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The South Australian Ornithological Association.

Only two meetings were held during the last quarter. Owing to the Christmas holidays clashing with the December meeting, and the fact that many members were out of town, the meeting was cancelled.

January 28th, 1916.

An exceptionally large gathering took place to hear the results of a trip to the islands off the South Australian coast line, undertaken by Dr. Morgan and Capt. White at the kind invitation of the Messrs. Rymill Brothers, the owners of the beautiful little motor yacht, the "Avocet." A description of the bird life down the Gulf and on several of the small islands, as well as those around Pandalowie Bay, was given. Much research work was done. The cormorants were of especial interest. It was shown how the yellow-faced bird keeps well up the Gulfs, and the black-faced variety was found on the rocks and islands exposed to the open ocean. Temperatures of the sea birds were thoroughly gone into. Stomach contents of sea birds were also investigated—not a single marketable fish was found in the cormorant stomachs. Eight granite stones worn very smooth, were taken from one of their stomachs. The skins of the arctic skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), both the dark and light forms, were represented by one of each. These are the first known to have been taken in South Aus-

tralian waters. The sterna of the skuas, as well as petrels', to show the great difference existing between the two birds, were shown by Dr. Morgan.

February 25th, 1916.

A letter was read from Chief Justice Murray, stating he would be pleased to accept the patronship of the Association in place of the late Sir Samuel Way. Messrs. A. G. Rymill and T. G. Souter were elected members.

Mr. T. P. Bellchambers read some valuable bird notes. Dr. Morgan exhibited the sterna of the domestic fowl, as well as the mallee fowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), for comparison. He pointed out their resemblance to one another. Mr. E. Ashby showed the skin of a fine male blue-billed duck (*Oxyura australis*) which had a single white feather in the wing, also a nice specimen of the Cape York black-backed butcher bird (*Bulestes mentalis kempfi*).

Birds under discussion were flycatchers, and the following species were discussed:—Intermediate rufous fantail, Victorian rufous fantail, Cape York rufous fantail, wood fantail (*Rhipidura rufifrons dryas*, Gould), which absorbs *Rhipidura mayi* (Ashby) as a synonym. Many members expressed their belief that Gould's bird may yet turn up, and the *Rhipidura mayi* is a sub-species of it. The Northern fantail, Queensland fantail, and the black and white fantail were also discussed. A number of specimens of these birds were exhibited from the Museum collection by Mr. F. R. Zietz, and from the private collections of Mr. Ashby and Capt. White by the owners.
