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The South Australian Ornithological Association.

MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

ANNUAL MEETING, HELD ON 31st MARCH, 1922.

Mr. F. M. Angel in the chair; later Professor J. B. Cleland, on his appointment as President. The following resignations were accepted with regret, the members having left South Australia for Victoria, where they are now residing permanently:—Mr. J. D. Connor and Mr. G. Bruce Henderson. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Professor J. B. Cleland; Vice-President, Mr. F. E. Parsons; and Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Sutton. Mr. F. M. Angel, retiring President, and Mr. J. Neil McGilp, retiring Hon. Secretary, were thanked for their past services, and the incoming officers thanked the members for the honour bestowed upon them. The Hon. Secretary submitted the annual statement of accounts, which was adopted. Mr. F. E. Parsons exhibited a male and female Red-chested Quail (*Turnix pyrrhotorax*), in which the male is a much smaller bird than the female. A Little Quail (*Turnix velox*) was also shown for comparison. The Red-chested Quail was obtained by Mr. F. C. Morse near Moree, N.S.W., and he advised that those birds were plentiful there. Dr. Morgan then gave a description of a visit to the Baudin Rocks (vide Volume VI, part 6, pages 133-4, April number).

MEETING HELD ON 28th APRIL, 1922.

Professor J. B. Cleland in the chair. The Chairman referred to the recent death of Mr. F. R. Zietz, who was an old member of the Association. He referred to the great work the late Mr. F. R. Zietz had done for ornithology in this State, and a vote of condolence with his widow and relatives

was carried by the members present. A vote of thanks was passed to Dr. W. MacGillivray for his lecture on 27th inst. Owing, however, to the short notice, not many of our members were able to be present at that most interesting and instructive lecture, mainly upon the Pelicans breeding at Lake Cowandilla and adjoining lagoons near Menindie, N.S.W. The President expressed a wish that Dr. MacGillivray would repeat the lecture here at some future opportunity. Mr. J. W. Mellor then described the Robin family in Australia from his own specimens of the birds, and aided by eggs exhibited by Mr. J. Neil McGilp. The Scarlet-breasted Robin (*Petroica multicolor*)—Specimens taken at Flinders Island and Stirling Ranges, W.A. The coloration of the Western species is a deeper red and deeper black than the S.A. and E.A. birds. Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*)—Specimens from Eyre's Peninsula, Pungondah, and Peterborough. The female of this species is of a brown colour with a faint tinge of red on the top of the head. Flame-breasted Robin (*Petroica phoenicea*)—Yorke Peninsula is the furthest west that this bird is found. It breeds in the Bass Strait Islands, and in Tasmania. Specimens were shown from the Reedbeds, Flinders Island, and Mount Arthur and Mount Barrow in Tasmania. The female is of a brown colour with no red at all upon it. Pink-breasted Robin (*Erythrodryas rodinogaster*)—Specimens from Tasmania. The female is brown with buff marks on the wing, but shows no red colour at all. Rose-breasted Robin (*Erythrodryas rosea*)—Specimens from Victoria and New South Wales. The female is of a greyish-brown colour. Large-headed Shrike-robin (*Poecilodryas capita*)—Specimen from Blackall Ranges, Q. This bird has a short, stumpy tail. Yellow-breasted Shrike-robin (*Eopsaltria australis*)—Specimens from Eyre Peninsula, Blackall Ranges, Q., and N.S.W. The lecturer mentioned that on the young of the Red Robins there first appeared a spot of red on one side, then one on the other side; and then one below those, and gradually the colour spots coalesced. Captain White was wished a safe and successful journey by the President and members.

MEETING HELD ON 26th MAY, 1922.

Mr. F. E. Parsons (Vice-President) in the chair, in the absence of the President (Professor J. B. Cleland) in New Zealand. The only business of the evening was a lecture by the Vice-President on "Crakes and Rails." Crakes and Rails are very quiet birds, and usually difficult to observe. Speci-

mens of the Pectoral Rail (*Hypotaenidia philippensis*) taken at Paradise. Both the female and the male birds have the buff band on the chest and white stripes over the eyes. The young are black with red irides. Their usual food is tadpoles, but they are also known to eat seeds and mice. The owners of Wedge Island state that these birds eat the domesticated turkey's eggs. They can walk straight through two-inch wire-netting. The birds get very tame, and one year there was a pair in the Adelaide Botanic Garden. They nest on dry ground near swamps, and also in crops. The Spotted Crake (*Porzana fluminea*) is dark brown, spotted white on the back, and leaden grey underneath. Specimens were shown taken at Paradise and Yorke Peninsula. These birds may be seen at St. Kilda. The nest is of a neat cup shape, made of rushes, and built over the water. They are partial to the samphire, but are never far from water. The Little Crake (*Porzana palustris*) is rusty-brown on the back, crown blackish, and slaty-grey underneath. They live in fresh-water swamps, and subsist on tadpoles and very small fish. Specimen shown was taken at Paradise. The Spotless Crake (*Porzana plumbea*) has salmon-coloured legs, is bright red around the eyes, chocolate brown on back, and leaden grey underneath. The specimen was taken at Paradise. The Slate-breasted Rail (*Rallus pectoralis*) is also found in South Australia. Dr. Morgan mentioned that he had seen specimens of the above-mentioned five birds on one swamp near Robe. The other species found in Australia are:—Chestnut-bellied Rail (*Eulabeornis castaneoventris*) in North-Western Australia, Northern Territory, and North Queensland; Red-necked Rail (*Rallina tricolor*), in North Queensland; White-breasted Crake (*Poliolimnas cinereus*), in North-Western Australia, Northern Territory, and Queensland; Corncrake (*Crex crex*), one specimen only has been seen in Australia, at Randwick, N.S.W., in 1893, and it is almost certain to have been brought out from England and liberated. Mr. Parsons also exhibited specimens of the Brown Song-lark (*Cinctorhamphus cruralis*), known to boys as "cock-tu-eeler," from its song. Specimens taken at Brighton and Outer Harbour; Rufous Song-lark (*Cinctorhamphus rufescens*), specimen from Port Germein; English Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), specimen from Gilles Plains (this bird is increasing around Adelaide); Lesser Bush-lark (*Mirafra secunda*), specimens from St. Kilda and Gilles Plains (this bird soars high in the air and rivals the English Skylark in its beautiful song); Horsfield's Bush-lark (*Mirafra horsfieldi*), specimen from Mount Compass. A Field Wren

(*Calamanthus campestris*) from Port Augusta, and an Australian Pipit (*Anthus Australis*) from Gilles Plains were also shown. The members thanked Mr. Parsons for his interesting descriptions.
