

## GENERAL.

*Meliphaga fusca dingi*, Fuscous Honeyeater.

The following correspondence on this South Australian record may be of interest to members:—

Letter to Dr. Ernst Hartert, Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts, England, from the Hon. Secretary S.A.O.A., dated 22nd August, 1928:—

“Doubt has been expressed by some of our members as to the occurrence of *Meliphaga fusca*, or this subspecies, in South Australia. The only specimen recorded in South Australia as *Meliphaga fusca dingi* was obtained by Professor Cleland, ♀, on 30/5/1911, between Truro and Blanchetown on the River Murray, in a dry mallee country, and Professor Cleland thinks that when he returned to Sydney, after this visit to South Australia, he named the bird *Meliphaga fusca*. It was sent on to Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, who added *dingi*. *Meliphaga fusca*'s nearest habitat to the above region is 250 miles south-east in Victoria, in a totally different class of country. Our members will be pleased if you will examine the above specimen, which is understood to be in the Tring Museum, and advise what you think of it. The only description of this subspecies is given in Nov. Zool. 18, 404, 1912. Thanking you in anticipation.”

Dr. Ernst Hartert's reply, dated 3rd October, 1928:—

“In answer to yours of August 22 we have the type of *Meliphaga fusca dingi*, and it has the original label in the writing of Professor Cleland. There can, therefore, be no mistake that it was got on the Lower Murray River near Blanchetown. It seems that there is a darker form inhabiting the neighbourhood of Sydney, Parramatta, etc., while all the others from the Lower Murray River to north New South Wales, including Victoria, are slightly paler, and I suppose the name *dingi* would refer to these paler birds, but I have no time to work that out now.”