

South Neptune Island, and a series of the eggs of the Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*), showing the variations in colouration and markings. The nesting haunts of these birds were fully described.

A special meeting of this association was held at Dr. A. M. Morgan's on 6th June. Dr. Morgan presided over a large attendance. Mr. E. L. Angove was elected a member. Interesting notes were received from Mr. E. Ashby upon the breeding of the Lyre-Bird (*Menura superba*), being personal observations taken recently while at Cowra Creek, in the Macannally Ranges, N.S.W. (published in this issue, p. 94). Mr. J. W. Mellor showed a specimen of the Black-winged Crow-Shrike (*Strepera melanoptera*), from Kangaroo Island, and gave evidence of this bird being extremely useful in destroying insects of an injurious nature, although the bird has been condemned for eating fruit. Dr. Angove exhibited a skin of a Bush-Lark (*Mirafra*), of an unusually ruddy colour, the Grass-Wren (*Amytis striata*), and a number of oological specimens from the MacDonnell Ranges, Central Australia. Dr. A. M. Morgan displayed various species of Australian birds' eggs, which were of great assistance in identifying other eggs exhibited. Notes upon Western Australian birds were read by Mr. A. H. C. Zietz, F.L.S., who illustrated his remarks by a number of specimens of rare and interesting forms of avifauna peculiar to the western portion of the continent. Among these were the White-bellied Shrike-Tit (*Falcunculus leucogaster*), Western Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus longirostris*), Red-capped Parrakeet (*Purpureicephalus spurius*), Western Thickhead (*Pachycephala occidentalis*), Western Scarlet-breasted Robin (*Petroica campbelli*), Red-winged Wren (*Malurus elegans*), and the rare Desert-Bird (*Eremiornis carteri*). Mr. Zietz also showed a number of birds from other parts of Australia to compare with the Western forms of the same families. Mr. J. W. Mellor drew attention to several species of birds found abundantly at the Reedbeds this season, notably the Grallina or Magpie-Lark, of which hundreds had lately come about, and the Brown-headed Honey-eater (*Melithreptus brevirostris*).

Notes and Notices.

MR. H. L. WHITE, A.O.U., Belltrees, Scone, New South Wales, desires to purchase certain rare Australian birds' eggs. None but well-authenticated full clutches will be considered. Reference : Mr. A. Mattingley, hon. secretary A.O.U.

PLATYCERCUS XANTHOGENYS A GOOD SPECIES. — When Salvadori described this species it was from a single specimen in the British Museum, with habitat unknown. In the Tring Museum there are now several specimens from Beaufort and Cranbrook, Western Australia.

MR. W. E. TESCHEMAKER, of the Avicultural Society, has been awarded the Society's medal for successfully rearing young of the Yellow-rumped Finch (*Munia flaviprymna*) for the first time in the United Kingdom. This rare species is still little known to Australians. The more credit to Mr. Teschemaker.

DESTROYING SWAN-EGGS. — Portland, Monday. — At the police court on Saturday three lads named Frederick Hardy and Sydney and Henry Fendoloff, were fined 6s. each for

destroying six Swan-eggs. The case was brought under the *Game Protection Act*.—Age, 27/8/07.

CLEVELAND (TASMANIA) MIGRATION NOTES.—24th August.—Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*) first heard. 29th.—First Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) seen. 30th.—The Cuckoo-Shrike (*Graucalus parvirostris*) has returned to these higher levels, and was heard for the first time to-day.—(MISS) J. A. FLETCHER. 1/9/07.

THE WHITE COCKATOO (*Cacatua galerita*).—There is an interesting article in *The Field*, 16th March, 1907, on "Catching Sulphur-crested Cockatoos." Touching the birds as talkers, the writer states he once heard a Cockatoo say—"One, two, three, four, five, six, eight; d——n it, I've forgotten the seven again!" Could it have been our Australian bird?

"I BELIEVE that the utmost estimate of the number of bird-skins and eggs in it (British Museum) the year 1872, when I took office, would be 30,000, or 35,000 at the most. At the present moment the series is more than 400,000 in number, of which the eggs alone are nearly 100,000!"—DR. R. BOWDLER SHARPE (*The History of the Collections contained in the Natural History Department of the British Museum*).

REFERENCE NOTE HELD OVER.—*New Birds for Australia*.—Mr. De Vis writes on *Gerygone flavida*, Ramsay, which he thinks has been incorrectly assigned in the "Catalogue of Birds" (iv., p. 330) to *G. personata*, Gould. He also describes as new *Sericornis tyrannula* and *Acanthiza modesta*, from Charleville (Broadbent), and *A. katherina* and *Pachycephala mestoni*, from the Bellenden-Ker Range, Queensland.—*The Ibis*, July, 1906.

WANTED.—I am collecting data *re* arrival of Swallows (*Hirundo neoxena*) and particulars as to the way they spread when they do get here. I shall be glad of learning from Victoria, or any other place, when and where these birds leave the mainland for Tasmania. I am making a chart and have two years' information, but it is all local, and if I could learn of the points where the Swallows leave to cross the Strait I should be greatly assisted. The matter will be forwarded to *The Emu*.—E. A. ELLIOTT. High-street, Hobart, 6/8/07.

EXCHANGE OF OOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS.—Mr. G. A. Keartland, Melbourne, has disposed of his unique collection of Australian birds' eggs, which has been sent to Britain. Mr. S. W. Jackson, Sydney, has also parted with the results of his life-long hobby. His collection, however, remains in his native State. While congratulating the respective new possessors of these splendid collections, it is to be much regretted that the

cabinets were not acquired for the National collections when it became necessary for the original owners to part with them.

GREAT BROWN KINGFISHER (*Dacelo gigas*) IN TASMANIA.—Miss J. A. Fletcher, Cleveland, Tasmania, writes:—"It is with feelings of greatest pleasure that I record that several pairs of the above birds are quite at home in this district, and are evidently the progeny of a pair that was liberated at Belle Vue (the home of the late Mr. Gibson). I first heard their hearty laugh one evening last February, but, as it seemed some distance off, I wondered if my ears had deceived me. However, since then eyesight has proved the existence of the birds. One pair evidently have their quarters between here and Conara, 3 miles to the south."

NEW PUBLICATIONS.—*British Birds*, edited by Messrs. H. F. Witherby, F.L.S., and W. P. Pycroft, A.L.S., is a new popular monthly magazine devoted to the study of the birds on the British list. It is well illustrated. All students and bird-lovers are invited to support the magazine, which is not a commercial venture, by becoming annual subscribers. The subscription, which is 10s. 6d. (post free), should be made payable to Messrs. Witherby and Co., 326 High Holborn, London.

Sketches of South African Bird-Life, by Messrs. Alwin Haagner, F.Z.S., and Robt. H. Ivy. Illustrated by the camera. Subscription, 15s., payable to Mr. R. H. Porter, 7 Princes-street, Cavendish-square, London, W.

Notes on the Birds of Kent, by Rev. C. W. Shepherd, M.A., F.Z.S., and Messrs. R. J. Balston, F.Z.S., and E. Bartlett, F.Z.S. The subscription (16s.) may be forwarded to Mr. R. H. Porter, 7 Princes-street, Cavendish-square, London, W.

TRAFFIC IN MUTTON-BIRDS.—A boat accident occurred in the eastern passage of Welshpool Bay between 11 and 12 a.m. on Sunday, 21st of April. Mr. C. Martin and Mr. J. Carew were returning to San Remo from Cape Woolamai in Messrs. Bergin and Co.'s 14-foot sailing boat with a load of 600 Mutton-Birds (*Puffinus tenuirostris*). The weather being threatening, Mr. Radford, in a much larger craft, also laden with Mutton-Birds, undertook to tow the smaller boat. A violent storm coming on, the larger boat dragged the smaller one under water, and the rope parted. An attempt to fix the line again having failed, the two boats parted company, and the smaller one was left drifting gunwale awash. Four days afterwards Messrs. Bergin and Co. were lucky enough to recover their boat near the mouth of the Bass River, where she was fast in the sand under the mangroves. Had she not stuck in the sand she would have gone out to sea with the returning tide. The boat is uninjured, but Mr. Martin has lost his cargo of Mutton-Birds.—*Loch and Poowong Express*, 1/5/07.