

birds are considered. Thus, the heavier or more technical matter is agreeably sandwiched with racy and interesting non-scientific writing which captivates the reader.

Photography is fast establishing itself as an indispensable hand-aid to the sciences. Illustrations (set in groups, and most excellently engraved in half-tone) are given of over 400 Australian birds, while 20 "tricoloured" blocks depict 177 species in natural colours—a complete triumph in photo-mechanical skill by the etchers, Messrs. Patterson, Shugg and Co., from paintings by Miss Ethel M. Paterson. The only drawback noticed is that the birds appear stuffed and mounted—none the less valuable as illustrations than skins and mummies in an ornithologist's cabinet or museum.

How this ornithological compendium, or "Australian Birds in a Nutshell," was written and published for 3s. 6d. is marvellous. Its author and his enterprising publishers have indeed given to the world a unique book. Australians especially will be greatly indebted to Mr. Leach for his untiring labours, and to the long-sightedness of his department in sanctioning the publication of such a useful "bird book," the just reward of which must surely be many editions.

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### South Australian Ornithological Association.

THE usual monthly meeting was held at Dr. Pulleine's rooms, North-terrace, on Thursday evening, 2nd March, when Capt. S. A. White presided. There was a large attendance. The secretary (Mr. J. W. Mellor) reported having liberated Mallee-Fowl on Kangaroo Island, and stated that he had examined the country composing the reserve on the west end of the island. He found it very sterile and rough, and quite unfit for grazing, much less agriculture. The Government should extend the area of the reserve. Votes of thanks were passed to the Marine Board for having conveyed the birds to Kangaroo Island, and to the lighthouse officials for their assistance. The good service rendered by Mr. Mellor for his care of the birds was much appreciated. Dr. Morgan stated that sufficient money had been promised to procure another batch of Mallee-Fowl. The subject of the Pelican was discussed, and it was agreed to invite other scientific bodies to send representatives to wait upon the Government, requesting that the bird be placed upon the partially protected list, at least. All deeply deplored the wretched slaughter of young Pelicans on the Coorong. Mr. Robert Zietz was of opinion that the Australian Crane, or Native Companion, should be protected, as it was becoming very scarce. Mr. Edquist, of the Education Department, reported that 116 bird clubs had been established in conjunction with the schools, and the roll showed over 4,000 members, who had pledged themselves to protect our native birds. He also stated that he wished to start a competition in the schools for the best essays on birds. He would like to have a silver cup to be competed for as first prize. A subscription list was started, and the money required was raised in the room.

## Ornithological Field Research.

THE Western Australian scientific expedition, under Mr. C. P. Conigrave, F.R.G.S. (late of the Perth Museum, and a member of the R.A.O.U.), is to spend six months exploring new country in the Kimberley district, accompanied by Mr. Lachlan Burns, as naturalist. Mr. Conigrave leaves Perth 27th March for Wyndham, where he will add two white men and some native boys to the party, which proceeds south from Wyndham, crosses the head of Cambridge Gulf, goes west to Pentecost River, and then circles north into unexplored tracts. The Government of Western Australia supplies scientific instruments and part of the equipment. The expedition's journal and botanical and geological collections will be handed to the Survey Department. It is expected that zoological collections will reimburse expenses, and that Mr. Conigrave's field observations on birds will be published in *The Emu*. Mr. Gregory M. Mathews is to secure the bird-skins to aid him in his new work, "The Birds of Australia." Members of the R.A.O.U. will therefore await the result of Mr. Conigrave's adventurous expedition with unusual interest. They will also commend the wisdom of the State Premier (the Hon. Frank Wilson) for endorsing the recommendations of his responsible officers in granting Mr. Conigrave monetary assistance, thus placing the expedition on a sure footing. The expedition will consist of six whites, including an experienced police trooper and Mr. Roy Collison, of Adelaide, who joins at the last moment, which should be strong enough to cope with any "brush" from hostile aborigines.

## Notes and Notices.

REED-WARBLERS IN TASMANIA.—Mr. Robert Legge writes to state that this summer Reed-Warblers (*Acrocephalus australis*) were visitors to the reed-beds on the river at Cullenswood—the first time in that locality, so far as he is aware.

COLOURED FIGURE FUND.—Acknowledgment was unintentionally omitted to be given to Mr. Gregory M. Mathews for his goodness in defraying half the cost of the fine coloured plate (B) in *The Emu*, vol. viii., p. 113. Mr. Mathews has also defrayed half the cost of the coloured plate (C) in this present volume. With the discovery recently of so many new Australian birds, will other enthusiasts emulate Mr. Mathews' good example?

EGG COLLECTING.—At a meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club held 19th October, 1910, the following resolution was carried almost unanimously:—"That this meeting strongly disapproves of the collecting and exhibiting of large series of clutches of eggs of British-breeding birds, or of British-taken eggs of our rare breeding species, except for the purpose of demonstrating some new scientific fact."

BIRDS AND POISON BAITS. — In February, 1910, the Bird Observers' Club (Melbourne) discussed the subject of the harm alleged to be done to native bird-life through the system of poisoning rabbits with baits, and it was decided to bring the matter under the notice of the Victorian Department of Agriculture. This was done, and subsequently the hon. secretary of the Club received from the Secretary of the Department, Mr. E. G. Duffus, a copy of a report from Mr. F. E. Allan, Chief Inspector of Vermin. In a letter accompanying the report (a copy of which was also received), Mr. Allan stated that he had not heard of the death of any insectivorous birds since May, 1909 (the date of the report). He considered the scare to be quite unwarranted, and the statement that "thousands of useful birds are destroyed annually" as greatly exaggerated, if not without foundation. But, even if the grain caused the death of a few birds, the poisoning of rabbits must proceed. In his report Mr. Allan states that the system of poisoning with apples destroys very few birds, and certainly still fewer valuable ones. A few Magpies and Crows fall victims. Grain destroys more birds than fruit does, "and it is my desire to make the latter take the place of the former as much as possible."

The Bird Observers' Club, after discussing the matter again in the light of these statements by the Chief Inspector of Vermin, decided to take no further action; but since then evidence has been accumulating, and competent observers, as well as orchardists and farmers, are at variance with Mr. Allan in the view he takes of the matter. Writing from Mansfield, a member of the Gould League of Bird-Lovers states that large numbers of birds are being destroyed by poison laid for rabbits. An orchardist at White Hills says that "something should be done to stop the killing of birds by rabbit poison." At meetings of the Bird Observers' Club it has been stated that the present system of poisoning rabbits is undoubtedly inimical to the bird-life of the Commonwealth.

ARTICLES, &c., RECEIVED.—The following articles and notes from members have been received, but are unavoidably held over:—"Birds Noted at Wyroona and St. Heliers" (Mr. Isaac Batey), "Some Mallee Birds" (Mr. A. M. Sullivan), "Trip to the Tunnel District, Tasmania" (Mr. P. C. Thompson), "Nesting of the Red Wattle-Bird, &c." (Mr. H. Stuart Dove, F.Z.S.), "Descriptions and Dimensions of Eggs" (Mr. P. A. Gilbert, Sydney), "Notes on Honey-eaters" (Miss J. A. Fletcher), "Birds of the Bush" (Mr. J. C. M'Lean, M.B.O.U., New Zealand), "When did the White-eye (*Zosterops*) Migrate to New Zealand?" (Mr. A. H. Chisholm), "Birds of Lake Boga District" (Alex. Stone), "Liberating Mallee-Fowl on Kangaroo Island" (J. W. Mellor), "Nesting of *Psephotus hæmatonotus* in Captivity" (Mrs. A. F. U. Hardy).

## Publications Received.

- Agricultural Journal of N.S.W., The*, April to December, 1910, and January and February, 1911.
- Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institute*, 1909.
- Arbor and Bird Day*: Supplement to *Education Gazette*.
- Auk, The*, January, April, July, and October, 1910; January, 1911.
- Australian Naturalist*, April, July, 1910.
- Avicultural Magazine*, January–December, 1910; January, 1911.
- Banfield, E. J.*, *The Confessions of a Beachcomber*.
- Bird Lore*, January–April and November–December, 1909; March–October, November–December, 1910.
- Bird News*, January–April, 1909.
- British Birds*, March and April, 1909, February–December, 1910; January, 1911.
- Buckland, James*, *The Birds of Our Colonies and their Protection*.
- Bulletin of the B.O.U.*, XXVI., October, 1910.
- Butler, A. G., Ph.D., F.L.S.*, *Foreign Birds for Cage and Aviary*, Parts I–II.
- Chisholm, A. H.*, *Save the Birds*.
- Clarke, Austin*, *The Birds Collected and Observed during the Cruise of the Steamer of the United States Fisheries*.
- Condor*, January, February, 1910.
- Coward, T. A.*, *The Fauna of Cheshire*, Vols. I. and II.
- Geelong Naturalist*, September, 1910.
- Gladstone, H. S.*, *The Birds of Dumfries-shire*.
- Haagner, Alwin, F.Z.S.*, *The South African Birds of Prey*.
- Hall, R.*, *The Educational Value of Museum Collections*.
- Hawkesbury College Agricultural Journal*, to date.
- Hull, A. F. Basset*, *Further Notes on the Birds of Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands*.
- Ibis, The*, April, July, and October, 1910.
- Iredale, Tom*, *Additional Notes on the Birds of Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands*.
- Journal South African O. Union*, IV., No. 3; V., Nos. 1 and 3; VI., No. 1.
- Jouy, P. L.*, *The Paradise Flycatchers of Japan and Korea*.
- La Revue du Mois*, Tomes V. and VI.
- Little, Frank, F.E.S.*, *The Birds of Tasmania*.
- Macgillivray and Thomson*, *Life of William Macgillivray*.
- Mattingley, A. H. E., C.M.Z.S.*, *Some Points of Similarity of Birds and Fishes*.

Mearns, E. A., A List of Birds Collected by Dr. P. Bartsch in the Philippine Islands.

*Memoirs of the National Museum, Melbourne*, No. 3.

*National Association of Audubon Societies, The*. Leaflets 19, 35, and 39-44.

*National Parks Association*, 1909.

*Ornithologischen Gesellschaft in Bayern*, 1908.

*Ornithologisches Jahrbuch*, April, 1909, and April and October, 1910.

*Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, 1908 and 1909.

Parkin, Thomas, An Account of the Shooting Decoy in the Parishes of Beckley and Peasmarsh, Sussex.

Parkin, Thomas, Beauport, near Battle, and its Rookery.

*Proceedings Linnean Society of N.S.W.* for the year 1910.

*Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia*, 1909.

*Producers' Review of Western Australia*.

Ray, Milton S. (California), Discovery of Nest and Eggs of the Gray-crowned Leucosticte.

*Records of the Western Australian Museum and Art Gallery*.

*Review, A, of Mining Operations in the State of South Australia*, Nos. 9, 11, 12.

*Revision, A, of the Kingfisher Genus Ramphalcyon*.

*The Children's Hour: Bird Day numbers*, 1910.

*The Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand*, Vols. I. and II.

Ticehurst, N. F., A History of the Birds of Kent.

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*Victorian Naturalist, The*, to date.

*Zoologica*, I., Nos. 2-6.

*Zoologist, The*, January, 1910.