

ing facts regarding Mr. Fuertes's zeal and intense love of his subject are set out in a few pages of prefatory matter by Mr. Wilfred Osgood, Curator of Zoology of the Museum, issued with the volume.

The reproductions are of that quality that needs an artist to fully appreciate it. But Fuertes's work is well known, and perhaps an attempt to describe it is unnecessary, especially in view of the fact that Fuertes knew his subject so well, that his artistry was combined with such a vast amount of ornithological knowledge that he succeeded in producing work which almost transferred the living bird to his canvas. Many of the birds figured are those that are unlike anything occurring in Australia, such as certain Vultures and Plaintain Eaters, but in a Night Heron (*Nycticorax*) and several Kingfishers, birds approximating to Australian species, there are included forms that are "nearer home." Four plates of mammals complete an interesting collection.—C.E.B.

Obituaries

B. C. J. BETTINGTON.

Mr. B. C. J. Bettington, grazier, of Merriwa, New South Wales, died on August 27, 1931. He was 32 years of age. Born at Merriwa, Mr. Bettington was the elder son of Mr. J. H. Bettington, grazier, and owner of Terragong station. He received his early education at The King's School, and then proceeded to Oxford University with his only brother, Dr. R. H. Bettington. He secured a degree in engineering. About eight years ago he returned to Sydney, and took up the management of his father's station. Mr. Bettington had been a member of the R.A.O.U. since 1915. He wrote the article recording the birds observed near the R.A.O.U. Camp at Upper Williams River, N.S.W., in October, 1926—see *The Emu*, Vol. XXVI, page 188. He was a prominent golfer and cricketer in New South Wales.

J. A. HILL.

Mr. Joseph A. Hill, of Stawell, died on August 23, at the age of 76. He was one of the original members of the Union, and was well known to many of the older members, if not to the younger ones. He took part in several Union "camps out." As a field naturalist he was in touch with leading naturalists, both in Victoria and New South Wales, especially with workers in entomology and ornithology. He was also able to help botanists, particularly with the orchids of the Grampians and the Wimmera. He supplied a good

deal of information to the late A. J. Campbell when the latter was writing his well-known book. Mr. Hill was one of the pioneers of the Kewell district of the Wimmera, and made a notable success of farming, retiring about 10 years ago, to reside in Stawell. He never lost his interest in natural history, and even in the last year of his life he used to give addresses in local schools on birds and insects.

W.J.S.

Notes on Dusky Wood-Swallows.—On August 30, 1930, about fifty Dusky Wood-Swallows (*Artamus cyanopterus*) arrived at the Northern Golf Links, near Melbourne. On September 4 I noticed some of the birds circling and flying round as if they were very agitated. All at once they bunched up in a close flock and flew northwards. When I went into the links the following Saturday there were only about half of the original flock left. I had a good look round but could see nothing which might have disturbed them. The only conclusion I could come to was that the birds had only stayed there to rest for a few days before going on to their own location.

Of the birds that stayed I had many opportunities of observing their habits, especially their feeding. As far as feeding is concerned, it is hard to find any swallow-like habit except when they were hawking insects in the air on rare occasions. Although the Swallow gets practically the whole of its food from the air, the Dusky Wood-Swallow appears to feed very little in the air. Although I observed them often during the season, I noticed them hawking in the air on three or four occasions only. Most of their feeding was done from a dead branch at the top of a tree, from which they flew out, caught an insect, and then back to the branch like a Restless Flycatcher or Jacky Winter does. They rival the Swift Parrot and White-plumed Honeyeaters at acrobatics when hunting insects among the hanging branches of the eucalypts. They also hunt insects on the ground, hopping along like Sparrows or running like a Magpie or White-fronted Chat. When standing on the ground they use their tails as props, and puff out their feathers like a Canary going to sleep. They will stand propped on their tails for a little while until they see an insect move, and then they will hop after it. Each hop they take is about a foot. If the insect starts to move quickly, then the bird runs after it.—W. HEATHCOTE, R.A.O.U., Pascoe Vale, Vic.