

and his way, to my thinking, makes it a finer word than any of the alternative spellings.—Yours, &c.,

14th November, 1906.

ERNEST SCOTT.

South Australian Ornithological Association.

THE bi-monthly meeting was held at the residence of Dr. A. M. Morgan on 31st August, 1906, when Mr. J. W. Mellor presided over a good attendance. Notes were received from Mr. E. Ashby upon native birds found breeding at Blackwood. The Chairman notified the members that the Australasian Ornithologists' Union's sixth congress would take place in Tasmania from 22nd November to about 8th December, when Launceston and Hobart would be visited, and meetings held to discuss bird subjects, following which a working camp would be held at Mount Barrow. Mr. M. Symonds Clark drew attention to an extract from the journal of the late John M'Douall Stuart upon his exploration in Australia in 1860, in which the intrepid explorer mentions a strange Cockatoo shot near Mounts Rennie and Peake, Central Australia. The wings were of a beautiful crimson hue, with a light leaden colour on the back. The description as given could not be placed. Dr. A. M. Morgan recorded several birds found breeding early at Ironbank, near Upper Sturt; while Mr. J. W. Mellor and Capt. S. A. White gave notes upon birds at the Reedbeds, the former testifying to the tameness of the feathered friends of mankind when treated kindly. Mr. A. H. C. Zietz, F.L.S., noted the Red-chested Quail (*Turnix pyrrhotorax*) breeding at Meningie, Lake Albert. Mr. Alfred Crompton recorded the Straw-necked Ibis (*Carphibis spinicollis*) having laid in captivity. Mr. E. Ashby sent evidence of having found the egg of the Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chalcococcyx plagiatus*) in the nest of the White-bearded Honey-eater (*Melioris novaehollandiae*), which was considered a rare occurrence. Mr. F. R. Zietz observed the Flame-breasted Robin (*Petroica phoenicea*) at Teatree Gully on the recent holiday, which was late in the year, as this little bird does not breed here, but departs early to lay and rear its young in southern highlands. Mr. Robert Crompton presented interesting notes regarding a trip recently taken to Lake Frome, where he had studied the bird life, which was somewhat different to that nearer Adelaide. Mr. Crompton showed several birds, including the Tricolored Chat (*Ephthianura tricolor*), the Red-breasted Babbler (*Pomatorhinus rubeculus*); also eggs of these and several species of birds from the Lake Frome district. Mr. J. W. Mellor displayed a rare clutch of eggs of the Rock-Warbler (*Origma rubricata*) from New South Wales. Mr. E. Ashby showed a species of Honey-eater from the Northern Territory resembling the genus *Myzomela*, but longer in the tail, which was queried as new. He also had several species from New South Wales, including the Grass-Warbler (*Cisticola exilis*), the Leaden Fly-catcher (*Myiagra rubecula*), the Fuscous Honey-eater (*Ptilotis fusca*), and the Little Field-Wren (*Chthonicola sagittata*). Mr. A. H. C. Zietz, F.L.S., exhibited a series of small Honey-eaters, including the Brown Honey-eater (*Glycyphila ocellaris*), the White-breasted (*G. fasciata*), Brown-backed (*G. modesta*), the Black Honey-eater (*Myzomela nigra*), the Sanguineous Honey-eater (*M. sanguinolenta*), and the Red-headed (*M. erythrocephala*). Dr. A. M. Morgan exhibited a number of species of birds' eggs for comparison with others exhibited.

The bi-monthly meeting of the South Australian Ornithological Association was held at the residence of Dr. A. M. Morgan on Friday, 26th October, 1906. Mr. J. W. Mellor presided. Dr. Morgan reported having been able to identify by observation in 14 days 82 species of native birds while on a trip to Mount Gunson, a district which to the vision of

the ordinary individual was almost destitute of bird life. The Chairman reported that the arrangements connected with the sixth annual congress of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union, to be held in Tasmania this month, were now completed, and that the undertaking promised to be of an entertaining and instructive nature, occupying between a fortnight and three weeks. Many subjects relating to birds in the various States would be dealt with by experienced scientists and bird-observers. Mr. J. W. Mellor and Capt. S. A. White were appointed delegates to the congress. An expression of regret was manifested at the wanton destruction of native birds from time to time, and it was thought that more stringent means should be exercised by the authorities in dealing with cases. Strong remarks of indignation were expressed in reference to the report in *The Register* of the molestation and destruction of the Pelicans on the Coorong by Government officials, and Messrs. J. W. Mellor and M. Symonds Clark were appointed delegates to interview the Chief Inspector of Fisheries to ascertain under whose authority these depredations had been committed, and take the necessary steps to prevent a recurrence. Mr. J. W. Mellor and Capt. S. A. White recorded a large increase of the useful little Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*) at the Reedbeds this season. The former noted that the young males (hatched early in the year) were already assuming their blue uniform. Dr. Morgan exhibited a clutch of eggs of the Rock-Warbler (*Origma rubricata*), from New South Wales, in whose nest the single egg of the Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*) was found, and eggs of the Striated Tit (*Acanthiza lineata*). Mr. J. W. Mellor exhibited several birds which had died in captivity, and which at one time were numerous at the Reedbeds, notably the Cockatoo-Parrakeet (*Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ*), the Warbling Grass-Parrakeet (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), and the Red-rumped Parrakeet (*Psephotus hæmatonotus*).

Publications Received.

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Bird, The : its Form and Function, by C. W. Beebe, Curator of Ornithology of New York Zoological Park.