. Chaffer continued with an excellent motion study of the female Regent Bower-bird at nest and young. This meeting acclaimed the exhibitors for their brilliant successes in this difficult branch of photography.

March 18, 1932.—Mr. P. E. Barrett showed us the spiders of the district by means of beautiful lantern slides.

April 15, 1932.—Mr. E. J. Bryce, "The Land of the Incas," an excellent account with beautiful pictures.

May 20, 1932.—Mr. N. W. Cayley, Bird Talk with a very fine series of lantern slides from photographs taken by Messrs. R. T. Littlejohns, the Harvey brothers, Otho Webb, F. C. Morse, and D. Gaukrodger. Master Frank Clark gave delightful imitations of the calls of well-known birds.

Owing to his intensive work on his book, Mr. N. W. Cayley was given leave of absence from his secretarial duties for six months, and these were carried out by Mr. C. Coles, to whom our thanks are here tendered.

TOM IREDALE,  
For Branch Secretary.

[Other Branch Reports appeared in Vol. XXXII, p. 177, *et seq.*—Ed.]

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On behalf of the Japanese artist, Mr. K. Kobayashi, a letter has been sent to the Union advertising a proposed publication by Messrs. Kobayashi and I. Ishizawa to be entitled *The Eggs of Japanese Birds*. The publication is to be completed by the end of 1933, in twenty parts, each containing about ten pages of text and five or six coloured plates of eggs. A specimen plate is indicative of a fine publication. The work is limited to 300 copies. Particulars are obtainable from Mr. Kobayashi at Jugo Building, Kobe, Japan.

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Mr. Michael Terry, well-known inland-Australian explorer, observed, in November, 1932, whilst on a prospecting expedition, several flocks each of about twenty Princess Parrots (*Polytelis alexandræ*)—about one hundred birds in all. They were seen amongst desert oaks growing in an area of sandhills about twenty miles south-west of the west end of the Rawlinson Range, W.A., which range commences at the South Australian border at about the twenty-fifth parallel of latitude and runs for one hundred miles westerly. The nearest certain water was twenty miles away. A smaller flock (about a dozen birds) was seen later at Marnie Rock Hole, about ten miles SSW of Mt. Rennie.