

searched for fish the river was lower than he had ever seen it. Is he not speaking of very abnormal times? Now, I wish to say that I have examined the stomach contents of a great many Cormorants of three species on the Murray River and lakes, and have found the bulk of the food to be yabbies and young turtles, the balance being, as a rule, useless fish, such as golden carp and bony bream. On the Coorong I have examined many stomach contents and found crabs and congolly (a small fish, useless as food). As to my research work in reference to Cormorants and sea fishes, if your correspondent looks up the back numbers of *The Emu* he will see part of that work published there. An old friend and sound ornithologist, Dr. A. M. Morgan, of Adelaide, has worked with me on this subject, and can not only verify my statements but add more conclusive evidence.—  
Yours, &c., S. A. WHITE.

"Wetunga," Fulham (S.A.), 5/12/19.

### Obituary.

MANY members of the R.A.O.U., especially those who joined in its annual camp-outings, will regret the death of Mrs. John Mellor, of "Holmfirth," Fulham, South Australia. Although not an original member, the late Mrs. Mellor joined the Union early in its career, and always took the keenest interest in its affairs, which interest she shared with her late husband, Mr. John Mellor, her son, Mr. J. W. Mellor, her son-in-law and daughter, Dr. and Mrs. Brooke Nicholls, and her nephew, Capt. S. A. White, to whom, and all the family, members of the Union respectfully desire to tender their sincere condolence.

### Notes.

**Cuckoos.**—In my note to "Birds of a Feather" (*Emu*, ante, p. 144) drawing attention to the desirability of letting Cuckoos' eggs hatch out under observation, and stating nothing had been done in that direction since the days of the Ramsay brothers, I had no intention of under-estimating the valuable and original notes by Mr. Chas. Barrett, accompanied by the excellent photo-illustrations by Mr. C. P. Kinane, in *The Emu*, vol. v., pp. 20-23; nor the "Observations on Cuckoos" by my son, Mr. A. G. Campbell (*The Emu*, vol. vi., pp. 120-126), and various field notes of value by others. But what I wanted more particularly to emphasize was that there should be definite proof recorded that the species hatched was true to the accredited egg. This has not been done, I think, with all the six species of Cuckoos regularly visiting Victoria; indeed, the young or immature bird of the Black-cared Cuckoo (*Mesocallius osculans*) has not yet been described.

A CORRECTION.—While on the subject of Cuckoos, Mr. Gregory Mathews is under a misapprehension on page 316, vol. vii., "Birds

of Australia," when he states my son, Mr. A. G. Campbell, had seen a fledgeling of the Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis rubricatus* [*flabelliformis*]) in the open nest of the Pink-breasted Robin (*Erythrodryas rhodinogaster*), and that he had also seen eggs and young of the same species of Cuckoo in nests of the Rose-breasted Robin (*E. rosea*). Reference to my son's original notes in *The Emu*, vi., p. 125, will show that the Cuckoo referred to and stated is the Square-tailed (*C. pyrrhophanus* [*variolosus*]) so far as the Rose-breasted Robin is there concerned, while the skin of the fledgeling Cuckoo in question from the nest of the Pink-breasted Robin is now in the "H. L. White Collection," National Museum, Melbourne. It is the "first record" of that Robin being a foster-parent to the Square-tailed Cuckoo; date, Dec., 1904.—A. J. CAMPBELL. Surrey Hills (Vic.), 11/11/19.

NOVEL NOTE.—This season a neighbour of my son, Mr. A. G. Campbell, Kilsyth, invited his attention to a nest of the Yellow-tailed Tit-Warbler (*Acanthiza*) situated about 10 feet high in an apple-box (eucalypt). The nest contained a naked and very young Bronze-Cuckoo, presumably *plagusus*, that had evidently ejected the foster family, eggs or young. On inspecting the nest my son found, besides the naked Cuckoo (which had one eye opened), a newly-laid olive egg of a Bronze-Cuckoo, which, from former observation of the nest, had been deposited that afternoon between noon and 5 o'clock. Is it not strange that any Cuckoo should deposit its egg in a nest already containing young? No doubt the egg would soon be ejected or otherwise destroyed.—A. J. CAMPBELL. Surrey Hills (Vic.)

CORRECTION.—The mention on page 133, *The Emu*, vol. xix., part 2, October, 1919; of *Notornis mantelli*, referred to the Takahe, a gigantic form of Moor-Hen, similar in colour of plumage to the Pukeko (Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio*), of which only four specimens have been obtained. The latest name of the bird, according to Hutton and Drummond, is *Notornis hochstetteri*, and the Maori name, Takahe. The only albino bird that I find recorded for this district on going through very extensive records is an albino native Pigeon.—R. STUART-SUTHERLAND, R.A.O.U. Lighthouse, Puysegur Point, Invercargill, N.Z., 24/11/19.

WANTED to dispose of, at cost price, Gregory M. Mathews's "Birds of Australia," vols. i.-vii., uniformly bound, and the privilege of subscribing to the completion of the work. Apply Hon. Sec., R.A.O.U., Zoological Gardens, Melbourne.

### About Members.

CAPT. S. A. White and Dr. J. A. Leach have been informed that at the thirty-seventh stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, held in New York City 10th November last, they were elected Corresponding Fellows of the A.O.U.