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The South Australian Ornithological
Association.

MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—March, 1924.—

The annual meeting was held at the Royal Society's Room on Friday evening, 28th March, 1924. The President (Mr. F. E. Parsons) was in the chair until the new President (Mr. J. Neil McGilp) was elected.

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th February were read and confirmed.

Collecting of Birds.—It was decided that the contributions on this subject should be read to the members at the monthly meetings.

The statement of receipts and expenditure for the past year (printed elsewhere) was read by the Hon. Secretary, and, on the proposition of Mr. Edwin Ashby, seconded by Mr. F. M. Angel, was adopted by the meeting.

The following nominations had been duly lodged with the Hon. Secretary:—President, Mr. J. Neil McGilp; Vice-President, Dr. A. M. Morgan; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Sutton; Egg Curator, Mr. J. Neil McGilp.

The President (Mr. F. E. Parsons) declared those persons duly elected to the positions referred to. He then vacated the chair in favour of Mr. J. Neil McGilp, who proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Parsons for his services during the past year. That motion was seconded by Mr. Edwin Ashby and supported by Mr. W. W. Weidenbach, and carried with acclamation.

Editors.—It was decided to recommend to the next annual meeting that the number of Editors should be three, at the most, as was formerly the number.

The subject for the evening was "The *Calamanthi*, or Field Wrens." Mr. Edwin Ashby was in charge, and, prior to commencing the discourse, he exhibited some beautiful skins of Humming-Birds and Trogons which he had recently received from America. The specimens of *Calamanthus* on view came from the collections of Messrs. Ashby, Mellor, Parsons, Professor Cleland, and the S.A. Museum (per Dr. Morgan), and were—

Calamanthus campestris.

- Goolwa, S.A., ♂ ♀ ♀, -/10/1917.
 Goolwa, S.A., ♂, 31/12/1918.
 Encounter Bay, S.A., ♀, 21/1/1924.
 Balaparudda Creek, near Victor Harbour, S.A., ♂,
 -/10/1903.
 Kuitpo, S.A., ♂, 15/3/1923.
 Albert Hill, near Lake Albert, S.A., ♂ ♀, -/10/1922.
 Warunda, E. P., S.A., ♀, -/10/1909.
 Marble Range, E.P., S.A., —, 1/6/1923.
 Marion Bay, Y.P., S.A., —, —.
 Mt. Ive, S.A., ♂, 16/8/1902.
 Coralbignie, S.A., ♂, -/7/1883.
 Port Augusta, S.A., ♂ ♂ ♀, -/4/1919.
 Kallioota, S.A., ♂, 28/8/1912.
 Brighton, Vic., ♂, 14/10/1870.

Calamanthus fuliginosus.

- Nangwarry, S.A., ♀, 16/11/1911.
 Rockbank, Vic., ♂, 15/8/1898.
 Westernport, Vic., ♂ ♀, 1861.
 Mallacoota Inlet, Vic., ♂ ♀, -/11/1914.
 Western Tiers, Tas., ♂ ♀, 11/12/1906.
 Sandford, Tas., ♀ ♀, 6/10/1916.
 Sandford, Tas., ♂, 6/6/1913.
 Gladstone, Tas., ♀, 7/9/1909.
 Scottsdale, Tas., ♂, 18/11/1923.
 Scottsdale, Tas., ♀ ♀, 19/11/1923.
 Pt. Sorell, Tas., ♂, 28/12/1909.
 Pt. Sorell, Tas., ♀, 27/12/1909.
 Launceston, Tas., ♂, 23/4/1910.
 Launceston, Tas., ♂, 24/10/1902.

Calamanthus montanellus.

- Wongan Hills, W.A., —, -/10/1903.
 Stirling Range, W.A., —, 9/9/1902.
 Moora, W.A., —, 9/8/1903.

Calamanthus rubiginosus.

Pt. Cloates, N.W.A., —, 12/12/1899 (partial albino).

Calamanthus campestris isabellinus.

Lake Hart, S.A., ♂, -/6/1912.

Leigh's Creek, S.A., ♂, —.

Leigh's Creek, S.A., —, 11/11/1910.

Leigh's Creek, S.A., —, 12/12/1910.

Marree, S.A., ♂, 25/8/1920.

Oodnadatta, S.A., —, -/7/1906.

Devil's Village, S.A., ♂, 15/9/1916.

Moolawatana, S.A., ♂ ♀, 9/6/1919.

Stuart's Range, S.A., ♂ juv., 19/8/1923.

Stuart's Range, S.A., ♂, 22/8/1923.

Day Dawn, W.A., ♂, 12/6/1903.

Day Dawn, W.A., ♀, 13/3/1903.

The conclusions arrived at were the following:—

Calamanthus campestris.—The birds from the Encounter Bay district, Eyre and Yorke Peninsulas, and the Gawler Ranges cannot be separated from the birds from Port Augusta, where the type was obtained. Kallioota is probably the northern limit of *C. campestris*.

Calamanthus campestris isabellinus.—The specimens from Devil's Village, Leigh's Creek, Marree, Oodnadatta, and Stuart's Range are typical *isabellinus*, with either no striations on the crown or slight vestiges thereof, but there is one specimen from Moora, W.A., and one from Moolawatana, S.A., in which the crown is distinctly striated all over. Altogether they are much paler birds than *C. campestris*. Dr. Morgan stated that North intended to publish the fact that *C. c. isabellinus* is sometimes striated. All the interior specimens—from Leigh's Creek northwards, and westwards to Point Cloates—are *isabellinus*, but the male from Day Dawn, W.A., which was named by Mathews as *Wayensis*, shows broader and blacker striations on the throat and breast.

Calamanthus fuliginosus.—Tasmanian specimens. The northern birds seem to be much greyer as a rule, whereas a single specimen from both Launceston ♂ and Gladstone ♀ are as dark as the darkest southern form.

There was only one specimen from Victoria and one from South Australia, but there is not so much divergence between them and the Tasmanian birds as there is amongst the Tasmanian specimens themselves. Consistently in all forms the male has a throat white streaked with black, whilst in the female

the throat is much the same colour as the rest of the under side, i.e., buffish-brown with striations of black. The eyebrow shows white in the male, and buff-brown in the female.

Calamanthus montanellus.—Compared with *C. fuliginosus* it is certainly a good species. The beak is narrower, and the head has a different shape. The striations are brown in *montanellus* and black in *fuliginosus*. This species is the closest congener to *fuliginosus*. The Moora bird is more rufous than the others and may be worthy of recognition as a separate race.

—April, 1924.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Room on Thursday evening, 24th April, 1924, at 8 p.m. The President (Mr. J. Neil McGilp) was in the chair.

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th March were read and confirmed.

Type Description and Nomenclature.—Articles on these subjects were received from Gregory M. Mathews, Esq. It was decided that both communications should be printed in "The S.A. Ornithologist."

Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science.—Mr. Edwin Ashby, of Wittunga, Blackwood, was nominated as delegate for this Association for the meeting to be held in Adelaide from 25th to 31st August next.

Resignation.—The resignation of Mr. A. C. Minchin was accepted with regret.

The address on "The Diurnal Birds of Prey" was held over until the next meeting.

—May, 1924.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Room on Friday evening, 30th May, 1924, at 8 p.m. The President (Mr. J. Neil McGilp) was in the chair.

Collecting of Birds.—After reading a selection of the contributed articles on this subject it was proposed by Mr. J. W. Mellor, seconded by Mr. M. S. Hawker, "That the time is now ripe to have those articles on collecting printed, and when the necessary funds are available that they should be published in our journal." This motion was carried unanimously.

The President then gave a most interesting address on "The Diurnal Birds of Prey." Specimens of skins were exhibited by Messrs. Ashby and Parsons and the S.A. Museum (per Dr. Morgan). The egg specimens were from our own collection. The birds dealt with were—

Circus assimilis, *C. approximans*, *Astur novae-hollandiae*,
A. fasciatus, *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*, *Uroaetus audax*, *Hieraetus*
morphnoides, *Haliastur sphenurus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Lophoic-*
tinia isura, *Elanus axillaris*, *E. scriptus*, *Falco peregrinus*, *F.*
hypoleucus, *F. subniger*, *F. longipennis*, *Ieracidea berigora*, *Cerch-*
neis cenchroides, *Pandion haliaetus*, *Baza subcristata*.
