

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE OF THE S.A.
ORNITHOLOGIST.

Gentlemen,

In Part II., Vol. 2, on page 33 is a letter from Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, which might be deemed to imply that I had made statements regarding *Ptilotis penicillata* without taking the trouble to verify them. Gould's Handbook to the Birds of Australia contained the information as to the naming of the bird, and as to its being rarely met with in New South Wales, but being very abundant in South Australia, and I merely suggested the probability of its having been named from South Australian specimens. The original reference which Mr. Mathews has seen was not available to me. It would seem strange that Gould, who had examined specimens from both N.S.W. and S.A., should not have observed differences such as would warrant Mr. Mathews in making a sub-species of those found in Adelaide.

Re *Leptolophus*, Mr. Mathews is glad that I am convinced that this bird is able to elevate and lower its crest. The word

"convince" is hardly appropriate as I have never doubted the fact, which I certainly have known since Christmas, 1856, when I first had a tame bird of the species. During periods aggregating more than 30 years I have kept living specimens, and I have a pair at the present time, which would quickly convince a doubting observer of the fact referred to.

I am, etc.,

M. SYMONDS CLARK.

Eden Hills, S.A.

24th May, 1915.
