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The South Australian Ornithological  
Association.

MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—June, 1923.—

A meeting was held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday, 29th June, 1923, at 8 p.m., and the President (Mr. F. E. Parsons) was in the chair.

A letter from the Hon. Secretary of the R.A.O.U. and copies of the Prize Essays in the Bird and Tree Competition were placed on the table. They were held over for consideration at the next meeting. After an informal discussion upon the subject of the notes handed in, the meeting was closed.

—July, 1923.—

Minutes of meeting held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday, 27th July, at 8 p.m. The President (Mr. F. E. Parsons) was in the chair.

Resignation.—Letter dated 6th July from Mr. A. S. Le Souef, resigning his membership at the close of the current year, was accepted with regret.

List of Birds Noted in South Australia.—In connection with this list the names of 22 species were referred to the members for further consideration; seven of these were admitted and two were left over for further consideration at the next meeting.

Exhibits.—Professor J. B. Cleland exhibited the skin of a Cape Pigeon (*Daption capensis*) which had been caught alive by Mr. Jos. Shannon near Wright's Island, Encounter Bay, on 8th July, 1923. As this is the first record of the species in South Australia and there is no skin in the South Australian Museum, the specimen was then presented to Dr. A. M. Morgan as Hon. Ornithologist to that institution. Mr. Shannon states that

he was out behind Wright's Island about half a mile in the boat crayfishing when the bird came round. It was enticed closer and closer by throwing it pieces of shark-flesh (afterwards found in its stomach) until Mr. Shannon was able to reach out and catch it. Mr. Shannon had seen the Cape Pigeon at Encounter Bay once before, about 15 years ago. That bird was also caught and after being fed was let go again. It also was a fine bird. The present bird was a male, testes small, the bill and legs were black; colour of iris not recorded—the bird having been dead some time when received in Adelaide; total length,  $15\frac{3}{4}$  inches; span of outspread wings, 35 inches. Dr. Morgan showed a specimen of the Golden-tailed Yellow Robin (*Eopsaltria magnirostris*), from the Museum collection. This is the only record of the species having been found in South Australia. The bird was obtained at Woods Point,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles above Tailem Bend, on the right bank of the River Murray, on 24th May, 1902, by Mr. J. Rau, a taxidermist attached to the S.A. Museum. The habitat of this species is stated to be Queensland only, and a specimen from the Mary River, Q., was also exhibited. For purposes of comparison the following species which have been found in South Australia were shown:—*Eopsaltria australis* (Yellow Robin) and *Eopsaltria griseogularis* (Western Yellow Robin). Mr. Edwin Ashby exhibited a specimen of the Australian Snipe (*Gallinago hardwicki*), from Mt. Compass, S.A., for comparison with one obtained from Mt. Fujiyama, Japan, in the Museum collection. The local bird is darker and the markings on the back are light buff, whilst in the Japanese bird they are almost white. He also showed a very richly coloured specimen of the Red-crowned Pigeon (*Ptilinopus regina*) from the Blackall Ranges, Q., and a specimen of the Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*), obtained at Blackwood on May 19th, 1923. This latter bird, a female, had been found dead with its skull fractured, and had evidently been killed by flying against the wires between the telegraph-posts. It had a very rufous throat and was much darker and more spotted than the usual specimens of the species.

The subject for the evening was on the two species of *Hylacola*, and Mr. Edwin Ashby was in charge. The following were the exhibits:—

*Hylacola cauta* (Shy Ground-Wren).

Mr. Ashby—From Wingamin, S.A., ♂, iris rufous, 9/11/1922; ♂, iris vandyke brown, 3/9/1912; ♂, iris chestnut, 14/4/1917; ♀?, 25/11/1915; ♀, iris dark brown, 9/4/1913. From Stokes Bay, K.I., ♂, iris blue, -/8/1913.

Professor J. B. Cleland—Monarto South, 27/5/1921.

Mr. F. E. Parsons—Bow Hill, -/10/1916; Stokes Bay, K.I., -/10/1919; Karoonda, 13/4/1920, 14/4/1920; Woodchester, 10/9/1919.

Museum Collection—Kangaroo Id., ♀, 1905; Tailem Bend, ♂, 13/10/1897; Karoonda, ♂, 10/4/1913; Kingscote, K.I., ♂, -/10/1919.

Mr. J. W. Mellor—Stansbury, Y.P., 15/4/1911, scarce; Arno Bay, E.P., 21/6/1911, common; Port Vincent, Y.P., 8/4/1912, scarce; Albert Hill, rear Lake Albert, 2/12/1919, 7/10/1922, common; Middle River, K.I. 19 and 23/10/1905, not common. He obtained on 7/10/1922 at Albert Hill a nest with two fresh eggs of *H. cauta* with one fresh egg of the Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*).

*Hylacola pyrrhopygia* (Chestnut-rumped Ground-Wren).

Mr. Ashby—Roseville, N.S.W., sex?; from top of highest hill, Mt. Compass (wet country), ♀, iris pale brown with grayish ring, 29/12/1920.

Professor J. B. Cleland—West of Waitpinga, S.A., 23/1/23; Encounter Bay, 2/2/21.

Museum Collection—Murray Scrub, no data; Square Water-hole, near Mt. Compass, no data; Cambawarra, N.S.W., no data; Bollaparudda Creek, near Port Victor, -/10/1903.

After discussion it was agreed that the species were distinct and the *H. cauta* is a brighter red on the rump; that the white speculum is larger, brighter, and very distinct on *H. cauta*; and that the white tips on the under tail are larger than on *H. pyrrhopygia*. The striations underneath on the latter bird are much shorter and fainter.

—August, 1923.—

Meeting held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday, 31st August. The President (Mr. F. E. Parsons) was in the chair.

Correspondence.—Two letters, dated 7th and 13th August last respectively, from the Customs and Excise Office, Commonwealth of Australia, Port Adelaide, were read, asking for the names of nominees on behalf of our Association for appointment on the Advisory Committee for this State with regard to the Exportation of Birds and Animals. The Committee is to assist in connection with applications received from this State for permits to export Australian birds and animals which are on the prohibited list. Mr. John Sutton was nominated, with Mr. F. E. Parsons as deputy to act in the absence of the first named.

Exhibits.—Mr. Edwin Ashby exhibited two specimens of *Calamanthus montanellus* (Rock Field-Wren), from Stirling Ranges, W.A., for comparison with *C. fuliginosus* (Striated Field-Wren), from Tasmania—*C. campestris* (Rufous Field-Wren), from Port Augusta, and *C. campestris isabellinus* (Desert-Wren), from Leigh's Creek. One form he considers a new species from the type locality of *C. montanellus*.

Mr. Edwin Ashby then gave a most interesting address on "Scarce and So-called Extinct Birds." The birds he dealt with were:—*Nestor productus*, Philip Island Parrot; *Polytelis anthopeplus*, Rock-Pebbler; *Polytelis swainsoni*, Superb-Parrot; *Polytelis alexandrae*, Princess-Parrot; *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*, Red-cheeked Parrot; *Geopsittacus occidentalis*, Night Parrot; *Neophema pulchella*, Turquoise Grass-Parrot; *Neophema splendida*, Scarlet-chested Grass-Parrot; *Neophema bourki*, Bourke Grass-Parrot; *Lorius pectoralis*, Red-sided Parrot; *Pezoporus wallicus*, Ground-Parrot.

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