

The entrance, made lower than usual, had a fan-shaped hood concealing it—at that time the upper part of the nest was covered by an arch forming a tunnel. At the end of August three eggs were laid. These eggs were duly hatched, and the three young safely reared.

When the female commenced sitting the male started to complete the upper nest, and by the time the eggs were hatched the nest was completed and lined with feathers. It had then three entrance holes, each one inch across. Two of these were later closed, the female assisting with the work. The upper nest was then as complete as the lower one.

On September 30 the young had left the nest, which was immediately wrecked by some bird or other animal. Had the nest not been interfered with, I feel sure that the birds would have used it for their second brood. Later these birds built a second nest, which was a normal one, ten feet from the first. This was well concealed among the thick leaves of a loganberry vine. In it a second brood of three young was reared without interference.—E. A. R. LORD, R.A.O.U., Murphy's Creek.

State Branches Reports

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The activities of the Ornithological Section of the Royal Zoological Society of N.S.W., of which Society most Sydney members of the R.A.O.U. are members, during the past year (July, 1930-June, 1931), have been both interesting and instructive to members. Meetings were well attended, and the lecturing and subjects were much appreciated. Accurate field work, especially by many of the younger workers, was a feature of the year. The privilege of using the cottage at Gundamaian was not availed of to the fullest extent; but the bird cabin at Waterfall has been in constant use, and the observations from that station have amply justified its existence. To Mr. R. Gannon congratulations are offered for his notes on the Satin Bower-bird and its method of painting the bower. Other members also obtained records of interest concerning this remarkable species. His Excellency the Governor, Sir Philip Game, and party spent an enjoyable week in the park, under the guidance of Mr. Chisholm and others.

The death of one of Australia's ornithologists, Mr. Harry Wolstenholme, was a severe loss to the section. Mr. Wolstenholme's wonderful gift of taming wild birds was well-known to those members who visited his home at Wahroonga. His work in connection with the R.A.O.U. Checklist and his scholarly treatise on the scientific names of

Australian birds, which is given as an appendix to the Checklist, remains as a fitting memorial to a gentleman who really loved the birds he wrote about.

Congratulations are offered to two members of the Section, Mr. A. F. Bassett Hull and Mr. Tom Iredale, on their election as Fellows of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales. Many fine photographs of birds and bush scenes were secured by members, several new species, photographically, being added to those already pictured. The work in this field is equal to the results of previous years. Special mention may be made of the filming of several species by Mr. Norman Chaffer.

A summary of the lectures delivered at the twelve Friday meetings held during the year follows:—

1930.—July 20: Mr. Harold Fletcher, "Antarctic Birds," illustrated with beautiful lantern slides. August 15: Mr. E. F. Pollock, "Animal Photographs." October 17: Mr. J. R. Kinghorn, "Economic Ornithology." December 19: Mr. N. W. Cayley, "Drawings of Hybrid Finches"; Mr. K. A. Hindwood, "Bird Photographs."

1931.—January 16: Mr. Norman Chaffer, "Bird Photographs." February 20: Mr. Tom Iredale, "Talk on Dotterels." March 20: Lantern slides by Mr. J. Ramsay; discussion on Cuckoos. April 17: General discussion. Notes on the Banded Stilt. May 15: Discussion. "What is a Species?", Mr. Anthony Musgrave. "Early Australian Insect Collectors," illustrated with lantern slides, many of them wonderfully coloured by the hand of the lecturer. June 19: Annual meeting. Election of office-bearers. Chairman's address.

N. W. CAYLEY,
State Secretary.

TASMANIA.

I have the honour to report that considerable progress in this State has been made. This applies in particular to the regulations affecting bird life that have been framed under the Animals and Birds Protection Board, which has been in existence long enough to be in a position to consolidate the various regulations and enter upon a settled policy for the future. One matter to which attention was drawn last year, and to which the Union has given consideration was the definition as to what exactly constitutes scientific work as regards ornithological collectors, but the position, although improved, is by no means very clear as far as a clear definition is concerned.

Another matter mentioned in my last report was the proposal to create a sanctuary on the River Mersey on the north coast. Mr. Arthur Butler and myself, accompanied by the Chairman and other members of the Board, paid a

special visit to the Mersey to investigate this proposal, as, although favoured by certain sections of the local residents, there was very strong opposition from another portion of the community. The outcome of the investigation was an agreement that it would be inadvisable to create the whole area as a sanctuary as proposed, but the suggestion was made that the local residents might reconcile their various interests and agree upon the creation of a smaller sanctuary in the vicinity of Bell's Parade, which would be a distinct advantage, but no definite action on these lines has been attempted to date.

Another matter of keen controversy was the question of Swan shooting, particularly at Moulting Lagoon. After being closed for a season the Lagoon was again thrown open to Swan shooting this year and in order to give particular attention to this matter, I attended with some other members of the Animals and Birds Protection Board at the opening date of the shoot. In addition, further data concerning this vexed question has been gathered from all possible sources, and the whole matter will come before the Animals and Birds Protection Board for consideration.

The question of the bird life in the Bass Straits Islands was given further attention, and I very much regret to report that there is evidence that the Gannets on Cat Island have been interfered with and some of them, at any rate, killed. The Island is so easy of access in certain weathers, and is so isolated from any inhabited parts of the mainland of Flinders Island, that there appears to be always the chance of damage being done to the Gannets by irresponsible persons.

The question of sanctuaries has been given every attention. Special patrols have been sent from time to time with the object of enforcing the law and making these resorts sanctuaries in effect as well as in name.

Generally, the consolidation of regulations has contributed to placing the game laws on a better footing and with the educational work being done in conjunction with the publicity of the regulations the bird life of Tasmania is receiving all due attention.

CLIVE E. LORD,
State Secretary.