

observations of a rare American species is interesting to Australians as an example of thoroughness in observation methods on a scale never approached in Australia except with one or two species such as the Lyrebird and Satin Bower-bird. "A pair of 24-power binoculars set on a tripod was trained on the nest-opening, and from daylight, April 10, until 11 a.m., April 14, continuous observations during the hours of daylight were made either by the writer or by James Tanner." Excellent photographs of the birds at the nest and sound films of the birds' notes were obtained. Several pairs were under observation and in each case the "Ivory-bills" managed to hatch their eggs successfully but lost the young from the nest from an unknown cause. It is suggested that this may account in some part for the rarity of the species.—R.S.M.

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## Correspondence

### ORNITHOLOGY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

To the Editor

Sir,—In his very interesting account of "The History of Ornithology in South Australia," Prof. Cleland writes (*Emu*, vol. XXXVI, p. 198): "The small bay Flinders anchored in at the Isle St. Francis, he called Petrel Bay—as far as I know the first use in Australia of the name of a bird in geographical nomenclature." This was in February, 1802, but in 1797 Flinders had named the Swan Isles, off the north coast of Tasmania (Collins, *New South Wales*, vol. 2, p. 159) and in 1799 Flinders and Bass named Albatross Island in Bass Strait (Collins, *loc. cit.*, p. 173). Flinders was by no means the first to give the names of birds to geographical features of Australia. We may perhaps disregard the name "*Psitacorum terra*" appearing on a French globe of 1603 on a land mass roughly in the position of north-western Australia. But it seems strange that Prof. Cleland should have forgotten that the Swan River in Western Australia was named by Vlaming in 1697 from his discovery of Black Swan upon it. Bustard Bay in Queensland was named by Captain Cook in 1770 in memory of the Australian Bustard killed and eaten there by his company.—Yours, etc.,

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A number of the original paintings by Mr. Neville Cayley of colour plates appearing in *The Emu* are still available. Early applications, to the Hon. General Secretary, should be made. The paintings are only available to members—at one guinea each.