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The South Australian Ornithological Association.

Report of meetings held at the Royal Society's room, North Terrace Adelaide.

SEPTEMBER 28th, 1917.

The President, Mr. A. G. Edquist, occupied the chair, there being only a moderate attendance. Mr. J. D. Connor, who was nominated at the last meeting, was duly elected a member. The President read a letter which he had received from the head teacher of the Napperby School commenting upon the unusual number of water birds present this season, and mentioned several instances of protected birds having been found shot. The school children were keenly interested in their protection, and asked for a further supply of bird protection notices.

Mr. J. W. Mellor reported that he had observed the Harmonious Thrush devouring the black woolly caterpillars (*larvae* of the moth *Spilosoma glatygni*). Four cuckoos were noted in the district, namely the Pallid, Fan-tailed, Bronze, and Narrow-billed Bronze. Mr. Mellor also recorded the Glossy Ibis at Fulham, a very unusual visitor to the district.

Mr. A. Crompton gave a very interesting account of birds observed during a short holiday at Yunta Creek.

Mr. B. Henderson reported a curious nesting place of swallows, the birds having built their nest on top of the shower in a bath room of one of the River Murray steamers:

The rest of the evening was devoted to discussion of Mathew's Hand List Nos. 540 to 549 (Ground Thrushes and Ephthianuras). Owing to the small meeting there was not a large range of specimens tabled, those exhibited being from the S.A. Museum and Mr. F. E. Parsons' private collection.

OCTOBER 26th, 1917.

The monthly meeting was held on Friday evening in the Royal Society's rooms, North Terrace. Capt. S. A. White presided.

Mr. E. Ashby reported having seen many Shell Parrots (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) at Blackwood this season.

Mr. J. W. Mellor also stated that these birds were plentiful at Lockleys, and seemed to be travelling north. Mr. Mellor gave interesting notes upon birds observed for the month at Lockleys. He stated that the landrails were numerous in the crops, and remarkably quiet. The Masked Owl (*Tyto alba delicatula*) was plentiful, and the Laughing Jack (*Dacelo gigas*) was nesting in the hollow gums. The Native Hens (*Microtribonyx ventralis whitei*) were much in evidence. Interesting bird notes sent in by Mr. Bellchambers were read.

The chief item of the evening was an account given by Mr. Ashby of a few days' trip made by Mr. F. Parsons and himself to a locality between the Paringa Railway line and the Victorian border. Mr. Ashby described the country, and exhibited birdskins collected by the two ornithologists during their brief stay. Among them were the red-capped babbler, red-backed wren, white-browed treecreeper, crested pigeon, Barnard's parrot, Gilbert's thickhead, yellow-throated minah, Lanceolated honey-eater, black and white swallow, and white-throated nightjar.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. F. M. Angel) was requested to convey the sympathy of the members to Mr. Saunders during his severe illness.

NOVEMBER 30th, 1917.

Mr. A. G. Edquist presided. An apology was received from Capt. S. A. White, who was away investigating the spread of sparrows along the Great Western Railway.

Mr. Edwin Ashby reported that the White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosa*) had been observed at Blackwood taking young sparrows from their nest and dropping them to the ground. Dr. A. M. Morgan confirmed this habit of this useful bird.

Mr. F. R. Zietz stated that Black Ducks were reported to have nested in old crows' nests at Mundoo; but on inspecting the locality on a recent trip he found that the crows had cleared them all out.

The principal business of the evening was an account by Dr. Morgan of a trip to the Port Broughton district. An interesting description of the country visited and the birds inhabiting it was given, about 70 species having been identified. A small collection of skins was exhibited, and included what was considered a new subspecies of *Acanthiza iredalei*. The members were interested in an unusual nest of the Thickhead, the one exhibited having been constructed in bracken with green grass and macerated gum leaves. The Doctor also, showed a curious clutch of the eggs of the Little Shag, one being fully and others partially lime-coated.

In view of the Christmas holidays it was decided not to hold a meeting in December.
