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The South Australian Ornithological  
Association.

DECEMBER 19th, 1919.

The monthly meeting was held in the Royal Society's Rooms on 19th December, 1919, Capt. S. A. White in the chair.

The Chairman reported that he and Mr. E. Ashby had conferred with the Secretary for the Minister of Industry, the Chief Inspector of Fisheries, and the Director of the Museum; re the issue of permits, and it was suggested that all persons so privileged should furnish a report each year, setting forth the number of specimens of each species collected for twelve months, and also that no exchange of specimens had been made outside the State without the written permission of the Minister. The members present thought the suggestions very good, and the best means of maintaining some supervision over those persons entrusted with permits.

It was reported that one or two officials of the R.A.O.U. had assisted Mr. Hatch in his endeavour to obtain the necessary permission to kill penguins on Macquarie Island. It was hoped that the rumour would be found to be without foundation, as any such action would earn the unqualified condemnation of this association.

A valuable addition to the Society's Library has come to hand; namely, Dr. Ridgway's Book of Color Standards, which will be a great help.

Dr. Morgan reported that on the last Saturday in September he had found the body of an Orange-fronted Chat near the Reedbeds.

Mr. J. W. Mellor stated that the Willy Wagtails that had previously reared a brood of young in his garden had again hatched out young.

Capt. White reported that a pair of Blue Wrens had constructed a nest in a cock of hay, the nest being almost cup-shaped, and lined with feathers.

Dr. Morgan exhibited a small collection of skins collected early in October. In company with Dr. Chenery, a trip was taken in the country near the junction of the River Darling and River Murray, and the doctor gave an interesting narrative of the birds met with. He reported having seen a flock of hundreds of Emus, and a very large mob of Kangaroos, which made a very impressive sight. Dr. Morgan considers that quite a thousand Emus were seen during the trip, but very few were nesting. It was noticed that a little way up the Darling River, the Noisy Minah (*Myzantha melanocephala*) ceased to occur, its place being taken by the yellow species (*M. flavigula*). This tends to prove the assumption expressed at previous meetings that the reason that *M. flavigula* did not occur along the banks of the Murray was not because the country was not suitable, but because the black-headed variety was too vicious and drove the yellow species back from the river.

An account by the Chairman, of the camp-out of the R.A.O.U in the Bunya Mountains, occupied the rest of the evening, and Capt. White promised to exhibit the skins collected and complete his narrative at the next meeting.

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#### JANUARY 30th, 1920.

Capt. S. A. White presided.

The Secretary (Mr. F. M. Angel) read a letter from Mr. A. J. Campbell, of Melbourne, offering a photographic block of a Magpie for the front page of "The South Australian Ornithologist." The offer was most heartily accepted, and the Secretary was asked to convey the grateful thanks of the Association to Mr. Campbell for his thoughtful gift.

Mr. A. S. LeSouef, of the Zoological Gardens, Sydney, was nominated for membership.

Mr. J. W. Mellor reported Shell Parrots (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) breeding at Lockleys; whilst the White-browed (*Campbellornis superciliosus*) and masked Wood-swallows (*Artamus personatus*) had finished breeding, and very few now remained. Although quite out of the season, several birds were breeding, Sparrows having young in the nests, and the Noisy Minah (*Myzantha melanocephala*) was seen picking up rootlets to line its nest with.

Dr. Morgan mentioned that Blue Wrens were breeding late this season, he having recently observed a nest in the hills.

Mr. E. Ashby stated that the Red-backed Parrots (*Psephotus haematonotus*) were returning to the hills daily.

Mr. A. Lendon noted the elegant Grass Parrot (*Neophema elegans*) at Victôr Harbour, and stated that the English Green Finch had reached the same district.

Mr. S. Sanders reported Australian Swifts (*Micropus pacificus*) on several occasions at Sturt, at times flying very low—a few feet from the ground.

Mr. F. R. Zietz recorded a Reed Warbler (*Conopoderus australis*), Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*), and the White-shafted Fantail (*Rhipidura albiscapa*), at Kingswood—most unusual visitors. The same member stated that the English Goldfinches were doing damage to the almond crop, and showed some of the kernels that had been attacked.

Mr. J. Sutton noted the Black-chinned Honeyeater (*Melithreptus gularis*), Spinebill (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*), at Mitcham.

The Chairman reported that he had accompanied the Hon. the Minister of Industry on a tour of inspection of the Coorong, and as a result, the Minister had decided to close the whole of the Coorong against shooting for the season. This announcement was received with great satisfaction by the members.

Capt. White also gave a report of a visit to Kangaroo Island, in the company of Mr. G. Laffer, M.P. The whole length of the Island was traversed, and much valuable information was obtained in connection with the Flinder's Chase Reserve.

The Chairman gave a most interesting account of the birds met with during the recent R.A.O.U. camp-out in the Bunya Mountains, Queensland. With the aid of the specimens

collected, the wonderful bird life of that little known region was vividly portrayed. The glorious sight presented by the Rifle bird, Satin bower-bird, Regent birds, and the King and Crimson Parrots in their natural haunts, was referred to, and their habits graphically described. Many of the smaller birds also came under notice.

Capt. White was heartily thanked for the interesting and instructive discourse.

### FEBRUARY 28th, 1920.

Capt. S. A. White presided.

The Secretary reported that Mr. J. Sutton had suffered a double bereavement by the death of a brother and sister, and it was resolved that a letter of sympathy be sent to Mr. Sutton.

Mr. A. S. LeSouef, of Sydney, was duly elected a member, and Professor J. Burton Cleland was nominated for membership.

Mr. J. D. Connor reported that Shrike Tits were eating the dry almonds in the gardens on the banks of the Torrens. Mr. Mellor stated that for many years they have been known to do this, but as the birds are scarce, the amount of damage done is very small.

Mr. J. W. Mellor reported the Boobook Owl calling at Lockleys, and mentioned that the English Starlings had suddenly left the gardens in his district. This was unaccountable, and most unusual at this time of the year, when the figs are ripening.

Other members reported the Starlings about as usual in other suburbs. Mr. Gould noticed these birds settling on some sheep, but the reason for their so doing was not apparent.

Mr. W. Weidenbach noted the White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater at Glen Osmond.

Mr. F. R. Zietz stated that Minahs were very troublesome with the figs at Kingswood.

Mr. A. Lendon noticed a sparrow hawk (*Accipiter*) flying over the Adelaide Oval.

The Chairman reported upon a visit of inspection to the Flinders' Chase Reserve, on Kangaroo Island, by the Board of Governors and two Ministers of the Crown. The latter were much impressed with the possibilities of the Chase as a fauna and flora reserve, and as a tourist resort.

Two interesting finds were reported by Mr. Edwin Ashby. Accompanied by Mr. F. E. Parsons, a trip was made to Mt. Compass, where these members were successful in securing specimens of the King Quail (*Excalfactoria chinensis australis*) and the Emu Wren (*Stipiturus malachurus*). The former is a rare bird in South Australia, and this record is the first time that any of our members have seen it in this State. Mr. Ashby stated that unlike other members of the family, the King Quail does not make a whirring sound when taking to the wing. The Emu Wren was found not uncommonly, which is interesting as this bird has not been recorded from that district for thirty years.

The subject for the evening's discussion was "Emu Wrens," and a fair range of material from the S.A. Museum and the collections of Messrs. Ashby, Parsons, and Capt. White was tabled and compared. It was noted that the darkest forms occurred in Tasmania, and the Kangaroo Island bird recently discovered by Mr. F. E. Parsons showed the lightest coloration. The Mt. Compass bird showed an intermediate stage between the Victorian and Kangaroo Island forms. One specimen of *Stipiturus malachurus ruficeps* from mid-West Australia was represented, and was considered by members as quite distinct from the Tasmanian, Victorian, and South Australian birds, and worthy of more than sub-specific rank.

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