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[PART 3.

The South Australian Ornithological Association.

APRIL 4th, 1919.

The monthly meeting was held in the Royal Society's Rooms, North Terrace, on Friday evening, 4th April. The President, Capt. S. A. White, C.M.B.O.U., occupied the chair. Mr. R. C. Beck was elected a member, and Messrs. A. Keith Ashby, son of our worthy Vice-President, and J. N. McGilp of Moolawata were nominated. Several visitors were welcomed.

The Chairman reported that delegates from the Association interviewed the Honorable, the Minister of Industry, and discussed the question of the control and supervision of the Coorong. A letter was received from Mr. Geo. R. Laffer, M.P., Chairman of Committees, eulogising the valuable work and assistance that Capt. S. A. White had rendered in connection with the New Game Bill last year. Another effort to get the Bill passed would be made next session when he hoped to again have the help of Capt. White's wide experience and influence. The Secretary was requested to write to the Commissioner of Police commending the fine work of Inspector Fraser of Adelaide, and M. C. McDonald of Milang in securing convictions against offenders of the Bird Protection Laws. Members expressed their pleasure at the prominence given by the Proprietors of "The Register" and "Evening Journal" to articles dealing with the protection and welfare of our native birds.

Mr. T. P. Bellchambers of Humbug Scrub sent a sketch of a bird rarely seen in his district. This was recognised as the Fantailed Cuckoo. Mrs. Nimmo sent data and photographs of

a pair of curlews that had successfully hatched a chick in her garden. Capt. White reported that a pair of White-bearded Honey-eaters had finished building a nest in his garden on 5th March. The first egg was laid on 9th, and the second a day later. Both hatched, but the chicks died when three days old, and the parent birds were again building. Mr. Edwin Ashby noted several White-faced Herons roosting close to his house at Blackwood. Mr. J. W. Mellor reported the Yellow-rumped Diamond Bird about throughout the month at Fulham, and the Fantailed Cuckoo very quiet at Lockleys. Black-faced Cuckoo Shrikes were about in unusually large numbers, 32 were congregated on a dead tree at Fulham, whilst at the same time many more were flying around or perched on the surrounding trees. On 28th March, young White-plumed Honey-eaters were being fed by the parent birds.

Mr. Edwin Ashby showed two highly coloured Adelaide Rosellas from Echunga and Upper Sturt, and suggested that they were fairly old birds. Capt. White opined that as so many of these birds were now being shot in the orchards, and it took about eight years for them to get highly coloured, it was probable that few bright forms would be met with in the future.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year—

President—Capt. S. A. White, C.M.B.O.U.

Vice-President—Mr. Edwin Ashby, C.F.A.O.U.

Secretary—Mr. Robert Crompton, R.A.O.U.

Acting Secretary—Mr. F. M. Angel, R.A.O.U.

Editorial Committee—Capt. White, Messrs. F. R. Zietz, A. G. Edquist, Robert Crompton, and F. M. Angel.

The financial statement showed that, in spite of the great increase in the cost of publication of the "S.A. Ornithologist," the position was very satisfactory.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. F. M. Angel, who had so creditably carried out the duties of Secretary during the absence of Mr. Robert Crompton in Europe.

APRIL 25th, 1919.

Capt. S. A. White, C.M.B.O.U. presided. Messrs. A. Keith Ashby and J. Neil McGilp were duly elected members. The Chairman reported that he had been informed by the Hon. the Minister of Industry that a new permit would be granted to the Association in connection with the supervision of the Islands on the Coorong.

Mr. J. W. Mellor reported the first Flame-breasted Robin this season during the previous week at St. Kilda, also that Chestnut-eared Finches were nesting in the boxthorn bushes at Lockleys. The large Wattle Birds were very numerous at the latter place this year. Mr. R. C. Beck noted a large flight of Wattle Birds at Seaton, and the Golden-breasted Thickhead for the first time. Red-capped Robins were breeding in the vicinity, but he had been unable to locate the nest. Mr. F. R. Zietz stated that small flocks of Flame-breasted Robins had been reported passing along the Coorong. Mr. S. Sanders reported that the European Blackbird had been noticed at Yergo for the first time. Mr. Alan Lendon observed the Peaceful Dove in the Botanic Park.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to an account of the American Birds that came under Mr. Edwin Ashby's notice during his recent trip to the United States of America. Mr. Ashby graphically described the fine timber country, and wonderful forests and illustrated his remarks with a number of photographs of plants and nut-bearing trees, which form the main food supply of many of the birds and mammals. A fine collection of bird skins was exhibited, and the characteristics and habits of the species represented were described. With the aid of some remarkably good gramophone records, the glorious songs and strange notes of many of the birds were brought home to the hearers. Mr. Ashby was heartily thanked for the very interesting lecture.

MAY 30th, 1919.

Capt. S. A. White presided.—

The Acting Secretary (Mr. F. M. Angel) reported that in connection with the proposal to form a junior section of the Association, application had been made to the Royal Society for the use of their rooms for the meetings, which would be under the supervision of one of the Senior members of the Association. A favourable reply having been received, Mr. A. G. Edquist undertook to convene a meeting of suitable boys and to draft rules.

The President reported having visited Renmark with a government party in connection with the Agricultural Bureau, and addressed a large meeting upon the value of our native birds to the orchardist. Considerable interest was manifested in the subject by the residents, some of whom stated that they

would now view the birds in a new light, and could see that it was to their interests to protect them.

Capt. White had also received a pressing invitation to speak at Narracoorte again. The members thanked Capt. White for the good work he has done in the country districts in spreading knowledge and interest in our feathered friends.

Mr. J. W. Mellor recorded Regent Honey-eaters on the Adelaide Plains for the first time, at Lockleys. Other birds of interest noted by this member for the month included 7 Straw-necked Ibis, a common Bronze-wing Pigeon, and numbers of Chestnut-eared Finches just out of their nests. Dr. Morgan reported having again visited the Cormorant rookery near Port Broughton, and witnessed a Cormorant capture a Hoary-headed Grebe. Vast numbers of Banded Stilts, covering acres, were observed on the return journey, and in the samphire country *Acanthiza rosinae* was noted. The doctor also reported 3 Hoary-headed Grebe on the Torrens during the month. Mr. Weidenbach stated that 2 large Wattle Birds and 2 Brush Wattle Birds were in the habit of roosting in the same tree at Glen Osmond. Mr. R. C. Beck observed a pair of Bustards near Wynarka.

The bird for the evening's discussion was *Sericornis maculatus*, and the following sub-species were represented,—*S.m. osculans*, *mellori*, *ashbyi*, and *rymilli*. Specimens exhibited were from the private collections of Capt. S. A. White, Messrs. J. W. Mellor, and F. E. Parsons:
