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The South Australian Ornithological Association.

MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—March, 1926.—

The annual meeting was held at the Royal Society's Room on Friday evening, 26th March, 1926, at 8 p.m. The President for the past year (Dr. A. M. Morgan) was in the chair.

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 26th February, 1926, were read and confirmed.

The statement of receipts and expenditure was read by the Hon. Secretary, and, on the motion of Mr. J. W. Mellor, seconded by Mr. J. Neil McGilp, it was adopted.

The following office-bearers were duly elected to the positions placed against their names:—President, Mr. Alfred Crompton; Vice-President, Mr. Edwin Ashby; Hon. Secretary, Mr. John Sutton; Editorial Committee, Professor J. B. Cleland and Messrs. F. M. Angel and A. G. Edquist. Delegates to the S.A. Advisory Committee on Export of Fauna, Messrs. J. Sutton and F. E. Parsons.

The members heard of the illness of the incoming President with regret, and the Hon. Secretary was instructed to convey a message of sympathy to him on their behalf.

On the motion of Mr. J. W. Mellor, seconded by Mr. J. Neil McGilp, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Dr. A. M. Morgan for his services as President during the past year, and he was voted to the chair for the evening in the unavoidable absence of the President and Vice-President.

*Cattle Island, Coorong.*—A letter was received from the Secretary of Lands, under date of 17th March, 1926, informing

us that the Department had been advised that Island C, known as Cattle Island, held by our Association with other islands under Annual Licence 662, is overrun with rabbits and is also accessible to foxes. In these circumstances it is considered that the island can be of very little use for the preservation of native birds, and unless some arrangements can be made with our Association to keep this island (and any other land held from the Crown for similar purposes) free of vermin, it is suggested that same should be surrendered, in order that the areas may be dealt with, so that a covenant for the destruction of vermin can be included in the conditions of any other tenure granted.

In the discussion that took place, some of the older members stated that some years ago Cattle Island was surrendered, and that statement seems to be borne out by the proclamations in the "Government Gazette" of 19th December, 1911, and 1st May, 1924, wherein Cattle Island is excepted from the islands in the Corong as a sanctuary, and in our Association's letter of 10th July, 1925, to the Chief Inspector of Fisheries, we stated (*inter alia*) "that we trust that all the islands and waters within a radius of 400 yards thereof will still remain sanctuaries, except Cattle Island."

It was decided that the matter be left in the hands of Dr. A. M. Morgan and the Hon. Secretary to send a suitable reply.

Exhibits.—Exhibits of 40 photographs of Australian bird-life kindly forwarded to the Hon. Secretary by Mr. A. H. Chisholm were examined by the members and greatly appreciated.

Subject.—The subject for the evening was an account of an ornithological trip to North-East Eyre Peninsula, prepared by the Hon. Secretary and read by him. The birds taken during the trip, and loaned by the S.A. Museum, were exhibited, and their special features were pointed out by Dr. A. M. Morgan.

—April, 1926.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Room on Friday evening, 30th April, 1926, at 8 p.m. The President (Mr. Alfred Crompton) was in the chair.

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th March, 1926, were read and confirmed.

New Members.—The following were duly proposed and seconded for membership:—Mr. Edward Cantwell, of Warwick Street, Walkerville; Mr. S. Harvey, jun., of "St. Austell," Northgate Street, Millswood; Mr. J. B. Shekleton, of "Mt. Charlotte," Hilltown; Master Howard A. Stevens, of 97 Lefevre Terrace, North Adelaide.

"S.A. Ornithologist."—The following new subscribers were obtained during the past month:—Mr. Lewis G. Morris, of Beehive Building, King William Street, Adelaide; Miss M. A. Parkhouse, of Woodville Road, Woodville; Mr. R. G. Ribbons, of Pinnaroo; Miss I. M. Vohr, of 27 Watson Avenue, Rose Park.

Bird Notes.—It was decided, after discussion, that for the future all Bird Notes supplied by members should be read at a monthly meeting prior to their being submitted to the Editors for publication. This was to be done so that the members could discuss the records mentioned in the notes.

Kangaroo Island Emu.—It was decided to allow Professor Cleland to make arrangements with Professor Howchin with regard to the publication in the "S.A. Ornithologist" of the latter's paper on the finding of two bones of the extinct Kangaroo Island Emu, which were presented to the S.A. Museum in January, 1903.

The Hon. Secretary reported that the following bones of that extinct Emu were now in the S.A. Museum:—

- (1) Presented in January, 1903, by Professor W. Howchin—  
A tibio-tarsus and a tarso-metatarsus of a young Emu, found at Hawk's Nest, near the south coast.
- (2) Presented by Mr. F. W. Giles, in September and October, 1907—Two portions of tibio-tarsi and a portion of a femur; place of finding not stated. Three fragments of vertebrae, portion of a femur of a young bird, found at Cape de Couedie; and presented on 21st March, 1911, portion of a rib found at Cape de Couedie.
- (3) Presented by Mr. N. B. Tindale on 8th February, 1926—  
Three femora, four tibio-tarsi, three tarso-metatarsi, found near the mouth of the Eleanor River, Vivonne Bay, on 28th January, 1926.
- (4) Presented by Messrs. H. M. Hale and N. B. Tindale on 9th February, 1926—Four tibio-tarsi and a portion of a pelvis, found in a cave at Kelly's Hill on 6th February, 1926.
- (5) Presented by Mr. Edward Burgess on 9th February, 1926—Four pelves, three fibulae, three humeri, two coraco-scapulae, four femora, 13 portions of vertebrae, seven phalanges, four tibio-tarsi, three tarso-metatarsi, 30 ribs, and portions of upper mandibles, found in caves at Kelly's Hill in November, 1925.

It was decided, after discussion, that a letter should be sent to the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery of S.A. asking when the report by the Hon. Ornithologist on the bones of the now extinct Kangaroo Island Emu in the custody of the S.A. Museum is likely to be available, as Australian ornithologists are eagerly awaiting the result of this inquiry.

The subject for the evening was the birds of Kangaroo Island. Accounts of recent trips to that island were read by Professor Cleland and the Hon. Secretary, and exhibits were shown from the collections of Professor Cleland and the S.A. Museum.

—May, 1926.—

The monthly meeting was held at the Royal Society's Room on Friday evening, 28th May, 1926, at 8 p.m.

The President (Mr. Alfred Crompton) was in the chair.

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th April were read and confirmed.

New Members.—The following, proposed at the last meeting, were duly elected:—Messrs. Edward Cantwell, S. Harvey, jun., J. B. Shekleton, and Master Howard A. Stevens. The following were duly proposed and seconded:—Mr. John C. Hawker, of "Anania," Clare, S.A.; Mr. C. H. Russell, of Lynwood Farm, Halidon, S.A.

The following new subscriber to the "S.A. Ornithologist" was placed on the list during the month:—The Lloyd Library, Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A.

Death of Mrs. S. A. White.—A resolution of deep sympathy with Captain S. A. White in his sad bereavement was passed by the members, and the Hon. Secretary was directed to convey the same to him.

Cattle Island, Coorong.—The Hon. Secretary reported that he had tendered one shilling on 4th instant at the Lands Titles Office for the rent of the islands in the Coorong under Annual Licence 662, but it had not been taken, and that he interviewed the Secretary for Lands on 6th instant. That gentleman stated that he had not seen our letter of 10th July, 1925, to the Chief Inspector of Fisheries until lately. The Chief Inspector had advised him that Cattle Island must be reserved as a sanctuary. The Secretary for Lands said that he would go thoroughly into the matter and probably excise Cattle Island from our licence; meanwhile our interests would be protected and no penalties would be incurred.

Kangaroo Island Emu.—A letter was read from the General Secretary of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery of S.A., dated 8th instant, in reply to our letter of 3rd instant, on the subject of the bones of the Kangaroo Island Emu in the S.A. Museum. The General Secretary advised that the matter would be placed before the Museum Committee. Dr. A. M. Morgan, Hon. Ornithologist to the S.A. Museum, has since been asked by the Museum Committee to undertake the investigation of the bones and to report on them.

The Hon. Secretary reported that as a result of a visit from 21st to 23rd May, 1926, by Professor F. Wood Jones, Dr. A. M. Morgan, and Mr. Eldridge to Kelly's Hill caves with Mr. Edward Burgess more bones of the Emu had been found, viz., almost a complete skeleton of one bird, five pelves and four portions of pelves, eight femora and one femur shaft, 10 tibio-tarsi (one broken), ten tarso-metatarsi and one shaft, eight fibulae, 38 ribs, three humeri, part of a carpus, 26 vertebrae, one sternum, one coraco-scapula, one coracoid, portion of a skull, nine toe bones, and 11 cervical ribs.

Bird Notes.—Bird Notes were handed in by Messrs. J. W. Mellor, J. B. Shekleton, J. Sutton, and Dr. A. M. Morgan.

Subject for the Evening.—Mr. Edwin Ashby was in charge, and he described the fauna of the Murrayville district and the fauna and flora of the Grampians. Time did not permit of the address being completed, but what was given was greatly appreciated by members.

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ERRATUM.—By an inadvertence, the author's name (J. Sutton) was omitted at the head of the article on North-East Eyre Peninsula, in our last issue.