

After the egg was lowered, we could see that incubation had begun. The egg measured in inches 1.47 x 1.05.

This egg, I believe, is the first authentic specimen taken in Victoria. Both Campbell and North described an egg from Mr. Keartland's collection which measured 1.31 x 1.08.

Mr. Campbell says, "Four to five eggs form a clutch," while North says two eggs. Mr. H. L. White has a pair in his collection, and another set will be awaited with interest.

During the months of January and February I have often seen four or five birds in a party, and only one bird has had the crimson crest. These, without doubt, were an adult pair and their brood. I believe that, in a good season, the birds might lay three eggs, but generally they seem to lay only two, and sometimes as in the present instance, only one.

Correspondence.

WHITE'S JOURNAL OF A VOYAGE TO NEW SOUTH WALES

To the Editors, *The Emu*.

Sirs,—Mr. W. B. Alexander, in the last number of *The Emu*, January, 1924, raises the point as to whom the credit should be given for the descriptions of the new species in *White's Journal*, 1790.

I own the unique copy of this work, which was presented to the famous Dr. David Pitcairn, the physician of St. Bartholomew's, who first drew attention to the relationship of rheumatism and heart disease. On the back of the title page is written, "This copy was presented to me by the Editor, Thos. Wilson, Esq. The plates were selected with great care and coloured by the hand of Miss Stone." Signed D. Pitcairn.

On the inside of the cover also is the signature again and the book plate of Elizabeth Pitcairn. The beauty and excellence of the hand colouring is a delight, and the signature of Pitcairn adds to the value and interest of the volume.

This proves that Wilson was the editor, as Mr. Alexander surmised. I also think that this is the only copy of the work with coloured plates, the work being issued with plain plates. I believe some were afterwards coloured by unauthorised people to enhance their value. The first edition of this work contained the cancelled page on which the name *Merops carunculatus* occurs. This also had only plain plates.

In my Bibliography, now in the press, I have written under White, John, "Authorship of the bird names accredited to Shaw by Sherbon, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., Vol. vii., June, 1891. But Swainson had many years before stated this (1834)."

There are ten new names in the work under review: *Fulica alba*, *Motacilla pusilla*, *Motacilla australis*, *Caprimulgus cristatus*, *Corvus graculinus*, *Psittacus pusillus*, *Psittacus discolor*, and

Merops carunculatus, and as synonyms, *Falco albus* and *Procellaria fuliginosa*.

The question of authorship has been discussed many times, and I believe it is now the custom to quote as author of all new species described in a work the name or names of the author or authors of the book. We credit Lewin with the new names in his 1808 edition, although we know that the names were added in this country, probably by Shaw, and were not given by Lewin. I quote Temminck and Knip, and Shaw and Nodder. In the dedications of the *Naturalists' Miscellany*, both these latter names are included.

I think that perhaps less confusion will arise if we quote the name on the title page of the work, except in those certain cases where all is known.

Yours, etc.,

GREGORY M. MATHEWS.

Foulis Court, England.
Feb. 26th, 1924.

Sirs,—In a recent issue of *The Emu*, Mr. W. B. Alexander (1) writes as follows:—"It (*White's Journal*) is also of interest to naturalists, because it contains figures and descriptions of a number of the animals (birds, reptiles, fish) and plants met with at Port Jackson. It has generally been assumed that these descriptions were written by White himself, and the few scientific names proposed in the book are usually quoted as of White."

The qualified statement as to the attribution of the authorship of the various animals described is not upheld in an abstract of the paper presumably prepared by Mr. Alexander (2), for we there read: "The scientific names proposed for new Australian birds, reptiles and fish in *White's Journal*, published in 1790, have always been quoted as of White. The author points out that internal evidence proves conclusively that the descriptions are by English naturalists, and that those in the Appendix with Latin diagnoses, and for which scientific names were proposed, were almost certainly by Shaw."

From this note it would appear that Mr. Alexander was the discoverer of the authorship of the names appearing in the *Journal*, and though the matter may be of little importance, I may, perhaps, be permitted to mention that twenty years ago (3) I credited Shaw with the authorship of the names of the fishes printed in the *Journal*.

Yours, etc.,

Museum, Adelaide.

E. R. WAITE.

(1) Alexander, "Emu," vol. xxiii., 1924, p. 209.

(2) *Ib.* Aust. Sci. Abstracts, vol. 3, 1924, p. 19.

(3) Waite, Mem. N. S. Wales Nat. Club, 1904.

RECORDS OF DISTRIBUTION AND MIGRATION.

To the Editors of *The Emu*.

Sirs,—In the hope that interesting and useful records may be collected and preserved by the Union regarding the distribution and the migration of Australasian birds, I should like to make the following suggestions:—

1. That a number of members, representative of as many districts as possible, should volunteer to act as "District Correspondents."
2. That each Correspondent should supply—
 - (a) A list of the stationary birds of his district;
 - (b) Any additions to the list from time to time or the name of any bird which has ceased to be resident in the district;
 - (c) Dates of arrival and departure of migrants;
 - (d) Any other facts worthy of note.
3. That a map be prepared, the districts numbered thereon, and the lists numbered correspondingly.
4. That the results obtained be published in *The Emu* from time to time.

Yours, etc.,

29 Hope Street, Bendigo, Victoria.

MARC COHN.

[*Note*.—The Council has agreed to adopt Mr. Cohn's suggestions, and has asked him to undertake the collection of data. Members who are willing to act as correspondents should notify Mr. Cohn. Forms upon which to furnish reports will then be sent to them.—Eds.]

Economic Section

PROTECTION OF QUAIL IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Protection of Quail in New South Wales.—After many years of educational work the bird-lovers of New South Wales have succeeded in making the people on the land realise that one live quail is worth a score of dead ones. There was a time when many farmers regarded quail as merely something to be shot at and killed in wholesale fashion. There were some even who believed that these birds were enemies—mischievous enemies—because they ate a little wheat. Now most farmers know that the quail eats only fallen grain—wheat that would in any case be wasted if it were not thus picked up. The change has been brought about largely, if not wholly, by propaganda work by the publication of informative articles, showing that, for the most part, quail consume weed-seeds, insects, etc., thus rendering a service to the people engaged in primary production. One of the most gratifying results of the dissemination among farmers of a more thorough knowledge of the habits and nature of quail