

known geographical regions, while later he wrote, jointly with his son William, on the geographical distribution of mammals. With regard to the latter subject, he propounded a Classification of the Class Aves in *The Ibis* for 1880.

"In 1884 he took advantage of the opportunity of the visit of the British Association to Montreal to cross the Atlantic a second time, and after the meeting to again visit the United States. He was not in good health at that period, and did little, if anything, in the way of zoology. But he had the pleasure of seeing several of his former friends, especially Messrs. Lawrence and Baird, and of making the personal acquaintance of Mr. Ridgway, Mr. Allen, Mr. Brewster, Dr. Merriam, and many other naturalists.

"Sclater's death took place, as the result of a carriage accident, on 27th June, 1913, at the age of 83 years. He leaves a widow, three sons, and a daughter."

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### Notes and Notices.

**Hon. Treasurer's Note.**—Members whose subscriptions for the current year are still outstanding are kindly requested to *forward them at once*, so that the year's accounts may be satisfactorily closed. Address: Z. Gray, 190 Bridport-street, South Melbourne.

**Editorial Change.**—After thirteen years as honorary ornithological editor of *The Emu*, Mr. A. J. Campbell retires from office—temporarily, at least. Dr. J. A. Leach has consented to become associated with Mr. Charles Barrett in the editorship. All articles for publication, parcels, &c., for the journal should be addressed: "Editors, *The Emu*, c/o Zoological Gardens, Melbourne."

**Important.**—The Council R.A.O.U. hopes to arrange the annual session earlier this year, so as to coincide with the Melbourne meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which takes place during August, while it is proposed to hold the working camp-out at Mallacoota Inlet. Such arrangements, it is thought, will give Australian ornithologists an opportunity of meeting more closely with any ornithologists from abroad.

**Birds and Sheep-Flies.**—The Department of Agriculture, New South Wales, is conducting some experiments with a view of ascertaining the best method of destroying the sheep maggot fly pest. Some birds are supposed to destroy the flies, and it is proposed to carry out an examination of such species. It is asked that members of the Union should examine the contents of the stomachs of birds shot, and advise the Department as to the results.

**Hon. Associate Members.**—In *The Emu*, ante, page 109, it is stated that Capt. S. A. White (S.A.) and Mr. H. L. White (N.S.W.) were elected "honorary members." Obviously, it

should be "honorary associate members." The rule (3) regulating such elections reads:—"Honorary members shall be prominent ornithologists residing out of Australia. Honorary associate members shall be prominent ornithologists residing in Australia or New Zealand. Honorary and honorary associate members shall not together exceed ten in number."

**Mathews' Latest List.**—Mr. Gregory M. Mathews has brought to Australia this, his last and most important list, and has been good enough to present the Union with a copy. It is a large publication, between 400 and 500 pages, containing the names and synonyms connected with the genera, species, and subspecies of birds found in Australia at present known to the author, together with an introduction of much historical interest, as well as with highly critical and argumentative matter. As the volume was received when this issue was going to press, an extended review of Mr. Mathews's latest list will appear in the next (July) *Emu*.

**A W.A. Session.**—In all probability the proposed visit of the R.A.O.U. to Western Australia will take place next year.

In reference to a desirable locality for original field-work, Mr. Tom Carter writes:—"Referring to the proposed expedition of the R.A.O.U. last year to the islands of the Recherche Archipelago, in the Australian Bight, I have just had a conversation with Captain Airey, of the Government s.s. *Penguin*, on his return from a search through the abovementioned islands for the missing dredge *Posidonia*. He informs me that landing, or even anchoring near the islands, is most uncertain, and in many cases dangerous, if not impracticable, even in calm weather, owing to the heavy swell constantly rolling in. This information might be useful in case an expedition there is planned in the future. Of course, several of the islands have been landed upon by Mr. Tunney and others at various times, but apparently this landing is very largely dependent upon the weather. Captain Airey states that the only passable landing is between Middle Island and Goose Island."

**Keeping Native Game.**—An important point was determined recently by Mr. Justice Hodges in the Practice Court as affecting the right of a person to be possessed of native game in the close season. Last September Speros Lucas, café proprietor, of Elizabeth-street, Melbourne, was charged, on the information of Charles Moore Cliff, "that on 25th August he knowingly had in his possession certain native game—16 Wild Ducks—within the period of the year when the season for such game was closed." The defence was that the Ducks had been purchased when the season was open, and had since been kept in freezing chambers. The magistrates dismissed the case, and the Crown obtained an order to review the decision. Mr. Justice Hodges said that the Crown took the view that the moment after the period of 10 days from the close season no game could be sold, while the defendant,

in turn, contended that he was entitled to retain possession of game. The Act gave a person a right to remain in possession of game, but it was to be subject to certain restrictions if imposed. If the Act provided that a person could not take delivery of game until certain restrictions were imposed by the Governor in Council, then, if no conditions or restrictions were imposed, he would not be able to take delivery of the game at all. The person already had the game, and if no restrictions were imposed as to the mode of keeping the game, he could continue to remain in unrestricted possession of it. The order *nisi* was discharged, and the decision of the justices was upheld.—Melbourne *Argus*.

### Publications Received.

- Annual Report Field Museum of Natural History, 1913.  
Annual Report Smithsonian Institute, 1910 and 1911.  
Annual Report U.S. National Museum.  
*Auk, The*, Vol. XXIX., part 4; Vol. XXX., parts 2, 3, 4;  
Vol. XXXI., part 1.  
*Austral Avian Record*, Vol. II., parts 1 to 4.  
*Australian Naturalist*, Vol. II., parts 9, 13, 14, 15, 16; Vol.  
III., part 1.  
*Avicultural Magazine*, Vol. IV., parts 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11; Vol.  
V., parts 1, 2, 3, 4.  
*Bickerton, W.*, Home Life of the Terns.  
*Bird Lore*, Vol. XIII., No. 5; Vol. XIV., No. 5; Vol. XV., Nos.  
2, 3, 4, 5, 6; Vol. XVI., No. 1.  
*British Birds*, Vol. VI., parts 10, 11, 12; Vol. VII., parts 1, 2,  
5, 6, 7, 8, 9.  
*Buckland, James*, The Plumage Bill.  
*Bulletin B.O.C.*, Vol. XXVIII.  
*Bulletin of the Northern Territory*, No. 6.  
*Condor, The*, Vol. XV., parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; Vol. XVI., part 1.  
Cooper Ornithologists' Club, August, 1912, October, 1913.  
*Geelong Naturalist*, Vol. V., parts 3 and 4.  
*Hawkesbury Agricultural College Journal*, Vol. X., parts 4, 5,  
6, 9, 10, 11; Vol. XI., parts 1, 2, 3.  
*Ibis*, Vol. VI., No. 24; Vol. I., Nos. 2, 3, 4 (10th series).  
*Journal of South African Ornithologists' Union*, Vol. IX., part 1.  
L'Emue de l'Ile King.  
*Memoirs of Queensland Museum*, Vols. I. and II.  
*Oldys, Henry*, Current Items of Interest.