

— THE —
South Australian Ornithologist.

[Vol. V.]

1st JULY, 1920.

[PART 3.]

The South Australian Ornithological
Association.

MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—March, 26th, 1920.—

The twenty-first Annual Meeting was held in the Royal Society's Rooms, Friday evening, 26th March, 1920, Capt. S. A. White in the chair.

Professor J. Burton Cleland was duly elected a member. The resignations of Mr. Thos. Gill, C.M.G., and Mr. L. Jury, were received with regret.

Mr. A. Crompton recorded a Bee-eater and a Landrail at Stonyfell, and the Boobook Owl was heard every night. Dr. Morgan noted a Little Falcon at the golf links, Seaton, on 21st March. Whistling Eagles were observed at Lockleys by Mr. J. W. Mellor, while Minahs and Large Wattle-birds were about in numbers. The same member reported that he frequently came across the bodies of Magpies that had been electrocuted by contact with the electric power wires along the Henley Beach Road. Mr. A. R. Riddle kindly undertook to bring the report under the notice of the Electric Supply Co. Mr. W. Weidenbach drew attention to the unusual numbers of Magpies near the city, and stated that he recently counted 43 of these birds at Glen Osmond in ten minutes. Mr. J. Sutton observed a Brown Flycatcher at Netherby, and also a White-naped Honey-eater attacked and killed by a Magpie. Mr. K. Ashby stated that Parrots were about in thousands during the month at Blackwood, mostly Blue-mountains and Lorikeets. Spine-bills and Mistletoe birds were also recorded. Capt. White reported that Boobooks were about at Fulham, but very quiet, also a few Pelicate Owls.

The Association is indebted to Mr. A. R. Riddle for bringing under its notice the Mazda C2 electric lamp, with the use of which the colours can be distinguished almost as accurately as by daylight.

Mr. Keith Ashby gave an interesting account of the birds observed by him during a holiday in the Big Timber country of Gippsland.

Before proceeding with the election of officers for the ensuing year, the Chairman gave a resume of the good work accomplished during the past year, and the valuable finds recorded by members.

The election of officers resulted as follows—

President—Mr. Edwin Ashby.

Vice-President—Mr. F. E. Parsons.

Secretary—Mr. J. Neil McGilp.

Editorial Committee—Messrs. F. M. Angel, A. G. Edquist, S. A. White, F. R. Zietz, and the Secretary (ex officio).

Regret was expressed that Mr. F. M. Angel, who had been Acting-Secretary for the past four years, was relinquishing the Secretarial duties, and a hearty vote of thanks was recorded for his valuable services.

The Cash Statement, which was adopted, showed a small surplus of receipts over expenditure during the year, which, in view of the greatly increased cost of publication of the journal, was considered very satisfactory.

—April 30th, 1920.—

Mr. Edwin Ashby presided.

The Acting Secretary (Mr. F. M. Angel) read a letter from the Institute of Science and Industry, inviting condensed reports of meetings and important papers dealt with from scientific bodies for publication in the "Science and Industry" journal. It was resolved to fall in with the suggestion.

Attention was drawn to the fact that Volume IV. of the "S.A. Ornithologist" contains four parts only, as against 8 parts in Volumes II. and III. Mr. F. M. Angel stated that through a mistake on the part of the publishers, Vol. V. was commenced for the current year, instead of continuing under Vol. IV., and the Editorial Committee propose to limit the

present volume to 4 parts also, so that Volumes IV. and V. can be bound together to bring the size up to previous ones. Subsequent volumes will comprise 8 quarterly parts.

The resignation of Mr. R. Henderson as a member was received with regret.

Mr. A. R. Riddle reported that he had conferred with the Manager of the Adelaide Electric Supply Co. regarding the electrocution of Magpies reported at the last meeting. The different systems employed by the Company for conveyance of current to the suburbs were lucidly explained by Mr. Riddle, when it was seen that the danger to bird life was almost confined to the Henley Beach system. No alteration to this line was contemplated by the Company at present, but the Manager would be pleased to hear of any complaints or suggestions from the Association.

The principal business of the evening was the Chairman's account of the birds observed during his recent trip to Tasmania and Gippsland. His description of the wonderful mimicry of bush calls by the Victorian Lyre-bird was particularly interesting.

Members were pleased to hear that, at the request of the South Australian Government, the Customs officers of the whole of the Commonwealth have been instructed to exercise special vigilance to prohibit the importation and exportation of all protected fauna in the South Australian schedule.

Notes of observations for the month were received from Capt. S. A. White, Messrs. J. W. Mellor and J. Sutton.

---May 28th, 1920.---

Mr. Edwin Ashby in the chair.

The resignation of Mr. F. E. Parsons from the office of Vice-President was received with regret, and Mr. F. M. Angel was elected to fill the vacancy.

A letter was received from Mr. Parsons, stating that owing to the ravages of weevils, the late Dr. Angove's collection of bird skins had been destroyed, and as he feared that the collection of eggs would share a similar fate, if not rescued, suggested that an effort be made to secure the collection for the Association or the S.A. Museum. It was thought very desirable that the Association should have a collection handy for reference, and, as the eggs in question would form a valuable nucleus, it was resolved to ask the present owner if he is willing to present the

egg collection to the Association if suitable accommodation be found.

Mr. A. G. Edquist exhibited the silver trophy presented some years ago by members of The S.A. Ornithological Association, for annual competition among the public schools, for the purpose of encouraging a love and knowledge of our native birds.

Mr. R. Beck showed a pair, partly eaten by *Zosterops*, in which a large number of pepper berries had been secreted by the birds.

Mr. Keith Ashby tabled a fine specimen of *Neostrepera versicolor* (♀) from Yinnar, Gippsland, and Mr. Edwin Ashby a skin of *Myzantha melanota* from Karoonda, S.A.

In order to ensure ample time for the main business of the evening, a resolution was passed, fixing 8.45 p.m. as the time for the commencement of same.

The principal subject for consideration was Capt. S. A. White's report on the birds on the Yanco Irrigation Area. At the invitation of the New South Wales Government, a bird survey of the district was made for the purpose of determining which birds are beneficial or destructive. Supported by reliable data, and records of stomach contents of birds taken in the district, a lengthy report, with recommendations, has been prepared by this member.

Bird notes for the month were received from Messrs. E. Ashby, F. E. Parsons, J. W. Mellor, J. Sutton, A. Crompton, and Capt. S. A. White. The occurrence at the Outer Harbour of the Blue-winged Parrot (*Neonanodes chrysostomus*), reported by Mr. F. E. Parsons, is worthy of special mention.

Retiring Chairman's Address.

The retiring chairman gave a brief address upon the work accomplished during his term of office covering the last two years. He said, "Ornithologists could congratulate themselves upon much which had been accomplished. First of all an Act called the "Animals and Birds Protection Act" was drafted owing to the want of better protection for our wild animals and birds. The bill lapsed in the first session of this Parliament, but was brought in again in the second session as a lapsed bill, and, after being much mutilated became law. Although several strong measures were cut out still it is a great improvement upon the old Act, and all must look for amendments in

the future. Your chairman was successful in arranging for numbers to be placed before the name of each protected bird in the Act which corresponds with the number in Dr. Leach's "Australian Bird Book" and now the Government has supplied each Police Station with one of these books, so there will not be any mistake in identifying the bird. One of the most important happenings in the history of the State of South Australia (from a Biological and Botanical point of view) was the constituting of Flinders Chase, Kangaroo Island, because within this great reserve many species of the fast disappearing avifauna on the mainland can be introduced and saved for all time." The retiring president said "In company with Mr. G. R. Laffer, M.P., a representative for the district (the Premier being prevented from going at the last moment) visited Kangaroo Island. The whole question was discussed with the Kingscote District Council. After a long discussion the Council agreed that they would no longer oppose the fixing of the boundaries of the Chase. This action was closely followed up by your president who had frequent interviews with the Hons. the Premier, Attorney General, and Mr. Laffer, M.P., to ensure having the reserve properly constituted by Act of Parliament. Members of the Ministry gave a promise to that effect, and later on these promises were right royally carried out, for the Bill passed both Houses practically without alteration. After twelve years of fighting the great Reserve is now a reality. The Board of Governors controlling Flinders Chase has been formed and is now hard at work in the management of this fine sanctuary. 200 square miles of country is really not large enough, but the Act provides for extension.

The protection of the Association's Islands in the Coorong is maintained and your President during term of office made numerous visits to the birds breeding grounds. Both swan and pelicans reared a fair number of young birds the last three nesting seasons. Good sound work has been put in by many members of the Association. Dr. Morgan has made several trips, which he has written up in his usual very thorough manner for "The South Australian Ornithologist." Mr. F. Parsons made a good discovery in a new sub species of Emu Wren on Kangaroo Island. Mr. L. K. McGilp's meeting with the scarlet-chested grass parrot (*N. splendida*) in the country north of Lake Frome, September, 1919. Last but not least your retiring President is deeply indebted to the loyal backing of the Association, especially to the Hon. Secretary (Mr. F. M. Angel) who has rendered such valuable assistance to the Association and Ornithologists in general, and it is with greatest regret that I hear of his resignation as Secretary.