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The South Australian Ornithological Association.

Three monthly meetings (which were well attended) have taken place since the last issue of this Journal. The extracts of the meetings are as follows:—

June 25th 1915.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. Robert Crompton) tendered his resignation due to his enlistment in the Expeditionary Forces. The Chairman spoke of the good work done by Mr. Crompton. It was the unanimous opinion that the Hon. Secretary's resignation be held over until such time as he returns to the State to continue the work.

Mr. Arthur M. Lea exhibited a wonderful and interesting collection of pellets or casts from the "Screech Owl" (*Tyto alba delicatula*). These pellets or casts were taken at the Reed-beds by Capt. S. A. White and presented to the Museum.

Mr. Ashby exhibited some interesting specimens of the "Pilot Bird" (*Pycnoptilus floccosus*) from the Blue Mountains, and *P. f. sandlandi* from Victoria. A fine series of robins was shown from the Museum, Mr. Ashby's, and Capt. White's collections. The "Flame-breasted Robin" (genus *Littlera*) was found to differ somewhat in New South Wales, the birds from that State being of a decided orange colouration. The "Scarlet-breasted Robins," genus *Petroica* were found to differ in the East, South, and Western parts of Australia; the bird

found in Tasmania resembles the Kangaroo Island form. Specimens of the following species—were examined, *Erythrodryas rodinogaster*, *Belchera rosea*, *Whiteornis goodenovii*, *Melanodryas cucullata*, and *Amaurodryas vittata*.

July 30th.

Capt. S. A. White stated, he had taken action in reporting the destruction of swans on Lakes Albert and Alexandrina by half-castes and others, the members present supported him in his prompt action.

A paper was read on "Some Pellets and Casts of the Screech Owl" (*Tyto alba delicatula*), by Capt. S. A. White. The paper is published in the present number. Mr. A. M. Lea, F.E.S., Museum Entomologist, exhibited another collection of pellets or casts from the Screech Owl; this collection was presented to the Museum by Mr. J. W. Mellor. It was pointed out that there was a great difference in the contents of the pellets, in comparison with those collected two miles to the west.

The genus *Smicrornis* came under discussion. A number of skins from the Museum, also from Mr. Ashby's and Capt. White's collections were shown. It was noted that *Smicrornis brevirostris viridescens*, extended as far north as Leigh Creek, while *S. b. flavescens*, or a bird which closely resembles it, is found all through the country between the Macdonnell Ranges and Oodnadatta; specimens have been taken at the latter place.

August 27th.

Correspondence was read from the Commissioner of Crown Lands re protecting swans, and the appointment of a custodian for the islands in the Coorong. Mr. Frank Hall, of Tea-tree Gully was elected a member. Mr. Bellchambers of Humbug Scrub, read some notes on nature and gave some interesting habits of the Mallee Fowl, which birds he has had under observation for some time.

Smicrornis (Tree-tits) and *Gerygone* (Fly-eaters) were discussed. A good number of skins of these birds were exhibited from the Museum and Mr. Ashby's collections.

Dr. Morgan reported having made the following observations in the Mount Lofty Ranges during the previous week: "Southern Hooded Robin" (*Melanodryas cucullata vigorsii*) nest-

ing. "Yellow-rumped pardalote" (*Pardalotus punctatus xanthopygus*) constructing their nesting tunnel in a bank. "Harmonious Shrike-Thrush" (*Colluricincla harmonica victorise*), nesting on the side of a rock, in same situation as last year's nest, also the restless flycatcher (*Seisura inquieta*) busily building their nest. Mr. J. W. Mellor stated that a pair of shrike thrushes had built a nest on a window-sill of an out-house at the Reed-beds. Capt. White said he had seen fully fledged young of this bird during the second week of the present month, he also stated that the Spotted-sided Finch (*Stagonopleura guttata philordi*) and the Red-browed Finch (*Aegintha temporalis loftyi*) were both nesting at the Reed-beds within a few yards of each other. The same member drew attention to the last number of the "Ibis" tenth series, Vol. III., No. 3, which contains some fine plates, also the Austral Avian Record, Vol. III., No. 2, containing a reproduction of Thos. Watling's painting of the "pallid cuckoo" painted in the year 1790, when Latham described it as a pale pigeon (*Columba pallida*). Mr. Mathews concludes his explanation with:—"The plate here given is a faithful copy in the minutest detail of the painting made by Thomas Watling about the year 1790. It must when criticising, therefore, be remembered that 125 years have elapsed since it was made, and allowance given for draftsmanship. When this is done I am sure all Australian Ornithologists will agree with me that it is a good figure of the cuckoo in immature plumage, and that Latham's name, as confirmed by Gould, is tenable."
