

the Cape Barren Geese leave the mainland of Australia for the islands. Possibly the flock seen on the Tamar were migrating. Stone-Plover also flock in autumn, and have been previously recorded in Tasmania. However, Mr. Littler may enjoy the comfortable reflection that the unexpected often happens, even in one's own neighbourhood. For instance, take the discovery of the new Fig-Bird (*Sphecotheres*) shot by Mr. Stalker (collector for Mr. Collingwood Ingram) from a flock of 68 at the rear of Townsville,* with its 15,000 inhabitants, and where every ornithologist of note visiting Queensland has collected.]

South Australian Ornithological Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held at the residence of Mr. A. H. C. Zietz, F.L.S., on 6th August, the host being in the chair. A letter was read from Dr. A. M. Morgan, London, stating that he was urging upon kindred scientific societies in England the necessity of the extended "National Reserve" on Kangaroo Island, with the result that the leading authorities in natural history were unanimous that if certain fauna and flora were to be preserved from extinction the larger the area reserved the better. A letter was read from Mr. John Bagot, taking exception to the theory that the Flame-breasted Robin (*Petræca phænicea*) does not breed on the mainland, but departs to Tasmania to lay and rear its young, as he had known it to breed freely in his garden at Mount Lofty. Captain S. A. White and other members pointed out that this was erroneous, as the species inhabiting the hills was the Scarlet-breasted Robin (*Petræca leggit*). Mr. J. W. Mellor drew attention to the work upon Australian birds, with coloured plates, being compiled by Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, F.Z.S., &c., England, who desired that all local bird observers would assist him with notes. Mr. J. W. Mellor gave extracts from a paper written by Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley, C.M.Z.S., Melbourne, upon "Cormorants in Relation to our Fisheries," in which the writer mentioned why the much-abused Cormorant should not be destroyed, as by close observation he had found that these birds do much good by keeping down the enemies of the fish and their ova. It was agreed that Mr. Mattingley's notes and observations were of great importance. The subject of study was the family *Artamidae*, commonly known as Wood-Swallows, of which 10 or 12 members are found in Australia. These birds, it was pointed out, were totally insectivorous, and for this reason were of extreme usefulness, and had consequently been protected in this State. Mr. A. H. C. Zietz showed a number of these birds, six species being from Australia. Captain S. A. White exhibited several species, notably the Little Wood-Swallow (*Artamus minor*), collected in the interior in the early days by his father, the late Mr. Samuel White, of the Reedbeds; also the Black-faced Wood-Swallow (*A. melanops*), discovered by the same naturalist at St. A'Beckett's Pool, lat. 28 deg. 30 min., on 23rd August, 1863. Captain White also showed the historic record and coloured plate of the bird described by Gould from the original specimen, which stated that the birds cling in bunches to the branches like bees, and were also seen at Chambers Creek and Mount Margaret. Mr. J. W. Mellor stated that the common kind of Wood-Swallow (*A. sordidus*) had been frequenting the Adelaide plains lately, and had been noted at the Reedbeds.

* See *Ibis* (July), 1908, p. 480; also *Emu*, this issue, p. 106.