

letter from Mr. Elliott was quite erroneous. There was no error in the West Australian Museum, and there is no doubt that the bird referred to was *H. cantata*. It would, therefore, seem quite clear that the eggs found did not belong to the bird which was shot. Unfortunately, the eggs have been accidentally destroyed, and there is now no possibility of identifying them.—Yours truly,

J. A. ROSS.

54 Claremont-avenue. Malvern. 7/6/16.

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### Bird Observers' Club.

THE annual meeting of the Bird Observers' Club was held in Melbourne on 25th May, 1916; Mr. Charles Barrett, C.M.Z.S., the president, in the chair. There was a fairly large attendance. Mr. F. E. Howe, the hon. secretary, in his report, referred to the interesting papers that had been read, and the specimens exhibited at the monthly meetings. In his address, the president suggested that members should endeavour, by combined effort, to obtain complete records of the home-life of at least a few native birds. In Europe and America excellent work was being done in this direction.

After a long discussion, a proposal that nesting boxes, drinking basins, and food tables should be provided for native birds in school play-grounds and public parks and gardens, if possible, was approved. Several members expressed doubt whether nesting boxes would be a success, and Starlings and Sparrows were mentioned as the most likely tenants. It was stated that the executive of the Gould League of Bird Lovers had approved of the scheme, and it was hoped the League members would help to carry it out.

Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley, C.M.Z.S., was elected president for the ensuing year, and Mr. F. E. Wilson hon. secretary. Mr. G. A. Dyer was re-elected hon. treasurer.

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### Publications Received.

*The Zoologist*, January, February, March, 1916.

January issue contains a short article by A. V. Aplin, "Notes on an August Nightingale" at Bloxham, Oxon, also "Some Bird Notes from the Somerset Coast," by Stanley Lewis. We are glad to see that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds keeps a watcher at Bream Down, the part of the coast mentioned. The February and March numbers contain many interesting articles.

*Avicultural Magazine*, February, March, 1916.

As usual, this magazine is full of interesting matter. Among other articles in the February number are "My Piping Crow," by Mrs. Staveley-Hill; "Sun-Birds in Their Native Haunts," by F. E. Blaauw; and "Wonders of Birds' Nests," by F. J. Koch. March issue contains, among other articles, "Birds in

Flanders During the War," by Col. W. Tweedie; "My Swainson's Lorikeets," by Guy Falkner; and "The Best System of Feeding Insectivorous Birds," by P. F. M. Galloway.

*British Birds*, February, March, 1916.

These parts contain lists of large numbers of British birds that have been recovered marked, and states the progress for 1915 of the marking scheme and some results, by H. F. Witherby. The number of birds ringed from 1909 to 1915 was 67,614, which shows how thoroughly the British ornithologists have worked at this interesting subject; the results will be most valuable.

*Revue Francaise d'Ornithologie*, January, February, March, 1916.

January issue contains some notes by L. Brasil on a collection of birds from New Caledonia, which includes some Australian forms, especially among the Waders, some observations on the birds of Kerguelen Island, and other articles. In the February number the notes on the birds from New Caledonia are continued. An interesting account of the Crested Auk, by Dr. R. Didier, is given as a supplement to this number. In the March issue M. André Godard has an article on "Bird Destruction," showing the immense number that are killed for the purpose of the feather trade. There are also further notes on the birds of Kerguelen Island.

*The Condor*, vol. xvii., Nos. 5, 6, 1915; and vol. xviii., No. 1.

These contain interesting papers on American ornithology.

*Bird Lore*, vol. xvii., No. 5.

This number is profusely illustrated. The account of the young Condor, with photographs, is exceptionally interesting.

*The Wilson Bulletin*, March, 1916.

This number contains a well-illustrated article on the Terns of Weepeeket Islands, by A. R. Cahn, and other articles.

*University of California Publications in Zoology*, January, 1916.

A report on mammals and birds found in portions of Trinity, Siskiyou, and Shasta Counties, California, by L. Kellogg, is included in this issue.

*Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*, vol. xxxv., art. 7.

R. C. Murphy and F. Harper describe two new Diving Petrels—namely, *Pelecanoides urinatrix chathamensis*, sub-sp., from the Chatham Islands, and *P. georgica*, sp., from South Georgia.

*The South Australian Ornithologist*, vol. ii., part 6.

This issue contains an article by T. P. Bellchambers on the nesting of the Mallee-Fowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), with illustrations; notes on the birds noticed by Dr. A. M. Morgan on a trip to St. Vincent and Spencer Gulfs; and a continuation of a sketch of the life of Samuel White, by Capt. S. A. White.

*The Australian Naturalist*, vol. iii., part 10.

There are no bird notes in this number.

*The Australian Zoologist*, vol. i., part 3.

No bird notes. An interesting article on colour-variation of Australian phalangers of the genus *Trichosurus*, and describing one new sub-species, by A. S. Le Souëf.

*The Victorian Naturalist*, vol. xxxii., parts 11 and 12; vol. xxxiii., part 1.

No. 12 has an account of the wild bird life in the Melbourne Zoological Gardens, by D. Le Souëf.

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### The Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union.

THE Council of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union has received with gratitude the first half-year's interest on the £1,000 donated by a member, who wishes to remain anonymous. Messrs. Z. Gray (hon. treasurer), A. H. E. Mattingley (ex-president), and Dr. J. A. Leach (vice-president) have been appointed trustees. They have secured a room in Temple Court (Room 2, second floor), 424 Collins-street west, Melbourne. It is large enough for the Council and ornithological meetings other than public lectures.

Committees have been appointed to supervise fittings and furnishings, to build up working collections of skins, nests, and eggs, to care for the scientific collections which it is hoped will in course of time be possessed by the Union, and to provide for the library. It is hoped to secure, as far as possible, a complete set of the literature concerned with the Australian avifauna. A prominent supporter of the Union has already announced his intention of presenting John Gould's great work, "The Birds of Australia," in eight volumes. A Melbourne member has donated a table of polished Australian timber; others have provided chairs, hat rails, and bookshelves. Enlargements of famous bird photographs have already been presented, and a large photograph of John Gould has been promised. An electric lantern for showing lantern slides has also been presented. Members wishing to assist in furnishing or fitting up the room are requested to communicate with the hon. secretary.

The next meeting of the Council will be held in the new room. Visiting members are requested to communicate with the hon. secretary, and members of the Council will be pleased to meet them at the Union's room, thus realizing the wishes of the donor.

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**New Members.**—So many members have volunteered for the front that there is a danger that our membership roll will be reduced in these times of increased costs and reduced incomes. Will each member try to send to the hon. secretary the name of *one* bird-loving friend who may become a member of the Union?