

THE MAGPIE EMBLEM—It may be of interest to place on record that the picture of a Magpie (?White-backed) which first appeared as a frontispiece in Volume V, part 3 (July, 1920) of *The South Australian Ornithologist* and continued to do so until Volume XIV, part 8 (October, 1938) was identical to the one used by the late A. J. Campbell on his letterhead, with the address "Bul-ga-roo," Wellington Road, BOX HILL (Vic.). The block used for the magazine

was donated by Mr. Campbell (see *S. Aust. Orn.*, 5 (2), 1920: 36). Eventually it became worn out and was replaced some time in the 1930's. Towards the end of its long 'life' it was much criticised—the bird shown was almost certainly a tame one—and eventually dropped. Campbell, who played a major rôle in the production of the 1926 RAOU Checklist, was on good terms with a number of local ornithologists in the 1920s, as shown by a letter now in this Museum dated 29-5-22 (and complete with above-mentioned letterhead).

Campbell's gift of the plate must have been in the nature of a private joke: it explains the origin of the Magpie as the emblem of the Association and refutes any suggestion that the bird was derived from the South Australian emblem, where it is called a "piping shrike." The story behind the choice of the State emblem is unknown to me. H. T. CONDON.