

| LIABILITIES | | TRUST ACCOUNT AS |
|-------------------|--|--------------------|
| Nil | | |
| Balance | | £1,075 12 6 |
| | | <u>£1,075 12 6</u> |

I have accepted the estimates of the Assets on the basis of figures for previous years; I have examined three Bank Books and I have received from the Commonwealth Inscribed Stock Registrar certificates of the stock registered both in the name of the Union and in the names of the Trustees.

(Signed) H. E. D. STEVENS.

Great Bower-bird in the Northern Territory.—This large species, *Chlamydera nuchalis*, occurs in the savannah woodlands of the Darwin area up to about 80 miles inland. It is a tame and friendly bird, its presence being always known by the 'churring' or scolding notes it utters. The writer first met with it at Adelaide River in April, and at Batchelor, in September, 1943. Other birds and bowers were seen 16 miles south of Darwin in October, 1944, and near Stapleton from November, 1944, to February, 1945. Around the camp the birds often visited refuse dumps and on occasions would fly off with a whole apple in the bill.

All the birds were viewed with field glasses and in no case was a lilac 'nape-patch' detected, even in those in the vicinity of bowers. The eyes, bill and legs and feet appear black, and the body is slightly plumper than that of a Friar-bird. There are whitish or buff spots and markings on the wing coverts, which are diagnostic. The flight is swift and undulating, the actions alert. The birds hop. They are noisy and some of the calls appear to be ventriloquial. Passable imitations of calls are also believed to have been heard of the following species: Little Friar-bird (*Philemon citreogularis*), Magpie-Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) and Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*).

Four bowers were examined. On October 28, 1944, one was seen beneath dense bushes at the foot of a tall tree in a drainage gully. It appeared to be in use, and several hundred molluscan shells of three species were littered between the walls: these were the common land snail of the district (*Xanthomelon telescopium*), with a few fragments of two large conical varieties (*Telescopium telescopium*) and (*Terebralia palustris*), which occur on the mud flats near the sea some miles away. No other objects were discovered in this bower. The walls consisted of dried coarse grasses and twigs firmly interwoven; they were not 'arched over' in any of the bowers seen.

This locality was heavily infested with mosquitoes and

AT JUNE 30, 1945

ASSETS

| | | | |
|--|--------|-------------|------|
| Commonwealth Govt. Inscribed Stock (face value) .. | £1,070 | 0 | 0 |
| Balance in State Savings Bank | | 5 | 12 6 |
| | | <hr/> | |
| | | £1,075 12 6 | |

(Signed) A. S. CHALK

Hon. Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,

(Signed) H. E. D. STEVENS,

Hon. Auditor.

June 30, 1945.

further visits were not made. About a mile away a similar bower was examined near a log in a clearing.

A notable bower was found in a deserted Army hut about one hundred yards from the main road, about 60 miles south of Darwin. The hut was first visited in January, 1945, when there was no sign of a bower, although the birds were present. On February 12, 1945, three weeks later, a completed bower with about fifty white land shells (*Xanthomelon*), some pale green glass, pale green flowers, fresh green leaves and some old dry brown berries was noted in the centre of the hut and visible from the doorway. Two reddish Army 'identification discs' and some pieces of blue paper lying near the bower were placed amongst the shells by the writer. On a subsequent visit a week later these had been removed and many more shells added. The floor of the hut was of coarse white gravel, and on slightly lifting the entire bower, a small species of termite was seen to be well-established beneath it.

Another bower was seen beneath dense bushes about three-quarters of a mile away. Further observations were not made, as the writer left the district a week later.—H. T. CONDON, Melbourne, Vic., 24/5/45.

Cape Petrels.—On Thursday, September 27, 1945, I found the remains of a Petrel amongst the high-tide debris at Fishermen's Bend. The wings, back and tail feathers were in fairly good condition and the plumage answered to that of the Cape Petrel (*Daption capense*), a rather rare bird, I should imagine, to be washed up on the shores of Hobson's Bay. The wings and head were identified by Mr. George Mack, then of the National Museum, Melbourne, as those of the Cape Petrel. Mr. Mack informed me that about six weeks previously he had a bird of this species sent up from Point Lonsdale. It was in good condition, the bird having been taken from the water in a dying state, and made an excellent skin.—ROY WHEELER, Windsor, Vic., 26/11/45.