

cessful attempt to "make contact" with the Mallee Whipbird. Part 7 is devoted entirely to "The Hawks of South Australia, Part I," by J. N. McGilp. ["This paper does not attempt to treat with the subject in a scientific sense, but rather to place on record what the bird looks like in flight, as this is most often their position when seen." There is included a series of drawings depicting the tail of each species when seen from beneath the bird in flight. The species included in this issue are Spotted Harrier, Swamp Harrier, Australian Goshawk, Collared Sparrow-hawk, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Little Eagle, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Eagle.]

Check-list of Birds of the World, by James Lee Peters. Will be reviewed in next issue.

A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China, by J. D. D. La Touche, Vol. II, pt. VI. See review in this part.

Die Vogelwelt Polynesiens, by Ernst Mayr. Reprint. A survey dealing with various Polynesian archipelagoes and their birds and the relationships between New Guinea and Australian forms and the island groups.

A Critical Note on the subspecies of Goura victoria, by E. Mayr and J. Berlioz. Reprint.

Report of Bird Observers Club

At the June meeting Mr. Chas. Daley, B.A., delivered an address on "The Preservation of Our Fauna and Flora," with practical suggestions for protective measures in sanctuaries suitable to their special needs.

The outing in June was to Cranbourne. A wintry day resulted in a poor bird list, but Honeyeaters, including the Tawny-crowned species, which is not often seen now near Melbourne, were plentiful and tuncful among the early flowers of the moorland cover.

On July 16 there was given a highly interesting lecture by Capt. Jenkins on his tour through Central Australia, illustrated by lantern slides depicting the strangeness of this country geographically, and, owing to scarcity of water, the sparseness of all life, both plant and animal.

The July outing was to Sherbrooke Forest, where the chief item of attraction is the Lyrebird. A singularly calm and bright day enabled members to see this best known of Australian broadcasters in its native haunts. The bush rang with a torrent of mimicry, among which calls of fourteen different species of birds could be recognized, and no difficulty was experienced in seeing the feathered artist.

An unusual subject was taken by Mrs. Blanche Miller for the meeting on August 20, "What Do You Know About Your Bird Book?" Dealing with Dr. Leach's textbook, she exhibited many of the stages through which it passed to seven editions, explaining the method in its compilation, together with something of the history of the author.

August 25 was made a wattle outing, when a large muster of members proceeded to Kilsyth and Mooroolbark. A brilliant day showed the wattle at its best in the local plantations, as well as in the bush. No less than eighteen kinds were found in flower, and all tints from pale sulphur to deep chrome. It was remarked that honey-eating birds do not patronize the wattle in flower, although it

attracts numbers of insects, but Thornbills and Fantails are usually found among the blossoms. At the bend on Olinda Creek the silver wattle flooded the valley with waves of glorious colour. This is the one reserve near Melbourne where Bell Miners are to be found, and their establishment there must be of very recent years, because in the writings of some of the earlier naturalists who knew the place well they are not mentioned.

A visit was paid to the sanctuary at Toolern Vale on July 28, when several observations were added to the log. The Horsfield Bronze-Cuckoo and Fantailed Cuckoo were both seen and heard, this being the first week of their appearance. The Diamond Firetail's nest referred to in the last report had been much used for sleeping quarters, whilst the White-browed Babbler had laid two eggs, hatched them and reared the young in the depth of winter. The flock of White Cockatoos were still about, feeding in low-lying tussocky paddocks. The bad reputation given them of following the drill and eating the grain was not borne out by the beautifully-green and even appearance of the farmers' crops alongside. Honeyeaters, uncountable, of at least nine species, feed during winter among the flowering yellow gums. A five-mile walk about the adjoining bush-covered ridges convinced us that the sanctuary is the focus of bird life in this district.

Through the courtesy of the Director of the National Museum, the winter study meetings have been continued and are well attended. The demonstrators have been Messrs. A. G. Campbell, E. S. Hanks and J. A. Kershaw.

Review

[*A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China* (Chihli, Shantung, Kiangsu, Anhwei, Kiansi, Chekiang, Fohkien, and Kwangtung Provinces). By J. D. D. La Touche, C.M.Z.S., C.F.A.O.U., M.B.O.U. Vol. II, pt. vi, pp. 497-566, i-xxiii; 1 pl. London: Taylor & Francis, May, 1934. Price, 7s. 6d.]

In addition to the remainder of the *Anatidæ*, the *Podicipidæ* and *Colymbidæ*, this part contains a corrigenda, addenda, and an index, thus completing the work.

The two volumes give a total of 756 forms of birds for the eight provinces of Eastern China. As the author remarks, a number of these will have to be excluded, but with further exploration and research probably a greater number will be added.

Without a knowledge of the facilities available to the author we hesitate to criticise, but a too-ready acceptance of the opinions of others, particularly on the validity of races, detracts considerably from the value of a work such as this. Nevertheless, for the purpose of reference and as a basis for the more intense work yet to be carried out, this handbook will be of the greatest use, and we congratulate Mr. La Touche on its completion.—G.M.

The degree of Doctor of Science of the Melbourne University has been conferred on D. F. Thomson. Dr. Thomson recently accepted an offer by the Federal Government of a position as a patrol officer of the Government in Arnhem Land.