

than not, the time occupied in crossing would be greater and the distance actually traversed would be greater.

In his *Natural History of the Ducks*, Dr. J. C. Phillips states that the Ducks, for instance, do not exceed sixty miles per hour. A Duck travelling at this top speed a mile away and directly at right angles to the line of sight would occupy 0.543384 of a second of time in crossing the mean apparent disc of the full moon. Even at four miles off the bird would be seen only for a little over two seconds. But, as earlier noted, sixty miles an hour is their maximum speed and the chances are against their flight being at right angles to the line of sight. It is not surprising that Ducks "get a move on" and exceed the speed limit with an aeroplane in full pursuit over the rice-fields of California; but under normal conditions, and at a distance of a mile or two, it should not be difficult for an observer as skilled in ornithology as in telescropy to recognise the flight of a flock of Ducks and to report on the height and speed at which they travel.

A writer in *The Emu* in 1921 (XXI, p. 69), speaking as an aeronaut as well as a bird-observer, mentioned 16,000 feet as the *average* height of migration. I may be worth mentioning that birds travelling at that height, and distant nearly  $4\frac{3}{4}$  miles from the telescope, would be within the range of an astronomer observing the moon at an altitude of 40 degrees.

I do not claim great possibilities for this line of investigation, but I hope to devote to the experiment any opportunities which may offer themselves. And no doubt there are other readers of *The Emu* who can bring to the task greater mental and more suitable instrumental equipment than I possess.

## Correspondence.

### POINTS OF NOMENCLATURE.

(To the Editor.)

SIR,—In the New Edition of our Checklist there is a paragraph re *Creadion*. This comes under the heading of Type Designation. For all future workers, I publish now, how type designation is done when following the "International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature," as published in 1905 and corrected in *Science* for 18 October, 1907 (New Series, vol. XXVI, No. 668), pp. 520-523. (P. 521, Art. 30): A. "When in the original publication of a genus, one of the species is definitely designated as type, this species shall be accepted as type regardless of any other consideration.

(Type by original designation). C. "A genus proposed with a single original species takes that species as its type. (Monotypical genera.) D. "If a genus, without originally designated or indicated type, contains amongst its original species one possessing the generic

name as its specific or sub-specific name, either as valid name or synonym, that species or sub-species becomes *ipso facto* type of the genus. (Type by absolute tautonomy.) G. "If an author, in publishing a genus with more than one valid species, fails to designate or to indicate its type, any subsequent author may select the type, and such designation is not subject to change." (Type by subsequent designation.)

NOTE.—"The meaning of the expression 'select a type' is to be rigidly construed. Mention of a species as an illustration or example of a genus does not constitute a selection of a type." This last paragraph covers *Creadion*, and so far as I know Lesson in 1830 was the first who correctly designated the type of *Creadion*.

On page V in the paragraph discussing the name of the Kookaburra, I find that a name with a definite date must be accepted before one with the "evidence, at least, indefinite." Under this heading come *Psittacus banksii* Latham, 1790, before Dec. 9 (indefinite), *Psittacus magnificus* Shaw and Nodder, 1790, Dec. 1 (definite). Therefore, on our own showing we must call the Banksian Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus magnificus* Shaw and Nodder; and *Psitticus banksii* Latham becomes a synonym.

On p. 35 of the Checklist we use the genus *Nyroca*, but is this correct? The dates at present accepted are:—*Aythya* Boie, *Isis*, heft V., May 1822; *Nyroca* Fleming, June, 1822. In the "Report of Committee," p. vi., we say, "It is hoped the rules will be followed strictly." On p. 39 we use *Baza* Hodgson, after January 4, 1837, for the large genus. But why not *Aviceda* Swainson?

(*Aviceda* Swainson, *Classif. Birds*, Vol. I, p. 300, Oct. 1st, 1836. Type added (by monotypy) ib., *Birds of West Africa*, Vol. I, p. 104, March 8th, 1837, *Aviceda cuculoides* Swainson.)

Dr. Van Oort, of the Leyden Museum, in which the type of *Malurus galactotes* is preserved, has sent it to London, where many of us have seen it. It turns out to be *Cisticola lugubris* Rüpp., 1835, and will replace that name. This will remove the name *Malurus galactotes* Temminck et Laugier, *Planch. Color. d'Ois*, livr. XI, pl. 65, fig. 1, June, 1821, from the Australian List. The bird called in the Checklist *Megalurus galactotes* (Temm.) will now be called *Megalurus (Dulciornis) alisteri* Mathews.

Admiral H. Lynes has drawn my attention to the following:—*Cisticola juncidis* Raffles. Distribution Europe, Africa, Asia to Malay Peninsula, Lesser Sunda Islands and Queensland. *Cisticola juncidis* (Raffles) [*Cat. Birds*, VII, p. 259]. *Sylvia juncidis* Rafinesque, *Characteri alc. nuovi gen. spec. avium Sicilia*, p. 6, spec. 10, 1810; *Sicilia* Distribution, Europe. *Cisticola juncidis normani* Mathews. *Cisticola exilis normani* Mathews, *Austral Av. Rec.*, Vol. II, p. 98 Sept. 24th, 1914; Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria; distribution, Gulf of Carpentaria (Norman River).

The following change in name is necessary :—For *Porphyrio bellus* Gould, *P.Z.S.* 1840, p. 176, July 1841, read *Porphyrio cyanophalus* Vieillot.

*Porphyrio cyanophalus* Vieillot, *Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat.*, Vol. XXVIII, p. 28, May 1819; loc. unknown. Now designated South-west Australia.

Yours etc.,  
Gregory M. Mathews.

Foulis Court.  
Fair Oak,  
Hants, England.  
24 Sept., 1926.

## Review.

### AUSTRALIA'S SONG-BIRDS.

A BOOKLET from the hands of Messrs. A. H. Chisholm and N. W. Cayley, bearing the title *Feathered Minstrels of Australia*, has recently been published in Sydney. It treats of seven species of birds, selected in a haphazard kind of way, and gives a full-page picture of each species and opposite each picture a page of descriptive matter relating to the bird and particularly to its song and notes. The word "minstrel" in the title has been wisely chosen. It will enable attractive species to be included whose notes, however pleasing, could hardly be termed songs.

The pictures give the birds in positions true to life and show the usual excellence that Mr. Cayley—being an ornithologist as well as an artist—is able to put into this kind of work. The letterpress by Mr. Chisholm is obviously the work of one possessing a thorough field knowledge of the birds and in particular a keen appreciation and special knowledge of bird music. It describes the habits, song, and various notes of each bird under notice.

This it is hoped is the first of a series of four booklets. Ornithologists will welcome them as an interesting addition to the bird-literature of Australia, especially as we have many birds of high vocal ability (quite apart from recognised songsters) in whose praise little or nothing has yet been written.

Simmons Limited, Harris St., Sydney, are the publishers.—H. WOLSTENHOLME.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. A. H. Spencer, bookseller, 86 Bourke Street East, Melbourne, desires to secure Part 2 of Vol 23 of *The Emu*, and also the following plates : 1 and 2 of Vol 1 ; 10 of Vol. 2 ; 16 of Vol. 3.