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1st JULY, 1923.

[PART 3.

The South Australian Ornithological
Association.

MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—March, 1923.—

The annual general meeting was held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday evening, 23rd March, 1923, at 8 p.m. The President (Professor J. B. Cleland, M.D.) was in the chair, and there were present also Messrs. F. M. Angel, R. C. Beck, A. Crompton, R. Crompton, H. J. Brewster Jones, J. W. Mellor, J. Neil McGilp, F. E. Parsons, S. Sanders, W. W. Weidenbach (Acting Secretary), and Dr. Morgan. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr. J. Sutton and Captain White. The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February were read and confirmed. The consideration of the question as to life membership of the Association was left for the next annual meeting to decide, and members are to be reminded of that in the notice calling the next annual meeting. The statement of receipts and expenditure for the past year (printed elsewhere), as prepared by the Hon. Secretary, was then read, and was adopted by the meeting, on the proposition of Mr. Angel, seconded by Mr. Crompton. The following nominations were received by the Acting Secretary:—

President—Mr. F. E. Parsons

Vice-President—Mr. J. Neil McGilp

Hon. Secretary—Mr. J. Sutton

and they were duly elected to the positions named. Before vacating the chair, Professor Cleland paid a tribute to the Hon. Secretary's work, which tribute was echoed by all the members present. Mr. F. E. Parsons then took the chair:

Editorial Committee.—Discussion took place as to the number required on this Committee, as much time is lost in sending around press copies of the subject-matter of "The S.A. Ornithologist." Professor J. B. Cleland was elected to the Committee, which now also includes Messrs. F. M. Angel, A. G. Edquist, and Captain White. The efforts of the Editorial Committee were much appreciated by the members, and at the instigation of Mr. A. Crompton they were duly thanked.

The discussion on Crows was then taken in hand, under Dr. Morgan's charge. Twelve specimens were exhibited from the Museum, three by Mr. F. E. Parsons, and three by Professor J. B. Cleland. Mr. McGilp said he had noticed that in the North the young bird when born has bluish eyes, and after about four days the eyes change to brown, but when the birds get older, to white. Dr. Morgan had noticed that nestlings near Finniss, S.A., and Geelong, V., had bluish eyes, which became brown when the birds left the nest, and that all adult Crows had white eyes. Professor Cleland stated that on the recent trip to Pearson Island, in the Bight, three Crows were secured, two of which had hackles on the neck and white eyes, whilst one had no hackles and brown irides, but on the last the pharynx was not quite black, but mottled, so it was probably a young bird. It was agreed that the hazel-eyed adult Crow was a myth. Mr. McGilp had noted that Bennett's Crow was much more inclined to eat insects than the Large Crows, and so was a good blowfly-preventer. The Large Crow (or Raven) will only tackle sheep and pick their eyes out if the sheep are unable to move. The specimens exhibited were examined closely. Some had white down on the feathers and hackles on the neck, whilst others had greyish down and hackles. No decision was arrived at by the members, except that it seems that the Large Crow (*Corvus coronoides*) and Raven (*Corvus ceciliae*) are the same bird, and that they cannot be separated by any distinct differences, and that Bennett's Crow (*Corvus bennetti*) was a distinct species.

—April, 1923.—

Minutes of meeting held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday evening, 27th April, at 8 p.m. The President (Mr. F. E. Parsons) was in the chair, and there were also present Messrs. Edwin Ashby, Keith Ashby, F. M. Angel, R. C. Beck, A. Crompton, R. Crompton, A. Lendon, J. W. Mellor, J. Neil McGilp, J. Sutton, W. W. Weidenbach, Dr. A. M. Morgan, and

Captain S. A. White. An apology for non-attendance was received from Professor J. B. Cleland.

Export of Birds.—Mr. McGilp drew attention to the shipment of native birds on the "Medic," and it was resolved, upon the proposal of Mr. J. W. Mellor, seconded by Captain S. A. White, that a letter be written to the Minister of Customs to the effect that this Association regrets very much that permission is still being given for the export of our native birds, and that this Association requests that no further exports of native birds be allowed.

Cormorants.—The President mentioned that he had seen Mr. C. W. Parsons, who has recently been writing to the papers upon the destruction of fish by Cormorants. Mr. C. W. Parsons said his remarks applied only to the big Black Cormorant (*P. carbo*), and not to the Black-and-white (Pied) Cormorant (*P. varius*), which latter feeds on shell-fish. After discussion it was thought better to take no action in the matter, as if a price were placed upon the heads of the Black Cormorants (*P. carbo*) people would not distinguish between the species and would kill all they came across.

Gift of Books.—Mr. C. J. B. Symon has advised that he will present to the Association some pamphlets and bound books on birds in memory of the late Mr. C. E. Cowle, of Illamurta, C.A. On the motion of Mr. J. W. Mellor, seconded by Mr. R. C. Beck, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Symon for his generous gift.

Dr. Casey Wood.—The Hon. Secretary advised that he had met Dr. Casey Wood, the American ornithologist, the previous week, in Melbourne, and that the Doctor had asked him to convey his regrets at not being able to come over to South Australia to meet our ornithologists. Through his wife's indisposition the Doctor had to curtail his Australian tour by two months.

Nightingale.—Mr. Edwin Ashby mentioned that when he arrived here 35 years ago and heard the song of the male Golden-breasted Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*) he recognized in that bird's song some notes like those of the Nightingale. In 1914, when piloting Mr. A. H. Evans, of the British Ornithological Association, through the bush, a male Golden-breasted Whistler gave its song, and Mr. Evans exclaimed, "There's a Nightingale."

Photographs of Birds.—The remainder of the evening was spent in examining some beautiful photographs of birds and nests exhibited by Mr. J. Neil McGilp. Dr. Morgan and Captain White also exhibited some fine photographs of bird life.

Correspondence.—A letter from the Consul-General of France at Sydney, inquiring on behalf of the Paris Museum for a copy of "The S.A. Ornithologist," and the terms of subscription for same, was placed on the table. It was decided to supply a copy gratis, and to advise that the subscription to the magazine is 8s. per annum.

—May, 1923.—

Minutes of meeting held at the Royal Society's Rooms on Friday, 25th May, 1923, at 8 p.m. The President (Mr. F. E. Parsons) was in the chair, and there were present also Messrs. Edwin Ashby, J. W. Mellor, W. M. Morgan, J. Neil McGilp, and J. Sutton, Professor J. B. Cleland, and Dr. A. M. Morgan. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs. K. Ashby, H. J. Brewster Jones, and Captain S. A. White.

Correspondence.—The following letters were placed on the table:—The Consul-General of France, Sydney, acknowledging the receipt of "The S.A. Ornithologist," which had been sent on to the Paris Museum with particulars as to the subscription. From the Acting Comptroller-General, Commonwealth of Australia, advising that the representations with regard to the export of birds from Australia in our letter of 28th April, 1923, were having consideration. From Mr. Arthur Lea, on behalf of Mrs. F. M. Littler, High Street, Launceston, offering the issued numbers of Gregory Mathews' "Birds of Australia" for sale at half-price. The books are unused, with the first two volumes bound, and were the property of her late husband, Mr. F. M. Littler.

R.A.O.U. Check List.—On the motion of Professor J. B. Cleland, seconded by Mr. J. W. Mellor, it was unanimously agreed "That this Association desires strongly to support Mr. Edwin Ashby's suggestion, made at the last Congress, that in the new Check List, as regards each species, the names of the sub-species and synonyms be given consecutive letters—a, b, c, etc.—for the convenience of those who are interested in the subject of sub-species." The resolution is to be conveyed to the R.A.O.U.

Bird Maps.—A further lot of cards were handed out. They related to species of birds seen on a recent trip to Buckland Park.

Gift.—The four bound volumes of North's "Nests and Eggs of Birds Breeding in Australia," and the pamphlets, the gift of Mr. C. J. B. Symon, and referred to in last month's minutes, were placed on the table, and were greatly appre-

South Australian Ornithological Association.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1923.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance Brought Forward	40	4 9	By Printing "S.A. Ornithologist" for the Year ..	30	6 11
" Members' Subscriptions Paid—			" Printing Circular to Members	0	8 6
For Year 1921-22	3	15 0	" Postages	3	2 2
For Year 1922-23	29	6 3	" Cost of 240 Post-cards (30s.) and Printing		
For Year 1923-24	1	10 0	Notice thereon (10s. 6d.)	2	0 6
" Entrance Fees—			" Purchase of Complete Set of "The Emu"		
For Year 1921-22	0	15 0	from Mrs. F. R. Zietz	4	10 0
For Year 1923-24	0	5 0	" Binding the Copies of "The Emu," 21 Volumes		
" Subscriptions to "S.A. Ornithologist"—			and Index	5	12 8
For Years 1916-20	2	0 0	" Binding in 3 Volumes the Parts of "The S.A.		
For Year 1921	2	0 0	Ornithologist" issued	0	15 9
For Year 1922	2	16 0	" Subscription to the "Aves" for 1921 and 1922,		
For Year 1923	2	0 0	issued by the Zoological Society of London,		
" Sales of Back Numbers of "The S.A. Ornitho-			15s.; cost of Money Order, 9d.	0	15 9
logist"	3	19 0	" Rent of the Royal Society's Room	1	1 0
" Sale of Old Egg-boxes	2	6 4	" Fee for Occupation of Miscellaneous Permit		
" Interest on Savings Bank Account to 7th			No. 662, Coorong, to 31/5/1923	0	1 0
June, 1922, at 4½ per cent. per annum . . .	1	11 4	" Stationery and Sundries	1	4 ½
" Stamps and Post-cards on Hand	1	4 11	" Exchange and Stamps on Cheques	0	1 5
			" Balance Carried Forward—		
			Savings Bank Account	£42	8 8
			Stamps and Post-cards on Hand	1	4 11
			<u>43</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>
	<u>£93</u>	<u>13 7</u>		<u>£93</u>	<u>13 7</u>

J. SUTTON, Hon. Secretary.

ciated by the members. The books will be a splendid addition to our Library.

Sericornes.—Mr. Mellor then gave a short address on the Sericornes, or Scrub-Wrens. The exhibits represented the following species:—*S. lathamii*, Yellow-throated Scrub-Wren; *S. frontalis*, White-shouldered Scrub-Wren; *S. magnirostris*, Large-billed Scrub-Wren; *S. tyrannula*, Northern Scrub-Wren; *S. humilis*, Brown Scrub-Wren; *S. maculata*, Spotted Scrub-Wren. Many sub-species were shown by Messrs. J. W. Mellor, Edwin Ashby, and F. E. Parsons, Professor J. B. Cleland, and Dr. Morgan.
