

PROCEEDINGS

Monthly Meeting, March 23, 1956.

Speaker: Dr. O. Fuller. "Birds of the Mt. Pleasant District."

Dr. Fuller gave an account of the birds noticed by him during his residence in the Mt. Pleasant district. Much of the evening was devoted to discussion on the Adelaide Rosella (*Platycercus adelaidae*), and its variation in color in different parts of the area under survey.

THE YEAR 1955-56

(EXTRACT OF REPORT OF HONORARY SECRETARY)

The Honorary Secretary, Mr. G. Beruldsen, having been posted to the country, had to relinquish his office in September, 1955. Mr. R. Schodde was invited by the Committee to fill the vacancy, and accepted the offer.

Membership now stands at 104, including 12 juniors and 4 honorary members. During the year 11 members, including 1 junior, were elected. There was a loss of 7 members, 1 through death, and 6 lapsing, being unfinancial.

During the year honorary membership was offered to and accepted by Mr. J. Neil McGilp.

Excursions were conducted to Chauncy's Line, Two Wells, and Mount Compass.

Eleven monthly meetings were held, subjects for the evenings being as follow:—

March, 1955.—Mr. F. H. Chapman: "Notes from Lower Yorke Peninsula."

April, 1955.—Mr. E. F. Boehm: "Conservation Problems."

May, 1955.—Prof. J. B. Cleland: "Odds and Ends About Birds."

June, 1955.—Mr. G. Ragless: "A Trip to Cooper Creek."

July, 1955.—Mr. H. T. Condon: "Taxonomy of the Currawongs."

August, 1955.—Mr. W. R. Wheeler: "The Altona Survey."

September, 1955.—Mr. R. Schodde: "Birds of the Mount Mary Plains."

October, 1955.—Dr. A. H. Lendon: "Birds Observed in the Lower Flinders Ranges."

November, 1955.—Mr. Brian Glover: "A Trip to Cooper Creek and Upper Eyre Peninsula."

January, 1956.—Mr. G. Ragless: "Bird Nests."

February, 1956.—Vacuum Oil Company: Film Evening.

Monthly Meeting: April 27, 1956.

New member elected: Mr. G. E. Hale, c/o Bank of New South Wales.

Report on Committee Meeting held during April.

1. The Author and Locality Indices to Vols. 1 to 20 of the *South Australian Ornithologist* have been completed. As there has as yet been no offer from any member to compile the species index, it was decided to publish the Author and Locality Indices as soon as these have been re-typed.
2. An Author and Subject Index is to be printed at the conclusion of each volume of the *South Australian Ornithologist*, commencing with vol. 21.
3. A project for the year, in which it is hoped all members will participate is the mapping of the distribution in this State of the 11 introduced species, and the 6 species of Blue Wren (*Malurus*). Members are asked to supply information on localities from which any of these species have been recorded, preferably with notes on dates, numbers, whether resident or visitors, etc. Mr. Brian Glover has offered to compile the maps on information received. A similar survey some years hence should give valuable information on the status of these species. This project was initiated last year, but for various reasons little was done on the matter.
4. The necessity for increasing membership was stressed, and suggestions from members to this end are invited. Mr. A. G. Edquist suggested that the inter-school essay competition, on original bird observations, be re-inaugurated. Such competitions were held some years ago and the silver cup used as the trophy is now housed in the S.A. Museum. Mr. Edquist offered to exhibit the cup at the next meeting and supply more information on the scheme. A competition of this nature, whilst helping to interest school children in birds, could be an excellent means of adding new members to the S.A.O.A.

Natural History Medallion:—The Association's nominee for last year, Dr. A. H. Lendon, was again suggested for this year's nomination. A final decision will be made at the May meeting.

SUBJECT FOR THE EVENING:

Mr. I. S. Wilson gave a most interesting and informative lecture on the Bird Banding programme of the C.S.I.R.O., Canberra, illustrated with color transparencies, diagrams and maps.

Birds being banded in large numbers are Ibis in the MacQuarie Marshes and Kiewa Swamps, Gulls and Terns on N.S.W. coastal islands, and Magpies about Canberra.

Methods of trapping and banding were discussed as well as the results hoped to be obtained from the banding operations.

The Magpie (*G. tibicen*) banding scheme was discussed at length. By marking a large population of Magpies with individual combinations of colored rings, it is hoped to amass much information on the life history of this species.

The banding operations of our member, J. B. Hood, of Naracoorte, were also mentioned.

MONTHLY MEETING, FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1956.

New Members: Three junior members, P. Disher, A. McNamara and R. de Pasqual, were elected.

Inter-School Competition:—Mr. A. G. Edquist spoke further on his project to interest school children in birds; he said that the silver cup had been mislaid, but tabled a shield to be used in inter-school bird photography competitions. A silver medal, donated by Mr. Edquist, was to be awarded to the child submitting the winning entry. Support could be obtained from the

Natural History Inspector of Schools (Mr. A. Ninnes) and from the Education Gazette.

Mr. K. Preiss announced that a sub-committee of the Field Naturalists' Section of the Royal Society had a project to interest school children in nature study by using the visual aids methods of education, and he suggested that this Association could co-operate with the F.N.S.

Hindmarsh Tiers:—In reply to our letter to the National Trust regarding conservation of the Hindmarsh Tiers region, the Nature Conservation Sub-Committee of the National Trust has requested that we prepare a plan for preservation, especially regarding any co-operation with the Woods and Forests Department's Reserves. Mr. J. N. McGilp announced that the question had recently been brought before the Fauna and Flora Board, which was investigating the matter.

SUBJECT FOR THE EVENING:

Dr. D. W. Brummitt spoke on bird observations in the central South-East, and of the status of bird-life there over the past 30 years. He stated that during this period the Yellow Robin had been gradually extending its range into the coastal mallee, and that there has been a great increase in the numbers of Blue-billed Ducks.

Two conservation matters he considered to be in need of immediate action were:—

- (a) Proposed draining operations at Bool Lagoon, which threatened the large breeding colony of White and Straw-necked Ibis.
- (b) The annual destruction of eggs and young of Pelicans on their breeding islands in the Coorong, which is resulting in the gradual disappearance of this species from the entire South-East and Lower Murray regions.