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The South Australian Ornithological
Association.

MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—September, 1923.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Room on Friday, 28th September, 1923, at 8 p.m. The Vice-President (Mr. J. Neil McGilp) was in the chair.

Master Edward Stirling Booth was nominated as a new member.

Correspondence.—Professor J. B. Cleland handed in a letter to himself from Mr. A. S. LeSouef, of Sydney, suggesting that Ooldea should be made a bird sanctuary, and advising that specimens of *Neophema pulchella* (the Turquoise Grass-Parrot) had been seen at Ooldea recently, and that one had been taken in 1921 by representatives of the Australian Museum, Sydney. Mr. LeSouef suggested that special watering-places for those birds should be placed at the Ooldea Soak and the Railway Station, as if the birds were to try to drink at the tanks they would get drowned. He suggested Mr. Bolam as Honorary Ranger. After discussion it was decided, firstly, to write to Mr. Bolam on the matter and to suggest to him that the watering-place be made at the Soak only.

Letter from the children of Angas Plains School, Club No. 260, advising the Association that they had won the silver cup through the essays written by Kenneth W. Giles, aged 12 years. They stated that their club had won the second prize in the competition on four different occasions, and they hoped to win the first prize as many times. It was resolved to print the prize essay (on Birds) in the "S.A. Ornithologist."

Bird Map.—Mr. W. W. Weidenbach exhibited a map of South Australia, showing the habitats of *Myzantha garrula*, Noisy Miner, as prepared from the information supplied by members. It was decided to obtain similar particulars for the *Neophema* genus.

Exhibits.—Dr. A. M. Morgan exhibited the following specimens from the Museum collection:—*Aphelocephala pectoralis*, Chestnut-breasted Whiteface, a ♂ taken at Stuart's Range, S.A., on 20/8/1923 by Professor F. Wood Jones. This species was rediscovered by Captain S. A. White in 1914 during his trip to the Musgrave and Everard Ranges. *Calamanthus fuliginosus*, Striated Field-Wren, ♀, -/11/1911. This bird was taken by Mr. C. Rake at Nangwarry, 10 miles from Kalangadoo and near the Victorian border. It was presented to the S.A. Museum on 16/11/1911 by Mr. J. W. Hosking. For comparison a specimen of this species from Rockbank, Victoria, was also shown.

The address for the evening was on the *Neophema* genus. Dr. A. M. Morgan was in charge. Specimens from the S.A. Museum were shown, together with others by Mr. J. W. Mellor and Professor J. B. Cleland. The following particulars were handed in by members:—

Neophema chrysostoma, Blue-winged Grass-Parrot.

S.A. Museum—Taillem Bend, ♀, -/10/1897; Robe, ♂ ♀, 14/9/1923.

E. Ashby—Sandford, Tas., 1886; Woodchester, ♂, 10/9/1919.

J. W. Mellor—Western Tiers, North Tas., ♂ ♂, 11/12/1906.

F. E. Parsons—Gilles Plains, juv., 28/6/1917; Outer Harbour, ♂, 26/5/1920.

Neophema elegans, Elegant Grass-Parrot.

S.A. Museum—Laura, ♂; Virginia, ♀, 1895; ♂ and juv., -/2/1895; Mt. Compass, ♂ ♀ ♀ ♀, 28/1/1917; Outer Harbour, ♂ ♀, 1/4/1918; Lefevre's Peninsula, ♂ ♀, juv., 4/4/1919; Lower Broughton, ♀, 2/4/1923.

E. Ashby—Mt. Compass, ♂, 29/1/1917; Lefevre's Peninsula, ♀, 16/4/1918; Woodchester, ♂ ♂, 10/9/1919; Ascot, Vict., 1886. Ob.—Port Elliston, Eyre Peninsula.

J. B. Cleland—Bluff, Encounter Bay, ♂, 1/2/1921; Waitpinga, near Encounter Bay, 24/1/1922. Ob.—St. Kilda and Mt. Compass.

J. W. Mellor—Henley Beach, ♀, -/7/1887. Ob.—
Flinders Range, near Port Augusta, -/9/1893
(breeding) and in 1894.

F. E. Parsons—Mt. Compass, ♂, 28/1/1917; Outer
Harbour, ♀, 1/4/1918; Woodchester, ♂, 10/9/1919.
Ob.—Middleton.

Neophema chrysogaster, Orange-breasted Grass-Parrot.

S.A. Museum—Murray Scrub, -/3/1863; Grange,
-/10/1885; Beachport, ♂, 12/10/1918.

Neophema petrophila, Rock-Parrot.

S.A. Museum—Spilsby Island, ♂, -/2/1883 and ♂ ♀;
28/4/1923; Troubridge Light, ♂ ♂, 3/8/1916;
Franklin Island, 30/11/1920; Pearson's Isles, ♂,
6/1/1923.

E. Ashby—Stone Hut, near Cape Spencer, -/10/1886;
Rister Island, -/2/1895; Port Willunga, ♂,
-/12/1900 and -/1/1906; Rottneſt Island, W.A., ♂;
12/7/1909, and ♀, 20/7/1909.

J. B. Cleland—Pearson's Isles, ♂, 6/1/1903; Mt.
Dutton, ♂, 31/5/1923.

J. W. Mellor—Mouth of Port Adelaide River,
-/1/1898; Reevesby Island, 7/1/1907; Goat Island,
Coffin's Bay, -/10/1909 (breeding).

F. E. Parsons—Middleton, 23/12/1918.

Neophema pulchella, Turquoise Grass-Parrot.

E. Ashby—Gippsland, Vic., ♂; Queensland, ♀.

J. B. Cleland—Narrabri, N.S.W., ♀, 9/6/1919.

Neophema splendida, Scarlet-chested Grass-Parrot.

F. E. Parsons—Moolawatana Station, ♀, -/9/1919.

W. White—29/9/1863, captured a ♀ on a nest on
Pudnookna Station, near Bow Hill, on the River
Murray. Four eggs were obtained, but two were
broken accidentally. The bird lived in captivity
for some years.

Neophema bourki, Bourke Grass-Parrot.

S.A. Museum, E. Ashby, J. W. Mellor, and F. E. Par-
sons—All the specimens had been cage birds.

—October, 1923.—

Meeting held at the Royal Society's Room on Friday, 26th
October, 1923, at 8 p.m. The President (Mr. F. E. Parsons)
was in the chair.

Master Edward Stirling Booth was duly elected as a member.

Mr. C. Pearce, of 33 Capper Street, Kent Town, was nomi-
nated for membership.

Exhibit.—Dr. A. M. Morgan exhibited a nest of *Cisticola exilis*, the Fantail-Warbler, obtained at Woods Point, River Murray, between Murray Bridge and Tailem Bend, on 7th October, 1923. The description is as follows:—Built in green grasses—canary and thistle—one foot from the ground. The leaves of the grasses were brought up and over and curled round the nest. A green thistle-leaf was stitched on the outside and a dead leaf was below the green one. The nest itself was made of dried grasses, lined with cocoons and thistle-down, mainly the latter, with a few cocoons on the outside. Height of the whole nest, 10.5 cm.; depth, 4.75 cm.; opening (at the top centre), 1.75 x 2.50 cm. Four eggs were in the nest.

The subject for the evening was an account of the ornithological trip around Eyre Peninsula by Dr. A. M. Morgan and Messrs. J. Neil McGillp. and J. Sutton, read by the last named and printed elsewhere in this Part. The birds taken on the trip—32 in all—which have been donated to the S.A. Museum by Dr. A. M. Morgan—were on view.

—November, 1923.—

Meeting held at the Royal Society's Room on Friday, 30th November, 1923, at 8 p.m. The President (Mr. F. E. Parsons) was in the chair.

Mr. C. Pearce, of 33 Capper Street, Kent Town, was duly elected as a member.

Correspondence.—A letter was received from Mr. A. C. Bolam, of Ooldea, on the subject of making special drinking-places at Ooldea Soak and the Railway Station for birds. He states that the troughs already erected at those places are patronized by all the birds in the neighbourhood. In four years he has known of only two Owls being drowned in the Tank. He did not favour special drinking-places at either of the spots named, as they would become the haunts of dingoes, and the aborigines and their dogs would always be there and the birds would be slaughtered wholesale. He added, "Aborigines are no respecters of birds." He mentioned he had seen the Turquoise Grass-Parrot (*Neophema pulchella*) on the Nullarbor Plain last year. After discussion it was decided to take no further action in the matter.

Exhibits.—Dr. A. M. Morgan exhibited the following four specimens, which had been sent to the S.A. Museum during November:—

Sterna dougalli, Roseate Tern.—The bird was found by Mr. F. Reg. Martin, of "Kra-we-al," Oleander Street, Brighton, early in the morning of 1st November, 1923, dead in his front garden, which is about 400 yards from the sea-shore. The bird was a male and in the non-breeding plumage. The find was a new record for South Australia, as the nearest place to Adelaide where this species has been observed is the Houtman's Abrolhos Islands, near Geraldton, W.A., and the veteran Australian ornithologist, Mr. A. J. Campbell, obtained the eggs on Pelsart Island of that group on 23rd December, 1899. They also nest on the islands near Cape York, N.Q. In Australia the species has been noted previously in North-Western Australia, Northern Territory, North Queensland, and the islands along the Barrier Reef.

Puffinus tenuirostris, Short-tailed Shearwater or Mutton-Bird. The specimen, a male, was found dead on the beach at Brighton by Mr. H. C. Collyer on the morning of 15th November, 1923. On being dissected at the Museum it was discovered that the bird had died from intestinal obstruction through its having swallowed a small angular piece of coke.

Astur novae-hollandiae, Grey Goshawk. A female; no other data.

Corvus ceciliae, Australian Crow. The bird was a partial albino. It was black-and-white, but the usual colour of that freak amongst crows is brown. It was sent in by Mr. L. Reese, of "Minnie Downs," via Marree.

Mr. F. E. Parsons exhibited—

Squatarola squatarola, Grey Plover, ♀, obtained at the North Bay of Shoals, Kangaroo Island, 27/9/1923.

Hybrid between *Cacatua roseicapilla* (the Galah) and *Cacatua sanguinea* (the Bare-eyed Cockatoo). The bird was shot on Minnie Downs Station, via Marree.

The subject for the evening was the Birds observed at the R.A.O.U. camp-out (and elsewhere) in Tasmania in November, 1923. Messrs. F. E. Parsons, J. Neil McGilp, and Edwin Ashby contributed particulars, but the first named was in charge. Very interesting items were mentioned and the following species were described, with exhibits of skins:—

Platycercus calédonicus, Yellow Rosella.

Platycercus eximius, Red Rosella.

Petroica phoenicea, Flame-Robin.

Erythrodryas rodinogaster, Pink-Robin.

Amaurodryas vittata, Dusky-Robin.

Myiagra cyanoleuca, Satin Flycatcher.

- Pachycephala olivacea*, Olive Whistler.
Graucalus novae-hollandiae, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike.
Cinclosoma punctatum, Spotted Ground-Bird.
Calamanthus fuliginosus, Striated Field-Wren.
Oreocincla lunulata, Ground-Thrush.
Acanthiza ewingi, Tasmanian Thornbill.
Acanthiza pusilla, Brown Thornbill.
Sericornis humilis, Brown Scrub-Wren.
Malurus cyaneus, Blue-Wren.
Stipiturus malachurus, Emu-Wren.
Artamus cyanopterus, Dusky Wood-Swallow.
Pardalotus striatus, Yellow-tipped Pardalote.
Pardalotus punctatus, Spotted Pardalote.
Melithreptus validirostris, Strong-billed Honey-eater.
Melithreptus affinis, Black-headed Honey-eater.
Meliornis pyrrhoptera, Crescent Honey-eater.
Meliornis novae-hollandiae, New Holland Honey-eater.
Anthochaera paradoxa, Yellow Wattle Bird.
Zonaeginthus bellus, Beautiful Firetail.
Gymnorhina hypoleuca, White-backed Magpie.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the Tasmanian *Graucalus novae-hollandiae* was a smaller bird than the one usually found in S.A. With regard to the *Gymnorhina hypoleuca*, the Tasmanian specimen measured in length $12\frac{1}{4}$ inches, whilst three specimens from Western Australia—*G. dorsalis*, Varied-backed Magpie—measured $15\frac{1}{2}$, 16, and $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and a specimen of *G. hypoleuca* from S.A. was $17\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and one of *G. tibicen*, Black-backed Magpie, from S.A. was $15\frac{1}{4}$ inches.
