

Clermont.—3rd January, 1904.—Bee-eaters feeding four young ones on my garden fence, Clermont.

Langton.—8th January.—Quail very numerous on volcanic downs, especially small chestnut-throated variety. Caught young ones.—J. B. C. FORD. Clermont (Q.), 15/1/04.

From Magazines, &c.

At a meeting of the Linnean Society of N.S. Wales, held 27th April, 1904 (see Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., vol. xxix., part 1, p. 130) Mr. A. J. North exhibited, amongst other interesting northern Finches, the rare *Munia flaviprymna* (Gould) and *Poephila atropygialis* (Diggles), recording that he considered *P. nigrotecta* (Hartert) is a synonym of the latter species—a conclusion previously pointed out in another work.*

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MR. G. A. KEARTLAND is the proud possessor of the only known clutch (two eggs) of the scarce Guttated Bower-Bird (*Chlamydera guttata*). One egg was previously described by Mr. A. J. North. The description of the second, by the same author, has appeared in the "Records of the Australian Museum," vol. v., p. 131 (1904), together with an illustration (plate xvi.) of a nest, the usual flattish, twig-built structure characteristic of the genera. The nest was found during January, 1903, in a native orange tree (*Capparis*), and contained three young.

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MR. J. C. GOUDIE contributes an agreeable article—"A Summer in South Gippsland"—to the *Victorian Naturalist* (August, 1904), wherein he records some of his pleasant reminiscences of forest-loving birds. On climbing a few feet to look into a Lyre-Bird's nest he was anticipated by meeting "eye to eye" a tiger snake gliding out instead of seeing the wonderful *Menura*. Mr. Goudie mentions having seen a small company of Ground-Wrens (*Hylacola cauta*). This bird has never been previously recorded so far east, it being a dweller of the Mallee and more western parts. However, Mr. Goudie hails from the Mallee himself, and with his good field experience he should be familiar with both the species named and its congener, *H. pyrrhopygia*.

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THE rediscovery of the Ewing Tit (*Acanthiza ewingi*), as recorded at the Hobart Session of the Aust. O.U.,† has raised considerable interest. According to the Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S. Wales, vol. xxix., part 1 (issued 10th August, 1904), p. 58, Mr. A. J. North exhibited at a meeting of the Society held 30th March, 1904, skins, nest, and eggs of *A. ewingi*, together with those of *Acanthornis magna*. The birds, it was stated, were received in the

* Campbell, "Nests and Eggs," p. 496 (1900).

† *Emu*, vol. iii., pp. 159 and 162.

flesh by the Trustees of the Australian Museum two years previously. With regard to the Ewing Tit, had Mr. North critically examined the birds sooner, he would, no doubt, have anticipated the work of the Aust. O.U. at Hobart. Possibly the fact that he has been in ill-health for a long time, and has had to entrust much of his work to others, may account for the oversight.

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Bulletin of the Philippine Museum (No. 4, issued 15th May, 1904) contains a comprehensive paper by Mr. Richard C. M'Gregor on "The Birds of Calayan and Fuga, Babuyan Group." Mr. M'Gregor, who visited the islands, deals in a scientific style with a collection of over 1,000 skins, which was made on Calayan and Fuga, which belong to a group of small islands due north of Luzon. A few species from Luzon and other islands are also dealt with in their proper place.

The following species are described as new, viz.:—*Turnix worcesteri*, *Macropygia phæa*, *Otus cuyensis*, *Otus calayensis*, *Eudynamis frater*, *Zosterops flavissima*, *Hyloterpe fallax*; while 15 species are enumerated as new for the Philippines. The skins of *Turnix worcesteri* and *Hyloterpe fallax* are figured in accompanying photo-blocks. Strange to state, the type-specimen of the former (an adult female) was purchased in the Manila Market—date, 30th August, 1902.

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The Avicultural Magazine.—The July issue (vol. ii., No. 9) lacks the coloured plate which has been such a prominent feature of this publication of late, but as a well-subscribed-to fund has been initiated to continue the series it will not be long before these admirable pictures are continued. (In this connection the question arises, Is the mother-land once more taking a leaf from the book of her Austral daughter?) Save the continuation of the article on Bronze-wing Pigeons (noticed elsewhere) there is not much to interest Australian readers in the present issue. Some nest-boxes to encourage the breeding of birds are photographed, and call to mind some much rougher, and possibly equally effective, ones seen by the Melbourne members of the Aust. O.U. who visited Adelaide some two years ago, and had the opportunity of seeing what members of the Mellor family were doing for the native birds.

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Bird-Lore.—The Herring Gull forms the subject of an illustrated article in the May-June number (vol. vi., pp. 86-88). The writers describe the colonies of these birds on Lake Superior. Other articles in the magazine deal with "A Tamed Ruffed Grouse," "A Blue Jay Household," and "Tree-Swallows in a Bird-Box." In addition to the usual budget of news for American ornithologists there are two good coloured plates of members of the Warbler family. Yellow seems the predominating colour in them all. Dealing with the necessity

for accuracy in all observations of bird life, Mrs. Mabel Osgood Wright (one of the editors of the "Audubon Societies' Section"), referring more particularly to "popular" writings on the subject, says:—"In all nature work, and especially in all investigations relating to birds and their protection, should the greatest accuracy be maintained." It is hardly possible to miss the point of this.

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The Geelong Naturalist.—Under the title "A Record Clutch of Emu Eggs" this magazine (pp. 25, 26) records an excursion by Messrs. G. Russell, H. Anderson, and Yuille, during which (the former records) they found an Emu's nest containing 19 eggs, and also a brood of young Emus feeding with the hen. "With some difficulty I caught one or two to bring with me to rear as pets, but they all died within a fortnight." In a subsequent paragraph, headed "Emu of Tasmania," the Rev. T. J. Ewing, F.L.S., &c., is quoted as having listed the Tasmanian Emu as of the same species as the mainland one (*Dromæus novæ-hollandiæ*). A record is given (quoted from *Launceston Advertiser*, 26/10/37) that importations of these birds had been made from Australia 70 years ago, and the sentence goes on to say—"If these birds were prolific (referring to two offered for sale by Mr. G. Fisher on same date) may be they were the original stock of most of those domesticated in Tasmania in 1852, when, as Ronald Gunn states, tame Emus of Australian breed were common in the island."

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IN the May issue of *The Avicultural Magazine* Mr. E. L. Bertling, head keeper of the Zoological Society's Gardens, contributes some notes on the nesting habits of the Brush-Turkey (*Catharturus lathamii*). Up to the time his paper was written no young had been hatched. The author is surprised "that many of the eggs do not get broken, considering the rough treatment they undergo by being stamped upon, as they are particularly thin-shelled;" but what has puzzled him most is the question "How does the male know the exact moment that the female is about to lay? for he opens the heap at the right moment. Is it purely instinct, or an absolute knowledge of the lapse of time?" "On the Difficulty of Sexing the Bichenov Finch" (*Stictoptera bichenovii*) is the title of a paper by Arthur G. Butler, Ph.D., who considers that "the true sexual differences" have yet to be discovered. Writing on a preference shown by Bower-Birds in captivity for blue, and recording an experiment he made at the Zoo with pieces of red, pink, and two shades of blue cloth, Mr. A. E. L. Bertling asks the interesting question—"Is there any connection between their preference for blue and the brilliant blue of their eyes, which is a colour seldom found in birds or mammals except as a sport or in a few domestic species?" Has the same preference for blue been observed amongst birds in a wild state?

WESTERN N.S. WALES IN 1859-60.—In the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland* (vol. xviii.), recently to hand, is a paper read before the society on 17th October, 1903, recording a trip which the author made from Sydney to what was then the "Never Never" of New South Wales—somewhere about Dubbo and Fort Bourke, as it was then known. Until the left bank of the Barwon River was reached, 20 days after the party had left Sydney, no bird-life save Budgerygars and Galas had been noted; but here reed-beds occurred—"which gave shelter to innumerable wild-fowl. . . . On the clear water hundreds of Ducks and other aquatic birds floated lazily. . . . Numbers of White Cockatoos screamed discordantly at us from the branches above our heads, and some of the Budgerygars and Galas, which were so numerous along our track through the dry country, were there to give us a welcome. Of Crows and Hawks we saw but few, but pretty Crested Pigeons were not uncommon. . . . the little 'Shepherd's Companions,' called Jerica-jerica by the blacks, were with us always."

[I was in the neighbourhood of Orange, a village (then) through which Mr. Norton passed, until 1863, and regret exceedingly that in the fertile tract surrounding that now prosperous town he had not time to observe the many birds. We schoolboys saw far more than he did.—H. K.]

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MELANISM AND ALBINISM IN BIRDS.—Dr. A. G. Butler, in continuing a study in the *Avicultural Magazine* (June, 1904, vol. iii., No. 8, p. 242), which was begun in the *Proc. Zool. Soc.*, pp. 282-287, deals with this most interesting problem. He had originally contended that there was strong evidence to show that the first bright colours produced were from blue to black, and from yellow to white, and that white indicated delicacy of constitution if acquired by reversion. In a later number of *The Zoologist* he contended that "albinism in birds is due to constitutional weakness," and in the article under notice he pursues the theme. Melanochroism in old age he is now convinced is the result of unusual constitutional vigour. The theory, so often held, that melanism is produced amongst birds by unsuitable food in captivity he does not favour, but says:—"If melanism were due to unnatural conditions apart from vigour of constitution, albinism might also be the result of artificial conditions apart from delicacy of constitution." Some of the arguments in support of his contention seem very feasible; but, after all, one feels that only the beginning of the problem has been attacked. Many instances of melanism and albinism are on record amongst our own birds—specimens of both phases exist amongst collections—and the matter is one on which so much further light is needed that it is to be hoped other observers will devote some time to the study.

SOME "AUDUBON" WORK.—One of the most praiseworthy features of the work of the Audubon Societies of U.S.A. is the constant endeavour they make to keep their aims before the public. During the last year or so no less than 10 "educational leaflets," one of them (No. 3) in duplicate, and two introductory pamphlets have been issued. These, though published one by one in *Bird-Lore*, are intended for use in schools, and are admirably adapted for the purpose. In the leaflets every possible detail of each bird is given, all its known habits as well, and the reasons why it should be protected. Eight of the leaflets are from the pen of Mr. W. Dutcher, whose name is recognized as that of an authority all over the world. One preparatory leaflet ("Ornithology in Schools") was written by Mr. Wilson Tout as a paper for the Nebraska O.U., and the first leaflet, on the Night-Hawk, is contributed by Mr. F. E. L. Beal, Economic Ornithologist to the U.S.A. Department of Agriculture. Most careful investigations have been made as to the food of each species figured and described, and though the results are presented in a statistical form, it is one which is readily "understood of the many." As Mr. Tout says, "the small boy is one of the chief offenders," and we here in Australasia should recognize the fact, and, in taking precautions against his inroads, emulate the good example set by our North American brethren.

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The Ibis for July (1904) contains an article "On the Birds Collected by Mr. Robert Hall, of Melbourne, on the Banks of the Lena River between GigaLOWA and its Mouth," by Ernst Hartert, Ph.D., F.Z.S., with an introduction and field notes by Robert Hall, C.M.Z.S. Eighty-two species are catalogued, and three interesting nesting-places, *in situ*, from photographs, are given, but unfortunately the block depicting the nest of *Emberiza aureola* has been placed upside down.

In his preface Dr. Hartert states that "the collection made by Mr. Hall on the Lena is of great interest, as our knowledge of the details of distribution of birds in Siberia is very limited. It is interesting to note the forms of the Upper Lena differ in some cases from those of the lower portion of the river. Near GigaLOWA forms inhabiting the Baikal district were found breeding, while the specimens from further north are referable to the North Siberian sub-species.

"The journey having been rapidly made, and the collections having been entirely formed along the river, Mr. Hall can only have obtained specimens of a portion of the birds that inhabit that district of Eastern Siberia, and this is hardly sufficient to give us an idea of the avifauna, except so far as it is exhibited in summer on the river bank. The skins are mostly much worn and badly prepared, so that some difficulty often presents itself in making out the sub-species in question. Never-

theless the collection increases our knowledge of Siberian ornithology considerably, and we are much indebted to Mr. Hall for his energetic enterprise in making it."

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IN the "Records of the Australian Museum," vol. v., p. 125 (1904), Mr. A. J. North describes a new Thickhead—*Pachycephala howensis*—from Lord Howe Island, which is closely allied to *P. gutturalis* of Australia. Mr. North also refers to a variety found in South Australia which he believes to be intermediate between *P. gutturalis* and *P. occidentalis*, and for which he proposes the name *P. meriodinalis*. The new variety is like the Western bird—*P. occidentalis*—"but has the basal portion of the tail feathers of a slightly darker grey and the blackish-brown apical band darker and broader."

Is not this another case of hair-splitting as to nomenclature? Such widely different environments as those of the Western Australian Thickhead referred to and those of such a much more eastern and much more isolated species as the one recorded from Lord Howe Island—an ocean-surrounded habitat—are probably more than sufficient to account for greater differences in the plumage of any given species than those described. When an intermediate species is acknowledged, as by Mr. North in this case, are not the probabilities that this question should be answered in the affirmative all the greater? Differences in closely allied species (see Mr. A. W. Milligan's paper in this issue, page 48) are "not always constant or apparent," and there seems no doubt that mature and immature birds have been classed as different species. Mr. Milligan records "many variations in the colour of *P. occidentalis*, which have been more or less relied upon as distinguishing characteristics in allied members of the genus." Hence arises another question which must be considered—Are the specimens newly named a fair average of, say, a whole year's collection (which would include every phase of plumage) or are they (possibly it only) some which have been obtained during only one month in the year? It is questionable whether plumage phases have had due attention paid to them by collectors of Australian birds, and again more manifest that a great deal of revision on the part of the "Check-List" Committee of the Aust. O.U. will be required.

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THE STRAW-NECKED IBIS (*Carphibis spinicollis*).—A curious example of the economy of nature has been given in the Western District of late years, in connection with the grub pest. A small yellowish grub, about three-quarters of an inch long, began to play havoc with the pastures, revelling in the richer soils. This grub burrows just beneath the surface of the soil, and cuts off the stems of the grass, which then, of course, dry up, and are blown away. The grubs begin work in the early autumn, and keep on until the winter rains kill them off. Two years ago

the autumn was a very dry one, and little rain fell until June. The grubs did a lot of damage; but they were hardly at work before large flocks of the well-known Straw-necked Ibis came along, from the north, and commenced a strong attack on them. As the autumn wore on, the flocks increased both in number and size, until, in a single paddock, there would be some thousands of the birds at work. As the Ibis is a big bird, he consumes a huge quantity of grubs, and he seems to feed pretty well all day. At that time, driving anywhere along the roads through the grub-infested districts, huge flocks of Ibises could be seen covering two or three acres at a time—one solid regiment of birds, all diligently plunging their long bills into the soft earth. At sundown they furnished a very pretty spectacle as they flew, in immense flocks, up into the timbered country, where they roosted. The writer one evening counted seven huge flocks in the air at once. Although big and rather ungainly birds, the Ibises can fly splendidly, and when they get up from their feeding-grounds they rise several hundred feet into the air before they set out for their destination. They fly in long—and usually double—strings, shaped like a V, with the point in the direction they are flying. But the flocks are so huge and unwieldy that it is rarely that the V formation is properly kept. Sometimes there is an undulating single string stretching out for hundreds of yards. At first the grazier welcomed the Ibis, and guarded him almost as jealously as the ancient Egyptians used to protect their Sacred Ibis. But it was found that the birds tore the ground about so much searching for the grubs that it was doubtful whether the cure was not as bad as the disease. Last year the grubs were not so bad, and the rains came early, with the result that very few Ibises arrived, although there are still a few grubs about. Whether by some instinct the Ibises have got to know that there is nothing much for them down here, or whether, owing to better seasons, they have now good feeding grounds further north, is an open question. — "F.R.," *The Australasian*, 6/8/04.

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THE BRUSH BRONZE-WING PIGEON. — Mr. D. Seth-Smith, F.Z.S., in notes on the habits in captivity of some specimens of these birds (*Avicultural Magazine*, May, 1904) gives what he calls "the miserable history of, possibly, the first young Brush Bronze-wing Pigeon hatched in England." Three birds were procured in January last, and placed in a warmed aviary. "High up in this aviary were some large bundles of brushwood, securely fastened to the walls and roof, and on these the Bronze-wings commenced to build a nest in earnest within two or three days of their arrival from a London dealer's shop. All three seemed to be building the nest together at first." One cock seeming the more favoured bird, the other was removed. "Nest-building now went on in earnest, the hen remaining aloft while the cock fetched twig after twig. I

noticed in this case a habit that I have before observed with some other doves—namely that, when building, the cock generally alights with a piece of twig on the back of the hen, the object being doubtless to avoid disarranging the nest. Having settled on her back he bends his head over hers, and she takes the twig and arranges it in its place while he descends for another." Ten days after their arrival the first egg of *Phaps elegans* was laid, the second next day, and on 9th February one young bird was hatched. On 22nd February, when the young bird was getting well fledged, the parents appeared anxious to nest again, and next day started another nest, still feeding the young bird. On 2nd March two eggs were in new nest, birds sitting. Next day the young one was on the ground "in a very bad way, and evidently starved." It died on 4th March. The second brood was only a partial success, and whilst they were still unable to feed themselves the parents were building hard at another nest, and the young birds were found with their crops empty. Three photo-prints of the nests are given. Continuing his remarks on *P. elegans* in the next issue of the above-named magazine (pp. 263–266, vol. ii., No. 9, July, 1904) the author records a successful hatching, and makes some remarks which are worth noting. On 3rd June "two remarkably strong birds left the nest, strong fliers," and the parent birds had another nest and were sitting well. "The nesting habits of *P. elegans* seem to be just the same as those of *P. chalcoptera*; the male appears to select the site for the nest, and having found what he considers a suitable site invites his mate to inspect it by his oft-repeated 'Hoop, hoop, hoop.'" Details of the structure of the nest are given, as well as of some curious habits of the birds whilst building. But what ought perhaps to more seriously engage the attention of Australian ornithologists is the following passage:—"It is extremely strange that so excellent an observer as Gould, who must have come across many of these birds, should state that 'the sexes differ so little in their plumage that dissection is requisite to distinguish them,' for not only is it perfectly easy to distinguish the sex of the adults at a glance, but the young when in the nest are distinguishable by the brighter and deeper tints of the young male." Has Mr. Seth-Smith realized the advantages he had over Gould? The latter saw them only in the wild state, when impossible to handle.

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The Auk.—In vol. xxi., No. 3, pp. 322–333, Mr. P. A. Taverner faces a difficult problem under the title "A Discussion on the Origin of Migration." He asks "Why should a bird leave a warm land of plenty to journey to a country but half recovered from the frozen embraces of an arctic climate?" Proceeding to mention a few of the many theories that have been put forward on the subject, he cites "the most important and the most generally received." Starting with one which supposes "that the northern nesting stations are safer than the tropical ones," Mr.

Taverner goes on, by what may be roughly called destructive analysis, to the Darwinian theory that the movement is due to "a natural desire of the individuals to disperse during the breeding season," which opinion he advances some logical arguments against. One fact deserving attention is thus stated:—"On the whole I doubt very much whether the bird population in the breeding season is any less per given unit of territory than at other times." Dr. A. R. Wallace's idea, propounded in "Island Life," that "the migrants are in search of soft-bodied insects suitable for nestlings," is next considered. In answer to this it is contended—"It may be objected that each species requires its own special food at the critical nesting period, which may not be obtainable everywhere. Now, if there is any truth in our present evolutionary theory, great changes in food habits must have occurred in all our species. . . . Food habits could never have originated migrations, though migration has had a great influence in modifying food habits. It must be remembered also that migration is a dangerous undertaking to a race. . . . The one cause that seems adequate is . . . the sufficiency of the food supply." As to Mr. J. A. Allen's suggestion that "migration is the only manner in which a zoological vacuum in a country whose life-supporting capacity is a regularly fluctuating quantity can be filled by non-hibernating animals," Mr. Taverner considers it correct, but points out that there are arguments against this also. The conclusion arrived at is:—"These migrations, in their earlier stages, must have originated in a conscious seeking for food. In course of time the movement became habitual, and generations of repetition rendered it instinctive." This forces us back on the theory of habit—one of those put forward by Captain Hutton and Mr. J. Drummond, in a work noticed elsewhere—and after all hardly solves the problem why such extremely long and rapid flights as are taken by some species during migration—from Siberia to New Zealand, perhaps beyond—should occur, or the virtually entire desertion by certain species of one hemisphere to proceed to another at a definite time; and hardly answers the question why birds go hence to arctic regions. It would be more applicable to such facts as are recorded in two other papers in the same issue of *The Auk* on migration, in one of which the effect of altitude is discussed by Mr. Wells W. Cooke, and in the other ("Spring Bird Migrations of 1903") it is admitted in the first sentence that "bird migration is a very elusive subject." The author of the latter paper draws attention to the "general relationship between weather and bird waves," but admits that "it is not true that birds travel *only* with the aid of favouring winds; nor when the weather gets warm enough to be grateful to their sensibilities." In a subsequent paper (p. 347) Mr. J. A. Allen, one of the editors, has some remarks worth the consideration of our nomenclature committee. The present number also includes the 13th supplement to the "A.O.U. Check-List."

Review.

"THE ANIMALS OF NEW ZEALAND."

["The Animals of New Zealand: an Account of the Colony's Air-breathing Vertebrates." By Captain Hutton, F.R.S., President of the New Zealand Institute, and James Drummond. Christchurch, Wellington, and Dunedin, N.Z., Melbourne and London: Whitcombe and Tombs Limited. 1904. Pp. i.-xiv., 15-381.]

NEW Zealand has a fauna and flora so peculiarly its own that every attempt to solve the problems connected with either branch of the study must be welcomed by naturalists, ornithologists more particularly. Linked by many ties to the flora of the North-Eastern Australian coast and to New Guinea, by geological evidence as well, and sundered only (in the New Guinea portion of the belt to which it evidently belonged) by a narrow deep belt of sea (according to Dr. A. R. Wallace's physical map) from the Malay Archipelago, the question arises how it was that, as the authors of the present volume point out, up to the end of the Cretaceous age and well into the Tertiary, "so far as animal life was concerned, it [New Zealand] was the abomination of desolation, as the forests contained no birds, and the fern-lands no lizards except the Tuatara." Australia has evidences of many of the older forms of life—animals that have passed from northern zones (where most are now extinct) to this continent, that these bore probably so different a shape to what it does to-day. Did bird and animal life pass down to the mainland first, and, if it did, how account for the fact that so few forms passed over "the bridge" that linked it then to our mainland? *Moa* and our own form of *Dinornis* being closely allied, how does it come that the winged birds that did pass have so far differentiated from Australian species of the same families? And if some tentative speculations in Captain Hutton's paper on Cormorants have any validity (*vide The Emu*, vol. iii., part 1, pp. 1-8), and the theoretical opinion that these particular forms came by way of South America—and intermediate islands—is not the problem more involved than ever? That N.Z. birds should have more sombre clothing is hardly so remarkable, though Messrs. Hutton and Drummond specially call attention to it. There seems an unwritten law, in Austral-Malaysian regions, that the further north you go the brighter the birds' plumage becomes—and *vice versa*.

Of course, in the present handsomely got up work, one which is rather a popularly scientific than a scientifically popular book, the authors have not attempted to go into such abstruse questions. They have in preference confined themselves to matters which, while helpful to the naturalist, will be of value and great interest to the general public.

The section relating to *Aves* forms the greater portion of the book, and, as it is well illustrated and printed, may be cordially recommended to all. About 190 species, which is probably a full list of N.Z. birds (many Australian also), are described,

wanderers being omitted. Each bird has a fairly full description, both vernacular and scientific names being given. Scientists will probably regret the absence of references, but these would have unduly cumbered the book so far as general readers are concerned. At the conclusion of the birds there is a delightfully written article—"Vocal Characteristics of Some N.Z. Birds," taken from "Out in the Open," by the late Mr. T. H. Potts.

As to what happened during the Tertiary age the authors say :—

"Towards the end of the age in the world's history called the Cretaceous period New Zealand was a small group of islands with a very scanty fauna and flora; but later on, very early in the Tertiary era, it was gradually elevated until it attained almost continental dimensions, stretching away north through New Caledonia and Fiji, and joining the mainland at New Guinea. . . .

"Birds had only lately come into existence in the Northern Hemisphere, but, now that New Zealand was joined to the mainland, they moved south and colonized it. . . . Towards the close of the Eocene period the northern land sank. New Zealand was then isolated, and it has remained so ever since. Yet it was visited every year by migratory birds from the North."

And so in the last respect it is to the present day. Among the most interesting portions of the book are those dealing with migration, confined not alone to the introduction, but occurring in the observations on the different species throughout the work.

Notes and Notices.

PAPERS RECEIVED.—From Dr. E. A. D'Ombraïn, "Field Notes on Some Birds of the Casterton District (Victoria)." From Mr. Fred. Lawson, "A Visit to Rottnest Island" and "A Glance at the Birds of the Moore River (W.A.)"

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DR. A. B. MEYER, writing from Dresden, 8/8/04, desires to say, in reference to the doubt raised in the last issue of *The Emu* (p. 25) as to the eggs of the Kangaroo Island Emu being in that Museum, the "copyist" had made a mistake in the list by inadvertently writing *Dromæus ater* for *D. novæ-hollandiæ* when copying the names from the "British Museum Catalogue."

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MEMBERS are again reminded that the fourth annual session of the Aust. O.U. will this year be held in Sydney on 28th, 29th, and 30th November. The Council will endeavour, on the occasion of its first *reunion* in such an (Australian) historical centre, to make the meetings a thorough success. Sydney is connected with days of Australian ornithology which are too apt to be forgotten—those when Cook and his collectors first landed (now recalled so vividly by the discovery of one of his cairns on the Queensland coast) and when many earlier observers whose names