

of the Lyre-Bird (*Menura victoriae*) and Cuckoo-Shrike (*Graucalus melanops*), contributed a paper on the last-named variety, explaining the manner in which the bird obtains its food, and showing the amount of good work done by it amongst the larvæ of the case-moth (*Pyschidæ*). Messrs. Tregallas and Chandler read papers on the habits of the Coachwhip-Bird (*Psophodes crepitans*). Mr. C. L. Barrett drew attention to the Importation of Plumage Prohibition Bill introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Avebury. The object of the proposed Act was to check the growing and wholesale destruction of birds in all parts of the world, and their importation into the United Kingdom. An idea of the numbers of birds imported into England in 1907 was given by Mr. Barrett, who said that the catalogue at one sale included 19,742 skins of Birds of Paradise, 1,386 Crowned Pigeons' heads, and many Lyre-Birds' tails at another. It was decided to write to Lord Avebury in appreciation of his action.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Club for July was held at the residence of Dr. G. Horne, Clifton Hill, with a fair attendance. Dr. Horne presided. Field notes and papers were received from Messrs. Christian, Raywood, and Chisholm, Maryborough. After many other field notes were discussed, Mr. C. F. Cole read a paper entitled "Do Gulls Dive?" and Mr. Chisholm's paper was in favour of protecting the Crow or Raven, as they do good work as scavengers. Both papers were well received, and opened up lengthy discussion. Mr. A. H. Mattingley, C.M.Z.S., read an interesting and instructive paper on "The Birds of Lawrence Rock," which was illustrated with many excellent lantern slides, showing the phases of plumage of the young of Penguins, Terns, Gannets, and Petrels. Dr. Horne exhibited a curio in the shape of a Swallow's nest built on the handle of a pair of sheep shears which had been stuck into the wall of a stable. Mr. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., showed a series of Southern Stone-Plovers' eggs, varying in colour from light grey through various shades of brown to dark green, and explained that the eggs almost invariably were placed on the soil that harmonized best with them. Whether the bird knows this, or it is due to the food obtained, were questions that were discussed. Miss Bowie interested the members when she told how a pair of Black-breasted Plovers (*Zonifer tricolor*) that are in Dr. Horne's aviaries were nest-making.

Great Forward Movement in Bird Protection.

(Continued from p. 91.)

REGARDING the protection of game in Tasmania, the resolution passed at a recent meeting of sportsmen, recommending that a Commission be appointed to protect and preserve the native fauna of Tasmania, was placed before the Premier (Hon. J. W. Evans, C.M.G.) on the 28th September, 1908, by a large and representative deputation. Included amongst those present were Hon. A. Morrisby, M.L.C., Messrs. F. B. Rattle (who introduced the deputation) and B. Watkins, Ms.H.A., Dr. Gibson, Bernard Shaw, and A. D. Watchorn (Royal Society), A. L. Butler (Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club and Australasian Ornithologists' Union), P. S. Seager, I.S.O. (Tasmanian Tourist Association), L. M. Shoobridge and L. C. Thirlwall (Tasmanian Farmers and Stockowners' Association), T. A. Tabart (Chief Inspector of Stock), Robert Hall, F.L.S. (Curator of the Tasmanian Museum), S. Salmon (East Coast landowners), and several others.

After several of the members of the deputation had spoken at

length, the Premier said he fully sympathized with the movement, and was particularly pleased to see that those interested were willing to assist the Government in bringing about the desired reform, and in giving effect to the provisions of any Act that might be passed. A large number of Acts were placed upon the statute-book, but in many cases great difficulty was met with in their administration, not only through lack of funds, but owing to the absence of such assistance as was offered in the present case. He thought those who had spoken for the deputation had said sufficient to force home the fact that it was time something should be done to place the matter of protecting the native fauna on a proper footing, and while he and his colleagues were quite prepared to do all they possibly could to meet the wishes of the deputation, it was necessary to point out that the Parliamentary draftsman at present could not prepare the bills which the Government contemplated bringing forward. He would therefore suggest that a committee, consisting of representatives of the different interests concerned, should be appointed for the purpose of drawing up recommendations, which they could embody in a draft bill, to be submitted to Ministers. If that were done, the chances of getting something definite done during the current session of Parliament would be very much greater.

[NOTE.—The deputation from the Council of the A.O.U. that waited on the Hon. the Prime Minister at Melbourne on the 4th August represented the following societies:—Queensland: Central Bird Protection Association and members of A.O.U. (per Mr. W. M'Ilwraith). New South Wales: Field Naturalists' Club and members of A.O.U. (per Mr. L. Harrison). Victoria: Bird Observers' Club and Council and members of A.O.U. South Australia: National Museum (per Mr. A. Zietz, F.L.S.), English Birds Protection Society, local branch (per Sir Samuel Way, Bart.), and members of A.O.U. (per Mr. J. W. Mellor). Western Australia: Perth Museum and members of A.O.U. (per Mr. B. Woodward, F.G.S.) Tasmania: Field Naturalists' Club (per Mr. E. Elliott), Royal Society (per Col. Legge, F.Z.S.), and members of A.O.U. (per Mr. A. L. Butler).]

Notes and Notices.

"THE COLOURED FIGURES OF THE BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA."
—In connection with the notice to members of the A.O.U. in the last number of *The Emu* (p. 52), Mr. Gregory M. Mathews desires to intimate that he will be glad to receive now notes (however meagre) concerning the first hundred species on his "Handlist" (*i.e.*, Supplement *Emu*, vol. vii.)

PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF LYRE-BIRDS INTO TASMANIA.
—The following letter to the Hon. the Chief Secretary, Hobart, has been forwarded by Mr. E. A. Elliott, hon. secretary