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## The South Australian Ornithological Association.

June 27th, 1919.

The monthly meeting of the South Australian Ornithological Association was held in the Royal Society's rooms, North Terrace, on Friday evening, 27th June, 1919. Capt. S. A. White presided. Mr. J. Sutton, of Netherby, Mitcham, was nominated for membership. All members present were exceedingly pleased to hear that Surgeon-Major W. MacGillivray had returned from Europe fit and well, and looked forward to meeting him upon his return from Sydney, where he has gone on duty. Mr. F. Parsons described a wonderful sight of bird life recently at Kensington, where many parrots of the lorikeet family had congregated in the flowering blue gums. They were of three species, but their numbers were remarkable. Mr. C. H. Lienau stated that he had seen four male blue wrens in full plumage in company with two in brown plumage, feeding another brown bird, which was remarkable for this time of year. Mr. F. R. Zietz reported having seen the Rufous Thickhead (*Lewinornis rufiventris*) at Kingswood. Master Alan Lendon stated that he had seen the fantailed cuckoo and regent or warty-faced honey-eater in the Botanic Garden. Mr. J. Sutton had been observing the brown tree creeper at Mitcham, that was in the habit of roosting in a vent pipe. Mr. Edwin Ashby forwarded some interesting bird notes from the Blackwood district. He stated that one of the little bronze cuckoos had been rehearsing his spring notes. Many singing honey-eaters were now in the district, which is an unusual occurrence in the hills. The swift lorikeet had been seen at Blackwood on June 3 and 27. Several flame-breasted robins had been noted. The large wattle bird, as well as Blue Mountain parrots, were very numerous in his garden just at present. The Chairman stated that three swans presented a which directed attention to the great number of barn owls that had been found dead. The Chairman said he had had many

beautiful sight on a shady water at the Reedbeds that morning. The fantailed cuckoo had been heard calling in its mournful way for some weeks past. He also announced that all the blue wrens (*maluri*) had now changed into their full blue and black plumage, with the exception of one bird, which showed dark spots about the throat, denoting a change of plumage about to take place. He said a baldcoot had been seen flying high well over the big gumtrees at 4 p.m., this being an unusual sight, as these birds generally fly at night. The birds under discussion for the evening were:—The brown scrub wren (*Tasmanornis humilis*), a bird confined to the scrubs of Tasmania; Flinders Island scrub wren (*T. humilis flindersi*), described by White and Mellor after visiting Flinders Island, Bass Straits, in 1913; collared scrub wren (*Oreoscopus gutturalis*), which is found in the North of Queensland; scrub tit (*Acanthornis magnus*), only found in Tasmania; the long-tailed blue wren (*Malurus cyaneus*), described by Gamlin in 1789 from a specimen taken at Adventure Bay, South Tasmania; North Tasmanian blue wren (*Malurus cyaneus fletcheræ*), named after Miss Fletcher, of the Tasmanian Educational Department; Flinders Island blue wren (*Malurus cyaneus samueli*), being confined to Flinders Island; King Island blue wren (*M. cyaneus elizabethæ*), this also only being found on the island from which it derives its name; Victorian blue wren (*M. cyaneus henriettae*), being found only in Victoria; southern blue wren (*M. cyaneus leggei*), the type locality of this specimen being from the mangroves of the Port Adelaide River; Kangaroo Island blue wren (*M. cyaneus ashbyi*), this Kangaroo Island species was named by G. M. Matthews in 1912; blue wren (*M. cyaneus australis*), being found in New South Wales; silvery blue wren (*M. cyaneus cyanochlamys*), a beautiful bird having its habitat in southern Queensland and north New South Wales.

Owing to the restricted tram service, due to the Seamen's Strike, no meeting was held in July.

#### SEPTEMBER 1, 1919.

Capt. S. A. White presided over a large attendance. Mr. E. A. Brooks, of Buckland Park, was proposed as a member, and Mr. J. Sutton, of Netherby, was duly elected. The Secretary reported that the Government had granted the Association a licence to occupy the Islands in the Bird Protection Area in the Coorong. The Chairman read an extract from The South-Eastern Times, which had been handed in by Mr. F. R. Zietz, and

of the birds sent to him. The birds were in very poor condition, and opinions were divided as to whether the mortality was due to disease or starvation. The progress made by the Animals and Birds Protection Bill and the Fauna and Flora Bill in Parliament was discussed, and much satisfaction was expressed. There were many interesting notes from the month's observations. Dr. Morgan stated that he had been investigating the nesting place of the house martins, and had found that small depressions were made in masses of gum leaves under the eaves and situated on the wall plate of the house. In these depressions the birds laid their eggs. Mr. Mellor said that two barn owls which had been roosting in a creeper for some time had now left, and that it was quite likely they had gone to seek a nesting hollow; that the brush wattle birds had been mating at Lockleys, likewise the magpies early in August, and that the pallid cuckoo had been much in evidence with its strange note. Mr. F. R. Zietz had seen young magpies about early this year. Mr. A. Crompton reported that there was a magpie lark's nest in the Botanic Garden, situated over one of the dining tables, and that the land-rails had been seen at Stonyfell all through the year. Early in August he had observed wood swallows clustering at Upper Kensington. Mr. E. Ashby said the regent honey-eater was in numbers at Blackwood just now, and that brush wattle birds were very numerous. The swift lorikeet had been seen at Mitcham. Mr. K. Ashby stated that these birds were always flying from north to south. Mr. Sutton stated that the first pallid cuckoo had reached Netherby on July 31, at 5.8 p.m. He had seen the golden whistler on July 7 and 22, fantailed cuckoo on July 5 and August 16, Rufous-breasted whistler on July 7, spotted diamond bird on June 27 and to July 29. Mr. R. Beck reported that he had seen a magpie kill a blackbird whilst on the wing. The Chairman reported having seen the spinebill at Fulham on July 2 and 10, the black-tailed native hen on July 18, the pallid cuckoo on July 20, a bearded honey-eater's nest with two eggs on July 22 (the eggs had hatched out on August 1), and Rufous song lark had appeared this season on August 30. He exhibited some species of *Platycereus* (Adelaide parakeets), showing the linking up with the palest form found at Mount Remarkable and in the Flinders Range. Mr. Frank Parsons showed the skins of two dove-like prions, found on the beach at Brighton, and Mr. E. Ashby the helmeted honey-eater from Victoria.