

field notes, however, are unexceptionable, and the book is of convenient size and strongly bound for use in the field. We should have something like this for our Australian birds.—C.M.

Pacific Science.—No. 1 of vol. 1 of this publication of The University of Hawaii, "a quarterly devoted to the biological and physical sciences of the Pacific region", was published on December 10, 1946. More than ever Australia must recognize its associations with the Pacific scene, a matter that, ornithologically, has been exemplified by American research in Melanesia under the auspices of the Whitney South Sea Expedition.

The periodical under review contains 'Notes on the Red-billed Leiothrix in Hawaii'—the bird known to fanciers as the Pekin Nightingale. It is now well established throughout the Hawaiian islands. A paper on sandalwood contains references to writings on the subject by 'our' Dr. George Bennett (1832).—C.E.B.

Birds of South Australia.—H. T. Condon, of the South Australian Museum, contributes to part 2 (January 1947), volume 24, *The South Australian Naturalist*, the second section of his descriptive account of birds recorded in South Australia. The first section appeared in the previous part, and covered 58 species, from penguins to skuas, in the sequence of Condon's list of the birds of South Australia (including Kangaroo Island), published in *The South Australian Ornithologist*, vol. XVIII, pt. 2, June 1946. The second section covers 39 species from Turnstone to Brolga.

Mr. Condon has begun the worthwhile project of a descriptive list of South Australian birds in a practical manner. The list ably compiled some years ago by the late John Sutton was first brought up to date and published. A pithy style was devised for outlining family characteristics and species information—names, approximate size, description (with emphasis on diagnostic characters), calls, distinctive behaviour, habitat, clutch size, distribution, movement and status. Diagrammatic sketches—a great aid to identification—emphasize simply but effectively diagnostic characteristics of 46 of the 97 species covered to date; Mr. Condon can claim to be a pioneer in such illustration in Australia. If it were not for the necessity that a descriptive list must be compact, it would be preferable that the size of a bird not be stated as so many inches in length (which can be misleading), but expressed as a comparison, according to size, with well-known birds such as the Silvereye, Starling, Silver Gull, Black Swan; and that calls (always difficult to grasp from another observer's interpretation in words or syllables) be described with comment on duration, accent and inflection.—J.J.

Erratum.—Mr. C. B. Palmer advises that in his review of H. N. Southern's paper on Polymorphism in Gouldian Finches, in *The Emu* for November 1946, p. 237, the expression 'sex-limited' in the fourth paragraph should read 'sex-linked'.

News and Notes

CONGRESS AND CAMP-OUT FOR 1947

The Council has agreed to hold the Annual Meeting for 1947 in Brisbane late in October and the Camp-out will be held in the Macpherson Ranges. As the accommodation at the camp will be limited it will be necessary for members who are likely to be present to notify the Hon. General Secretary as soon as possible so that reservations may be made.

BOOK FOR SALE

A member of the Union has for sale a copy of A. J. Campbell's *Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds*, in two volumes and in excellent condition. Offers to be made to the Hon. General Secretary.

REPORT OF FEBRUARY MEETING

Following a resolution of the 1946 Annual Meeting, the first of a series of quarterly meetings of the Union was held in the Public Library lecture hall, Swanston Street, Melbourne, on February 7. The attendance was about 50, and Mr. Crosbie Morrison, who presided, presented a report on behalf of the committee which had been appointed to arrange the meetings. The following suggestions were made by the committee for the conduct of future meetings—

1. General discussion of a specific bird problem or bird group, subject to be announced at the previous meeting and in *The Emu*.
2. Reading of papers, followed by discussion, a digest of the discussion as well as the original paper (if accepted for publication) to be printed subsequently in *The Emu*.
3. Report and discussion of recently published work abroad, likely to be of value or interest to Australian and New Zealand ornithologists.
4. Exhibition of bird films of special merit and/or lantern slides showing new or little-photographed phases of bird life (with care not to duplicate similar work already being done by other societies).
5. Field outings with a set object.
6. Combination of any or all of the above.

The meeting resolved that all the suggestions made be incorporated in the general programme for the meetings, which would be held quarterly, and that a recording secretary (honorary) be appointed to record the discussions. The temporary committee was requested to continue.

A remarkable Soviet sound film, 'Sands of Central Asia' was screened. The thanks of the Union are conveyed to the Soviet Legation in Canberra for the loan of the film, free of charge, and to the anonymous member who defrayed the cost of projection.

In a general discussion which followed the screening several members gave brief accounts of recent ornithological matters of interest.

MAY MEETING

A meeting, for members and friends, will be held at the Lecture Hall, National Museum, on Friday, May 2, at 8 p.m. The attendance of as great a number as possible is desired.

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