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The South Australian Ornithological Association.

March 31st, 1916.

The Annual Meeting took place, the retiring President (Mr. J. W. Hosking) read a short address upon the work accomplished during the past year. Mr. F. M. Angel was thanked for taking over the secretaryship during the Hon. Secretary's absence on duty at the front. Officers elected.—President, Dr. A. M. Morgan; Vice-President, Mr. A. G. Edquist; Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. Crompton (absent on military duty); Acting Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. M. Angel; Publishing Committee to the "South Australian Ornithologist," Dr. Morgan, F. R. Zietz, Capt. S. A. White, the Hon. and Acting Hon. Secretaries.

A discussion took place in reference to the need of at once approaching the Government, praying that a swamp on the River Murray should be declared a sanctuary for native avifauna and fish. Capt. White was empowered to make a move in that direction at once.

A discussion arose over the Kangaroo Island Reserve, and it was regretted that so much time was being wasted in completing the arrangements in that direction.

Mr. E. Ashby exhibited a photograph of two young Laughing Jacks (*Dacelo gigas*). The parent birds had fed them with a snake each, and a foot or more of the reptile was dangling from their bills, the heads being in the birds'

stomachs. Mr. Ashby's correspondent stated that it took several days for the birds to digest the reptiles. The same member showed several skins of the Lesser Bush Lark (*Mirafra javanica secunda*), taken at Encounter Bay; also a specimen of the Black Bush Lark (*M. j. nigrescens*) from the Northern Territory.

The remainder of the evening was taken up by an account of the birds of the Coorong, given by Capt. White.

A skin of the Tippet Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) was shown; also of the Bristle Bird (*Maccormickornis broadbenti whitei*). Many of their habits were explained. A Scrub Wren was shown by the same member, and was pointed out as quite a new sub-sp. of *Sericornis longirostris*. Capt. White stated that through the great kindness of the Messrs. Rymill he had been able to again pay a visit to the cormorant rookeries in the mangroves, north of the Outer Harbour, and had done a great deal of research work amongst the Cormorants (*Hypoleucis variis hypoleucus*), by examination of stomach contents, etc.

April 28th, 1916.

A meeting was held, at which Mr. Edwin Ashby showed a number of bird skins, collected near Karoonda, in the Mallee, on November 25th, 1915. Amongst others were:—

- Gilbertornis rufogularis* (Eastern Red-throated Thick-head).
- Campbellornis superciliosus* (White-browed Wood Swallow).
- Drymodes brunneopygia* (Scrub Robin).
- Oreoica cristata clelandi* (Southern Crested Bell Bird).
- Hylacola cauta* (Rufous-rumped Ground Wren).
- Acanthiza pusilla hamiltoni* (Red-rumped Tit).
- Smicrornis brevirostris viridescens* (Greenish Tree Tit).
- Pardalotus punctatus xanthopygius* (Yellow-rumped Pardalot).
- Leggeornis lamberti assimilis* (Purple-backed Wren).
- Epthianura albifrons* (White-fronted Chat).
- Gliciphila melanops chandleri* (Tawny-crowned Honey-eater).
- Gliciphila albifrons incerta* (Eastern White-fronted Honey-eater).
- Lichenostornus cratitius howei* (Victorian Wattle-cheeked Honey-eater).

The same member also showed:—

Amytornis striatus (Striated Grass Wren).

Gilbertornis rufogularis gilbertii (Red-throated Thick-head).

Eclectus pectoralis macgillivrayi (Red-sided Parrot). From the Pascoe River, North Queensland.

May 26th, 1916.

A monthly meeting was held, at which Capt. S. A. White reported that Carlot Lagoon, nine miles above Mannum, would be gazetted the following week as a Fauna Reserve. Mr. F. R. Zietz drew the notice of members to an article in the N.S.W. Agricultural Gazette, upon poisoning fruit for the destruction of birds. Members strongly condemned this suggestion. An illustration in the same paper showed 600 poisoned galahs. Members were very sorry to see such a sad photograph, and to know that 2,371 parrots were killed at one poisoning. No wonder our native birds were disappearing. Capt. White drew attention to a recent publication of the United States Department of Agriculture upon "The Birds of Porto Rico," by Alex. Wetmore, Assistant Biologist. The work was a very interesting one from the economic point of view alone.

The Chairman (Dr. A. M. Morgan) spoke upon bird life recently observed on the islands and along our coastline, these observations being made through the kindness of the Messrs. Rymill putting their motor yacht, the 'Avocet,' at the disposal of ornithology again. Two species of shells were shown, *Turbo Stramineus* and *Thais textiliosa*. The doctor explained that these shells were supposed to be carried up into the air by the Pacific Gulls (*Gabinius pacificus*), and dropped upon the rocks, and thus smashed as a means of abstracting the edible contents. He stated that he did not think this possible, as one shell weighed 10½ ozs. He credited the White-headed Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus cristatus*) with the practice.

Some discussion took place for and against the supposition. It was the general opinion that only by observation could this matter be cleared up.

Skins of the Pacific Gull and White-headed Osprey were exhibited by Capt. White, to illustrate the above discussion. The same member also showed the skins of young Short-tailed Petrels (*Neonectris tenuirostris brevicaudus*), and remarked upon the strange growth of the down upon each feather.

Mr. J. W. Mellor exhibited the skins of the Lesser Bush Lark (*Mirafra javanica secunda*). The want of knowledge respecting these birds shown at the late Forestry Conference in Adelaide was discussed.
