

Publications Received during July, August, September, 1916.

D. LE SOUËF, C.M.Z.S., HON. LIBRARIAN, R.A.O.U.

Australian Naturalist, vol. iii., part 2.

My System with Pigeons, by Leslie Gaze.

The principal idea of this helpful publication is to foster the squab industry, and details as to breeding and rearing Pigeons are given, as well as how to treat their various ailments. It has some clear illustrations, and will be a help to those who keep these interesting birds.

Royal Society of Queensland, vol. xxvii., parts 1 and 2.

Royal Society of Tasmania, 1915.

South Australian Ornithologist, vol. ii., part 7.

Contains, among other notes, the description of a new sub-species of Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis longirostris wyldii*) by Capt. S. A. White. Also a list of birds, with descriptions, from North and North-Western Australia, by G. M. Mathews, and some further observations on the Cormorant and bird temperatures by Dr. A. M. Morgan.

The Victorian Naturalist, vol. xxxiii., parts 2, 3, 4.

Part 3 contains a short article on "The Birds of Fraser Island, Gippsland Lakes," by G. A. Keartland.

The Hawkesbury Agricultural College Journal, vol. xiii., parts 2, 3, 4, 5.

Victorian Education Gazette and Teachers' Aid, vol. xvi., Nos. 6, 7, 8.

We are glad to see the staud the Education Department is taking against the wilful destruction of bird-life, and how it is seeking to instruct the scholars in the value of birds to the community, especially farmers and fruit-growers.

In the Far North-West, by Capt. S. A. White.

An interesting and well-illustrated account of an expedition to the Musgrave and Edward Ranges, in which many notes are given of birds met with. The author is to be congratulated on the careful way in which he has described the various natural history facts that came under his notice.

Memoirs of the Queensland Museum, vol. v.

This volume is, as usual, full of interesting articles, and well illustrated.

The Austral Avian Record, vol. iii., No. 3, by G. M. Mathews.

Contains 76 new sub-species, as well as many changes in his "List of the Birds of Australia." If the author continues making new sub-species at the present rate, and with so little difference, it is difficult to realize the number he will run into before he has finished. As usual, no dimensions are given to guide the perplexed ornithologist.

Avicultural Magazine, vol. vii., Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9.

As usual, this magazine is full of interesting matter regarding aviculture and bird notes generally, as well as good illustrations. A capital picture is shown of the rare New Zealand Owl-Parrot (*Stringops habroptilus*) in No. 7.

Proceedings of the Linnæan Society of N.S.W., vol. xl., parts 1, 2, 3, 4; vol. xli., part 1.

Bird-Lore, vol. xviii., No. 3.

Has two coloured illustrations and many photographs; full of interesting notes regarding American birds.

The Wilson Bulletin, vol. xxviii., Nos. 1, 2.

Contain several interesting papers, especially one entitled "The May Bird Census," at Oberlin, Ohio; also "The Terns of Weepacket Island, Massachusetts."

The Condor, vol. xviii., Nos. 3, 4.

No. 3 has an illustrated article showing the wonderful sea-bird life on Hat and Egg Islands, Great Salt Lake.

Annual Report of the United States National Museum for 1915.

Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, vol. lxvi., No. 2.

A list of birds seen in Alaska and North-Eastern Siberia during the summer of 1914, by F. S. Hersey.

Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, vol. lxv., No. 13.

Descriptions of seven new sub-species and one new species of African Plantain-eater, Courser, and Rail, by E. A. Mearns.

University of California Publications in Zoology, vol. xii., Nos. 15, 16.

Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences (fourth series), vol. v., No. 6.

Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, vol. lxvii., part 3.

Revue Française d'Ornithologie, Nos. 81-87.

Professor Brasil has continued his interesting notes on the birds of New Caledonia and of Lifou; some Australian forms, especially sea-birds, are included in them. In No. 83 there is a good article by André Godard on the destruction of bird-life in many parts of the world, and their need of protection; also some observations on the birds of Kerguelen Island, by J. Loranchet, in No. 84. In Nos. 84 and 86 is an illustrated article on the ornithological park at the Villiers-Bretonneux, with a list of the splendid number of birds it contains, including Ostriches, Cranes, water-fowl, sea-birds, and land-birds; over 300 species must be represented, including Humming and other rare birds. The article is by J. Delacour. In No. 86 is also an interesting article on artificial replacement and measures of protecting birds. In No. 87 the notes are continued on the birds of Kerguelen. "The Tufted Puffin of Kamschatka (*Lunda civihata*)," by Dr. Robert

Didier. This pamphlet is a supplement to No. 82, and contains much information about this bird.

Bulletin of the National Acclimatization Society of France, 1914, 1915.

The Ibis (tenth series), vol. iv., Nos. 2, 3.

No. 2 contains a valuable article by our member, Launcelot Harrison, on bird parasites and bird phylogeny. Also, among other articles, notes "On Some New Guinea Bird Names," by G. M. Mathews, and a reply thereto by W. R. Ogilvie-Grant. In No. 3 C. P. Conigrave gives an account of the bird-life on Houtman's Abrolhos Islands, Western Australia.

The Zoologist (fourth series), vol. xx., Nos. 231-234.

Many interesting notes on European birds are in these numbers.

British Birds, vol. x., Nos. 1, 2.

An especially interesting and well-illustrated article on "The Habits of the Sparrow-Hawk" is in both these numbers.

The Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union, vol. xi., No. 1.

A most interesting article by C. and M. Swynnerton, entitled "Birds in Relation to Their Prey," appears in this number.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of "The Emu."

SIR,—For some years I have been corresponding with a station-owner on the Lachlan River. Upon this station I knew there was a lake which in a good season was a wonderful place for water-fowl, many kinds breeding there in hundreds. In one of my letters I asked for any information of the breeding of the Blue-billed Duck (*Erismatura australis*), but received no notes upon it till March last, when the owner wrote informing me that, owing to a flood in the Lachlan last year, the lake became full, and that all sorts of water-birds bred there in hundreds. He found twenty nests of the Blue-billed Duck, some of which were placed in lignum bushes, and were composed of sticks and grass; others were placed in long grass upon islands. The nests contained from eight to fifteen eggs—mostly twelve. I thought he must have made some mistake in the identification of the bird, in spite of his having stated that he watched one nest for three hours until the owner returned and sat on the eggs. When the eggs reached me there was no further room for any doubt about their being authentic. This is another case in which that wonderful early-days ornithologist, John Gould, made a statement which many years after proved to be correct.

THOS. P. AUSTIN.

Cobbora (N.S.W.), 8th July, 1916.