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# South Australian Ornithologist.

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[PART 3.

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## The South Australian Ornithological Association.

### MONTHLY MEETINGS:

—January, 1931.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday, 30th January, 1931, at 8 p.m. The President (Mr. J. Neil McGilp) was in the chair.

New Members.—Mr. J. T. Gray, nominated at the last meeting (28th November, 1930), was elected as a member. Mr. R. E. G. Hynes, of Leabrook, was duly nominated for membership.

Correspondence *re* a Sanctuary.—On 24th November an application was made for the declaration of Wardang Island and adjoining islets as a bird sanctuary in the following terms:—“The Association is informed that the Bustards, or Wild Turkeys, and the Cape Barren Geese nest upon that island or the islets off it, and, in view of the greatly-reduced numbers of those two species in South Australia at the present time, the members of the Association think that it would be a wise action to declare the above places a sanctuary, for, although those species are already totally protected throughout the year, as long as persons are allowed to visit the islands with guns the temptation to shoot them often overcomes the fear of the law.” The reply from the Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, dated 10th December, 1930, was as follows:—“Referring to your letter of the 24th ultimo, conveying request of your Association that Wardang Island and the adjoining islets be declared a bird sanctuary, I am instructed by the Hon. the Minister to inform you that Wardang Island is an Aboriginal Reserve, and it is often necessary for the employees to carry guns to destroy rabbits

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there, and, further, the use of dogs is necessary in connection with the mustering of sheep. For this reason, and for the further reason that the authorities in charge of Wardang Island are protecting both Cape Barren Geese, which are rarely seen on the island, and Wild Turkeys, and are not prepared to allow persons to shoot on the island, the Minister does not consider it necessary to proclaim the island a bird sanctuary." (Wardang Island, in Spencer's Gulf, is four and a half miles long by two miles wide, and is about seven miles from Port Victoria, Yorke's Peninsula. The sand is "quarried" by the Broken Hill Associated Smelters, and taken by barge to Port Pirie. Many sheep are grazed there by the Point Pierce Mission Station.)

*Re* Miscellaneous Licence No. 662, Coorong.—A letter from the Director of Lands, dated 19th December, 1930, was as follows:—"I have to inform you that an application has been made by Mr. C. Crammond for a licence to remove guano from the islands in the Coorong, held by you under Annual Licence 662. Mr. Crammond states that, in the event of approval being granted, he will guarantee not to take dogs or firearms on to the islands. He would also only operate between the 1st January and 30th June, to avoid the nesting period. At the same time, he considered that it would be advisable to remove the protection as regards Pelicans, as they were becoming very numerous, and it was estimated by persons who knew the locality that anything up to 70 tons of fish were devoured daily by the flocks in the locality. I shall be glad to be advised whether the Association would have any objection to guano licences being issued on condition that no dogs or firearms were allowed, and that the issue of such licences is to be restricted to the period mentioned." After discussion, and to cover the nesting season, which may last until February, it was resolved—"That permission be given to go to one island between 1st March and 30th June to remove the guano under the payment of a royalty to the Government. The reason for the suggestion of one island is to see the result of the interference during the period stated, as it is possible that the birds will leave the nesting-places when they find them disturbed. The Association assumes that the Department will provide supervision on the removal of the guano, and prevent dogs or firearms being taken on the islands. With regard to the suggestion as to dealing with the Pelicans, our members were at a loss to understand how the estimate of 70 tons of fish being devoured daily by the flocks

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in the locality was arrived at. The Pelicans, as well as other fish-eating birds, have doubtless been in the locality for ages; but since the white fishermen arrived with their nets, and no close season for fishing in the Coorong, it is not to be wondered at that fish may have become scarce despite the stated great productivity of the female fish that have escaped capture in the nets. The members are against the removal of the partial protection already given to the Pelican (1st July to 31st January)."

Exhibit.—Mr. Simon Harvey exhibited three young Bourke Parrots (*Neophema bourki*) which had been successfully reared in his aviaries.

Bird Notes were handed in by Mr. J. W. Mellor.

Subject.—Dr. A. M. Morgan gave an account of the finding of the nests and eggs of the Banded Stilt (*Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*) at Lake Callabonna, S.A., by Mr. Rex McKay, Manager of Moolawatana Station, on 29th December, 1930, to whom a letter of congratulation was directed to be sent. Dr. Morgan and Mr. J. Neil McGilp paid a visit to the stiltery on 11th January, 1931. (See "S.A. Ornithologist," Vol. XI, Part 2, pp. 37-53.)

## —February, 1931.—

The monthly meeting was held on 27th February, 1931, at the usual place and time. The Vice-President (Dr. A. M. Morgan) was in the chair.

New Member.—Mr. R. E. G. Hynes, of Leabrook, nominated at the last meeting, was duly elected as a member.

Bird Notes were supplied by Messrs. F. M. Angel, J. W. Mellor, and S. Harvey.

The subject was an article in "The Condor," Vol. XXXII, 1930, pp. 269-287, by Sterling Burrell, on the "Aeronautics of Bird Flight."

## ANNUAL MEETING.

## —March, 1931.—

The thirty-second annual meeting was held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday evening, 27th March, 1931. The President for the past year (Mr. J. Neil McGilp) was in the chair until the election of officers, when the incoming President (Dr. A. M. Morgan) took his place.

*Annual Meeting.*

The statement of receipts and expenditure (printed elsewhere) was read by the Hon. Secretary, and was duly adopted.

The following officers were elected for the new year:—President, Dr. A. M. Morgan; Vice-President, Mr. Alfred Crompton; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Sutton; Editorial Committee, Professor J. B. Cleland, Messrs. F. M. Angel and J. Sutton; delegate to the S.A. Advisory Committee on Export of Fauna, Mr. F. E. Parsons; deputy delegate, Mr. W. W. Weidenbach.

Birds Notes were supplied by Dr. A. M. Morgan, Messrs. W. J. Harvey, J. W. Mellor, and L. Reese.

The subject for discussion was an article from "The Ibis," January, 1931, on "The Relation between the Gonads and the Secondary Sexual Characters in Vertebrates, especially in Birds, by G. J. van Oordt, Ph.D., University of Utrecht, Holland."

## MONTHLY MEETING.

—April, 1931.—

The monthly meeting was held on 24th April, 1931, at the usual place and time.

Bird Notes were read from Messrs. H. M. Hale, J. W. Mellor, Reg. F. Richardson, and N. B. Tindale.

The subject for discussion was the Night-Parrot. The article appears elsewhere in this Part.

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