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The South Australian Ornithological Association.

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the Royal Society's Room, North Terrace, Adelaide, on Friday, March 26th, 1915. Mr. J. W. Mellor presided.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Association has another year of useful work to record. Six new members have been elected, and one has resigned during the year.

The Association's lease of certain islands in the Coorong—so that the birds breeding on them may be totally protected—has been extended indefinitely. This is the only place in South Australia where the pelican is known to breed.

The swift lorikeet, (*Lathamus discolor tregellasi*) was present at Blackwood for some weeks in June and July last. This is the first time this bird has been noted in South Australia since 1882.

Regular monthly meetings have been held, the principal work of which has been examining all available specimens and discussing Mr. Mathews' classification. In several cases the members think that his genera are far too much split up, e.g., there are four genera of *Podargidae*, where it is thought that two would have been quite sufficient. Mr. Mathews' sub-species, the members think, are not always justified, e.g., there are 10 sub-species of *Podargus strigoides*, where three would seem to be amply sufficient. A series of four specimens taken at Alice Springs do not seem to be any of Mr. Mathews's birds.

If this should prove to be a good sub-species it would make four. Some of the members think that they should not be split up at all. All that can be said is that it is a very variable bird.

A pleasant evening was spent at "Weetunga," Fulham, on September 25th last, at the invitation of Capt. White, to see the specimens he had collected in the Musgrave and Everard Ranges. One of the most interesting of which was Gould's *Xerophila pectoralis*, called by Mathews *Aphelocephala pectoralis*. This bird was described by Gould, and has never been seen since. Now Mr. Mathews says it is the immature of *A. nigricincta*. Although found together with this bird Capt. White still holds that it is a good species.

A parrot, apparently a good sub-species, was noticed. It seems to be a link between *Barnardius zonarius* and *B. zonarius occidentalis*. This bird is identical with specimens taken by Capt. White north of Oodnadatta the previous year.

Spiloglaux boobook had a whitish patch on the forehead which does not seem to conform to any of Mathews's sub-species.

Neostrepera versicolor was rather different from any of Mathews's sub-species.

Capt. White had noticed that *Meliphaga sonora* (the singing honey-eater) had a different note from the bird about Adelaide.

Several crows (*Corvus coronoides*) were collected, some of which had white down and white eyes, while others had sooty down and hazel eyes.

Several specimens of *Ashbya lovensis* were also collected.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

President—Mr. J. W. Hosking.

Vice-President—Dr. A. M. Morgan.

Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. R. Crompton.

Editorial Committee for the South Australian Ornithologist—Dr. A. M. Morgan, Capt. S. A. White, Mr. F. R. Zietz, Mr. R. Crompton.

April 30th, 1915. The following unusual birds have been recorded on the Adelaide Plains during the month:—

Pachycephala pectoralis fuliginosa—South Australian yellow-breasted thickhead.

Rhipidura flabellifera whitei—South Australian fantail, both at the Reedbeds by Mr. J. W. Mellor.

Also the first appearance for this season of *Littlera chrysoptera phoenicea*—White-fronted robin (Flame-breasted robin), April 21st, at Kingswood and at the Reedbeds.

Capt. White drew attention to a list of English birds in the "Ibis," showing that eighty-two English genera are represented in Australia.

Mr. Mellor drew attention to Mr. Mathews's splitting of genera, and asked if the members thought he was right in making a genus on external appearance only. Dr. Morgan thought it was a chance for an individual worker, who has the opportunity, to upset some of them, but it was no use the Association trying to do it by resolution.

Mr. Zietz reported that a resident of the Lakes district had recently described *Podiceps cristatus christiani* (Australian tippet grebe) as the feather-eater. An article on this subject appears in this issue.

Mr. E. Ashby, M.B.O.U., exhibited a collection of specimens taken by Mr. C. E. May at Pine Creek, Northern Territory. This is dealt with in a separate article.

May 28th, 1915—Specimens of the swallow family (*Hirundinidae*) from the Museum and Capt. White's collections were tabled for discussion.

Hirundo rustica (European swallow)—Two specimens collected near Colesberg, South Africa, by Capt. White. This is a much larger bird than any Australian species. It has also a more pronounced forked tail. Members thought that our welcome swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) had been rightly kept in the same genus, but considered that many genera had been made on more slender differences.

Hypurolepis javanica frontalis (Eastern swallow)—Only one specimen to hand. Compared with the welcome swallow it was smaller, had a slightly less forked tail, and was richer in colour. It was considered to be a good species.

Cheramoecca leucosternum stonci (Eastern black-and-white swallow)—This bird nests in a burrow about three feet long; if available seaweed is always used for the nest. The tunnel is often enlarged up to nine inches or more at the inner end. Dr. Morgan considers this is made by the birds to shelter in, several birds often roosting in the same burrow.

Hylochelidon nigricans (Tree martin)—A long series available from all parts of Australia. These could not be split up into valid sub-species, except that a single specimen from the Northern Territory, apparently *H. nigricans rogersi*, seemed possibly to be justified. A specimen from North-west of Western Australia was identical with an Adelaide bird.
