

The death occurred in England on October 27, 1932, of Dr. Henry Ogg Forbes, who during the years 1890-1893 held the post of Director of the Canterbury Museum in New Zealand. During his stay in New Zealand he devoted a good deal of attention to the avifauna of the Chatham Islands, and the results of his researches are embodied in a paper in *The Ibis* for 1893.

The following new members have been enrolled:--Albert Scott, 70 Dunlaven Road, Mitcham, Vic.; Mt. Eliza Bird Club, c/o Miss H. Bright, Humphrey's Road, Frankston, Victoria; J. Dinsdale, Pakula Siding, Owens Creek, via Mackay, Qld.; F. Fraser, Ingham, Qld.; Mrs. Ronald Robertson, Ruthven Station, Isisford, Qld.; K. B. Livingstone, Kooragang, Moree, N.S.W.; A. H. Robinson, Ullawarra Station, Onslow, W.A.; E. De Santos, Box 213, Los Banos, California, U.S.A.; Edward Schroeder, 811 S. 16th Street, Manitowoc, Wis., U.S.A.; F. B. Madrazo, Lista 20, Madrid, Spain.

Mr. G. M. Mathews is monographing the Tubinares, and has little Australian material upon which to work now that his collection has gone to America. He would appreciate the despatch to him (Meadway, St. Cross, Winchester) of skins or portions (particularly heads and feet) of Petrels, Albatrosses, etc. Mr. Mathews has a permit to import skins into England, and doubtless if specimens are lent to him for an unstated time the difficulty in regard to their leaving Australia can be overcome.

Capt. S. A. White has been appointed as State Secretary for South Australia, and Mr. T. G. Souter as an additional member of Council for that State.

## Report of Bird Observers Club

At the annual meeting held on March 27 much discussion centred around the recent exhibition, which proved a success financially, as well as in the general interest it aroused. It was decided to make the exhibition an annual institution, and to use the funds so obtained for the furtherance of this movement.

The Leach Memorial Club continues to function in co-operation with the Bird Observers by arranging the monthly outings. Last year's itinerary covered over 700 miles.

The attractions of Anthony's Crossing, on Djerriwarrah Creek, Bacchus Marsh road, drew a large attendance. The picturesque valley, 150 feet below the plain, has the makings of a fine park. Upstream, still in unspoiled condition, is the area which a writer described, some years ago, as the best all-round collecting ground near Melbourne for the naturalist. The country varies from rich basaltic soil to tertiary gravels and the poorest reef-bearing shales. The vegetation has not yet been properly investigated, but there are to be seen large clumps of mallee eucalypt and small-leaved tea-tree, known as "moonah", with several members of the saltbush family, all indicating

excessively dry conditions. The chief interest in bird geography lies in the fact that some northern fauna come down that far, to be then blocked by the volcanic lava flows. The club's census of the birds of this area, after several visits, now reaches 124, and more can be expected in the future. Mr. V. R. Davey, an enthusiastic bird lover at Toolern, a few miles away, throws out the idea that a bird observation cabin could be constructed as a centre for systematic observation. That is a practical suggestion well worth a trial. A pair of Eagles circling in the blue among fleecy clouds, drew rapt attention. It was agreed that such a sight was a good equivalent for the occasional loss of a lamb or two.

The ordinary meeting on April 24 was devoted to a demonstration by Mr. J. A. Ross of the practical ways of skinning and preserving birds as cabinet specimens.

The outing in April was to Warrandyte, or Anderson's Creek, a rural village on the banks of the Yarra. There the river passes through poor Silurian ridges by an extremely tortuous course, which adds to the variety of the scenery, while many of the secluded reaches are still in primeval beauty. At this time of year birds were not plentiful, nevertheless it was interesting to note which species had taken themselves off to warmer regions.

May 7 found a large party of fifty-five members and friends at Cranbourne, enjoying a ramble over the dry, sandy slopes of the tertiary hills. Early heath was flowering, and dwarf banksias attracted many Honeyeaters. But most of the scrubby vegetation was only in bud awaiting the delayed autumn rains. The large total of forty-four species of birds was identified for the day, including four species of Robins and seven of Honeyeaters. It is interesting to find older types of birds established in such geologically-new country, notably the Emu-Wren. The survival of such a frail creature may be accounted for by the very dense scrub it now inhabits. The main danger is from fire, after which, although the scrub grows again, the Emu-Wren, the Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, and the Striated Field-Wren do not return. From rising ground the party could see the waters of both Port Phillip and Western Port, and, away to the north, the encircling hills of ancient highlands—the backbone of Victoria.

At the May meeting the president reported that Bourke Parrots were being sold in Melbourne, and discussion concerning their protection followed. Further action will be taken after consideration by the committee. Mr. A. G. Campbell gave a lecture on Mud Island, being a combined account of several recent visits by bird lovers. The lantern slides, contributed by several members, with Mr. Campbell's pertinent observations, made an interesting and instructive record of this little-known bird sanctuary, the breeding grounds of perhaps 5,000 pairs of White-faced Storm Petrels and the rendezvous of thousands of Waders. (See *The Emu*, Vol. VI, p. 17, for further particulars.)

On May 20 a walk was undertaken from Mitcham to Ringwood, via the bushy territory of Deep Creek. A small bird list was of entirely resident species, no Cuckoos or other summer visitors being noted. The creek valley was the scene of some early photographs, one being the nest of the Spotted Ground-bird, in A. J. Campbell's *Nests and Eggs*, p. 254. The quarry has recently been reopened after forty years of idleness. The rock thereabouts appears to give a better soil, and the messmate gum trees do not attract parasitic mistletoes in such quantity as was seen at Warrandyte. Two parties of Superb Blue Wrens were seen, which upset the theory of a change in plumage in winter, for the male in both cases was in brilliant blue dress. The party was shown a nest of the Speckled Warbler, hidden beneath a tussock of grass, where a family was reared last season. By evening the party reached the pine-crowned top of Ringwood Hill, the culminating point of Melbourne's Silurian rock, 650 feet above sea level, and a well-known landmark, enjoying a panorama of hill and dale, the far distance being bedimmed with cloud and fog.