

Geological Society of England, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, a corresponding member of the Zoological Society of England, and a member of the Royal Irish Academy.

In 1883 he was appointed Commissioner for New South Wales and Tasmania at the great International Fisheries Exhibition held in London, and while he was there the University of Edinburgh conferred upon him the degree of LL.D. At that time he was also created a life member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and the Italian Government made him a Knight of the Crown of Italy.

Dr. Ramsay published in 1888 a "Tabular List of the Birds of Australia" (an amended edition of his 1877 "List"), which was extremely useful, and was followed by the field workers of those days. Another important ornithological work was the "Catalogue of the Australian Birds in the Australian Museum, Sydney." Parts 1 and 2—Accipitres and Striges—were respectively issued 1874-8, and subsequent additions; part 3—Psittaci—was issued 1891; and part 4—Picariæ (Kingfishers)—in 1894.

Amongst the most remarkable Australian birds first described by Dr. Ramsay were *Atrichornis rufescens* (Rufous Scrub-Bird), *Heteromyias cinereifrons* (Ashy-fronted Robin), *Orthonyx spaldingi* (Black-headed Log-runner), *Colluricincla boweri* (Bower Shrike-Thrush), *Eopsaltria* (now *Pachycephala*) *inornata* (Grey Thick-head), *Ptilotis macleayana* (Yellow-streaked Honey-eater), *Ptilotis frenata* (Bridled Honey-eater), *Scenopætes denti-rostris* (Tooth-billed Bower-Bird), and *Ailurædus maculosus* (Spotted Cat-Bird); and he described many new eggs.

In private life the deceased ornithologist was of a genial disposition. He was a great lover of music, and had a keen sense of humour. So has passed one of the most conspicuous of Australian-born workers among the *ornis* of his country.

Bird Observers' Club.

THE December meeting of the B.O.C. was held at the residence of Dr. Norman M'Arthur, Toorak. Mr. Barnard, of Queensland, was welcomed as a visitor, and read a short but valuable paper on "Bird Life as Affected by Drought." He stated that some birds were practically exterminated, whilst others usually worked towards the coast. Sometimes years elapsed before they returned to their locality again. He instanced such birds as the Orange-backed Wren-Warbler (*Malurus melanocephalus*) and the Beautiful Parrakeet (*Psephotus pulcherrimus*), which he had only seen once since 1882, when a big drought occurred. Mr. Tom. Tregellas read a paper describing in detail a collecting trip taken in October, 1916, to Linga, in the Mallee country. He illustrated his remarks with an excellent series of lantern slides, showing the plant and bird life of the district. A notable picture was the nest and egg of the Spotted Nightjar (*Eurostopodus guttatus*). Mr. Howat was provisionally elected a member of the Club.

At the January meeting Messrs. Lawrence and Littlejohns gave a lantern display which was a revelation to members. Remarkable pictures of the Mistletoe-Bird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*), Pilot-Bird (*Pycnophilus floccosus*), and the *Acanthiza* were thrown on the screen.

Dr. Norman M'Arthur, who has been elected chairman of the Game Protection Society, stated that he had been instructed by his society to endeavour to bring about co-operation between the B.O.C., Gould's League, and the society, with respect to the furtherance of game protection.

Bird notes from places as far apart as Macquarie Island and Cooper's Creek were the outstanding feature of the February meeting, which was held at the residence of Mr. George Dyer, North Fitzroy. Dr. Macgillivray, of Broken Hill, President R.A.O.U., related his experiences amongst the birds on his last trip to Cooper's Creek. At Yanco Station he saw the tunnels of the Red-backed Kingfisher (*Halcyon pyrrhopygius*) in the mud walls of a bush hut. White-necked Herons (*Notophox pacifica*) and Shell Parrots (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) were nesting in great numbers. Numerous immature Pied and Black Honey-eaters were met with. Dragon-flies were plentiful, and were being freely taken by Bee-eaters (*Merops ornatus*). Dr. Macgillivray also described the country in the vicinity of the Claudie River, Queensland, where he established three camps in company with Mr. M'Lennan, Mr. J. A. Kershaw, and his son. He described the habits of many of the rarer birds, such as the Cockerell Honey-eater (*Trichodere cockerelli*), Striated Tree-runner (*Neositta striata*), Rifle-Bird (*Ptiloris paradisea*), and the new Parrot that he had discovered—viz., *Eclectus geoffreyi*. This bird nested in the very tall deciduous trees at the time when they were bare of leaves.

Mr. Henderson showed a very fine series of Penguin photos. taken by him when stationed at the wireless station at Macquarie Island. He exhibited an albino skin of the Royal Penguin. These birds lay two eggs, one of which is always infertile. One hundred and fifty thousand birds are killed annually for their oil, but he considered that there was no danger of their becoming exterminated.

Mr. F. E. Howe entertained the members in the city at the March meeting. He read an instructive and scientific paper on the genus *Hylacola*. He went into details concerning the nomenclature, description, distribution, and habits of *H. halmaturina*, *H. caula*, and *H. pyrrhopygia*. A visitor to the meeting was Miss Manfield ("Guide Alice"), of Buffalo, who brought a number of slides showing the life of the Lyre-Bird and the country in which it lives. Miss Manfield promised to give a paper and lantern display on her travels and experiences over the Buffalo Mountains.

Publications Received.

D. LE SOUËF, C.M.Z.S., Hon. Librarian.

Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria, Vol. XXIX., part I (New Series).

The Victorian Naturalist, Vol. XXXIII., Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8.

The Victorian Education Gazette and Teacher's Aid, Vol. XVI., Nos. 9, 10, 11.