

bird, whose every attitude speaks of quickness and speed, from the long, slender tarsi to the long and pointed primaries crossing over the tail.

Of all the Dottrels this one is the tamest, for it will allow one near enough to observe the brilliant scarlet ring round the eye, and even when induced to take flight will alight again within a very short distance. Irides dark brown and eyelids bright red.

Knot (*Tringa canutus*).—The Knot is a very rare bird in this State. One obtained by me at the big swamp at Altona has under neck and breast light buff on a white ground; under tail is white, with patches of buff and black; under wing coverts are white, barred with black and slaty-black, not unlike the Snipe feathers in the same position. The back of head is slaty-grey, and the back and upper surface of the wings are a light slate with splashes of black, and some of the feathers have white margins. Upper surface of tail is white, with spots of black and a little buff, and some of the feathers are margined with black. The legs are black, and the bill, which is about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in length, is also black.

South Australian Ornithological Association.

THE April-May meeting of this Association was held at the residence of Dr. A. M. Morgan, Adelaide, on the 12th May, when Mr. F. R. Zietz presided. Mr. J. W. Mellor drew attention to the reports and letters in the daily press concerning the destruction of Magpies for the purpose of poisoning their carcasses as baits for foxes. Mr. M. Symonds Clark reported that he had, in his capacity of honorary secretary of the Native Fauna and Flora Protection Committee of the Field Naturalists' Section of the Royal Society, brought the matter before the authorities, and that steps had been taken to prevent further depredations in respect to the birds.

The chief business of the evening was the further examination of the *Strepera* family, and a large number of skins from different parts of Australia, notably South Australia, was compared. Several skins recently collected by Mr. E. Ashby on Kangaroo Island were of particular interest; he had seen a large number of the birds there, and had identified them as the Black-winged Crow-Shrike (*Strepera melanoptera*), there being no trace of white in the wing, and a specimen shown tallied exactly with one from the Forrest Ranges in South Australia and one from Port Augusta in the north. Upon further examination of skins it was found that a young male from the Mt. Lofty Ranges, near Adelaide, was of a lighter colour than the Flinders Range and Kangaroo Island specimens. Birds from Yorke's Peninsula and Eyre's Peninsula in South Australia were found to be of a darker brown, with a very great amount of white on the wing, and it was considered that these birds were not *Strepera melanoptera* nor yet *Strepera plumbea*, and it was suggested

to designate them *Strepera fusca*, or the Brown Crow-Shrike. Specimens from Quorn, Laura, and Mt. Remarkable, in the north of South Australia, resembled *Strepera fusca* in general colour, but the speculum on the wings was not so defined, and not nearly so white. The investigation of the birds shown proved highly interesting and valuable in determining the habitat of the species.

Amongst other specimens of note that were exhibited were a Pink-bellied or Bourke Grass-Parrakeet (*Neophema bourkei*), Varied or Many-coloured Parrakeet (*Psephotus multicolor*), Brown Fly-eater (*Pseudogerygone fusca*), and White-browed Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis frontalis*), by Mr. J. W. Mellor. Mr. F. E. Storr exhibited specimens of the White-eyed Duck (*Nyroca australis*) and the Freckled Duck (*Stictonetta naevosa*) from the River Murray. Mr. E. Ashby showed specimens of the Spotted Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis maculata*), Chestnut-rumped Ground-Wren (*Hylacola pyrrhopygia*) from Kangaroo Island, also a pair of Leach Cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus viridis*) from the same place. This was noted as being a new locality for the bird, as it is generally found more towards the interior of South Australia. An egg of this species was also obtained from the Island by Mr. Ashby, and was exhibited by Mr. A. H. C. Zietz, together with an egg of another species of the Black Cockatoo for comparison. Mr. M. Symonds Clark showed a pair of the Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*) which had been collected on Kangaroo Island many years ago.

Nomenclature.

The Condor (vol. vii., Jan.-Feb., 1905) contains an article on nomenclature, dealing principally with the American O.U. code. It is proposed to issue a new code, under the editorship of Drs. Jordan, Evermann, and Gilbert, dealing with some of the knotty problems involved in the department of ichthyology; but as the principles underlying the new code have equal force so far as bird-names are concerned, they deserve the attention of the gentlemen who are revising the Australasian bird list, and are worth republication. They are summarized thus* :—

“The value of a code depends not on the authority behind it, but solely on its simplicity, usefulness, and naturalness. Formal agreements among groups of authors are always marked by compromises in which fitness and exactness are more or less sacrificed in the interest of unanimity of action. These compromises one and all are discarded in the progress of science.

“The different canons in this code are based on those composing the code of the American Ornithologists' Union, and so far as possible the language of that admirable document has been followed.

“Of competitive names otherwise tenable, given by the same author, that one is to be preferred which stands first in the text. In case of

* A.O.U. in this excerpt must be understood as referring to the American Union.