

once before" from the island, and there are a number of other related instances. In an article by Dr. Rand in the *Natural History Magazine*, vol. XLVI, no. 3, Oct. 1940, dealing with a new habitat group in the American Museum of Natural History, a short account of the ways of "the black and white Friendly Flycatcher" obviously refers to *Rhipidura leucophrys*.

"Results of the Archbold Expeditions, No. 32" is devoted to "New and Interesting Birds from New Guinea," by A. L. Rand (*Amer. Mus. Nov.* no. 1102, Feb. 17, 1941). Twenty new subspecies are described. Dealing here with birds with Australian representatives, these include races of *Butorides striatus*, *Accipiter fasciatus*, *Ducula* (= *Myristicivora*) *spilorrhoa*, *Alcyon pusilla*, *Gerygone palpebrosa* and *Meliphaga analoga*. *Capella* (= *Gallinago*) *hardwickii* is recorded for the first time from New Guinea, as is *Myiagra rubecula*—"the first record . . . from New Guinea, though Australian ornithologists have long assumed that it winters here." *Ducula spilorrhoa melvillensis* Mathews, which occurs, is said to be a fairly distinct race. Colour variation in the Koel (*Eudynamys cyanocephala*) may be complicated by Australian migrants. The two likely forms are *cyanocephala*, and *subcyanocephala* which breeds in south New Guinea. Possibly eastern Australian birds should be separated as *flindersii*.—C.E.B.

First Report of the Checklist Committee

With a view to bringing up to date the second edition of the *Official Checklist of the Birds of Australia*, 1926, a Committee was appointed by Council at a meeting held on December 20, 1938. Some changes in the personnel of the Committee have occurred since the initial appointments were made, and the Committee is now as follows:

Mr. C. E. Bryant, Melbourne, Editor *The Emu*.

Mr. A. G. Campbell, Kilsyth, Victoria.

Mr. H. T. Condon, South Australian Museum, Adelaide.

Dr. R. A. Falla, Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, N.Z.

Mr. G. M. Mathews, C.B.E., (whilst remaining in Australia).

Dr. D. L. Serventy, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Cronulla, N.S.W.

Major H. M. Whittell, O.B.E., Bridgetown, W.A. (Convenor and Secretary).

The Committee will, in the initial stages of its deliberations, confine its activities to intimating its acceptance, or otherwise, of the geographical races (subspecies) which have been indicated by various workers in Australian ornithology, and to authorizing the use of altered nomenclature, where such has become necessary, consequent on research made since the publication of the second edition of the *Checklist*.

To enable the Committee to publish the results of its deliberations arrangements have been made for some space to be set aside in each number of *The Emu*. This space

will be utilized by the publication of Supplements to the *Checklist*.—H. M. WHITTELL, Secretary and Convener.

SUPPLEMENT NO. 1

No. 97.—*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* Brandt

Phalacrocorax ater (Lesson), Little Black Cormorant, becomes *P. sulcirostris* Brandt (Bull. Sci. Ac. Imp. Petersb., III, 1837, p. 56) as the name *Carbo ater* Lesson has been shown to apply to a young bird of *P. magellanicus* (Gmelin), and was probably taken on the Falkland Islands. Authority: Berlioz, Bull. Mus. Paris, XXXIII, 1927, p. 350.

No. 289.—*Platycercus icterotis* Kuhl

The following subspecies of *Platycercus icterotis* Kuhl, Western Rosella, are recognized:—

P. i. icterotis Kuhl.

Synonyms: *stanleyi* Vigors, *salvadori* Mathews.

Range: South-west Australia (coastal).

P. i. xanthogenys Salvadori.

Synonym: *whitlocki* Mathews.

Range: South-west Australia (drier areas).

References: Jenkins, *Emu* xxx, 1930, p. 29, and Whitlock, *Emu* xxxvii, 1937, p. 108.

No. 298. *Psephotus narethae* is suppressed as a full species and is recognized as a subspecies of no. 297 *P. haematogaster*, Blue-bonnet, with range the Nullarbor Plains.

Contributors to the *Emu* are requested to use the nomenclature of the *Checklist*, as modified by the Supplements published from time to time.

Stray Feathers

Mating in Petrels.—In the useful paper by David Lack, "Pair-Formation in Birds," *The Condor*, vol. XLII, 1940, pp. 269-286, reviewed in the last issue of *The Emu*, two species of petrels are placed in the category of birds which pair for life. Lack states: "Manx Shearwaters (*Puffinus puffinus*) and Wilson Petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*) have re-mated in a second year, but there is no evidence as to whether these birds remain paired outside the breeding season. It is evident that far more data are needed on this subject." By the very nature of things it is unlikely that positive evidence on this group can be early forthcoming,