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The South Australian Ornithological  
Association.

MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—December, 1923.—

No meeting was held during this month, on account of the last Friday falling in the Christmas holiday season.

—January, 1924.—

The meeting was held at the Royal Society's Room on Friday, 25th January, 1924, at 8 p.m. The President (Mr. F. E. Parsons) was in the chair.

Mr. L. Reese, of Minnie Downs Station, *via* Marree, S.A., was proposed as a member.

The resignation of Mr. H. E. Laffer, of Sydney, was accepted with regret.

Exchange.—It was agreed to exchange publications with The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pa., U.S.A.—

Exhibits.—Dr. A. M. Morgan exhibited a skull each of *Puffinus tenuirostris* (Mutton-Bird), *Puffinus carneipes* (Fleshy-footed Shearwater), and *Pterodroma macroptera* (Great-winged Fulmar or Petrel). The bodies of those birds were found washed up on the beach at Robe, S.A., the last named in December, 1923, and the others in January, 1924. He also exhibited clutches of eggs of the following species, which were obtained on the Baudin Rocks, Guichen Bay, Robe, on 4th January, 1924:—*Eudyptula minor* (Little Penguin), *Sterna bergii* (Crested Tern), *Nycticorax caledonicus* (Nankeen Night Heron), *Phalacrocorax ater* (Little Black Cormorant), and *Phalacrocorax fuscescens* (White-breasted Cormorant).

The following specimens, presented to the South Australian Museum by Professor F. Wood-Jones, and obtained on Flinders Island, near Elliston, S.A., in January, 1924, were shown:—*Haematopus unicolor* (Black Oyster-catcher), *Petroica goodenovii* (Red-capped Robin), *Charadrius ruficapillus* (Red-capped Dotterel), *Charadrius cucullatus* (Hooded Dotterel), *Anthus australis* (Australian Pipit), *Pisobia ruficollis* (Red-necked Stint), *Zosterops lateralis* (Grey-backed Silver-eye), and *Sericornis maculata* (Spotted Scrub-Wren). The only difference from the species found on the mainland was in one bird of *Zosterops lateralis*, which tended towards *Z. gouldiae*—the throat was very yellow and there was more of a green colour on the back.

A model of the trachea of a ♀ *Rostratula australis* (Painted Snipe) was also exhibited, together with two skins of birds from the South Australian Museum—one a ♂, taken at Robe on 4/12/1918, and the other a ♀ from the Burra on 10/10/1922. The trachea turns down on the left side of the chest over the abdomen, crossing the lower part of the abdomen from left to right, returning and repeating the same track and then entering the throat. The length of the bird from the tip of the bill to the tip of the tail is 9.5 inches, whilst the length of the trachea is 22.5 inches. This peculiarity of the trachea is found only in the ♀ of this species.

Mr. F. E. Parsons showed a skin of *Pachyptila turtur* (Fairy Prion). The bird was found at Brighton, washed up dead on the seashore, on 1st November, 1923.

Mr. Edwin Ashby exhibited a skin of *Nycticorax caledonicus* (Nankeen Night Heron). This was a young bird, and was captured alive near Broken Hill in April, 1922, and presented to his daughter. Its diet was 600 worms per day, but during a temporary illness of its mistress it was fed upon bread and milk, which proved fatal to the bird (June, 1922).

Mr. Edwin Ashby also reported that an *Oreocincla lunulata* (Mountain Thrush) had appeared in his garden at Blackwood on 7th January, 1924, and was still there (on 25th inst.). It works for worms on the soft ground in rockeries and beds that are kept moist with the Skinner system of irrigation. This Thrush is so tame that if one keeps still and quiet it will come within three feet of one and does not mind talking or slow movements. It works the ground by short runs of about a foot in length, then stops still with the head slightly on one side and listens, and if it hears a worm it quickly digs deeply with its beak. On getting hold of a worm it keeps a steady strain on the worm and little

by little pulls it out and swallows it. One worm about 6 inches long the Thrush doubled up most cunningly into a sufficient number of pleats to get it down.

Mr. Keith Ashby reported that on 24th inst. he found in the orchard a nest of the *Dicaeum hirundinaceum* (Mistletoe Bird) with eggs.

Mr. Edwin Ashby pointed out an error in the description of *Gerygone fusca* in Gould's Handbook. The statement is printed elsewhere.

The subject for the evening was "Notes on Birds met with at Gosford and Port Stephens in New South Wales," by Mr. Edwin Ashby. The address is printed elsewhere in this Part.

—February, 1924.—

The meeting was held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday, 29th February, 1924, at 8 p.m. In the unavoidable absence of the President, the Vice-President (Mr. J. Neil McGilp) was in the chair.

Mr. L. Reese, of Minnie Downs Station, *via* Marree, S.A., was duly elected as a member.

With regard to the issue of permits for collecting birds it was decided that the following resolution be forwarded to the State Governments as a recommendation from this Association:—  
"That this Association suggests that short-term permits for scientific collecting of protected native birds be granted as a matter of courtesy to all recognized ornithologists paying temporary visits to other States and who hold a similar permit in their own State, except, of course, in such cases as may arise where special circumstances make it undesirable that this should be done."

A number of contributions on the subject of collecting birds had been received, and after discussion on the matter it was decided by resolution "That the correspondence be not published at the present time, but be held in reserve, and the various writers be thanked for their letters and informed of the position in this State, and that when the necessity arrives the information will be utilized."

Professor J. B. Cleland, M.D., exhibited two nests of the White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*), in great part built of small pieces of fencing-wire and wire-netting, forwarded to him by Mr. Tracy P. Morgan, of Lake Wangary, Eyre Peninsula, through Captain Sheridan, of the ketch "Napperby." Five different kinds of wire were used in the construction of the nests.

Professor Cleland then gave an address on "The Birds of the Encounter Bay District," which appears in full elsewhere in this Part.

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