

The South Australian Ornithological Association.

October 30th, 1914. Museum specimens of the following birds were exhibited for discussion:—

Eurystomus orientalis pacificus—The Australian roller.— Sometimes called the dollar bird on account of the light-blue patch on the wing, about as big as a crown, which is very noticeable when the bird is flying. This bird is very fond of living in the dead ringed forest, nesting in the hollows of the dead trees. It is entirely insectivorous.

Alcyone azurea—The blue kingfisher. from New South Wales, and *Alcyone azurea victoriae*, the Victorian blue kingfisher, were identical. *Alcyone azurea miata*, the northern purple kingfisher from Queensland, was darker on the breast than the Victorian bird.

Micralcyone pusilla—The little kingfisher from North Queensland, and a specimen from the Northern Territory, apparently *micralcyone pusilla ramsayi*, could not be separated.

Syma torotoro—The yellow-billed kingfisher from New Guinea, has a black crown.

Syma torotoro flavirostris—From North Queensland, has a rufous crown. This was considered a good subspecies.

Dacelo gigas—The brown kingfisher, or laughing jackass, is the only member of the genus that laughs. No subspecies shown.

Dacelo leachi cervina—The fawn-breasted kingfisher. It was noticed that the male has a blue tail, while the female has a rufous tail.

Dacelo leachi nana—No Melville Island bird shown.

Dacelo leachi occidentalis—The western fawn-breasted kingfisher from Derby was smaller than the dominant species, otherwise no essential difference was noticed.

A bird from Derby, in the north-west of Western Australia, presumed to be *Dacelo cliftoni*, is also smaller than the *Dacelo leachi cervina*. It also has a larger bill, and is very pale in colour.

Cyanalcyon macleayi—The forest kingfisher, from New South Wales. It was noticed that the male has a white collar; the female has not.

Cyanalcyon macleayi distinguendus—The western forest kingfisher, from the Northern Territory, and *Cyanalcyon macleayi publa*, the Melville Island forest kingfisher, could not be separated.

Sauropatis sancta—The sacred kingfisher.—Two subspecies available, *westralasiana* and *ramsayi*. These could only be distinguished from the dominant species by their labels.

Sauropatis sordida—The mangrove kingfisher.—Is a larger bird than *S. sancta*; also it is duller in colour and has more white.

Sauropatis sordida melvillensis—Seemed to be the same as the dominant species.

November 27th, 1914. The birds exhibited were all foreign, being kingfishers and bee eaters from the Soudan, North America, India, and the East Indian Archipelago.

December 18th, 1914. An interesting account of the doings of the fourteenth annual congress of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, and the camp at Mallacoota Inlet, by the President (Mr. J. W. Mellor). The birds met with have been published in "The Emu," vol. XIV., part 3.

January 25th, 1915. A good series of the pallid cuckoo, *Heteroscenes pallidus*, from the Museum was shown, bearing out Captain White's contention that the grey bird is the male, not the adult of both sexes, and the spotted bird is the female, not the young, *vide* "South Australian Ornithologist," vol. II., part 1.

Cacomantis pyrrophanus variolosus—The eastern square-tailed or brush cuckoo.—Two males were grey, while the only female available was rufous. This would seem to bear out the same theory that the male is grey and the female rufous. The rufous bird until now has been thought to be the young.

February 26th, 1915. Mr. Ashby exhibited a specimen of *Rallus pectoralis*, the slate-breasted rail, taken in Coromandel Valley. Although Mr. Mathews gives this bird as inhabiting South Australia members had rarely come across it near Adelaide. The same member also showed a specimen of the pink-breasted robin, *Erythrodryas rodinogaster inexpecta*, from Mount Dandenong, Victoria. Although fully developed and apparently breeding, it had only the faintest tinge of pink on the breast. It was observed feeding in the tops of the highest gum trees, some two hundred feet from the ground. Hitherto members have always expected to find robins in undergrowth or low scrub. A series of *Neochalcites basalis*, the narrow-billed bronze cuckoo, from the Museum was shown, and although there was considerable diversity of the amount of colouration it did not seem to characterise either locality or sex. A series of *Lamprococcyx plagosus*, the bronze cuckoo, from the Museum was exhibited, also from Capt. White's collection. The amount of rufous on the tail varied considerably, but the members could not see any justification for separating them into three subspecies. Members also thought that the separation of *Neochalcites* and *Lamprococcyx* into two genera was not correct, with the exception of Capt. White, who considered that we ought to have Mr. Mathews' reason for so doing before criticising his work.
