

the Snowy Albatross (*Diomedea chionopectera*); and the Golden-shouldered Parrot (*Psephotellus chrysopterygius*), which Australians feared was extinct until Dr. Macgillivray and Mr. M'Lennan re-discovered it on the Cape York Peninsula.

"Addenda" give the generic name "*Tavistocka*" for the Spotted-sided Finch, and the name *Steganopleura* (replacing *Stizoptera*) for the Banded Finch.

The appendices contain matter of much value and importance to ornithologists generally and Australian ornithologists in particular.

The Library.

THE Union's library is growing apace, and the hon. librarian (Mr. Erasmus Wilson) is greatly handicapped for the want of proper cases for shelving many valuable books, not to mention periodicals.

A generous member, who desires his name suppressed at present, has kindly donated £5 towards supplying new bookcases. The hon. librarian hopes that this good example will be followed. Any sum, however small, will be of service.

Additions to the Library.

BY F. ERASMUS WILSON, R.A.O.U., Hon. Librarian.

"Birds and the War," by Hugh S. Gladstone. Skeffington and Son. London, 1919.

The author, whose military duties kept him in London, collected all available information dealing with the effects of war on bird life, and has compiled an entertaining little book, written in the popular strain. Many sea-birds are shown to have perished owing to their plumage having become matted together with crude oil, liberated owing to the destruction of submarines or oil-tank craft. Guillemots, Razorbills, Puffins, Eider Ducks, and Gulls all met their fate in this manner, for, being unable to fly or dive, they soon died of starvation.

"Life Histories of North American Diving Birds," Order Pygopodes, by Arthur Cleveland Bent. Smithsonian Institution, United States National Museum, Bulletin 107.

The order Pygopodes contains the following North American birds:—Grebes, Loons, Puffins, Auklets, Auks, Murrelets, Guillemots, Murres, and the Dovekie, and Mr. Bent has dealt with his subject in a very masterly manner.

"Spencer Fullerton Baird," a biography, including selections from his correspondence with Audubon, Agassiz, Dana, and others. By William Healey Dall, M.A., B.Sc. J. B. Lippincott, Philadelphia and London.

Spencer Fullerton Baird, born 1823, died 1887, might be

fittingly called the "Grand Old Man" of North American natural history, and will be long remembered as the man who laid the foundations of the famous United States National Museum.

"A Practical Handbook of British Birds," by H. F. Witherby, Parts 4, 5. Witherby and Co., London.

"Some Notes on the Birds of Southern Palawan and Adjacent Islands." Reprint of contributions by John T. Zimmer to the *Philippine Journal of Science*.

Austral Avian Record, vol. iii., No. 7.

This part is taken up with short biographical sketches of three of our best-known Australian ornithologists -- Samuel Albert White, Thomas Carter, and William David Kerr Macgillivray -- each sketch being accompanied by an excellent portrait.

PERIODICALS RECEIVED IN EXCHANGE.

Australian Naturalist, vol. iv., Nos. 8, 9.

No. 9 contains a contribution by E. Oliver Edwards on "Birds seen at Goorianawa, Central Western District, New South Wales."

Australian Zoologist, The, vol. i., part 7.

Contains two splendid photos. of the Spine-tailed Swift (*Chaetura caudacula*).

Auk, The, vol. xxxvi., No. 4.

Avicultural Magazine, third series, Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.

No. 9 contains an article on "The Emeu," by J. K. Butler, M.D. The doctor states that the word Emeu originally came from the Portugese word Emea, meaning a Crane. The article is an interesting one, and is illustrated with a photo. of three birds taken in his paddock at Cannock, where a pair of them bred.

Bird Lore, vol. xxi., parts 4, 5, 6.

British Birds, vol. xiii., Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

Condor, vol. xxi., No. 4.

Hawkesbury Agricultural Journal, vol. xvi., parts 10, 11, 12; vol. xvii., part 1.

Ibis, The, eleventh series, vol. i., No. 4.

Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia, vol. lxx., part 3; vol. lxxi., part 3.

Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, vol. viii., Nos. 5, 6, 7; and Index to vol. vii.

Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, vol. xliv., 2, 3.

Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria, xxxii., new series, part 1.

Revue Francaise d'Ornithologie, Nos. 121, 122, 123.

Science and Industry, vol. i., Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8.

South Australian Ornithologist, vol. iv., part 4; vol. v., part 1:

Vol. iv. (4) contains an interesting paper on "The Weights of Birds," by Dr. A. M. Morgan. Capt. S. A. White also contributes a paper on "Birds Recorded from Early Days up to the Present Time for the Reed Beds District." In all, some 168 species of birds are noted, no mean achievement for a single district. Vol. v. (1), "A New Sub-species of Emu-Wren (*Stipiturus malachurus halmaturina*)" is here described by F. E. Parsons. Mr. Gregory Mathews deals with "Ornithological Nomenclature."

University of California Publications in Zoology, vol. xix., Nos. 8, 9; vol. xx., Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4; vol. xxi., No. 3.

Victorian Naturalist, vol. xxxvi., Nos. 1-10.

Monthly Conversazioni of R.A.O.U.

THE December conversazione of the R.A.O.U. was held at the rooms, Collins-street, on Wednesday, 4th inst., and, despite the unfavourable weather and heavy rain, there was a fair attendance of members. Mr. A. J. Campbell was voted to the chair. Commodore Cochrane, whose naval duties have led him into most parts of the world, entertained members with some of his bird-observing experiences in foreign lands. The cream of these experiences he has written up under the heading of "Red Letter Days." The Commodore selected five of these days, dealing with the Siberian Meadow-Bunting in China, the Storm-Petrel in the Mediterranean, a Falcon of Sardinia, a Sea-Eagle of Greece, and Terns on an island near the shores of Palestine. The Siberian Bunting usually nests on the ground, and, desiring to obtain eggs of this species, he let it be known in the village that information leading to the finding of nests would be rewarded. The "heathen Chinese" is still a heathen, and one bright young scoundrel, having found a nest containing four eggs, skilfully constructed another nest near by, in which he deposited half the clutch, and endeavoured thus to obtain two rewards. The delightful description of the finding of a nest of this species under a flowering wild rose-bush stamped the Commodore as not merely an ornithologist but a true nature-lover.

In the Mediterranean is a tiny rocky island that for very many years served as a practice-target for British naval gunners. So much used was it for this purpose that the only time one could land there was at the week-ends. Yet here for generations a small colony of Storm-Petrels have braved the dangers and reared their broods. His account of a visit to this island in search of Petrels' eggs was indeed interesting. Some of his trips were attended with no little danger, and he related how he was nearly drowned when visiting a lonely islet near the coast of Sardinia.