

There appear, by the way, in the latest New South Wales *Birds Protection Act*, two striking anomalies—namely, the inclusion in the “black list” of the Gill-Bird (Wattled Honey-eater) and Painted Snipe. There isn't a shadow of logical reason for “black-listing” either.

A Bird Sanctuary.—I recently paid a visit to the vicarage at Warialda, and was delighted to find in Rev. Mr. Nixon another bird-lover and observer. In the back yard were two home-made trays on top of a post, beyond reach of cats. Here fed in comparative safety Peewits, Blue-faced Honey-eaters, Magpies, Streperas, the inevitable Sparrows, Black-and-White Butcher-Birds, Soldier-Birds or Miners, while, awaiting their turn in the shrubs close to hand were the little Wrens, Silver-eyes, Tomtits, and *Acanthiza nana*. Since then the visitors have increased, the Grey Jumper and the Babbler having entered the sanctuary. The vicarage is in the centre of the town, and these birds, though of varied orders, readily eat any scraps placed on the tray. On the second tray are several drinking vessels, readily made use of by all the visitors. So far the reverend gentleman's principal pets seem to be the three beautiful Blue-faced Honey-eaters—the first the writer has seen in the district.—S. A. HANSCOMBE, R.A.O.U. 12/5/19.

QUEENSLAND NOTES.

AN EXPENSIVE DUCK.

IN the Rockhampton (Q.) Police Court on 19th May, before the Police Magistrate, Mr. P. M. Hishon, the secretary of the Native Birds Protection Association (P. V. Maloney) proceeded against Claud Pollard for having had a Wild Duck in his possession at The Pocket, near Yaamba, on the 18th of April last, such date being in the close season. Mr. P. T. Rees Jones (Messrs. Rees R. and Sydney Jones) appeared for the complainant, and Mr. E. R. Larcombe, instructed by Mr. H. Grant, for the defendant, who pleaded guilty. Mr. Larcombe stated that the defendant was out shooting wallabies, and had no intention of shooting wild Ducks. Mr. Jones said that the complaint was laid under sec. 4 of the *Native Birds Protection Act*. The constable found the defendant with a wild Duck in his possession and took it from him. He also took his gun and cartridges. The offence was committed on the 18th April, whilst on the 16th of the same month there were notices in the papers that April was a month in the close season. He had been instructed by the Association to ask for an increased penalty, the minimum fine of £1 having apparently had no effect. There had been seven prosecutions in the last twelve months. The maximum fine was £5. The Police Magistrate said that it was evident that the fine of £1 had not acted as a deterrent; but he would not impose the full penalty, considering the cost of the defence. Mr. Larcombe: “It will be

a very expensive Duck to him." The Police Magistrate: "I will fine the defendant £2, with £2 2s. professional costs, 10s. witnesses' expenses, and 3s. 6d. costs of court; in default 21 days' imprisonment. The Association has asked me to increase the penalty, and from this on I will increase the minimum penalty from £1 to £2."

Additions to the Library.

BY CHAS. BARRETT, C.M.Z.S., HON. LIBRARIAN.

I.—BOOKS; &c.

"Wild Life Photography." H. V. Edwards. Gordon and Gotch Ltd. (From the author.)

The sub-title of this booklet is "How to Obtain Valuable Snapshots of Birds, Beasts, Reptiles, &c., in their Native Haunts." Thirteen of the illustrations are from original photographs. Some appear to have been heavily retouched, especially that of an echidna, on page 11. The author is enthusiastic, and novices in the art of nature photography will glean useful hints from his introductory pages on the camera and accessories, though experts, perhaps, will not agree with him on some points.

"A Practical Handbook of British Birds," Part I. Edited by H. F. Witherby, with contributions by Ernst Hartert and others. Witherby and Co., London.

Mr. Witherby, who is the editor of *British Birds* (a magazine that is always interesting), is well known to ornithologists, even in Australia. His latest venture is described as "practical, original, and up-to-date," and this first part supports the claim. The whole work (18 parts at 4s. each) will consist of about 1,200 pages, arranged for two volumes, and publication will extend over 18 months. The illustrations will include coloured and black-and-white plates and about 300 text figures. Of each species a general description and field characters will be given, with notes on breeding habits, food, migration, &c. The plan is excellent, and if a similar work on Australian birds could be published it would be welcomed by hundreds of field naturalists as well as professed ornithologists.

"The American Ornithologists' Union." T. S. Palmer. (Reprinted from the *American Museum Journal*.)

A brief history of the A.O.U., with biographical notes, &c. The Union was founded in 1883 by a small group of scientific men. They numbered only 23; in November, 1918, the membership total was nearly 1,000, and the Union is claimed to be the largest association of its kind in the world.

Bulletins of the Scripps Institution for Biological Research of the University of California: No. 5, "The Resources of the North Pacific Ocean: their Extent, Utilization, and Conservation." No. 7: "Oceanic Circulation and its Bearing upon Attempts to Make Seasonal Weather Forecasts."