

South Australian Ornithological Association.

THE tenth annual meeting of the South Australian Ornithological Association was held at the rooms of Dr. R. H. Pulleine, Adelaide, on the 14th April, when Mr. A. H. C. Zietz, F.L.S., presided. The hon. secretary submitted the annual report and balance-sheet, which showed that the Association was in a prosperous condition. Six bi-monthly meetings had been held, at which the attendance had been good, and much useful knowledge had been collected by members, while useful points of interest had been made known relative to the habits of native birds. Mr. J. W. Mellor had officially represented the Association and this State at a meeting of State delegates held in Melbourne during last year for the purpose of considering the best means of bringing the various bird laws of the Commonwealth into unison, and better protecting useful birds, and many resolutions had been carried which it was trusted would eventually become law in each of the States. It was stated that there was a decided advance in the desire of the people to protect native birds, owing to the dissemination of knowledge relative to their usefulness in keeping down pests that would otherwise completely destroy the agricultural and horticultural crops and greatly affect forest trees. A report was received from the committee appointed to wait upon the Commissioner of Crown Lands relative to the preservation of birds on certain islands in the Coorong, also on Dangerous Reef, in Spencer Gulf, and on The Pages and Casuarina Islands, near Kangaroo Island. The Government had considered with favour the object of the deputation. The Starling and Sparrow pests were discussed at length, and various means for their destruction advocated. It was stated that the Australasian Ornithologists' Union contemplated holding their annual congress in Adelaide this year, and it was resolved that the Association should assist in entertaining the visitors. A number of exhibits were shown, including a series of Scrub-Wrens by Mr. A. H. C. Zietz, in illustration of a few remarks by that gentleman upon their habits. Captain S. A. White showed a rare clutch of eggs of the Blue-billed Duck (*Erismatura australis*), with the female bird from the nest; also the egg of the Musk-Duck (*Biziura lobata*), the nearest ally. Messrs. Thomas Gill and J. W. Hosking were elected members. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. M. Symonds Clark; vice-president, Dr. R. H. Pulleine; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. J. W. Mellor—the whole to form the general committee.

A meeting of this Association was held at the rooms of Dr. R. H. Pulleine, Adelaide, on the evening of 7th May, when Mr. Symonds Clark presided. The hon. secretary reported that the annual congress of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union would be held this year in Adelaide. A lecture will be delivered at the gathering upon the recent scientific expedition to the islands of Bass Strait. In connection with the congress arrangements are being made for a camp in a country district, where bird-life can be studied, Eyre Peninsula being favoured. The subject of enlarging the Association and widening its influence and usefulness was discussed. Hitherto members have been admitted only on scientific qualifications, a system which has debarred many bird-lovers from participating in the Association's deliberations. It was decided to postpone consideration of the subject. The proclamation by the Government of The Pages Islands, off the eastern end of Kangaroo Island, Casuarina Islands (known also as The Brothers), near the south-western part of Kangaroo Island, and Dangerous Reef, in Spencer Gulf, as bird protection reserves, as requested by the Association, was referred to amid cheers. Mr. J. W. Mellor reported that birds were breeding late this year at the Reedbeds. The Red-browed Finch and the White-bearded Honey-eater had been noted this month with young. Captain S. A. White showed a pair of Painted Snipe, from near Murray Bridge, and eggs of the Black-backed Coot, from New Zealand, of the

Black-faced Wood-Swallow and of the Red-throated Thickhead from Central Australia. Mr. J. W. Mellor exhibited a clutch each of the eggs of the Sooty and Hills Crow-Shrikes, from Tasmania, showing the difference in characteristic markings of these two species. Dr. R. H. Pulleine exhibited photographs of numerous spiders which form good food for the Crow-Shrike family.

Notes and Notices.

POPULARIZING ORNITHOLOGY.—Recently two members of the A.O.U. gave popular lectures pertaining to birds. (1.) Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley, C.M.Z.S., read a thoughtful and interesting paper before the Victorian Fish Protection Society and Anglers' Club on "Some Points of Similarity in Birds and Fishes," which was printed in *The North Melbourne Courier*. (2.) Mr. A. H. Chisholm gave a paper, entitled "Save the Birds," before the Star of Maryborough (Vic.) Tent, I.O.R. This paper, which appealed strongly to the humanitarian side of the author's audience, was printed in *The Maryborough Advertiser*.

A HANDBOOK OF TASMANIAN BIRDS.—Mr. Frank M. Littler, F.E.S., proposes to issue shortly a "Handbook" on the birds of Tasmania, which he hopes will be acceptable to students as well to ordinary bird-lovers. The sub-headings under each species will be "Male," "Female," "Young" (where possible), "Nest," "Eggs," "Breeding Season," "Geographical Distribution," and "Remarks" (short field notes). As a useful appendix there will be extracts from the Tasmanian *Game Protection Act*, giving the close seasons and schedules of wholly and partly protected birds. Against the names of those birds which appear in the wholly protected schedule will be placed an asterisk in the book, so that it can be seen at a glance, when going through the same, whether a bird is protected or not. The shooting season of all game birds will be shown in the first sentence of the "Remarks."

MR. JAMES BUCKLAND on the 6th of May gave an exhibition of lantern slides (including a set of 12 donated by the A.O.U.) before the Linnean Society of London. In a few prefatory remarks Mr. Buckland pointed out the perilous condition into which many rare and beautiful species of birds have been allowed to drift, and that immediate legislation was required if they were to be saved from extermination. The lantern slides exhibited the economic value of birds to man; the slaughter of Gulls, Terns, &c., along the Atlantic seaboard of the United States; Snowy Herons on Florida Keys Reservation; patrol boats, and grave of the murdered warden; home-life of the Egret in Florida; birds of Oregon, California, Venezuela, New Zealand, &c.; nest of the Bird-of-Paradise, the Emu, &c.; male Lyre-Bird, showing its lyrate tail erected; the haunt of the Lyre-Bird