

the Arctic seas in Europe to Portugal and to the Bay of Fundy in America. It returns very regularly to its breeding haunts in April, and is commonly met with in winter at sea."

The book is numerously illustrated by nearly one hundred excellent half-tone photo.-blocks by various named photographers, depicting birds, nests, and eggs, those subjects which were taken in the open being, of course, the most natural.

Adverting to technical nomenclature, it will be observed that Mr. Evans has only employed trinomials where he deemed it absolutely necessary. Under the list of "Occasional Visitors" he shows the American Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus*) and the Eastern Golden Plover (*C. d. fulvus*). Can two birds, one of which is the so-called sub-species of the other, be found in the same region? If so, may it not prove that both birds are identical, or that they are specifically distinct?

Correspondence.

To the Editors of "The Emu."

DEAR SIRS,—A paragraph in *Nature* of 29th July, 1915, p. 599, in discussing the question of the alleged destruction of salmon by Cormorants in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, says:—"A precisely similar charge was levelled, some years ago, against the Cormorants of the Murray River, in Australia, where, to increase the salmon supply, a huge colony of Cormorants was wiped out. But the unexpected happened. The salmon disappeared with the birds. It was then found that the latter had been feeding on crabs and eels, which in turn fed upon salmon eggs and fry. With the extermination of their enemies they increased in such numbers that scarcely a salmon egg remained; the fry from such as did escape were eaten by the eels. Those responsible for the massacre of Cormorants are now repentant."

What ground is there for the above statement? Have salmon—or rather trout—been introduced into the Murray? (Perhaps this refers to a Murray River in Western Australia, not to the great Murray River—in fact, I believe it must.) Was there sufficient evidence to base the above statements on *re* crabs and eels, or was this merely surmise, and dependent on the failure of the introduced fish to establish themselves?

We all wish our birds protected, but every over-statement or misstatement does more harm to the cause than good—in fact, in such cases no statement at all is better. If the above account in *Nature* is correct, it is very interesting and important; if surmise in great part, let us know it as such.—Yours, &c.,

J. B. CLELAND.

93 Macquarie-street, Sydney, 4th April, 1917.

[Can any member give Dr. Cleland observations?—EDITORS.]



The late Dr. E. P. Ramsay, F.R.S.E., F.L.S., C.M.Z.S., &c.

To the Editors of "The Emu."

SIRS,—The "Note on the Finding of the Nest and Eggs of the Desert Chat (*Ashbyia lovensis*)," by Edgar R. Waite, F.L.S., Director of the South Australian Museum, which appeared on pp. 167 and 168 of the January issue of *The Emu*, was sent to me by Mr. Waite, and was forwarded by me to the editor as received.—Yours, &c.,

S. A. WHITE.

Wetunga, Adelaide, 12th March, 1917.

Eggs of *Garzetta nigripes*: a Correction.—In my article upon the eggs of *Garzetta nigripes* in last issue of *The Emu* (vol. xvi., p. 162), I wish to correct a possible mistake. My reference to the non-description of the bird's head plumes was meant to apply to the taking of the eggs rather than to the bird itself. Dr. Leach and Messrs. Hall, Lucas, and Le Souëf all have noted one or more head plumes during the breeding season, though collectors taking reputed clutches did not mention the plumes. In another part of the same article the average dimensions of eggs is given as 1.73 x 1.24 inches; this should read 1.69 x 1.23 inches.—H. L. WHITE. Belltrees, 4/2/17.

About Members.

MEMBERS of the R.A.O.U. will be pleased to learn that at the thirty-fourth stated meeting of the American Ornithologists, Union, held in Philadelphia, Pa., 13th to 16th November, our fellow-member, Mr. Robert Hall, C.M.B.O.U., C.M.Z.S., was elected a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union. We congratulate Mr. Hall, who is a member of the R.A.O.U. Check-list Committee, on the honour conferred on him.

Obituary.

RAMSAY.—December 16, 1916, at his residence, Truro, Queensborough-road, Croydon Park, Edward Pearson Ramsay, LL.D., F.R.S.E., &c., third son of the late David Ramsay, M.D., aged 74 years.

ALL ornithologists—the older ones, at all events, to whom the late doctor was better known—will desire to pay tribute to the memory of Edward Pearson Ramsay.

On the 18th December his remains were laid to rest in the old-fashioned, vine-covered, stone vault with iron railings built by his father, the late David Ramsay, M.D., an early Australian settler, in the little private cemetery adjoining St. David's Presbyterian Church, Haberfield. The son inherited his love of Nature from his father, whose collections of birds, insects, &c., are preserved in the Perth Museum, Scotland. It was fitting, too, that Edward was buried near the old family Dobroyde estate, Ashfield, where he obtained so much first field knowledge, and