

all small animals had died out; this includes opossums, rats, 'squirrels,' bandicoots, native cats, &c. The rock wallaby seems to be going too. Whilst at Mount Wynne, 100 miles inland from Derby, I searched in vain for the rock wallaby. In 1899 I could see 6 or 7 almost any evening, and was always sure of seeing 2 or 3. Last May I spent one day on the hill, and did not even see traces of them. I had no opportunity of trying the Ord River valley, as my cart broke down, and by the time I effected repairs I had to push straight on to Wyndham. I had a nice lot of birds' skins when the accident happened, but the dingoes got at them. When I left the cart to get help I had to go into Hallock, 40 miles away. On my return only a few feathers were left of the skins."

"GALDENS."—Adverting to the recent correspondence on this subject, Mr. Tom Carter has sent the following extract from a letter received from the late Professor Newton, written under date of 21st March, 1907:—"What precise species Dampier meant by his 'Galdens' must be left for your Australians to decide on, but I should not, as a matter of choice, fix either on a blue or white one, for I suspect the name originated in America, and there it is almost entirely confined to the pretty dark-coloured *Butorides viridescens* (a little Bittern-looking bird), and it would probably be to some similar-looking bird that the name would be applied in Australia." It appears the Professor held different views from Mr. Carter upon the subject. The letter Mr. Carter wrote to *The Emu*,* with extract from Buffon, shows that Mr. Carter had good grounds for his views. A copy of Buffon's note on Galdens was forwarded to Professor Newton, but he died before the letter reached him.

Handlist to the Birds of Australasia.

The Council of the A.O.U. has pleasure in publishing a "Handlist to the Birds of Australasia," by one of its members, and an Australian native, Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, of Watford, Herts, England. No apology is needed for the list, which has been approved of by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe and other eminent ornithologists. Mr. Mathews has compiled the list, which is up-to-date in classification, as a preliminary step to his proposed classical work in which he intends to give a coloured figure of every known Australian bird. The Council desires to assist Mr. Mathews in his single-hearted enterprise. It was also thought that this new list would form an excellent foundation to the long-deferred "Check-List of Australian Birds." Mr. Mathews' "List" will be issued in the form of a "Supplement" to this issue of *The Emu*, and members are invited to subscribe 2s. 6d. each towards the additional expense.

* Vol. vii., p. 101.