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The South Australian Ornithological
Association.

MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—December 18th, 1920.

Mr. Edwin Ashby in the chair.

Dr. Hubert Jay, nominated at November meeting, was duly elected a member.

Mr. Mellor reported that Bronzewing Pigeons were being taken near Blackwood and sold in Adelaide. The vendor claimed that these had been bred in captivity. The Chairman said he did not know of anyone breeding these birds in numbers near Blackwood and suggested that all possible evidence be secured so that steps could be taken to prevent this infringement of the Birds Protection Act.

By the kind invitation of the President, members met at his residence—"Wittungo," Blackwood, to inspect his collection of Humming Birds from America. Members spent an enjoyable afternoon in examining the varied plumage of these beautiful birds. Afternoon tea was kindly dispensed by Miss Ashby.

Mr. Mellor, on behalf of the Association, thanked—Mr. and Miss Ashby for their kindness in riving members an instructive and pleasant outing.

— January 28th, 1921.—

Mr. Edwin Ashby in the chair.

Captain A. White mentioned that Mr. H. L. White had sent along a second consignment of eggs. The Secretary was instructed to write and thank Mr. H. L. White.

Mr. F. Parsons reported that he, in company with the Secretary, had by kind invitation from Mrs. Angove seen the .Dr. Angove Egg Collection. The collection was a fine one and in. excellent condition.

Messrs. F. Parsons and J. N. McGilp were elected a committee to try and secure this collection for the Association.

Captain S. A. White said he thought the Association should record the good work that Mounted Constable McDonald had done in enforcing the Birds and Animal Act during his stay at Milang. M.C. McDonald has shown ability and energy in securing convictions against offenders of the law. The Secretary was instructed to write M.C. McDonald thanking him for his good work.

Captain S. A. White reported that he had just returned from Ooldea, on Nullabor Plains. He noticed that Mr. A. S. LeSouef claims having observed the Chestnut-faced Owl, Black-backed Wren and Red Throat there, but although Captain White had visited the very blowhole that Mr. A. S. LeSouef had mentioned, he failed to secure the Chestnut-faced Owl. In his opinion the three above-mentioned birds do not inhabit this locality, and Mr. LeSouef was mistaken in his observations.

Mr. J. W. Mellor reported that the White-plumed Honey-eater (the common Greenie) was nesting at Lockleys.

Mr. E. Ashby reported a similar occurrence at Blackwood.

Mr. F. R. Zietz said that a dead cockatoo had been brought to the museum. It appeared to be a cross between the Bare-eyed Cockatoo and the Galah or Rose-breasted Cockatoo. The skin is in the S.A. Museum collection.

Messrs. E. Ashby and J. W. Mellor gave an interesting lecture on the birds of the Ellenbrook, Geraldton, Dongara, and Murchison districts of West Australia. The skins shown were secured while the lecturers were over at the Royal Ornithological Union Congress, held in Perth in October and November, 1920.

Many interesting comparisons were made with skins that Mr. F. R. Zietz had brought along from the S.A. Museum.

Publications received—"Birds of the Americas" from the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, U.S.A.

—February 25th, 1921. —

Mr. Edwin Ashby in the chair.

Letters were received from the Institute of Science and Industry re suspension of their journal; from H. F. and G. Witherby re Manual of Australian Birds, by Mathews and Iredale; from Mr. A. G. Edquist, asking contributors to use italics for the Nomenclature of Birds in their M.S.S.

A number of coloured plates by Neville Caley were handed round for examination and admiration was generally expressed. These plates will form portion of Caley's "Birds of Australia."

The Forest League extended an invitation to members of this Association to attend a meeting to be held on March 2nd., 1921.

Publications received—Report of the Governors of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery of S.A.

Mr. Zietz mentioned that Dr. Pulleine had told him that two Dollar Birds had been seen flying over Netherby.

Mr. S. Sanders reported Swifts flying rapidly on 12th instant.

Dr. Jay mentioned that two or three Bronzewing Pigeons, had been seen in his garden at Burnside.

Professor Cleland said that he had noticed a number of Grass Parrots on Wright Island, at first glance he thought they were *-Neonanodes petrophilus*, on account of their feeding on seeds of the wild tobacco plant growing amongst the rocks on the island, but they were evidently *Neonanodes elegans*, as birds were seen to fly across from the mainland where the latter species was plentiful.

Mr. K. Ashby reported that the Singing Honeyeater and Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike were now at Blackwood. The Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike although destructive to the grape crop was doing much good by eating up the caterpillars and moths that fed on the broom bush.

Messrs. J. W. Mellor, K. Ashby, and R. Crompton all instanced the breeding of the White-plumed Honey-eater (Greenie) at Lockleys, Blackwood, and Burnside respectively.

The rest of the evening was taken up by Messrs. Ashby and Mellor, who continued their lecture on birds of West Australia. A number of fine skins were handed round and compared with skins from the S.A. Museum brought to the meeting by Mr. F.R. Zietz.

Amongst the skins was a fine specimen of the Alfred or Inconspicuous Honey-eater that Mr. Mellor secured on the trip. This was the first opportunity that members, had had of seeing this rare Honey-eater and Mr. Mellor was congratulated on his good work in collecting it.

As time did not permit a full report on Birds of West Australia, Messrs. E. Ashby and Mellor were thanked for an interesting evening and asked to continue the lecture on some future meeting.