

Bird Observers' Club.

THE monthly meeting of the Club was held at the residence of Mr. D. Le Souëf, Zoological Gardens, Parkville, on 25th March. There were present Messrs. Mattingley, Ross, A. J. Campbell, Tregallas, Chandler, Barrett, Nicholls, R. P. Godfrey, Cole, M'Lennan, and Howe (hon. sec.) The host occupied the chair. Mr. R. W. Armitage was elected a member, and Messrs. Chisholm (Maryborough) and M'Lennan (Pine Plains) country members. Mr. Christian contributed field notes from Raywood (Vic.) The subject for discussion was Cuckoos. Mr. Cole read a paper entitled "Observations on the Finch as a Foster-Parent to the Cuckoo," in which he negated the idea of the Finch successfully rearing the Cuckoo. Mr. A. H. Mattingley read a paper on the Cormorants in regard to fisheries, and contended that the bird does more good than harm, inasmuch as though fish were undoubtedly taken by the bird in question, it destroyed great numbers of eels and crustaceans, the greatest enemies of the fish ova. The exhibits were many and beautiful. Mr. Le Souëf exhibited the egg and nest of the *Paradisea raggiana*, hitherto unknown to science, on behalf of Mr. Atlee Hunt. Mr. J. A. Ross showed specimens of six Victorian Cuckoos. Mr. Chandler's exhibits were the male and female of the Masked Wood-Swallow (*Artamus personatus*), and our host showed the type skins of the Fern-Wren, Pale Flycatcher, Pheasant Flycatcher, and Gay-tinted Honey-eater, all kindly loaned by the authorities of the Brisbane Museum. Mr. Le Souëf also showed the eggs of every known variety of Cuckoo found breeding in Australia. Messrs. Cole and Howe exhibited skins of Little Tern, Tringa, and Stint, and eggs of the former found in Port Phillip Bay.

The May meeting of the Club was held at Oxford Chambers, Bourke-street, Melbourne, and 11 members accepted the invitation of the hon. secretary (Mr. F. Howe). The host was voted to the chair. The resignation of Mr. J. A. Kershaw was accepted with regret. A suggestion that seemed to find favour with members was made by Mr. Mattingley (on behalf of a member not present), that the Club have its own room, where members could meet. The matter was discussed, and adjourned for further consideration. Mr. Cole exhibited mounted specimens of the Darter, Little, Little Black, and White-breasted Cormorants, this family forming the subject for discussion. Mr. Chandler's exhibits were skins of the Tawny-crowned and Sanguineous Honey-eaters, Frontal Shrike-Tit, Chthonicola, and Little Grass-Bird. Mr. C. F. Cole read a paper on "Cormorants," and his observations along the coast and inland waters were intently listened to and appreciated, Messrs. Mattingley and Le Souëf endorsing his remarks as to the good done by these birds. Mr. Chisholm (Maryborough) forwarded a paper on the White-eye (*Zosterops carulescens*) and Red Wattle-Bird (*Acanthochaera carunculata*). Mr. Robert Hall's "Suggestions on Migration" was read by Mr. Mattingley, showing an admirable plan for taking notes on this interesting question. Mr. E. Christian sent field-notes, and mentioned the Koel (*Eudynamis cyanocephala*) as an autumn visitor to Raywood (Vic.)

The quarterly dinner of the Club was held at the Mia-Mia Tea Rooms, Collins-street, Melbourne, on 24th June, when only seven members were present, but later in the evening six others arrived. Mr. Mattingley presided. Mr. Fred Godfrey tendered his resignation as a member of the Club. Mr. Godfrey was one of the original founders of this Club, but as he was leaving the colony for New Zealand, his resignation was accepted with regret, and the hon. sec. was directed to write expressing the Club's regret at his loss. The subject for discussion was "Scrub-loving Bircls." Mr. Cook, of Poowong (Vic.), sent an interesting paper on the Lyre-Bird, and a pencil drawing showing the birds going to roost was considered unique. Messrs. A. G. Campbell and F. P. Godfrey both sent papers on the Bristle-Bird (*Sphenura broadbenti*). Mr. F. E. Howe, hon. sec., read a paper on the Pilot-Bird (*Pycnophilus floccosus*). Mr. C. F. Cole, besides exhibiting skins

of the Lyre-Bird (*Menura victoriae*) and Cuckoo-Shrike (*Graucalus melanops*), contributed a paper on the last-named variety, explaining the manner in which the bird obtains its food, and showing the amount of good work done by it amongst the larvæ of the case-moth (*Pyschidæ*). Messrs. Tregallas and Chandler read papers on the habits of the Coachwhip-Bird (*Psophodes crepitans*). Mr. C. L. Barrett drew attention to the Importation of Plumage Prohibition Bill introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Avebury. The object of the proposed Act was to check the growing and wholesale destruction of birds in all parts of the world, and their importation into the United Kingdom. An idea of the numbers of birds imported into England in 1907 was given by Mr. Barrett, who said that the catalogue at one sale included 19,742 skins of Birds of Paradise, 1,386 Crowned Pigeons' heads, and many Lyre-Birds' tails at another. It was decided to write to Lord Avebury in appreciation of his action.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Club for July was held at the residence of Dr. G. Horne, Clifton Hill, with a fair attendance. Dr. Horne presided. Field notes and papers were received from Messrs. Christian, Raywood, and Chisholm, Maryborough. After many other field notes were discussed, Mr. C. F. Cole read a paper entitled "Do Gulls Dive?" and Mr. Chisholm's paper was in favour of protecting the Crow or Raven, as they do good work as scavengers. Both papers were well received, and opened up lengthy discussion. Mr. A. H. Mattingley, C.M.Z.S., read an interesting and instructive paper on "The Birds of Lawrence Rock," which was illustrated with many excellent lantern slides, showing the phases of plumage of the young of Penguins, Terns, Gannets, and Petrels. Dr. Horne exhibited a curio in the shape of a Swallow's nest built on the handle of a pair of sheep shears which had been stuck into the wall of a stable. Mr. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., showed a series of Southern Stone-Plovers' eggs, varying in colour from light grey through various shades of brown to dark green, and explained that the eggs almost invariably were placed on the soil that harmonized best with them. Whether the bird knows this, or it is due to the food obtained, were questions that were discussed. Miss Bowie interested the members when she told how a pair of Black-breasted Plovers (*Zonifer tricolor*) that are in Dr. Horne's aviaries were nest-making.

Great Forward Movement in Bird Protection.

(Continued from p. 91.)

REGARDING the protection of game in Tasmania, the resolution passed at a recent meeting of sportsmen, recommending that a Commission be appointed to protect and preserve the native fauna of Tasmania, was placed before the Premier (Hon. J. W. Evans, C.M.G.) on the 28th September, 1908, by a large and representative deputation. Included amongst those present were Hon. A. Morrisby, M.L.C., Messrs. F. B. Rattle (who introduced the deputation) and B. Watkins, Ms.H.A., Dr. Gibson, Bernard Shaw, and A. D. Watchorn (Royal Society), A. L. Butler (Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club and Australasian Ornithologists' Union), P. S. Seager, I.S.O. (Tasmanian Tourist Association), L. M. Shoobridge and L. C. Thirlwall (Tasmanian Farmers and Stockowners' Association), T. A. Tabart (Chief Inspector of Stock), Robert Hall, F.L.S. (Curator of the Tasmanian Museum), S. Salmon (East Coast landowners), and several others.

After several of the members of the deputation had spoken at