
R.A.O.U. Official Checklist.

We are in receipt of the Second and Revised Edition of the Official Checklist of the Birds of Australia, compiled by a Committee of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union.

The Checklist deals with the scientific and vernacular names, and the synonyms of 707 resident species, as well as a considerable number of occasional visitors. The compilation reflects great credit upon the Committee, and should prove of valuable help to every student of Australian ornithology.

South Australian ornithologists will be especially interested in the decision to give specific rank to *Platycercus adalaidae*, *Calamanthus isabellinus*, *Stipiturus mallee*, and *Strepera intermedia*.

If we may venture to criticize such a splendid piece of work, we would point out that the arrangements of the abbreviations of the habitats are in places somewhat confusing, e.g., in *Cracticus torquatus* they are given as C.Q.—Vic.—W.A., C.A., T.; in *Pardalotus xanthopygus* as N.W.Vic., S.A., S.W.A. One might easily suppose, taking the latter as a guide, that the first-named bird does not occur in S.A. We notice also that as regards *Pomatostomus temporalis*, the habitats are—A. exc. S., S.W., N.W., and N.T. It is a common bird in certain parts of South Australia, viz., in the South-East and along the River Murray east of Morgan.

There is an Appendix to the Checklist—Scientific Names—Notes and Pronunciation by H. Wolstenholme, Esq., B.A. This will be invaluable to the ornithologist and student, and is evidently the result of much research.

The cost of the work is 12s. 6d., and it may be purchased from the Hon. Secretary R.A.O.U., 376 Flinders Street, Melbourne.