

"Professor Newton was the fifth son of William Newton, of Elvedon Hall, Suffolk, formerly M.P. for Ipswich, and was born at Geneva on the 11th of June, 1829. Educated at first by a private tutor, he graduated at Cambridge in 1853, and was appointed Travelling Fellow of Magdalene College in 1854, and then visited the countries above enumerated. He was subsequently a vice-president of the Royal, Linnean, and Zoological Societies, and was awarded the gold medal of the Linnean Society, and in 1900 one of the Royal Society's medals.

"I first made Professor Newton's acquaintance in 1858, on my return to England from Finland, when he came to my father's town house to examine the collection I had made during my sojourn in Sweden and Finland, and since then he has been the most constant and truest friend it has been my good fortune to possess."

Bird Observers' Club.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Club was held at Oxford Chambers, Bourke-street, Melbourne, on 17th April, 1907. Mr. James Thompson was host and chairman for the evening. An interesting paper by Mr. J. Batey, of Drouin, on "The Wedge-tailed Eagle," was attentively listened to by members, from which many interesting notes were obtained and discussed. A field note from Mr. G. E. Shepherd, of Somerville, on the Black-checked Falcon chasing a Pigeon was also interesting. (See *Emu*, vol. vii., p. 41.) Mr. Christian, Kamarooka estate, Vic., contributed some notes, and mentioned that although he had only been in the district a few weeks he had listed over a hundred species of birds. Mr. A. G. Campbell showed a variety of skins, including those of the Whistling Eagle, Little Eagle, Brown Hawk, Black, Grey, Black-cheeked, and Little Falcons, Black-shouldered Kite, Goshawk, and Sparrow-Hawk. Mr. J. A. Ross exhibited two mounted specimens—Nankeen Kestrel and Black-checked Falcon—the latter a very handsome male in splendid plumage. The hon. secretary showed an instructive series of eggs of various birds of prey. Mr. Mattingley's exhibits were two varieties of a so-called snake—Frazer's delma—and he explained that many of the birds under review were partial to them as food. After the nature notes were discussed, Mr. C. L. Barrett drew attention to the wholesale destruction of the Black Swan on the Gippsland Lakes and elsewhere, and moved that the hon. secretary write to the Inspector of Fisheries requesting that it be better protected.

The June monthly meeting of the Bird Observers' Club was held at the residence of Mr. A. J. Campbell, Armadale. Among the exhibits was a fine series of New Zealand bush scenes, photographed by Mr. J. C. M'Lean, depicting haunts of endemic birds, some of which are fast disappearing. A unique picture by Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley was also shown—a brooding Egret (*Mesophoyx plumifera*) on its nest, photographed in the tree-tops at close quarters. The fine heronry where the picture was taken was afterwards devastated by plume-hunters for ladies' hats, the breeding season notwithstanding. (See this issue, p. 65.)

The subject for the evening being "Magpies," Mr. Isaac Batey, Drouin, contributed a written statement roughly covering observations extending over a period of 60 years. Members applauded Mr. Batey's remarks when, as a practical farmer, he defended the Magpie (*Gymnorhina*) as a bird undoubtedly beneficial to mankind, although he admitted it took grain

occasionally, when sorely pressed for food, in bad seasons. Some of Mr. Batey's remarks proved that in domestic matters Magpies resembled the genus *Homo*. Some pairs had no children. Some families were exclusive, while among others there were petty jealousies, quarrels, and even stand-up fights. Mr. Robert Hall, F.L.S., Dr. Geo. Horne, and others also discussed the subject. The combined material displayed consisted of a scientific collection of Magpie skins and eggs from different parts of the Commonwealth, including a nest curiously constructed of fencing wire exhibited by Miss Bowie.

The quarterly dinner was held at the Mia-Mia Tea Rooms on the 21st August, 1907, when fourteen members were present. After the adjournment Dr. H. W. Bryant took the chair, and drew the attention of members to the presence of two visitors (Mr. A. G. Hamilton, and his son, Mr. C. G. Hamilton), both keen bird observers. The subject for discussion was "Parrots." Mr. Isaac Batey contributed a paper entitled "Parrots on Old Man Plain," which proved extremely interesting, and much valuable information was obtained therefrom. Two new members (Messrs. Chandler and Cole) were elected. Mr. J. A. Leach, M.Sc., mentioned that the members could use space in *The School Gazette* for nature notes, and it was resolved that a committee, consisting of Messrs. R. Hall, Mattingley, and the hon. secretary contribute an article of from 200 to 400 words monthly, dealing especially with migration. Much valuable information should be learned in this way, as it was explained by Mr. Leach that the *Gazette* went into upwards of 2,000 schools. Messrs. Hamilton, of Sydney and Perth respectively, promised to initiate the movement in their respective States.

South Australian Ornithological Association.

THE bi-monthly meeting was held on 2nd May. Dr. Morgan presided over a good attendance. Useful notes upon birds found at the Reedbeds this season were given by Capt. S. A. White. Dr. Angove described the habits of the Scrub-Robin (*Drymaëdus brunneopygia*) and its nesting habits. Mr. E. Ashby noted the appearance of the Osprey (*Pandion leucocephalus*) on the Sturt Creek, near Blackwood. Mr. J. W. Mellor gave notes of several useful birds seen at North Adelaide. Dr. Morgan displayed a collection of native birds' eggs. Capt. S. A. White exhibited birds from Tasmania, among them the Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*), Satin Flycatcher (*Myiagra nitida*), Allied Diamond-Bird (*Pardalotus affinis*), Strong-billed Honey-eater (*Melithreptus validirostris*). Mr. E. Ashby showed birds from the Mannum district, including the Scrub-Robin (*Drymaëdus brunneopygia*), Yellow-plumed Honey-eater (*Ptilotis ornata*), and the Red-rumped Ground-Wren (*Hylacola cauta*). Mr. J. W. Mellor displayed the rare eggs of the Adelia Penguin, taken at Cape Adare, in Victoria Land, by the British Antarctic Expedition in 1898. Interesting notes were given by Mr. J. W. Mellor upon the trip of the members of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science to Kangaroo Island and the islands of Spencer Gulf. Numerous sea and land birds were identified, and their breeding haunts visited and described. Mr. Mellor showed a number of stuffed specimens in illustration of his remarks, among them the White-breasted Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax gouldi*) and its eggs from Spencer Gulf; the Spotted Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis maculata*), the Yellow-rumped Diamond-Bird (*Pardalotus xanthopygius*), and two Thick-heads of the *Pachycephala* family, from Memory Cove; the Tree-Tit (*Smicrornis brevirostris*) from Port Lincoln, the Rock Parrot (*Neophema petrophila*) from Sir Joseph Banks Group, and other species from Kangaroo Island; also, the eggs of the Mutton-Bird (*Puffinus tenuirostris*) from the