

montanellus). Mr. J. W. Mellor exhibited eggs from Central Australia, being those of the Black-banded Whiteface (*Xerophila nigrocincta*), Chestnut-crowned Babbler (*Pomatorhinus ruficeps*), and the Black-faced Wood-Swallow (*Artamus melanops*). Mr. Ashby reported that several species of Honey-eating Lorikeets were now plentiful at Blackwood. Captain White noted the Flame-breasted Robin (*Petræca phænicea*) common now at the Reedbeds.

Bird Observers' Club.

THE usual quarterly dinner was held at the Mia-Mia Tea Rooms, Collins-street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, 12th February, when thirteen members were present. At the business meeting there was a good attendance. Mr. A. J. Campbell occupied the chair. Apologies were received from Dr. C. Ryan, Messrs. F. P. Godfrey, Donald Macdonald, and Surgeon-General Williams.

After the minutes had been read and confirmed, the chairman, in an apt speech, welcomed as guest Mr. D. Seth-Smith, F.Z.S., London, editor of *The Avicultural Magazine*. Notice was also taken of Mr. D. Le Souëf's return from abroad. Mr. Seth-Smith, in responding, thanked the company for the hearty reception accorded him, and spoke at length on the pleasure it afforded him in being able to study the birds of Australia in their natural haunts. His first love for Australian birds had been inspired by the perusal of Gould's beautiful work. Nature notes were received from Mr. J. Christian, of Raywood, while Mr. T. H. Tregallas contributed a note on Cuckoos. Mr. Cole exhibited a well-preserved mounted Grey Goshawk, shot at Upper Hawthorn, Victoria, 27th February, 1870. The hon. secretary showed a beautiful series of eggs of the Pilot-Bird, the colouring varying considerably. After the conclusion of business Messrs. Nicholls and Mattingley showed some very fine lantern slides, depicting birds, beasts, fishes, and reptiles in their natural surroundings, some of the pictures being as rare as remarkable.

The Birds of Bass Strait.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

THE Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria organized three expeditions to the islands of the Strait—1887, to King Island, per s.s. *Lady Loch* (leader, Mr. A. J. Campbell); 1890, to Kent Group, per s.s. *Despatch* (leader, Mr. D. Le Souëf); 1893, to Furneaux Group, per s.s. *Alert* (leader, Mr. J. Gabriel).

During the next (November) session of the A.O.U., which is to be held in Melbourne, the Council hope to organize an expedition to visit some of the remaining unexplored and little-known islands of the Strait, notably Hogan Group and a small Albatross "rookery" never yet visited by ornithologists.

For members who dislike the tossing of the Strait, a quieter camp-out excursion will take place on Cape Wollomai, Phillip Island.

Members intending to join either expedition or excursion are invited to send their names to the hon. secretary, Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley, so that early arrangements may be made. The expedition can only take place if there be sufficient members to share the expense of a small steamer. *Such a trip is the chance of a life-time for an ornithologist or bird-lover.*