

Bird Observers' Club.

THE monthly meeting of the Club was held on 27th January, at the residence of Mr. A. J. Campbell, Armadale. There was a fair attendance of members, and the host also welcomed as guests Mr. F. L. Whitlock, of Western Australia, Mr. G. J. Broinowski, of Sydney, and Mr. C. C. Brittlebank, of Bacchus Marsh. Mr. G. Dyer, a new member, was also welcomed. Mr. Campbell was voted to the chair. A diploma, awarded to Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley, C.M.Z.S., for his photographs of birds and animals exhibited at the Dresden Exhibition, was displayed, and Mr. Mattingley was heartily congratulated on his distinguished success. The design for a membership card in connection with the "Gould League of Bird-Lovers" was submitted to the meeting and approved. The Chairman introduced Mr. Broinowski, who placed before members his suggestions for reissuing his well-known work on "The Birds of Australia" in a cheap form. He stated that he did not wish to gain financially in the matter, but to help spread a knowledge of native birds among the Australian people. He then gave some interesting reminiscences of his early bird-observing days. Mr. C. F. Cole read a paper on the Satin Bower-Bird (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*), in which he described certain plumage phases in the male bird. Mr. Whitlock gave a most interesting anecdotal account of his field work among certain Western Australian birds, including the rare Yellow-spotted Bower-Bird (*Chlamydodera guttata*), and Mr. F. E. Wilson read a paper written by Mr. L. Chandler and himself on the nesting and other habits of the Helmeted Honey-eater (*Ptilotis cassidix*). The Chairman, in responding to the vote of thanks accorded him, said that not only had he been delighted to entertain members of the Club, but he regarded the meeting as being in some way historical, the final design for the "Gould League" membership card having been adopted that evening.

Notes and Notices.

FOR SALE.—A lady desires to part with her copy (in one volume) of Campbell's "Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds." Volume in good order. Price £3. Apply, Editors *Emu*.

THANKS.—The Council and members of the A.O.U. are greatly indebted to Mr. H. L. White, of Belltrees, New South Wales, for his generosity in defraying the expense of engraving, by Messrs. Patterson, Shugg and Co., the 12 illustrative blocks which accompany Mr. Whitlock's article.

"I HAVE been successful in obtaining more eggs of the Tooth-billed Bower-Bird (*Scenopæetes dentirostris*) from North Queensland; they were taken by Frizelle, who accompanied Jackson in 1908. Jackson's statement about the eggs being hard to find has been fully proved by Frizelle, who watched the birds for months, and found the nest only after searching the tops of dozens of trees near where he had located the birds. In each case the clutch of eggs was accompanied by the nest, and a sworn declaration by a witness to the taking. The eggs vary very slightly from the type set, and are readily distinguished from those of the Spotted Cat-Bird (*Elurædus maculosus*) when placed together."—H. L. WHITE. Belltrees (N.S.W.)

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS.—The committee of the Fifth International Ornithological Congress, to be held in Berlin from 30th May to 4th June, 1910, invites A.O.U. members to attend. It is under the presidency of Dr. Reichenow, as arranged at the London Congress, 1905. The fee for membership is £1, which entitles members to actively engage in discussion at the Congress and receive a copy of the Transactions. Ladies may also become members by paying £1. Ladies may receive all the privileges of membership for 10s., except a copy of the deliberations. If any member desires to contribute papers he should give the title and other particulars as soon as possible. Official languages are German, English, French, and Italian. Meetings will take place during the Congress in sections, viz.—Anatomy and Palæontology, Systematic and Geographic Distribution, Biology and Oology, Bird Protection, Acclimatization and Treatment, Breeding and Study of Domestic Birds. Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, F.L.S., &c., will officially represent the A.O.U.

A CERTIFICATE.—I hereby certify that I have known Mr. G. M. Mathews, a member of the British Ornithologists' Union, for five years, during which period he has been a constant worker in this Museum, devoting his time to the study of Australian ornithology.

I have for some time been aware that it was his intention to write a book on "The Birds of Australia." This will supply a much-felt want, Gould's work being quite out of date.*

Mr. Mathews' first volume is now almost finished, and he has entered into an agreement with Messrs. Witherby and Co., 326 High Holborn, W.C., to publish his forthcoming work.

Under these circumstances, I venture to hope that you may be willing to assist him in every possible way with the loan of specimens or otherwise, so that his work may be carried out under the most favourable circumstances.—W. R. OGILVIE GRANT. British Museum (Nat. Hist.), South Kensington, 20th Dec., 1909. [Mr. Mathews has made an admirable commencement with his self-imposed gigantic task. It is understood that the plates for Part I. are almost, if not already, complete. By working assiduously in his library, and by a visit to the Continent, Mr. Mathews has succeeded in getting figures of the four Australian Emus—namely, *Dromæus novæ-hollandiæ*, *D. diemenensis*, *D. parvulus*, and *D. minor*; the three last, of course, are unfortunately extinct. This will be the first occasion of all being figured together.—EDS.]

* Probably Mr. Ogilvie Grant refers to portions of Gould's letterpress only—Gould's great pictures will never be "out of date."—EDS.

FROM THE MINUTES OF THE B.O.C., 17/10/09:—

Mr. G. M. MATHEWS described the following new sub-species of Australian birds:—

CALAMANTHUS HOWEI, sub-sp. n.

Adult female.—This form seems to be intermediate between *C. montanellus*, Milligan, and *C. campestris*, Gould. From the former it differs in having the ear coverts and crown of the head reddish; from the latter in having a longer bill, the head less rufous, and a much more pronounced brown streak on the feathers of the back.

Total length, 4.8 inches; culmen, 0.5; wing, 2.1; tail, 2.2; tarsus, 0.8.

Hab.—Kow Plains, Victoria.

This sub-species is named in honour of the collector, Mr. Frank Howe, of Melbourne.

MELITHREPTUS WHITLOCKI, sub-sp. n.

Adult.—Differs from *M. chloropsis*, Gould, in having the bare skin round the eye white both in summer and winter.

Hab.—Wilson's Inlet, Western Australia.

This sub-species is named in honour of the collector, Mr. F. L. Whitlock.

Mr. MATHEWS further remarked: As the "Conspectus Psittacorum" of Kuhl was published in 1820 and volume xiii. of the "Transactions of the Linnean Society" did not appear till 1821, the birds named by Kuhl in the former volume must take precedence over those described by Temminck in the latter publication. The following changes will affect certain Australian birds:—

Licmetis nasica, Temm., will become *L. tenuirostris*, Kuhl, *op. cit.*, p. 88.

Platycercus flaviventris, Temm., will become *P. browni*, Kuhl, *op. cit.*, p. 56.

Platycercus browni, Temm., will become *P. venustus*, Kuhl, *op. cit.*, p. 52.

Neophema venusta, Temm., will become *N. chrysostomus*, Kuhl, *op. cit.*, p. 50.

—*Bulletin B.O.C.*, No. CLV.

Publications Received.

Auk, The, XXVI., Nos. 2, 3, 4.

Australian Naturalist, The, I., Part 15; II., Part 1.

Avicultural Magazine, The, VII., Nos. 4-12; VII., Series Nos. 1-4, 5-8.

Bird-Lore, X., Nos. 1-6; XI., Nos. 1-6; XII., No. 1.