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South Australian Ornithologist.

VOL. III.]

. 1st JULY, 1918.

[PART 7.]

The South Australian Ornithological Association.

MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—April 5th, 1918.—

Nineteenth Annual Meeting, Mr. A. G. Edquist in the chair. Election of office-bearers.—President, Capt. S. A. White; Vice-President, Mr. E. Ashby; Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. Crompton (on active service); Acting Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. M. Angel. The election of Editorial Committee was deferred until next meeting. Some notes were supplied upon bird-life at Humbug Scrub by Mr. T. P. Bellchambers. Capt. White gave a report of his official visit of inspection to the islands in the Coorong, and spoke of the kindness and assistance given by that keen Nature lover, and bird protector, Mr. Thos. McCallum, of McGrath's Flat, also by the energetic police officer in charge of the district, M.C. Kaine, who is doing his best to see that the Bird Protection Act is carried out. The speaker gave a description of the islands, and the nesting haunts of the birds, and reported that the birds had increased well this season, the only check was that a number of young pelicans had died through the parent birds being destroyed when in search of food, and on their way back to their young.

The speaker said that large painted notice boards, stating that no one without a permit could land on the bird sanctuary, were wanted in place of the calico notices hitherto used. It was resolved to carry this recommendation into effect. A debate took place in reference to the publication of the

Association's Journal, "The S.A. Ornithologist", and a decision was deferred till next meeting. A discussion was entered *snolaehty* *jo* *sæpæds-qns* *mæu* *v* *jo* *æpæpæa* *æp* *uodæ* *oþu* *adelaidæ*, some remarkably bright specimens were tabled by Mr. Frank Parsons, and by Mr. E. Ashby. It was decided to adjourn the discussion to a future time, when other members would submit more material.

APRIL 26th, 1918.

Capt. S. A. White presided over a very large attendance. Miss Edwards, the first lady member of the Association was elected, Mr. A. G. Edquist was chosen to be a member of the publishing Committee in place of Dr. A. M. Morgan, resigned. A motion was carried by acclamation that Dr. Morgan's splendid work, while on the Committee be recorded. The Chairman referred to the death in Tasmania of Col. Legge, R.A., C.M.B.O.U., and said how much ornithology had gained by his services, and the great loss it had sustained by his demise. Many bird notes were recorded, Mr. J. W. Mellor reported having seen on April 4th a young Pallid Cuckoo, being mobbed by the common "greenies," and a wagtail. Mr. E. Ashby notified that he had seen the White-throated Nightjar (*Eurostopodus mystacalis*), this being a record for Blackwood. The same member reported the presence of the Red-capped Robin (*Whiteornis goodenovi*) at Coromandel Valley (which is very unusual if not unique), and that the Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis cygnus*) had been seen on LeFevre's Peninsula. Several records of the first appearance for the season of the Flame-breasted Robin (*Littleria chrysoptera phænicea*) were made. Mr. F. Parsons had noticed it at King's Park, Mr. T. Souter some time ago at Gilberton, and the Chairman at Tapley's Hill on April 19th. Mr. Lienau stated that the tree martins lately had been congregating in numbers on telephone and telegraph wires in the suburbs. The Chairman announced that nearly all the male *Maluri* (Wrens) were still in their brown plumage. Only one out of many had retained its nuptial dress. Autumn was the season when many birds seemed to be on the move, and it was at this time several species came down from the ranges to the plains such as the Rufous-breasted Thickhead (*Pachycephala rufiventris*), Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike (*Coracina novae-hollandiæ melanops*), Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis cygnus*), Spotted Diamond Bird (*Pardalotus punctatus*), and the Adelaide Rosella (*Platyceercus elegans*

adelaidae), and the White-eye (*Zosterops lateralis*). The latter become more numerous, and the buff markings on the flanks become more pronounced. The Chairman also remarked that Mr. Osborn, who had much experience with birds in captivity, made a statement that he had seen, without doubt, a pair of Painted Finches on his farm at Pinnaroo a few weeks back. The remainder of the evening was devoted to a discussion on the validity of a new subspecies of *Platycercus adelaidae*, lately described by Mr. E. Ashby from Cape Jervis. Considerable material was tabled, including a fine series from the museum collection, shown by the Ornithologist (Mr. F. R. Zietz), and by Messrs. Ashby, Parsons, and Mellor, and the Chairman, from their private collections. Mr. W. Weidenbach exhibited two Painted Finches (*Emblema picta ethelae*), and a Honey-eater from the MacDonnell Ranges.

MAY 31st, 1918.

Capt. S. A. White presided. The Hon. Secretary (Mr. F. M. Angel) stated that in company with the Chairman he had waited upon the Minister of Industry in reference to bird protection, and the Minister had promised to do all he could in the matter. A letter was read from Mounted Constable L. Jury of Edithburg, stating that he wished to become a member, and expressing his great appreciation of the Nature Notes published in "The Register." The Chairman was congratulated upon the distinguished ornithological honour conferred upon him by the British Ornithologists' Union. Mr. Alfred Crompton stated that he had received a letter from his brother Robert (on active service) in which he gave an account of a few days furlough, which was spent in Paris, during which time he visited several museums; he was treated with the greatest courtesy, and was shown Baudin's and Peron's specimens from Australia, among them the extinct Kangaroo Island Emu, the only existing specimen. Mention was made of the death of Mr. M. E. Saunders, and the Chairman made feeling remarks regarding the loss the Association and Ornithology in general had suffered in the demise of the young and promising member. It was decided that a letter of condolence be sent to the relatives. Many bird observations were recorded. Mr. F. Parsons stated that he had seen the Grass Parrot (*Neonanodes elegans*) in numbers at St. Kilda lately, and that he had seen the Red-capped Robin near the City. Mr. J. W. Mellor reported having seen the Flame-breasted Robin at both Fulham and Lockleys, also the Black-faced Cuckoo-

Shrike. Mr. Samuel Sanders stated that during a recent trip to the Murray he had seen about 50 Wedge-tailed Eagles. They all settled on the ground, and covered about an acre. They danced and hopped about for a time, then all rose up and circled to a great height. Two new members were proposed—M.C. L. Jury and Mr. Ifould. The Chairman then read many extracts from letters received from observers in many parts of the State, which were most interesting. The birds under discussion for the evening were sombre coloured little tits whose presence is hardly noticed as they move about among the trees and bushes ever in search of insects. Those skins under notice were:—*Acanthiza pusilla* from New South Wales, *A. pusilla macularia* from Victoria, *A. p. archibaldi* from King Island, *A. p. diemenensis* from Tasmania, *A. p. zietzi* from Kangaroo Island, *A. p. hamiltoni* from the mallee districts, *A. p. arno* from Eyre's Peninsula, *A. p. consobrina* from the interior of South Australia. Specimens of the above were exhibited by Capt. White, Mr. F. Parsons, and Mr. J. W. Mellor.
