

Library Notes

The following additions to the Library are acknowledged:—

Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institute for year ending 30/6/31.

The Wilson Bulletin, Vol. XVIV, No. 4. Contains "The Physiology of Feather Pattern," by Franklin R. Lillie.

The Birds of Eastern China, by J. D. D. La Touche, Vol. II, Part III. See review in this part.

Contributions to Palæontology from Carnegie Institute of Washington—"Eagles and Eagle-like Vultures of the Pleistocene of Rancho La Brea," by Hildegard Howard.

The Nidification of Birds of the Indian Empire, by E. C. Stuart Baker—Vol 1. See review in this part.

Physiology of the Temperature of Birds, by S. Prentiss Baldwin and S. Charles Kendleigh. See review in this part.

The Auk, Vol. L, No. 1.

The Ibis, Vol. III, No. 1. Contains "Additions and Corrections to the 'Systema Avium Australasianarum'", Part III, by G. M. Mathews. [The Australian forms in this list are also included in "Additions" in this current *Emu*: balance are extra-limital. Authority for *Cayleya* (= *Emblema*) wrongly ascribed to Cayley.] "Structural Diversity in Charadriine Genera, correlated with difference in colour-pattern," by Dr. Percy R. Lowe.

The Condor, Vol. XXXIV, No. 6; and Vol. XXXV, No. 1.

Feathered Favourites, by L. A. Redgrave. See review in this part.

Zoologica: Scientific Contributions of the New York Zoological Society, Vol. XI, No. 7—"Notes on certain Birds of Paradise," by Lee S. Crandall.

The South Australian Ornithologist, Vol. XII, Part 1. Contains "Birds of Salt Creek and Some Island-Sanctuaries in the Coorong," by J. Sutton; "Nesting of the Gull-billed Tern," by W. Cain.

The Birds of the Philippine Islands, by Hon. Masauji Hachisuka—Part 2. See review in this part.

The Avicultural Magazine, Vol. X, No. 12, Vol. XI, No. 1. No. 12 contains plate by Neville W. Cayley of two species of *Stizoptera* = *Steganopleura*.

The Victorian Naturalist, Vol. XLIX, Nos. 9, 10 and 11. No. 9 contains a record of a Diving Petrel (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*), found dead near Ballarat, Vic.

Australian Science Abstracts, Vol. 12, No. 1.

Birds Collected in Cuba and Haiti by the Parish-Smithsonian Expedition of 1930, by Alexander Wetmore. From the "Proceedings of the United States National Museum."

Moving a Museum—The Story of the Rothschild Museum, by Robert Cushman Murphy. Reprinted from "Natural His-

tory," Vol. XXXII, No. 6, 1932, pp. 497-511. [Collections purchased and presented to the American Museum of Natural History:—Include (*inter alia*) the Mathews Collection of 45,000 specimens, and the Sir Walter Buller Collection of New Zealand birds.]

The Birds of Nippon, by Prince Taka-Tsukasa. See review in this part.

—C.E.B.

Report of Bird Observers' Club

The new year usually opens quietly for the Club, as many members are on holiday in scattered parts, not always, however, out of touch with their feathered friends. Two notable trips were made on the week-ends commencing on January 14 and 28 respectively to Mud Island, in Port Phillip Bay, where White-faced Storm Petrels rear their young and where the wading birds collect in great numbers. The more we see of this little-known locality, the more we are convinced that here at our gates lies a bird sanctuary of absorbing interest, inviting us to a more detailed study of its varied inhabitants.

All activities in February were focussed in the Club's first Exhibition, open to the public. The large amount of necessary work was cheerfully undertaken by members, and the result financially as well as the interest aroused among the visiting public fully justified the efforts to popularize bird lore. Not the least pleasure was among members themselves who saw for the first time all the essential items in the "life history" of their hobby exhibited together.

The March outing was to Lake Connemara, a very long trip for a day, but the day was a delightful one following a good fall of rain, and about five hours were spent in exploring this "haunt of coot and tern," known to readers of Belcher's *Birds of Geelong*. Mr. H. A. Purnell and other members of the Geelong Naturalists' Club acted as guides and described the local points of interest. Geologically considered, the water basins are rapidly silting up, leaving barely four square miles of open water in a total area of about twenty square miles. But the huge area of "everglades" where reeds, rushes and numerous other aquatic plants flourish, has a compensating value from a naturalist's point of view. Although it is now the open season for duck shooting, and all the water fowl are very wary, yet birds were in thousands. The flights of the wild Black Swan were a stirring sight, and when energetic members waded among the reed beds other birds—Bald Coots, Australian Coots and Brown Bitterns—took wing and showed that they too were capable of sustained flight.

The annual meeting was held late in March, and we look back on a successful year with growing membership. We only wish it were in our power to persuade R.A.O.U. members in other centres to form similar clubs to ours under the Union charter (see *The Emu*, Vol. XXVIII, p. 73) for their own interest, entertainment and education.

It is noticed that the article on the Scarlet-chested Parakeet (*The Emu*, Vol. XXXII, p. 173), by S. Harvey, was sent by Mr. Harvey to both *The Emu* and *The Avicultural Magazine*. That fact was, of course, unknown to the Editor, when the contribution was accepted and published.