

Black-faced Wood-Swallow and of the Red-throated Thickhead from Central Australia. Mr. J. W. Mellor exhibited a clutch each of the eggs of the Sooty and Hills Crow-Shrikes, from Tasmania, showing the difference in characteristic markings of these two species. Dr. R. H. Pulleine exhibited photographs of numerous spiders which form good food for the Crow-Shrike family.

Notes and Notices.

POPULARIZING ORNITHOLOGY.—Recently two members of the A.O.U. gave popular lectures pertaining to birds. (1.) Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley, C.M.Z.S., read a thoughtful and interesting paper before the Victorian Fish Protection Society and Anglers' Club on "Some Points of Similarity in Birds and Fishes," which was printed in *The North Melbourne Courier*. (2.) Mr. A. H. Chisholm gave a paper, entitled "Save the Birds," before the Star of Maryborough (Vic.) Tent, I.O.R. This paper, which appealed strongly to the humanitarian side of the author's audience, was printed in *The Maryborough Advertiser*.

A HANDBOOK OF TASMANIAN BIRDS.—Mr. Frank M. Littler, F.E.S., proposes to issue shortly a "Handbook" on the birds of Tasmania, which he hopes will be acceptable to students as well to ordinary bird-lovers. The sub-headings under each species will be "Male," "Female," "Young" (where possible), "Nest," "Eggs," "Breeding Season," "Geographical Distribution," and "Remarks" (short field notes). As a useful appendix there will be extracts from the Tasmanian *Game Protection Act*, giving the close seasons and schedules of wholly and partly protected birds. Against the names of those birds which appear in the wholly protected schedule will be placed an asterisk in the book, so that it can be seen at a glance, when going through the same, whether a bird is protected or not. The shooting season of all game birds will be shown in the first sentence of the "Remarks."

MR. JAMES BUCKLAND on the 6th of May gave an exhibition of lantern slides (including a set of 12 donated by the A.O.U.) before the Linnean Society of London. In a few prefatory remarks Mr. Buckland pointed out the perilous condition into which many rare and beautiful species of birds have been allowed to drift, and that immediate legislation was required if they were to be saved from extermination. The lantern slides exhibited the economic value of birds to man; the slaughter of Gulls, Terns, &c., along the Atlantic seaboard of the United States; Snowy Herons on Florida Keys Reservation; patrol boats, and grave of the murdered warden; home-life of the Egret in Florida; birds of Oregon, California, Venezuela, New Zealand, &c.; nest of the Bird-of-Paradise, the Emu, &c.; male Lyre-Bird, showing its lyrate tail erected; the haunt of the Lyre-Bird

and its nest ; runs of the Bower-Birds ; flight of Straw-necked Ibis ; home of the Albatross ; rookery of Australian Gannet ; Honey-eaters, and several other interesting photographs of wild bird-life ; the exhibition concluded with " The Cost of a Plume," the truth about the " Osprey," showing the destruction of the parent Egret and the subsequent starvation of the nestlings—taken from Mr. Mattingley's unique pictures.

IMPORTATION OF STOATS AND WEASELS PROHIBITED.—
"Whereas by the *Customs Act* 1901 it is enacted that all goods, the importation of which may be prohibited by proclamation, are prohibited imports : And whereas it is desirable to prohibit the importation into the Commonwealth of Stoats and Weasels : Now therefore I, William Humble, Earl of Dudley, the Governor-General aforesaid, acting with the advice of the Federal Executive Council, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me by the *Customs Act* 1901, do hereby prohibit the importation into the Commonwealth of Stoats and Weasels."
—Extract from *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, 22nd May, 1909.

[The above important proclamation has been issued chiefly through the instrumentality of the Council of the A.O.U.]

RESTRICTION OF BIRD TRAFFIC IN NEW GUINEA.—The following proclamation by the Governor-General appeared in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* of 5th June, 1909 :—

"Whereas by the *Customs Act* 1901 it is enacted that all goods, the importation of which may be prohibited by proclamation, are prohibited imports, and that the power of prohibiting the importation of goods shall authorize prohibition subject to any specified condition or restriction, and that goods imported contrary to such condition or restriction shall be prohibited imports ;

"And whereas by an Ordinance, No. XV., of 1908, of the Territory of Papua, which commenced on the 9th day of December, 1908, it is enacted that it shall not be lawful to export or take or send out of the Territory of Papua any Bird-of-Paradise, Goura Pigeon, or Osprey, or the skin, feathers, or plumage of such bird, without in each case obtaining beforehand the written consent of the Collector or other principal officer of Customs of the Territory ;

"And whereas it is desirable to prohibit the importation into the Commonwealth of any of the said birds, or of the skin, feathers, or plumage of any of the said birds, exported, taken, or sent out of the said Territory, in contravention of the said Ordinance ;

"Now therefore I, William Humble, Earl of Dudley, the Governor-General aforesaid, acting with the advice of the Federal Executive Council, do hereby proclaim that the importation into the Commonwealth from the Territory of

Papua of Birds-of-Paradise, Goura Pigeons, or Ospreys, or of the skin, feathers, or plumage of any such bird, shall be prohibited, unless it is proved to the satisfaction of the Collector :—

- “(a) That the Bird-of-Paradise, Goura Pigeon, or Osprey, or the skin, feathers, or plumage thereof, was exported, taken, or sent out of the Territory of Papua with the written consent of the Collector or other principal officer of Customs of the said Territory ; or
- “(b) That the Bird-of-Paradise, Goura Pigeon, or Osprey, or the skin, feathers, or plumage thereof, was exported from the said Territory before the 9th day of December, 1908, the day of the commencement of the said Ordinance.”

Australasian Ornithologists' Union Next Annual (1909) Congress.

THE following is an outline of the programme for the forthcoming sessions of the Union at Adelaide. The “camp-out” will be of especial interest, since the locality chosen is where some of the Eastern and Western forms inosculate. Those desirous of joining the “camp-out” should send their names to the hon. secretary, so that concession tickets may be arranged for. A detailed programme, now in course of preparation, will be forwarded to each member.

Wednesday, 29th September—Leave Melbourne for Adelaide by Adelaide express.

Thursday, 30th September—Arrive in Adelaide in the morning, and in the evening the opening meeting of the Congress, for the reading of papers, &c., will be held.

Friday, 1st October—Lecture on “Bass Strait Expedition,” illustrated by lantern slides and cinematograph films taken on the voyage.

Saturday, 2nd October—General business meeting of the Union.

Sunday, 3rd October, and } To be arranged for.
Monday, 4th October }

Tuesday, 5th October—Leave for the “working camp-out” on the Eyre Peninsula.

Saturday, 16th October—Break up camp. Arrive in Adelaide on Sunday morning.