

TRUSTEES

Trustees: Z. GRAY, A. H. E. MATTINGLEY, J. A. ROSS.

Receipts.

£1000—Inscribed Stock Matured	£1,000	0	0
Accrued Interest, 15/12/'30	15	0	0

£1,015 0 0

Expenditure.

£1,040—6% Commonwealth Stock, 15/3/'37	£1,013	19	0
Savings Bank, Cr. Balance	1	1	0

£1,015 0 0

Z. GRAY, L.C.A., Hon. Treasurer.
Melbourne, 1/7/1931.

Report of Bird Observers Club

A most enjoyable outing to Daylesford was made on Easter Sunday. On arrival, members joined with those of the Field Naturalists' Club, who were spending the week-end there. The geology of the district was inspected and described. At the monthly meeting (which is now altered to the third Monday in the month) Mr. R. H. Croll, a former Assistant Editor of *The Emu*, gave "Some Impressions of Central Australia," and made interesting comparisons between the Stone Age men and the white men. How many persons could make a list of ninety birds that they could distinguish in the field? Yet the Arunta tribe name this number of birds in one of the only two books printed in their language.

When Mr. J. McGilp, of Adelaide, member of the R.A.O.U. Council for South Australia, was passing through Melbourne a happy idea was to call members together to hear about the Banded Stilts. So on the evening of April 29, with the aid of lantern slides, he described the nesting habits of the great rookery discovered at Lake Callabonna. Never, even in tradition, has the nesting of this species come within the knowledge of Australian ornithology until last year, when bountiful rains refreshed the great interior and filled the lake basins with fresh water. Mr. McGilp stated there would be about 54,000 birds in this rookery, with eggs in clutches of two to four, quite unlike in appearance the eggs of the White-headed Stilt. The young are white in the down, and can run and swim from birth.

The May outing to St. Helena was enjoyed by a large party, and good lists of birds obtained. Mr. C. Bryant explained the history of the settlement, with its Rose Chapel and other evidences of patriarchal care. A good list of birds was obtained also at Mt. Waverley, but the attendance of members was poor, and it was decided to go again in the Spring. At the May meeting Mr. Cole took members for a trip "Over Mt. Cobbler," describing and picturing by lantern slides

ACCOUNT

Assets.			
£1040—6% Commonwealth Stock, due			
15/3/'37	£1,040	0	0
Accrued Interest on £40 to 1/6/'31	0	10	0
Savings Bank, Cr. Balance	1	1	0
	£1,041	11	0
Liabilities.			
Nil.			
Balance	£1,041	11	0
Audited and found correct.			
E. W. BUNN, Hon. Auditor.			
10/7/1931.			

some of the wildest country in Victoria. At 4500 feet a set of eggs of the Spotted Quail-Thrush was taken. Leaden Flycatchers were seen at high altitudes, even among snow gums only a few feet in height, while on the very summit a Ground Lark was flushed.

At the Zoo on May 2 members admired the large new flight aviaries for Parrots, in different compartments of which were housed many representatives of Australian *Psittaciformes*. The first Nankeen Herons which make the Zoo their winter quarters were back from the Murray frontage. Brush Turkeys looked healthy and vigorous. Rare additions are two part-grown Cassowaries from North Queensland. A specimen of the Palm Cockatoo was in splendid feather—its fine tasselled crest and enormous bill make the head a quaint study. The great bill seems to be prevented from closing fully by the depth of muscle at the base, yet in shelling nuts it works with the precision of a scientific instrument. In spite of his rarity, this species makes an even-tempered cage bird.

A satisfactory syllabus of meetings has been carried through during winter, and the thanks of the Club committee are due to all members who have assisted with lectures and slides. The extra meetings at the National Museum for the practical study of various families of birds have been very well attended. The courtesy of the Director, Mr. Mahony, in making special arrangements, has been untiring, and the assistance of Mr. Mack amongst the great collections unflinching.

There were two noteworthy winter field excursions, one being to Melton, the hunting ground of earlier naturalists (see *Vic. Nat.*, Vol. VI, p. 70). The list of birds reached 50, and included several species not found nearer to Melbourne, namely, White-browed Babbler, White-face, Black-chinned Honeyeater, and Yellow-tufted Honeyeater. Earlier reports plaintively remark that while most attention is always given to the birds, quite interesting subjects can be found in the geology and botany of Melton. This is one of the very few areas in Victoria not yet surveyed for quarter sheets. Lunch was partaken on the warm side of a clump of mallee (*Eucalyptus behriana*).

On August 22, in conditions quite the reverse of pleasant, members visited, by invitation of Dr. Leon Jona, his log cabin on Olinda Creek. Nature was in a weeping and defiant mood; the creek was full to overflowing; conditions were so bleak that the flowering wattles hung their heads, and the Bell Miners forgot their tinkling notes. But the warring elements merely served to emphasise the solidity and picturesqueness of this unique cabin, with its immense logs, naturally-figured native woods and cobblestones, worked into the scheme with artistic thoroughness. Two acacia trees of improved strain were planted to mark the occasion of the visit.

Library Notes

The receipt is acknowledged of the following publications:—

The Avicultural Magazine, Fourth Series, Vol. IX, Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8. No. 6 contains "A Few Facts About the Elegant Parrakeet," by Dr. Wm. Hamilton.

The Victorian Naturalist, Vol. XLVIII, Nos. 3, 4, and 5.

The Science Society of China—Its History, Origin and Activities.

Rivista Italiana di Ornithologia, March, 1931.

Field Museum of Natural History. Publication No. 271—"Annual Report of the Director of the Board of Trustees for 1929." Publication No. 290—"Birds of the Kelly-Roosevelt's Expedition to French Indo-China."

Annals of the Transvaal Museum, Vol. XIV, Parts 2 and 3.

The Australian Zoologist, Vol. 7, Part I.

Australian Science Abstracts, Vol. 10, No. 3.

Social Parasitism in Birds, by Herbert Friedmann. From the Smithsonian Report for 1929 (pages 363-82).

Contributions from the Biological Laboratory of the Science Society of China, Vol. VI, Nos. 8, 9 and 10. No. 8 contains "On a Triple Embryo of the Chick," by Hsi-Fan Hsii.

Records of the South Australian Museum, Vol. IV, No. 3.

The Proceedings of the Linnean Society of N.S.W., Vol. LVI, Part 3, No. 235.

Whaling in the Antarctic. By A. G. Bennett, R.A.O.U. See review in this part.

Linnean Society of N.S.W. Abstracts of Proceedings. Nos. 444, 445, and 446.

L'Oiseau et la Revue Française D'Ornithologie, Vol. I, Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6.

The Ibis, Vol. I (13th series), No. 3. Contains "John Latham, an Early English Ornithologist." By G. M. Mathews.

Mitteilungen des Vereins Sächsischer Ornithologen, Vol. III, No. 2.