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[PART I.]

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The South Australian Ornithological Association.

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MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—August, 1928.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday evening, 31st August, 1928, at 8 p.m. The President (Professor J. B. Cleland) was in the chair.

Correspondence.—A letter from the Chief Inspector of Fisheries and Game, dated 2nd August, 1928, in reply to our complaint that Hoary-headed Grebes had been sold as Ducks in the Central Market on 27th July last, was placed on the table. The Chief Inspector stated that he had made inquiries regarding same, but could not trace the offender; and if our informant had informed a police officer or communicated at once with this department a prosecution might have been obtained, and, in future, he desired that either of these courses should be followed.

Financial.—The financial position and the cost of printing the "S.A. Ornithologist" were discussed tentatively. The Secretary was directed to make further inquiries about the latter, and bring the subject up at the next meeting.

The subject for discussion was the genus *Smicromis*. The two species *S. brevirostris*, Brown Weebill, and *S. flavescens*, Yellow Weebill, are recorded from South Australia. Specimens were exhibited from the collection of the S.A. Museum.

—September, 1928.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday evening, 28th September, 1928, at 8 p.m. The President was in the chair.

Correspondence.—A letter was received from the Secretary of the Bird Club, Sandy Creek School, advising that their club had again won this Association's trophy for the Bird and Tree

Essay—their second win in succession. The Secretary was instructed to congratulate the club on its win.

Camp-out.—Mr. J. Neil McGilp suggested that the Association should hold an annual camp-out. After discussion it was decided that the proposer, Mr. F. E. Parsons, and the Secretary should inquire into the matter of the locality, date, etc., and report to a future meeting.

Duck and Quail Season.—The attention of members was drawn to a paragraph in the daily papers of 28th inst., wherein it was stated that a petition had been presented to the Minister of Agriculture from a number of holders of gun licences in the lower South-East, asking that the opening of the close season for Ducks should be changed from 15th February to 1st January, and that for Quails from 1st January to 15th February. After discussion the members present decided unanimously to recommend that, in the interests of the birds, which are being heavily depleted, the opening of both the Duck and Quail shooting seasons should be fixed for 15th February, and that such shooting should be permitted until 31st July, of each year.

Financial.—The Secretary gave the results of his inquiries on the subject, and after discussion it was decided that the present members should make special endeavours to secure new members, and, on account of the heavy cost of printing, the price of a single copy of the "S.A. Ornithologist" was fixed at three shillings.

The subject for the evening was an account of an ornithological trip in the Murray Mallee from 1st to 9th September, 1928, undertaken by Messrs. J. Neil McGilp, L. K. McGilp, F. E. Parsons, and J. Sutton (printed elsewhere in this Part). Specimens were exhibited from the collections of F. E. Parsons and the S.A. Museum.

—October, 1928.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday, 26th October, 1928, at 8 p.m. The President was in the chair.

Duck and Quail Season.—A letter dated 1st October, 1928, from the Secretary of the Minister of Agriculture was placed on the table:—"I am directed by the Hon. the Minister to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo in respect to the open season for Duck and Quail, and in reply to inform you that it is not the intention of the Minister to make any alteration this year."

Exhibits.—A number of *Pachyptila desolata*, Dove-Prions, or Whale Birds, and *Pelagodroma marina*, White-faced Storm-Petrels, or Mother Carey's Chickens, were washed up, dead or dying, on the shores of Gulf St. Vincent—The Grange, Glenelg, Brighton, Seacliff, Moana, and Aldinga Bay—during the tempestuous gales of the first fifteen days in October. Mr. Edwin Ashby, who motored along the coast on 12th October, did not find any bodies at Sellick's Beach, but thought that most probably hundreds of these birds were destroyed in those gales. Professor Cleland obtained one Prion at the Grange. This bird was greatly emaciated, without a particle of fat, and its stomach contained a number of Lady-bird Beetles (*Coccinella transversalis*). Professor Cleland considers that starvation and weakness led to their being overwhelmed by breaking waves whilst trying, possibly in their starving state, to pick up flotsam such as beetles. (Early in October, Dr. C. Sullivan found bodies of both the above species washed up dead on the beach at Warrnambool, Victoria.)

The subject for the evening was an account by Mr. Edwin Ashby of a trip by motor-car from Adelaide to Wentworth and back. It appears elsewhere in this Part.

—November, 1928.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday, 30th November, 1928, at 8 p.m. The President was in the chair.

Wild Fowl Sales Restriction.—Attention was drawn to a paragraph under this heading in the Adelaide newspapers on 20th November. It read thus:—"As a result of recent legislation, in future no wild Ducks or other birds can be shot in South Australia for sale. The Hon. J. Cowan (Minister of Agriculture), when questioned yesterday concerning the object of an amendment to the Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act, which was passed at the close of last session, stated that it meant that, although wild birds could still be shot in season, they could not be offered for sale. The Act was similar to one in operation in Victoria, and by exercising the power given by the measure, the Government would stop the wholesale slaughter of wild birds which had taken place in recent years. In one season, he said, forty-two tons of wild Duck were shot in South Australia and sent to Victoria. In the past the wild fowl of this State had been destroyed to supply another State, with the result that the numbers of Ducks and other birds in South Australia were decreasing." After discussion, it was resolved

that a letter be sent to the Minister thanking him for his efforts for the protection of our wild game.

Exhibits.—Mr. S. Sanders exhibited specimens of *Pachyptila desolata*, Dove-Prion, and *Pelagodroma marina*, White-faced Storm-Petrel, found on the beach at Seacliff on 5th and 6th October last. Dr. A. M. Morgan exhibited from the S.A. Museum collection *Stipiturus mallee*, Mallee Emu-Wren, ♂, 5/11/1928, presented by Mr. W. J. Harvey, of Coombe, S.A., and for comparison *Stipiturus ruficeps*, Rufous-crowned Emu-Wren, ♂; *Stipiturus malachurus*, Southern Emu-Wren, ♂. *Gelochelidon nilotica*, Gull-billed Tern, ♂, "Konetta," Robe, 19/11/28, and for comparison *Sterna bergii*, Crested Tern, and *Sterna bengalensis*, Lesser Crested Tern. *Nycticorax caledonicus*, Nankeen Night Heron, ♂ ♀; *Botaurus poiciloptilus*, Brown Bittern. Mr. F. E. Parsons exhibited *Gelochelidon nilotica*, Gull-billed Tern, Robe, ♀.

The subject for the evening was an address by Dr. A. M. Morgan, "Where the Bittern booms," in which he gave the outstanding features of a short trip to the swamps in the vicinity of Lucindale and Robe, South-East, S.A., 18th to 22nd November, 1928.

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