

was received from the secretary to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, stating that "the Spit" and adjacent islets at Kingscote, Kangaroo Island, had been proclaimed a bird reserve for over three years, and promising to have notices placed there to warn persons of the liability of trespassing to molest the birds. Several letters were read asking permission to take young Seagulls from these breeding places, but as the locality was now protected no permits could be recommended. Mr. H. E. Laffer was elected a member of the Association. Captain White tabled "Bulletin No. 3" of *The Emu*, describing several new birds and eggs, also two volumes of the *Ibis*. Mr. J. W. Mellor showed several species of Scrub-Wrens (*Sericornis*), notably two species from the lowest and highest elevations of the Adelaide district, and upon which experts both in Australia and Europe are differing in their opinion of nomenclature. The subject of the evening was a discussion upon the *Malurus* family, the best known representative about Adelaide being the Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneochlamys*). A series was shown to illustrate the wide distribution of the bird in Australia, and the variations they assume in different localities. Mr. F. R. Zietz, the Museum ornithologist, displayed a fine series from the Adelaide public collection, containing the majority of the known species in Australia, and these were of great use in comparing specimens from private collections. Mr. J. W. Mellor tabled a rare species from the north and far north-west of this State, and described by Mr. A. J. Campbell, of Melbourne, as the White Wren (*Malurus whitei*), named in honour of the good work done by the late Mr. Samuel White. Mr. E. Ashley and Captain White exhibited Blue Wrens from Kangaroo Island, King Island, Tasmania, and the mainland, including the White-winged Wren (*Malurus leucopterus*), from the southern and northern parts of South Australia.

Notes and Notices.

Back Volumes of "The Emu."—Two complete sets (vols. i. to xi.), also some parts (now out of print), may be had on application to the editors.

Emu-Skins and Lyre-Bird Tails.—According to advice received from Mr. James Buckland, at the feather sales in London, 7th August, 765 Emu-skins brought from 6s. to 10s. 6d. each. Another inferior lot, of 222 skins, realized from 1s. 3d. to 2s. 3d. each, while 120 of the large curved feathers out of Lyre-Birds' tails brought 2s. 6d. each. How do these feathers get out of Australia?

California Academy of Sciences.—Dr. Leverett Mills Loomis, Director of the Museum, writes:—"In spite of the fact that the California Academy of Sciences collection contains over 2,000 Albatrosses and Petrels, and in spite of the fact that I have drawn largely on the museums and private collections of the United States, I find myself hampered by lack of material in reviewing the Tubinares. I will, therefore, be greatly obliged if you will send me the address of a reliable collector in Australia and one in New Zealand, from whom the Academy can purchase specimens of the Albatrosses and Petrels frequenting Australian and New Zealand Seas."

Acanthiza macularia (Gray).—To assist me in the preparation of a monograph on the *Acanthizæ*, Mr. F. E. Wilson, the hon. secretary of the R.A.O.U., kindly placed at my disposal his private collection of *Acanthiza* skins.

On examining a large series of *A. pusilla*, and closely allied

forms, my attention was at once attracted to an unfamiliar form which conspicuously stood out from the others by reason of the lustrous live-brown tint of the upper surface, the uniform bright umber-brown tail, and the *erectile feathers of the forehead*.

After a little research, I proved it to be identical with *Saxicola macularia* of Quoy and Gaimard, obtained at "Port Western" in 1830. Mr. Wilson's specimen was obtained by him at Phillip Island, Western Port, Victoria—obviously the same locality.

In the British Museum Catalogue, vol. vii., p. 294, the late Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, after referring to *Acanthiza macularia*, predicted that it would prove to be *Acanthiza pusilla*.

I append a translation of the original specific description, as the former appears in the Catalogue, and except as to the omission of the conspicuously dark sepia flanks and the two minor points of difference hereafter indicated in parentheses, such description accurately fits Mr. Wilson's bird.

The frontal feathers alone render the bird easily recognizable, and also distinguishable from its nearest ally, *A. magnirostris* (Campbell), of King Island.

Description.—"Above rufous-brown, the frontal feathers loose and elevated in front, covering the base of the bill, and of a reddish colour with whitish spots; the bill is brown, straight, and a little curved at the point; the throat, breast, and belly are dull white streaked with brown (black); the tail, which is slightly rounded, is uniform rufous (burnt umber) and is marked near its tip with a broad transverse band; the feet are long, slender, and brown, like the toes. The female or young male differs in having the belly buff without striations."—ALEX. WM. MILLIGAN. William-street, Melbourne, 16/9/12.

Important Notice.

THE twelfth annual session of the R.A.O.U. will be held in Tasmania during November.

Inter-State members will leave Melbourne per s.s. *Loongana* on Friday, 15th, at 4 p.m.

Saturday, 16th, there will be an outing in the vicinity of Launceston, and in the evening a general meeting, when the presidential address will be delivered.

Monday, 18th, sessional business, and in the evening a lecture, free to the public.

Tuesday, 19th, in the afternoon, depart from Launceston for ten days' working camp-out on Flinders Group. (Some ornithological novelties are expected to be found among the Peaks of Flinders.)

After the camp-out some members will visit Hobart, and addresses to school children will be given.

Further details are announced on the hon. secretary's usual circular, which states expenses for the session need not exceed £7 per member—i.e., from Melbourne.