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The South Australian Ornithological Association.

MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—May, 1927.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday, 27th May, 1927, at 8 p.m. The President (Mr. Edwin Ashby) was in the chair.

New Member.—Dr. Charles Sullivan, of Ceduna, Murat Bay, was proposed and seconded as a member.

Correspondence.—The following letters from and to the Chief Inspector of Fisheries and Game were placed on the table:—"5th May, 1927. I have to acknowledge yours of 30th ultimo *re* the shooting of totally protected birds, and to inform you that the police and our inspectors are doing all that is possible to stop this illegal practice. *Re* the Hon. Inspectors. There is a provision in the Acts for such appointments, but, unfortunately, in the majority of cases, when appointments are made no cases are detected. If your correspondent had informed the police officer at Mannum regarding what was going on at Easter, I have no hesitation in saying he would have taken steps to detect the offenders." Letter of Hon. Secretary of 12th May:—"I am in receipt of your letter of 5th instant, which will be placed before our members at the next monthly meeting. I was informed yesterday by a man who was employed on the irrigation works on the River Murray that at Easter-time, this year, two motor-cars with passengers in them arrived at the sanctuary near Cobdogla, and some of the party indulged in shooting. My informant noticed a Nankeen Night Heron flying away after one shot was fired. I know this information is too late, but I think it right to let you know. Evidently a sanctuary does not stop a certain class of shooter." The Chief Inspector's reply of 13th May:—"I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 12th instant

re shooting on the Cobdogla Reserve, and to advise you that I will bring this matter before the local police officer when next I visit the district."

The subject for the evening was given by the Hon. Secretary—"The Home of the Eyrean Grass-Wren (*Amytornis goyderi*)."
The species was obtained on the Macumba by Mr. F. W. Andrews, who was the collector and naturalist of the Lake Eyre Expedition, 1874-5, under Mr. J. W. Lewis. Extracts from the latter's journal were read, and a map showing the itinerary of the expedition was exhibited.

—June, 1927.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday, 24th June, 1927, at 8 p.m. The President was in the chair.

New Member.—Dr. Charles Sullivan, of Ceduna, Murat Bay, was duly elected as a member.

Bird Trophy.—The cup given by the Association was on view. It was given for perpetual competition, and the winner this year was a student at the Sandy Creek School, near Gawler.

Obituary.—The President advised that he had sent a telegram of condolence to the relatives of the late Mr. H. L. White, the distinguished Australian ornithologist. References were made by members to the great loss to ornithology through his demise.

Exhibit.—Dr. A. M. Morgan showed, from the S.A. Museum, a melanistic form of the White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*), the only white parts being a few feathers in the under-wing coverts, the under-tail coverts, and the lower part of the abdomen. The specimen was obtained at Copeville (50 miles north-east of Murray Bridge, on the Karoondah-to-Waikerie railway line), on 17th June, 1927.

The subject for the evening was a discourse by Dr. A. M. Morgan on the "Osteology of Birds," illustrating his remarks with sterna from the collection he has given to the S.A. Museum

—July, 1927.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday, 29th July, 1927, at 8 p.m. The President was in the chair.

Bird Notes.—Mr. Keith Ashby reported having seen four Galahs at Blackwood on 25th instant. Mr. E. S. Paterson had seen young of the Yellow-winged Honeyeater (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae*) at Goolwa during the month.

Exhibit.—Mr. Edwin Ashby exhibited a specimen of the Spotted Crake (*Porzana fluminea*), ♀, which had been taken at a swamp at Sellick's Beach (Aldinga Bay) on 12th July, 1927.

Mr. Ashby then gave an address on a motor trip to the south-east of South Australia and the south-west of Victoria. Specimens of some of the species noted were exhibited from his own collection and those of Professor Cleland, Mr. J. W. Mellor, and the S.A. Museum.

—August, 1927.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday, 26th August, 1927, at 8 p.m. The President was in the chair.

Bird Notes.—Mr. F. E. Parsons noted near Brighton during the past week, two nests of Pipits (*Anthus australis*) with three eggs in each nest. Master H. A. Stevens saw a Pipit's nest with three eggs in the East Park Lands opposite Lefevre Terrace, North Adelaide. Mr. K. Ashby saw a nest of the White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*) with two eggs at Blackwood on 24th August. Mr. Edwin Ashby noted a pair of Red-backed Parrots (*Psephotus haematonotus*) at Blackwood making a hole at a fault in a pole used for conveying electrical power, during the past week.

Exhibits.—Mr. Edwin Ashby exhibited a Painted Quail (*Turnix varia*), ♂, and a Stubble Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*), ♀, both taken at Bolivar on 30th July, 1927, and a White-breasted Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), immature ♀, found dead at Ackland's Hill, Blackwood, on 30th July, 1927: Iris dark, feet pale gray, bill darkish gray to light slate, cere light slate, spread 7 ft. 2 in., length 35 in., wing 2 ft. 1½ in., culmen 2 in., tarsus 5 in., tail 13 in.; in its crop was portion of a young rabbit. Dr. A. M. Morgan exhibited from the S.A. Museum three Prions, referred to elsewhere.

The subject for the evening dealt with the genus *Strepera*, or Currawongs. It was in the hands of Mr. Edwin Ashby, who gave an instructive address, and specimens were shown from his own collection and those of Mr. F. E. Parsons and the S.A. Museum.