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The South Australian Ornithological Association.

Monthly Proceedings.

—May, 1929.—

The usual monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday, 31st May, 1929, at 8 p.m., the President (Mr. F. E. Parsons) in the chair.

New Members.—Messrs. P. W. Mellor, R. A. McCulloch, and F. B. Shoobridge, nominated at the last meeting, were duly elected as members.

R.A.O.U. Camp-out.—Mr. J. Neil McGilp mentioned that as there had been no rain at Moolawatana the camp-out could not be held there. He had heard that Dalhousie Springs was available, but a ten-days' trip there and back with sustenance would cost, from Adelaide, about £25 per person. He thought this would be prohibitive, and was referring the point to Melbourne.

Articles in Scientific Magazines.—In an article in the "Australian Museum Magazine," Vol. III, No. 10, April-June, 1929, entitled "Fossil-hunting at Quidong, N.S.W.," by H. O. Fletcher, there appeared, on page 353, the following:—"Swallows and swifts of many species had utilised the myriads of weathered apertures in the limestone cliff for their small mud houses; one of these, the large Spine-tailed Swift (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) appeared to take a keen delight in ruining our nerves by swooping down from tremendous heights and passing our ears at an incredible speed, causing a terrific displacement of air." Professor Cleland drew attention to the matter, and Dr. Morgan pointed out that the Swifts do not build "mud houses," and that the Spine-tailed Swift has never been known to breed in Australia!

Attention was also drawn to the errors and omissions in an article in "The Emu," Vol. XXVIII, pp. 263-271, on "Bird Protection in Australia," by J. R. Kinghorn, C.M.Z.S., with

regard to the provisions of the Animal and Bird Protection Act in South Australia, and the Hon. Secretary was directed to inform the Editor of "The Emu" of the errors and omissions.

Exhibits.—Mr. Edwin Ashby exhibited a Dove-Prion from the S.A. Museum collection, and stated that *E. minor* is a New Zealand species. *E. undina* is the species found in South Australia; *undina* differs from *minor* in its longer and more slender bill. *E. albosignata*, also found in New Zealand, seems worthy of specific rank.

The subject for the evening was given by Professor Cleland in a detailed account of a census of the species noted on a trip in Eyre Peninsula.

—June, 1929.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday, 28th June, 1929, at 8 p.m. The President (Mr. F. E. Parsons) was in the chair.

Bird Notes were read from Messrs. E. F. Boehm, L. R. Reese, and Dr. C. Sullivan.

Exhibits.—Mr. Edwin Ashby exhibited a Dove-Prion (*Pachyptila desolata*) picked up dead on 25th May, 1929, on Hindmarsh Island, S.A.; and a Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*) obtained in Western Australia, 95 miles north-west of Moora, ♀, in May, 1929.

Kangaroo Island Emu.—Dr. A. M. Morgan informed members that, on behalf of the S.A. Museum, he had visited the Kangaroo Island caves at Kelly's Hill, from 24th to 26th May, 1929, and had found more bones of the extinct Kangaroo Island Emu, viz., two crania, one coraco-scapula, three sterna, a portion of a pelvis, five vertebrae, thirteen ribs, two humeri, two femora, six tibio-tarsi, three fibulae, eight tarso-metatarsi, and a phalanx.

Yellow-faced Honeyeater (*Meliphaga chrysops*). — This species was reported to have been taken and seen, for the first time, on the Adelaide Plains. Mr. J. W. Mellor saw them at Lockleys in May, 1929; Mr. F. E. Parsons found them in clumps of boxthorn near the golf-links at Seaton on 22nd June; and Mr. J. Sutton saw one at Netherby (Mitcham) on 1st June. Dr. A. M. Morgan stated that many years ago they were to be found along the Brown Hill Creek (Mitcham), and used to nest in the trees there.

The subjects for the evening were the Quails, in charge of Mr. Edwin Ashby, and exhibits were shown from his collection and those of Mr. F. E. Parsons and the S.A. Museum. A

series of skins was exhibited of the genus *Synoicus*. Three specimens only were submitted from Tasmania—two from the Littler Collection shown by the S.A. Museum, and one collected by Mr. E. Ashby near Swansea; the two former were unsexed, and the last one was a female. Also from Mr. E. Ashby's collection were shown two skins of males, one from Queensland and one from Sandy Hook Island, which were considered typical examples of the sub-species *cervinus*. He also showed three skins of females—one from Queensland, much the largest skin shown, and very dark; another from Queensland with rufous coloration both above and below, little, if any, larger than the *cervinus* skins of males before referred to; and finally Mr. Ashby exhibited a skin from Albany, W.A., a female, less than half the size of the large Queensland skin first named. The upper plumage is very black, and the under side completely barred with broad black bars from neck to tarsus. Then, from the Roper River, N.T., the S.A. Museum showed a small skin, much nearer the normal coloration of the sub-species *cervinus*. The conclusion come to was that there was much more divergence from type both in size and coloration in the skins shown from the mainland than was exhibited by those from Tasmania. The R.A.O.U. Checklist allows two species in Tasmania—*Synoicus australis*, Brown Quail, and *S. ypsilophorus*, Swamp Quail. We suggest that those ascribed to *S. australis* are the male birds and those to *S. ypsilophorus* the females, and that if *cervinus* is treated as a sub-species of *S. australis*, then *ypsilophorus* cannot rank higher than a sub-species of the same.

—July, 1929.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday, 26th July, 1929, at 8 p.m. The President (Mr. F. E. Parsons) was in the chair.

New Members.—The following gentlemen were nominated as members:—Rev. P. P. Darke, Brotherhood Home, Quorn, S.A.; and Mr. N. Hiles Pearse, The Gums Station, Florieton, S.A.

Condolences.—Resolutions of sympathy in their bereavements were passed by the members to the families of the late Harold Fisher and T. P. Bellchambers, and the Secretary was instructed to convey them in writing.

The subject of the evening was the migratory wading birds, especially those referred to in Pleske's "Birds of the Eurasian Tundra." It was in charge of Mr. J. Sutton, and specimens were exhibited from the collections of Messrs. Edwin Ashby, J. W. Mellor, F. E. Parsons, and the S.A. Museum.