

South Australian Ornithological Association.

THE annual meeting of this association was held at the residence of Dr. A. M. Morgan on the evening of the 9th March, Mr. F. R. Zietz presiding. The secretary reported that the association had had a successful year, and much good work had been accomplished by members individually and collectively. There had been no falling off in attendance at the meetings or in enthusiasm. The association had assisted in entertaining the visiting members of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union during the Adelaide session in October, and several members had attended the camp-out on Kangaroo Island. The financial statement showed that the funds were in a flourishing condition. A vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. A. M. Morgan for having allowed his residence to be used for meetings. The following office-bearers were elected :—President, Mr. J. W. Mellor ; vice-president, Dr. A. M. Morgan ; secretary, Capt. S. A. White ; these gentlemen to form the committee of management. Mr. L. C. E. Gee gave an interesting account of a trip through the Northern Territory, in which he noted many rare and beautiful birds. Capt. S. A. White and Mr. J. W. Mellor reported that birds were more plentiful at the Reedbeds than they had known them for some years. Mr. Mellor gave an interesting account of birds recently identified by him while on a trip to Narracoorte. Mr. E. Ashby said he had noted the Tawny-crowned Honey-eater (*Glycyphila fulvivrons*), at Blackwood early in the year, contrary to the general rule ; also the Black-throated Honey-eater (*Melithreptus gularis*), in little coveys, uttering strange singing notes while on the wing. Mr. F. R. Zietz recorded the Black-and-White Fantail (*Sauroprocta tricolor*) within the city. Several specimens were exhibited. Mr. A. H. C. Zietz, F.L.S., showed the pelvis bone of the Emu (*Dromæus novæ-hollandiæ*), cut to display in sectional form the extremely strong construction of the vertebral column, formed on the principal of an arch, to carry a heavy body. Mr. E. Ashby showed a specimen of the Albert Lyre-Bird (*Menura alberti*), from Queensland, and named after the late Prince Consort. Mr. M. Symonds Clark exhibited the Rock-Parakeet (*Neophema petrophila*), from Port Willunga.

Notes and Notices.

UNLAWFUL DESTRUCTION OF BIRDS.—A visitor to the Murray district writes :—"There is an awful amount of ruthless destruction of game taking place here, and probably the same sort of thing is also taking place generally among most of the swamp districts, both adjacent to and distant from the river. Early in the nesting season men regularly visit the swamps two or three times a week and gather eggs, not by the dozen, but in hundreds, robbing only the nests which contain one or two eggs, so as to make sure of obtaining them fresh. The eggs of the Ibis are sent away as ordinary articles of commerce, and those of other birds, such as Coots, are used in great numbers by the gatherers. Not far away is an aboriginal station, from whence the inmates walk through the swamps about 20 abreast, and leave few, if any, nests unmolested. Nearly every house, too, has its punt gun hidden away until the Duck season opens. The slaughter caused by these terrible engines of destruction is beyond calculation. I was privileged to see one such weapon,

and was *regretfully* informed that it was the smallest in the district, and that the greatest number of Ducks picked up after one discharge from it was 17, although the previous owner had on one occasion got 21 from a single discharge. This was the *smallest* gun, and it was stated that upwards of 20 Ducks picked up was a common result from one discharge with many of the other local guns. When 20 Ducks are picked up, it is quite safe to say that almost an equal number get away wounded, many of them to die a few hours later. It would be a very difficult matter to prevent this wholesale slaughter, for it is no easy task for a stranger to find his way about the countless acres of swamps, even if the presence of strangers did not temporarily check the shooting; and the movements of the local limbs of the law are notified, perhaps not so rapidly, but just as effectively as by wireless telegraphy."

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