

still a good field, but a stupendous task if they would do better—one worthy of all endeavour. What Sir Walter Buller did for science is his best memorial.

South Australian Ornithological Association.

THE ordinary meeting of the association was held at the residence of Dr. A. M. Morgan on the evening of the 3rd August, the president, Mr. J. W. Mellor, being in the chair. The chairman drew attention to the movement on foot for the formation of a reserve on Kangaroo Island as a national park for the total protection of fauna and flora. Mr. J. W. Mellor and Capt. S. A. White reported having identified a number of species of native birds at the Reedbeds this winter, some of which were rare visitors. They gave interesting notes upon the early breeding habits of some birds this season. A discussion took place on the protection of the European Goldfinch (*Fringilla carduelis*) and the European Blackbird (*Turdus merula*). Good points were accorded to both species, but it was unanimously agreed that their destructiveness was in excess of their usefulness. Dr. A. M. Morgan showed an interesting early ornithological volume, "A General Synopsis of Birds," by the late Dr. Latham, written in 1783. The chairman produced a volume of interesting photographs of Kangaroo Island fauna and flora, recently presented to him by the Council of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union, in recognition of services rendered in connection with the leadership of the recent expedition to Kangaroo Island. Mr. F. R. Zietz exhibited the Broad-billed Petrel (*Prion vittatus*), which had been found near Adelaide; also a specimen of a near ally, the Dove-Petrel (*Prion desolatus*). Mr. A. H. C. Zietz, F.L.S., in conjunction with Mr. E. Ashby, displayed a large collection of Kangaroo Island birds and their allies of the mainland to illustrate a paper sent by Mr. A. J. North, F.L.S., of the Sydney Museum, in criticism of new names given by Mr. A. G. Campbell* to several birds recently found on Kangaroo Island by the A.O.U.'s expedition. Mr. North also kindly forwarded a number of type specimens from the Sydney Museum, which were valuable for purposes of comparison. The debate on the subject was adjourned to a special meeting, so that the specimens may be examined in daylight.

Bird Observers' Club.

THE July meeting of the Bird Observers' Club was held at the residence of Mr. Donald Macdonald, Balaclava. The host presided, and there was a good attendance of members. The subject for the evening's discussion was "Shore Birds," including Plovers, Dottrels, Sandpipers, Snipe, &c., of which a fine series of skins was shown by Mr. A. G. Campbell, who pointed out the distinguishing marks by which the various species might be identified. Mr. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., exhibited a series of eggs, and also gave a lantern lecture illustrating the protective colouration of the eggs and young of various shore birds. It was resolved to elect 25 corresponding members in the country districts of Victoria.

The August meeting of the Bird Observers' Club was held at the residence of Mr. J. A. Ross, South Yarra. The host was voted to the chair, and there were about 12 members present. After Mr. Ross's numerous trophies and medals for rifle shooting had been admired, several carefully compiled lists of the birds of the Cheltenham district were laid on the table and collated by members. It was found that well over 100 different birds frequented the

* "Report on Birds of Kangaroo Island: a Comparison with Mainland Forms," *Emu*, vol. v., pp. 139-145.

district either as stationary or migratory species. Attention was next devoted to the Quails of Victoria, and fine series of skins and eggs were shown by Messrs. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., F. Godfrey, and F. Howe. Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley displayed some excellent photos. of birds and their nests, and Mr. J. A. Ross showed a pair of living Stubble Quail.

The quarterly dinner of the Bird Observers' Club was held at the Mia-Mia Tea Rooms on the 19th August, Mr. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., presiding. Only nine members sat down at the table, but after dinner there was a large attendance of members and friends, including several ladies. The birds appointed for the evening's discussion were the Crakes and Rails, and specimens of eggs and skins were shown by Messrs. D. Le Souëf, A. G. Campbell, and A. H. E. Mattingley. Much interesting information respecting the habits of the birds under review was elicited during the evening. Mr. A. G. Campbell gave a lecturette, illustrated by an excellent series of lantern slides, descriptive of recent trips through various parts of Victoria, including the Grampians, where it was stated bird life is conspicuous by its absence, during the later winter months at all events.

Notes and Notices.

A RESIDENT of Goorambat, Robert Wright, was fined £2 in the Benalla Police Court on 22nd August for shooting four Wild Duck on the 4th of the same month, after the season had closed. The defendant also had to pay 5s. for each bird.

EARLY CUCKOO'S EGG.—I noticed a Pallid Cuckoo's egg on Saturday last (1/9/06) in the nest of *Ptilotis auricomis*. It stands as my earliest record for this Cuckoo.—L. HARRISON. Sydney.

PROHIBITED FEATHERS.—The Commissioner of the New York State Game Department has issued a circular to milliners that he will strictly enforce the law that prohibits selling or wearing the feathers, bodies, or skins of wild birds, or any parts thereof, whether they have been killed within the State or elsewhere.—*The Band of Mercy*, 24/9/06.

ERRATA.—*The Emu*, vol. vi., part I, 1906 :—Page 3, line 1 and following.—For "best imitated by sounding the *first syllable* quickly, *and then* sharply sucking the tongue from the *front* of the *mouth*," read "best imitated by sounding the syllables quickly *by* sharply sucking the tongue from the *base* of the *upper front teeth*." Page 7, line 20.—For "The iris is *black*," read "The iris is *brown*."

By proclamation published in the *Government Gazette* of 8th August, 1906, the Governor in Council has declared that within the area known as Lake Lascelles the close season for all game shall be from the 1st day of January to the 31st day of December in each year, both days inclusive. Another permanent reserve for wildfowl is thus added to the list, but there are many other water areas in the State that might also well be set apart as bird sanctuaries.