

Towards the end of last summer notices appeared in various trade and fashion papers advertising an autumn boom in Grebe plumage. This was followed by a display of Grebe muffs, ties, and trimmings in various furriers' and drapers' establishments. As a result of a single seizure by His Majesty's Customs, nearly 136,000 (135,956) Grebe skins were confiscated and eventually destroyed. These skins, which were identified by a member of our committee, consisted of three species—namely, the Great Crested, the Red-necked, and the Black-necked Grebes. Except for the heads, legs, and feet, the entire skins were present, and the birds had been killed in full breeding plumage. The plumage was, of course, in the most perfect condition, and it seems scarcely credible that so many of these fine, handsome birds could possibly have been collected in any European country for import into these islands; yet it is certain that the pitiless and wholesale slaughter represented by this one importation was but a fraction of what has actually taken place to supply other markets on the Continent.

The obvious inference from this most discreditable importation is that the sudden fashion advertised in Grebe plumage was one dictated by a trade interest, and was in no way a response to any demand by the public. We confidently entreat all British women to avoid the purchase of Grebe plumage in any form whatsoever, and we appeal to our leading firms (who have no doubt been misled in this matter) to prevent any further display for sale now that the facts have been revealed to them and the public.—(From the *London Times*, Nov. 27, 1924.)

Reviews

The Lyre-birds of Mount Buffalo.

Under this title Messrs. Robertson and Mullens, of Melbourne, have published a series of photographs of Lyre-Birds, including the male, female, nest and chick, taken by "Guide Alice," with an introduction by Charles Barrett, and brief notes detailing the circumstances under which the pictures were obtained. It appears that "Guide Alice" failed to secure photographs by hiding near the nest, so, morning and evening on several successive days, she sat on a rock, in full view, and accustomed the wary birds to her presence; and always she mimicked the mournful notes of the Boobook Owl—"Mo-poke." The female at length ventured near her, trying to say "Mo-poke" herself, and her picture was secured. One morning, when the chick was about a month old, it was taken from its nursery, and the mother bird sounded an alarm. The male bird responded, came within camera range, and his portrait was added to the series.

All Australian bird-lovers should add this little book to their libraries.—W.B.A.

Bibliography of the Writings of the late Count Salvadori.

In the *Rivista Italiana di Ornitologia* for June, 1924, Count E. Arrigoni degli Oddi publishes a brief account of the life of the late Count Tommaso Salvadori, accompanied by a valuable list of his published original papers, numbering 338, and almost all dealing with ornithology. Salvadori described 27 new genera and 490 new species, lists of which are given. A large proportion of the new species were from the Papuan and Malayan regions, and the following Australian birds were described by him: *Monarcha canescens*, *Ninox peninsularis*, *Pitta krefftii*, *Platycercus erythropeplus*, *P. xanthogenys*. The validity of all of these species is still doubtful. He introduced new generic names for two Australian birds: *Histriophaps* for *Columba histrionica*, and *Neothema* for *Euphema bourkii*.

Salvadori wrote three of the volumes of the *Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum*: No. 18, *Psittaci*, or Parrots, 1891; No. 15, *Columbae*, or Pigeons, 1893; and No. 19, dealing with the *Chenomorphae* (Flamingoes and Ducks), *Crypturi* (Tinamous), and *Ratitae* (Emus, Kiwis, etc.), 1895. His other important works included: "A *Catalogue of the Birds of Sardinia*, 1864; *The Fauna of Italy*, Part 2, Birds," 1871-2; *Catalogue of the Birds of Borneo*, 1874; *Prodromus of the Ornithology of Papua and the Moluccas*, 1876-1883; *Catalogue of the Birds of the Kei Is.*, 1879; *Ornithology of Papua and the Moluccas*, 1879-1883; with Supplements, 1889-1891; "Genera Avium Families, *Stringopidae*, *Nestoridae* and *Cacatuidae*," 1905; "Families *Loriidae* and *Cyclopsittacidae*," 1910.

His great work on the Birds of the Papuan region will long cause his name to be remembered by Australasian ornithologists. —W.B.A.

Obituary

MRS. A. NORTON, R.A.O.U.

Mrs. A. Norton (*née* Sybil Wright) died at Tamworth, N.S.W., on December 17, 1924, after an operation. All members of the Union who were acquainted with the deceased lady will sympathise deeply with her husband and relatives in their untimely loss. The late Mrs. Norton was a keen lover and student of bird life, and did much in an unobtrusive way for the protection of the birds in the district near her home. She was content to observe the habits of the birds in their daily life, and during the last years of her life, when in poor health, she derived great pleasure from watching the birds around her.

In October, 1921, Mrs. Norton, with her sister, Miss Wright, took part in the R.A.O.U. Camp at Wallis Lake, and she contributed a paper entitled "Bird Notes from Boree (New England