

Ponds railway station. He described it as like a pigeon in character and with a 'bump' on its head. When he was shown coloured illustrations of a number of birds, he identified the bird, without being prompted, as the Topknot Pigeon.

Those interviewed at Spreyton all remarked on the tameness of the Pigeons, declaring they could approach them to within a few yards; and the same thing also was reported by the Antill Ponds observer, who said the bird came close to his house as if looking for food.

Registered number of the specimen added to the Tasmanian Museum collection is 13184/B2703. — MICHAEL SHARLAND, Hobart, Tas., 12/3/54.

News and Notes

ANNUAL CONGRESS, 1954

Congress will be held this year in New South Wales, the proposed camp-out site being on the South Coast (Wollongong district). It is the permanent camp of the district Scout group and is situated on the edge of a mountain in dense brush. A caretaker who is a member of the Illawarra Naturalists Club is in residence. There are spacious grounds, kitchen and cooking facilities, dining-room, and sleeping quarters with bunks and mattresses. Transport facilities are available and most of the roads in the vicinity are tarred. A tiled swimming bath has been constructed. The period of the camp will be from November 8 to 19. Mr. G. R. Gannon has been appointed preliminary organizer, but enquiries should be directed to Mr. A. R. McGill, 119 Wollongong Road, Arncliffe, N.S.W., the State Secretary. Further details will be published when available.

MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

The response to the request to members in arrears to bring their subscriptions up to date has been splendid, but some members are tardy. Assist the Hon. Treasurer and the Union generally by keeping up to date. Enquire of the Hon. Treasurer if you are uncertain of your position.

The Council has decided to discontinue the despatch of *The Emu* to members in arrears with subscriptions. Please pay attention to this reminder and pay your subscription at once.

NEW HON. TREASURER

Mr. Howard Jarman, 386 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, has been appointed Hon. Treasurer of the Union.

FIFTY YEARS INDEX

Members are reminded that copies of the comprehensive Index to the first fifty volumes of *The Emu* are available

from the Hon. General Secretary at £1/1/-, plus postage —7d. in Australia, 9d. to British Empire countries, 1/5 foreign. Exchange should be added to cheques. This work is indispensable to workers in Australian ornithology.

VISIT OF DR. ALFRED BAILEY

Our member, Dr. Alfred M. Bailey, Director of the Denver Museum of Natural History, Colorado, U.S.A., is visiting Melbourne in connection with the centenary of the National Museum, Melbourne. He has delivered two lectures, illustrated by his own colour films, in Melbourne and in Victorian country centres.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE-BEARERS

Nominations for one Vice-President (but not President) and officers and members of Council may be made in writing, signed by proposer and seconder, and accompanied by the written consent of the nominee. They must be sent so as to reach the Hon. General Secretary by not later than June 30.

HONOURS FOR MEMBERS

Dr. D. L. Serventy has been appointed Chairman of the Standing Committee on Pacific Conservation of the Pacific Science Association, the eighth congress of which, at Manila, he recently attended. The secretary of the committee is Dr. F. R. Fosberg, of the Pacific Vegetation Project, National Research Council, Washington, D.C.

Mr. A. R. McGill has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales.

FIELD GUIDE TO WADERS

The Bird Observers Club still has copies of this handy, well-illustrated pocket guide available. Price 2/6, plus 3d. postage. It may be obtained from Mr. David Mitchell, 4 Victor Avenue, Cheltenham, S.22, Victoria.

BIRDS OF THE WORLD

So many requests for information as to the status of Peters' *Check-List of Birds of the World* have been made that it is considered that members would be interested in the matter.

Dr. Ernst Mayr and Mr. James C. Greenway, Jnr., have written advising that they have been appointed joint editors to see that the work is completed. Probably seven volumes will be required to contain the families not treated by Dr. Peters. A volume has almost been finished by Dr. Zimmer of the American Museum in New York. Sixteen collaborators have most kindly agreed to contribute the families that remain to be done and each one will be the responsible

author of his contribution. It is hoped by such means to assure that the work will be completed in as short a time as possible.

Obituary

GERALD FREER HILL

Australian ornithologists of the present generation may know little of Gerald Hill, but during his long association with the R.A.O.U. he published several valuable papers in *The Emu*, was a field-collector in north-western Australia for H. L. White, State Secretary for the Northern Territory for nine years (the only State Secretary the Territory has ever had) and, for a short term, Hon. General Secretary to our Union.

He was born in Victoria in 1881, and became, as A. J. Campbell remarked, "a keen ornithologist, whose father, G. R. Hill of Malvern, Victoria, and brothers were all enthusiastic naturalists." For a time he resided in New Zealand, and while there contributed his first paper to *The Emu* on the birds of the Ararat district, Victoria. He became Hon. General Secretary to the Union about November 1908 and resigned in July 1909, when he went for ten months (August 1909 to June 1910) to the Drysdale Mission Station in the Kimberley district collecting on behalf of H. L. White. From February 1911 to April 1912 he was a member of the Barclay Expedition, which covered much of Australia that was then little known ornithologically, and traversed a zig-zag route from Oodnadatta to Borrooloola in the Gulf country. On each of these trips he secured valuable data on little-known birds.

He was Government Entomologist at Darwin from 1913 to 1917. From 1920 to 1923 he was employed at the Tropical Institute at Townsville; he then joined the staff of the National Museum, Melbourne, from 1923 to 1926. From the early 1920's he specialized in the study of termites, and in 1926 joined the staff of the C.S.I.R., eventually being recognized as a world authority on that group of insects.

He retired in 1942 and lived at Durras, on the south coast of New South Wales, for the remainder of his life. He died on January 18, 1954, and is survived by his widow and three sons, one of whom, William, shared his father's interest in birds, and frequently accompanied him on local bird excursions. Despite his non-participation in Union affairs during later years, Gerald Hill maintained his keen interest in ornithology until his passing.

His name in perpetuated in the nomenclature of Australian birds by *Platycercus venustus hilli* Mathews, 1910 (the north-western race of the Northern Rosella), *Eopsaltria hilli* A. J. Campbell, 1910 (now regarded as the female of *Pachycephala robusta* and the north-western race