

judicious admixture of pleasant anecdote and practical instruction in the art of hunting harmlessly, while, as a statement of the aims and views of a popular bird-student, the opening chapter is especially worth reading. Other chapters are devoted to the identification of wild birds, to their songs and to the subject of migration.

The author has made the fullest use of the photographic method of popularising his subject, and the sixty excellent pictures which illustrate the book are obviously the result of much patient and painstaking work. The advice given in the chapters which deal with bird photography is both explicit and sound.

The volume is handy in size, well bound in cloth, and contains 270 pages. Our copy is from Messrs. Angus and Robertson Ltd., Castlereagh-st., Sydney. The price is 8s., post free.

Conversazione

It may be true that good wine needs no bush, but it is equally true that judicious advertising is often desirable. This was strikingly shown in the record attendance at the *Conversazione* at the National Museum, Melbourne, on March 11th. A well-written paragraph in the daily papers drew folk in embarrassing numbers, and when the seating accommodation was engaged fully half the number had to remain standing. Amongst those who succumbed to the attraction of the bill of fare, "Bird-life in Central Australia," were His Excellency the Governor, Lady Stradbroke, and a large party from Government House.

Mr. A. G. Campbell began by giving a synopsis of the work done by successive exploring expeditions in Central Australia, which geographical term was taken to include all the interior of the continent, with a rainfall of less than 10 inches annually. He made good use of a series of maps, and, as the lecture proceeded, one began to get a clearer conception of the conditions prevailing, and to realise against what tremendous odds Stuart, Eyre, Giles and the other explorers pitted themselves.

Mr. A. J. Campbell, who followed, lost little time in indicating the nature and extent of the bird-life of the region under review. Lying on the table before him were specimens of many birds taken by the recent H. L. White Expedition under F. Lawson Whitlock, the well-known field ornithologist, and the oral description was supplemented by the exhibition of the bird itself.

Finishing his talk sooner than his auditors would have desired, Mr. Campbell introduced Mr. Keartland, who enjoys the distinction of having been a member of several of these exploring expeditions, in one of which two men and several camels perished under the strain of the privations endured. The audience listened with eager interest as the speaker recalled some of his experiences. These were not all of a sombre character. Mr. Keartland's racy, graphic, and often humorous descriptions served to bring the fascinating interior much nearer to us. He, too, made good use of the specimens available.

When the addresses were concluded and many questions had been answered, Mr. Mattingley and Mr. Gates voiced the thanks of the R.A.O.U. to His Excellency and Lady Stradbroke for their attendance. In his reply, the Governor showed that he takes a keen and intelligent interest in matters concerning the preservation of the native fauna.

Dr. Leach (President, R.A.O.U.) acted as chairman in his usual efficient style, and expressed the feelings of all the members of the R.A.O.U. present, when he spoke of the strong encouragement so large an attendance afforded.

J. CROSS, Hon. Sec., R.A.O.U.

Obituary

FREDERIC CHARLES MORSE.

By the death of Mr. F. C. Morse, of "Banarway," Mogil Mogil, N.S.W., which occurred after a short illness, on January 26th last, at Collaroy, a seaside resort near Sydney, where he was spending a holiday with his family, the Union lost a member who could ill be spared. He leaves a widow, three sons and a daughter.

The late Mr. Morse was born at "Balala" Station, near Armidale, on July 10th, 1874. He was educated at All Saints' College, Bathurst, where he won distinction as a scholar and in many branches of sport.

On leaving school, Mr. Morse went on the land, and for many years managed "Bundy," a well-known property near Coonamble. Afterwards he bought "Coocalla," at Garah, where he lived until last year, when he sold out and purchased "Banarway," at Mogil Mogil.

When quite a boy Mr. Morse began the career of an enthusiastic nature-lover, devoting most of his time to the study of birds. Being a keen and reliable observer, a splendid bushman, a daring climber and a clever photographer, his contributions to *The Emu* and other journals have added considerably to the knowledge of Australian ornithology.

In bird photography, Mr. Morse excelled; the many beautiful pictures which have appeared in *The Emu* indicate his skill in that branch of his life's hobby. His observations on the "Birds of the Watercourse" (Moree) and other articles written under the nom-de-plume "Limacola," were mainly responsible for having that area declared a sanctuary, and his egg collection, replete with full data, ranks amongst the best private collections in Australia.

A man of quiet, unassuming manner, a devoted husband and father, always generous and hospitable, he endeared himself to all those fortunate enough to know him. Whether in camp or in the scrub, Mr. Morse was a delightful companion and a typical Australian. He was a valued and esteemed member of the R.A.O.U., and will be greatly missed by all.