

"This action at once decides the acceptance of that adopted by me throughout this volume," &c.

To remove all misapprehension on the subject, let me say at once that, in the declaration of my intention, I voiced neither the intentions nor the opinions of the Royal Ornithologists' Union or of the Check-list Committee, but simply my own. At the time I was well aware that there were very many members of both bodies who were not in agreement with me, and who intended not to be guided by the British Museum, or any other authority, but to mark out an independent course.—I am, &c.,

ALEX. WM. MILLIGAN.

103 William-street, Melbourne, 16/9/12.

Bird Observers' Club.

THE annual meeting of the Bird Observers' Club was held on Wednesday evening, 15th May, 1912, at the Mia-Mia Tea Rooms, Collins-street. There was a good attendance of members. Mr. Mattingley read extracts from a letter written by Mr. Jas. Buckland *re* sales of Emu and Bird-of-Paradise skins in London. Mr. Buckland stated that Germany was going ahead in the matter of bird-protection, but France was slow in falling into line. The hon. secretary then read a report of a recent trip to Phillip Island, undertaken by members of the B.O.C. It was decided that the hon. sec. write to the R.A.O.U., with a request that a brief report of the experiments conducted among the Mutton-Birds be published in *The Emu*, and that other magazines be asked to copy. Mr. F. E. Wilson, the hon. treasurer, presented the balance-sheet for the past 12 months. He was congratulated on the neat and concise manner in which he had kept the accounts. The balance-sheet was adopted. The hon. sec., in his report, commented on the good scientific work done by members. Birds and eggs new to science had been procured and described, and valuable ornithological books written. Office-bearers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—President, Dr. H. W. Bryant; hon. treasurer, Mr. F. E. Wilson; hon. secretary, Mr. L. G. Chandler. The president, hon. secretary, and hon. treasurer, and Messrs. E. B. Nicholls and Chas. Barrett, were appointed as a sub-committee to consider a scheme for the advancement of the Club, and report at the next meeting. Dr. Bryant mentioned that he had just returned from Woodside, Gippsland, where bird-life was abundant. He saw several mobs of Emus close to the homestead, and the birds were remarkably tame. Mr. T. H. Tregellas stated that he had seen White-plumed Honey-eaters (*Ptilotis penicillata*) feeding young on 10th May. Mr. Mattingley said he believed that a new species of *Malurus* existed at Alexandra, in the Goulburn Valley (Vic.) On behalf of Mr. H. L. White, of New South Wales, Mr. A. J. Campbell exhibited a new bird for Australia, collected at Cape York—namely, *Piezorhynchus alecto*, of New Guinea. Skins of ♂ and ♀ were exhibited, also, for comparison, ♂ and ♀ *P. nitida*, from Napier Broome Bay, North-West Australia. Photographs taken at Phillip Island were exhibited by Messrs. H. W. Wilson and L. G. Chandler.

The monthly meeting of the Club was held at the residence of Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley, "Koonawarra," Glenferrie-road, Kew, on the evening of Wednesday, 26th June, 1912. Dr. George Horne was elected to represent the Club on the Council of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. Mr. C. Price Conigrave was welcomed to the meeting by the president, and later in the evening he gave members a very interesting account of his exploration work in the North-West of Australia. He exhibited a large number of excellent photographs to illustrate his remarks.

On the motion of Mr. J. A. Ross, seconded by Mr. C. W. Wilson, it was decided to contribute one guinea towards the expense of the Flinders Memorial Tablet. Mr. C. F. Cole stated that the Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chalcococcyx basalis*) was seen at Auburn (Vic.) during April and June. Mr. T. H. Tregellas also had evidence of the presence of the Bronze (*C. basalis*), Fantail (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*), and Pallid Cuckoos (*Cuculus pallidus*) at Launching Place (Vic.), the birds still being there. On the motion of Mr. L. G. Chandler, seconded by Mr. A. J. Campbell, Mr. C. P. Conigrave was nominated as a member of the Club. On behalf of Mr. H. L. White, of New South Wales, Mr. A. J. Campbell exhibited two types of skins of *Ptilotis gracilis*, from Queensland, and skins of *Prion ariel* and *P. desolatus*, from New South Wales.

The monthly meeting of the Club was held at the Mia-Mia Tea Rooms, Collins-street, on 17th July. Messrs. C. Barrett and E. Brooke Nicholls acted as joint hosts. Mr. C. Price Conigrave was elected a member of the Club. A letter from Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley, dealing with the scheme for the advancement of the Club, was read. A discussion followed on the report of the sub-committee which had been appointed to deal with the question. It was finally decided that an amendment proposed by Mr. A. J. Campbell be incorporated in the report, and that the suggestions be sent to members. Mr. C. Barrett read a paper entitled "Method in Bird Observing." The subject was an interesting one, and the paper was discussed by several members. Mr. Barrett contended that it was more necessary to study the habits of birds than to describe eggs and nests. A life-history of the bird from a nestling was what we required. Mr. E. Brooke Nicholls read a list of migratory and partially migratory birds, which had been compiled by Mr. A. J. Campbell. Mr. Davis, of New Zealand, was welcomed to the meeting by the president, and he responded by a brief account of some New Zealand birds. Mr. T. H. Tregellas mentioned that he had recently received a letter from a friend living near Kerang. Big gun shooting was carried on around Kerang, on the swamp, and Ducks were being shot in the close season. It was resolved that the hon. secretary write to the Chief Inspector of Game, drawing his attention to the matter. Mr. J. A. Kershaw stated that five Lyre-Birds had been liberated at Wilson's Promontory. Interesting nature notes were contributed by Messrs. C. F. Cole, Stone, and other members.

South Australian Ornithological Association.

THE monthly meeting of this Association was held on Friday evening, 31st May, in the Royal Society's Rooms, North-terrace, Mr. E. Ashby presiding. Among other matters, a motion was passed in favour of recommending an amendment to the *Birds Protection Act* by adding the scientific terms to the birds' ordinary names. It was also recommended that Mathews' "Hand-list" should be taken as a standard, seeing that it is the most up-to-date one published. Mr. H. E. Laffer, of the Agricultural Department, was nominated as a new member. Part 2 of Mr. G. M. Mathews' *Austral Avian Record* was discussed, owing to its containing a long list of new sub-species. It was the opinion of many members that owing to the splitting into so many sub-species of the birds the study of Australasian Ornithology was confusing. The subject of the evening was the genus *Acanthiza*, and there was much discussion thereon. Mr. R. Zietz (Ornithologist to the Adelaide Museum) showed a fine series of these small birds for comparison. Mr. Ashby also showed some interesting forms of these birds. Capt. S. A. White brought several species of *Acanthizas*, among them *Acanthiza whitei*, from Kangaroo Island, lately described by Mr. G. M. Mathews as a new sub-species of *lineata*.

The monthly meeting of the Association was held at the Institute, North-terrace, on Friday evening, 29th June, Mr. E. Ashby presiding. A letter