

very habitat of which is unknown. The normal range of each bird is outlined and the volume is complete with a list of contents and an index. Continued along the same lines this work will undoubtedly become indispensable to the worker in ornithology.—G.M.

Report of Bird Observers Club

On the evening of January 18, Mr. F. Chapman, palæontologist to the Commonwealth, gave an account of some "Fossil Birds," illustrated by drawings on the screen, of absorbing interest, tracing back the ancestry of birds as far as the rocks have yielded up their tale. To the question whether any of these very ancient forms had been found in Australia, the answer is "No, not yet," but it is possible that some day the *Archæopteryx* or its allies may be discovered here. *Geryornis*, a Moa-like bird, weighing over a ton, has been unearthed at Lake Callabonna and at Warrnambool, and the footprints of a similar bird have been found in hard sandstone. Near Casterton the feather of a Heron was obtained in bog iron-ore deposit.

The first outing of the year was to Tooradin, an old-fashioned fishing village situated at the mouth of Cardinia Creek, where it enters Westernport Bay. We were able to inspect the strange mangrove belt which lines the shores, so different from anything about the sandy beaches of Port Phillip, and also the flat peat lands, which, before reclamation, were covered with paper-bark tea-tree. In each class of vegetation the bird life peculiar to it was noted. But on the samphire marshes, locally called splashes, we were not fortunate in seeing as many waders as expected. A sight to be long remembered was a grove of memorial gum trees, ablaze with blossom in varying shades of crimson and rose, on which brush-tongued Lorikeets and Honeyeaters were feasting.

The February meeting was devoted to "The Mallee." With a very fine series of lantern pictures, Mr. A. H. Mattingley gave an account of his excursions through that wonderful region of bird life. An outing on February 20 took us to Diamond Creek, where a small sanctuary on private land was inspected, and returning via Eltham the home of Mr. Donald Thomson, B.Sc., was visited. Several kinds of rare Australian marsupials were seen thriving in captivity. In the garden a score of Honeyeaters, including the Regent, was noted upon a flowering aloe. The President referred to the research work being undertaken by Mr. and Mrs. Thomson in northern Australia and said that the best wishes of the Club went with them for a successful journey and a safe return. An outing in March was arranged by Mr. Dickison to Mooroolbark, where we were shown the scenes of many of his successful bird pictures. It is interesting to find that many wild birds are yet in this locality and a list of fifty species can readily be made. Two kinds of bandicoot and rare phalangers have been seen in the brushy places. We took tea by the Olinda Creek while Bell Miners sang a vesper chime.

Mr. R. S. Miller has been appointed Assistant Editor in place of Mr. N. J. Favaloro, who has left Melbourne to practise as a solicitor in Mildura, Victoria.