

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.

THE WERRIBEE GORGE.—After having been raked during recent years by one or two violent floods, the bed of the river in the picturesque Werribee Gorge is assuming its wonted beautiful appearance, and is well worth a visit just now. Bird-life is as plentiful as ever. The Wedge-tailed Eagle still holds sway over "Eagle Gully," and the Black-cheeked Falcon still keeps its "Look-out" on the rocks 600 feet above the river's bed. Local residents are agitating to have this romantic gorge proclaimed a national reserve and a sanctuary for birds for ever. The Government might easily grant the request, seeing the land has no economic value otherwise. The Council of the A.O.U. will gladly support any movement in the direction of a permanent reservation.

[Since this note was written a freshet, caused by the excessive rainfall of Sunday, 9th September, has swept through the Gorge.]

AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.—The official programme for the sixth annual meeting of the Union has been issued. Tasmania has been selected as the rendezvous, from 22nd November to about 8th December. Three days will be spent in Hobart in connection with the general business, then an adjournment will be made to Launceston, where a lecture will be delivered on "The Islands of Bass Strait," with limelight views depicting the bird life and natural history objects found there. Following upon this the naturalists will go into a "working" camp at Mount Barrow, between the River Esk and St. Patrick's River, north-east of Launceston, where eight or ten days will be spent in field ornithology, &c. Members desiring to take part in the meetings are urged by circular to communicate with the hon. sec. (Mr. A. Mattingley) as soon as possible.

BROWN v. BLACK BUTCHER-BIRDS.—"My birds moulted in February and March, and took on the complete black plumage, which proves that the brown bird assumes the black plumage after the first moult. How did Le Souëf get on with those I sent him?"—E. M. CORNWALL. Mackay, 8/6/06.

Mr. D. Le Souëf, Zoological Gardens, Melbourne, replies:—"Mr. E. M. Cornwall kindly sent me from Cairns, Queensland, three Butcher-Birds (*Cracticus quoyi*) from one nest. Two were brown and one black. The black one died shortly after, and proved to be a female; one of the brown went next, and it proved to be a male; the other brown one lived for two years, but at the end of the second year lost his brown coat and became jet black, apparently proving that the Rufous Butcher-Bird is only a young male in immature plumage of the Black Butcher-Bird (*C. quoyi*)."

PRESERVATION OF QUAIL.—A movement has been set on foot to ascertain the feelings of sportsmen with regard to giving Quail 12 months' liberty. Many true sportsmen are of opinion that, in view of the woful decrease in the numbers of this fine game bird, some legislative action should be taken to allow them total protection until 1st May, 1908. Should it be found that the consensus of opinion tends towards such an end, steps will be taken to bring the matter before the Tasmanian Parliament during the coming session. Among the suggestions thrown out by writers in the press on the subject are, that there should be a game licence for persons wishing to shoot for market purposes, and that there should be a gun tax. It is thought that such would have the effect of lessening the number of irresponsible pot-hunters. Some years ago Quail were afforded two years' protection, with very good effect.—FRANK M. LITTLER. Launceston, 4/7/1906.

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### Publications Received.

*Auk, The*, XXIII., No. 3, July, 1906.

*Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia, Proceedings of the*, LVII., Part 3, Sept.—Dec., 1905.

*Australian Naturalist, The*, I., Part 3, July, 1906.

*Avicultural Magazine, The*, N.S., IV., Nos. 7-9, May-August, 1906.

*Bird-Lore*, VIII., No. 4, July-August, 1906.

*Hawkesbury Agricultural College Journal, The*, III., Part 8, June-August, 1906.

*Hall, F.L.S., Robert*, A Key to the Birds of Australia.

*Michigan Academy of Science, Seventh Report of the*, 1905.

*Oberholser, Harry C.*, Notes on Birds from German and British East Africa.

*Ornithologisches Jahrbuch*, XVII., Nos. 3 and 4, May-August.

*Royal Society of Queensland, Proceedings of the*, XIX., Part 2, 1906.

*South African Ornithologists' Union, The Journal of the*, II., No. 1, June, 1906.

*Victorian Naturalist, The*, XXIII., Nos. 2-5, June-Sept., 1906.

*Zoologist, The*, Fourth Series, X., Nos. 113 and 114, May-August, 1906.