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# South Australian Ornithologist.

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[PART I.

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## The South Australian Ornithological Association.

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### MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—June, 1924.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Room on Friday evening, 27th June, 1924, at 8 p.m. The President (Mr. J. Neil McGilp) was in the chair.

Collecting of Birds.—With regard to the resolution on this subject passed at the last meeting, Mr. Edwin Ashby now notified that one of our members had generously offered to contribute half of the cost of the publication of the articles, and, on the motion of Mr. F. M. Angel, seconded by Mr. W. W. Weidenbach, it was carried unanimously "That, as funds are now assured, the Editorial Committee take in hand the preparation for publication of the articles on 'Collecting' now in our hands."

Mr. Edwin Ashby was in charge of the subject for evening—"On Some of the Wading Birds." Specimens were shown from the collections of Messrs. Ashby and Parsons and the S.A. Museum.

- \**Squatarola squatarola*, Grey Plover.
- \**Pluvialis dominicus*, Lesser Golden Plover.
- \**Charadrius bicinctus*, Double-banded Dotterel.
- Charadrius leschenaulti*, Large Sand Dotterel.
- Charadrius mongolus*, Mongolian Sand Dotterel.
- Charadrius veredus*, Oriental Dotterel.
- \**Charadrius ruficapillus*, Red-capped Dotterel.
- \**Charadrius cucullatus*, Hooded Dotterel.
- \**Charadrius melanops*, Black-fronted Dotterel.
- \**Peltohyas australis*, Australian Dotterel.

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\*Indicates that specimens of those species taken in S.A. were exhibited.

—July, 1924.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Room on Friday evening, 25th July, 1924, at 8 p.m. The Vice-President (Dr. A. M. Morgan) was in the chair.

Captain S. A. White advised the members the annual meeting of the R.A.O.U. would be held at Rockhampton on 14th October next, and that the usual camp-out for ten days would be at Yipoon. Any members desiring to make the trip should get in touch with him as soon as possible.

As the August meeting would have clashed with the meeting of the Congress of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science it was decided not to hold a meeting of our Association in August.

Mr. Edwin Ashby was in charge of the subject of the evening, "More of the Wading Birds." Specimens from his own collection and that of the S.A. Museum (per Dr. A. M. Morgan) were exhibited. The following species were discussed:—

- Numenius cyanopus*, Curlew.
- Numenius phaeopus*, Whimbrel.
- \**Mesoscolopax minutus*, Little Whimbrel.
- Limosa lapponica*, Bar-tailed Godwit.
- \**Limosa limosa*, Black-tailed Godwit.
- Totanus stagnatilis*, Little Greenshank.
- Heteroscelus brevipes*, Grey-tailed Tattler.
- \**Actitis hypoleucos*, Common Sandpiper.
- Terekia cinerea*, Terek Sandpiper.
- \**Glottis nebularius*, Greenshank.
- \**Rhyacophilus glarcolus*, Wood Sandpiper.
- Bartramia longicauda*, Upland Plover.
- Crocethia alba*, Sanderling.
- \**Pisobia ruficollis*, Red-necked Stint.
- \**Pisobia acuminata*, Sharp-tailed Stint.
- \**Erolia ferruginea*, Curlew Sandpiper.
- Calidris canutus*, Knot
- \**Gallinago hardwicki*, Australian Snipe.
- \**Rostratula australis*, Australian Painted Snipe.
- Trediparra gallinacea*, Jacana.
- \**Stiltia isabella*, Australian Pratincole.
- \**Glaucola maldivarum*, Oriental Pratincole.

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\*Indicates that specimens of those species taken in S.A. were exhibited.

—September, 1924.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Room on Friday evening, 26th September, 1924, at 8 p.m. The President (Mr. J. Neil McGilp) was in the chair.

Close Season.—The President advised that the Executive had decided that as the matter was important a letter had been sent to the Minister of Agriculture protesting against the proposal to open the shooting season for ducks on 21st December next instead of the usual date of 1st February. The President stated that the Field Shooters' Association were in accord with our views on the subject, and it was decided that a letter should be sent to that Association thanking them for their co-operation. The action of the Executive was confirmed.

Bird Trophy.—A letter was received from the Angas Plains School Bird Club notifying that their Club had won the S.A.O.A. Bird Trophy for the second time in succession. Master Kenneth Giles was the successful member. It was decided to congratulate the Club and print the winning essay in "The S.A. Ornithologist."

Bird Notes.—Records:—

*Ptilotis fusca dingi*.—Professor J. B. Cleland pointed out that this species had been overlooked as recorded for this State. On 30th May, 1911, he secured a female bird on the Murray Flats between Truro and Blanchetown. The skin was sent to Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, who described it as a new subspecies under the above name in Nov. Zool., XVIII, p. 404, 31st January, 1912. The bird is described with full data and figured by Mathews in his "Birds of Australia," XI, part 7, pp. 438-9.

*Cuckoos*.—The President reported that on 22nd September, 1924, at the Grange, he obtained an egg of *Cacomantis flabelliformis*, the Fan-tailed Cuckoo, in a nest with one egg of *Sericornis maculata*, Spotted Scrub-Wren; and on the same date and at the same place an egg of *Mesocalius osculans*, the Black-eared Cuckoo, in a nest with one egg of *Sericornis maculata*. This latter find is a new record for this State.

*Eurostopodus guttatus*, Spotted Nightjar.—Dr. A. M. Morgan reported that there were two eggs of this species in the Museum Collection taken in this State—one from Cowarie Station, near Lake Blanche, and the other from Turner's Well, near Bow Hill, River Murray.

The subject for the evening was an address by Professor J. B. Cleland on the birds seen on a trip to Cordillo Downs Station in May last. It will be printed in next number.

—October, 1924.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Room on Friday evening, 31st October, 1924, at 8 p.m.

In the unavoidable absence of the President (Mr. J. Neil McGilp) and the Vice-President (Dr. A. M. Morgan), the chair was taken by Captain S. A. White.

Close Season.—A letter was received from Mr. C. E. W. Parsons, the Hon. Secretary of the Field Shooters' Association, on the subject of the opening of the duck-shooting season on 21st December next. It was moved by Mr. A. Crompton, seconded by Mr. C. Pearce, and carried, "That this Association take part in the opposition to the alteration of date of opening and do our utmost to prevent such alteration." It was decided to invite Mr. Parsons to attend our next meeting. It was also decided to suggest to that Association that a deputation wait on the Minister of Agriculture, and the following were appointed to represent our Association:—Messrs. J. Neil McGilp and F. E. Parsons and Captain S. A. White.

The following resolution was then passed for communication to the press:—"That no alteration be made in the opening of the close season for duck, as the opening on 1st February, 1925, would be in the interest of all concerned, but if the season is opened unduly early—as the date of 21st December is so considered—it will mean that in a few years no ducks will be available. Our Association desires it to be known that professional shooters are not permitted in Victoria, and no ducks shot in Victoria are allowed to be sold there, consequently whilst the season for shooting is open in South Australia, great quantities of ducks are sent from this State, and in February, 1923, no less than 4½ tons of ducks—partly cleaned—were dispatched to Victoria from this State. If the date of the opening be altered to 21st December, as proposed by the Government, as a result of the deputation representing '800 sportsmen,' it will mean the possibility of a holocaust such as that just mentioned during 42 more days in the year."

The subject for the evening was "The Birds of Port Lincoln District and Some from the East of the Murray," by Professor J. B. Cleland. The list will appear in next number.