

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES.

Mr. Clive E. Lord, Sandy Bay, Hobart, one of whose photographs of the Cormorant rookery at Cape Frederick Henry illustrates this article, in a letter to a Tasmanian member of the Union, states:—"The visit (at which the photographs were taken) to the rookeries took place on 10th and 11th November, 1907. On the former day we were unable to reach the nests, owing to want of suitable tackle. We returned to our base camp that night, at Fond Bay, Bruni Island, and early next morning set out fully equipped. The party consisted of Messrs. E. A. Elliott, R. Plunkett, A. W. Swindells, and C. E. Lord, while Messrs. L. Rodway and Geoffrey Smith, author of 'A Naturalist in Tasmania,' accompanied the party to the edge of the cliff. The cliffs are about 500 to 600 feet in height, and for the first two-thirds of the descent the going was fairly easy. The slope, although steep, was covered with tussocks and mesembryanthemum. About 150 to 200 feet above water-level the slope ends and the cliffs drop almost sheer down, while on the rocky ledges, from a few feet above water-level, the nests are built on every available spot. After descending as far as we could go, we selected a suitable spot, and prepared the ropes and other appliances for the descent to the ledges, whereon hundreds of Cormorants could be discerned on their nests. One of our number, A. W. Swindells, descended to the ledges below, while the three remaining members adjusted the ropes, &c., to ensure his safety. After spending a profitable time at the rookeries, the whole party safely returned to the summit of the cliffs."

Lewin's "Birds of New South Wales."

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IN *The Emu* * some notes on Lewin's "Birds of New Holland" (1808) were published. These created a little interest; friendly criticism from Mr. E. A. Petherick was offered, and has been accepted. I now agree that T. Bensley was the printer of the letterpress, as suggested by Mr. Petherick, and not the author, as I had contended. Bensley's address was "Bolt Court," not "Bold Court," as it was printed in that article.

I made the statement:—"The plates in this work were the first natural history subjects executed in Australia. In fact, only one set of engravings was done before—some views on copper (the copper being taken from a ship's bottom)." These misstatements were corrected by Mr. Petherick as follows:—"Lewin previously produced a work on the insects of New South Wales (London, 1805), containing 18 plates, dated 1803 and 1804. These were the earliest engravings executed in Australia. The set of engravings on copper from a ship's bottom (by Preston) were

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first published in 1814." I have now acquired a copy of a book entitled "Birds of New South Wales, with their Natural History," by John William Lewin, A.L.S. (Sydney). Printed by G. Howe, 1813. We have here another book of great historical interest, and I give my rendering of the facts, and again invite criticism.

This is probably the first book devoted to natural history printed and PUBLISHED in Australia. Shaw's "Zoology" (1794) and Lewin's (1808) were, of course, printed and published in London, as, also, was apparently Lewin's "Insects" (1805). This Australian book differs a little from the London (1808) one. The order of the plates is not exactly the same, and the letterpress is very scanty, no scientific names being given. There are eighteen plates, and at the foot of each has probably been printed: "Published as the Act directs" (different dates in December, 1804, to February, 1805) "by J. W. Lewin, New South Wales." This appears on Plate I. in my copy, but it is missing from all the rest, through the binder having cut down the plates very severely. There is, however, a copy in the British Museum (Natural History), and it has not been so badly handled, seven dates being preserved, thus:—

Pl. 1—16th Dec., 1804.

Pl. 3—31st Dec., 1804.

Pl. 4—11th Jan., 1805.

Pl. 10—15th Feb., 1805.

Pl. 11—30th Jan., 1805.

Pl. 12—29th Jan., 1805.

Pl. 15—2nd Feb., 1805.

Consequently, I conclude that, after Lewin had completed his "Insects," he went on to the "Birds." These were engraved and proved and SETS STRUCK OFF in Sydney, and then the plates despatched to England, and the book published under the supervision of Lewin's brother, with amended letterpress. Then, in 1813, Lewin had the Australian sets published in Sydney, the letterpress being printed by G. Howe. The water-mark of the press is "ANSELL 1809," in some cases "C. ANSELL 1809," while the water-mark of the plates is "1802," save in the case of Plate XVIII., where it is 1811. Now, this Plate XVIII. is of the Mountain Bee-eater, and it is quite different from the figure given in the 1808 edition, Plate VII. *Pipra gularis* is not included in the 1813 book, but, instead, is a plate of the Crested Shrike, which is not in the 1808 issue. Both plates appear in the 1822 issue. The fourteenth plate in the 1813 book gives a figure of the Warty Face Honey Sncker. This is the same plate that is included in the 1808 issue, No. III., but on the latter are engraved additional figures of the head and tongue. Consequently, these must have been added after the Australian sets were struck off, but whether by Lewin himself or by someone else I cannot say—most probably in London. I saw a copy with no title-page in the Sydney Public Library, but I know of no others. Any further information regarding this book will be esteemed and all kindly criticism welcomed. The copy in the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, is not all original, the last plate having been added later.