

This consisted of the technical description of an orchid discovered and named by the author, as new to science, *Prasophyllum fusco-viride*.

NATURAL HISTORY NOTE.

Mr. D. Best read a note on the life-history of the longicorn beetle, *Scolecobrotus Westwoodii*, in connection with his exhibit of the beetle and the branches in which the larvæ had grown to maturity.

EXHIBITS.

The following were the principal exhibits:—By Mr. F. G. A. Barnard.—Bifurcated frond of Tree Fern, *Dicksonia Antarctica* (cultivated), also portion of frond of Queensland Ribbon Fern, *Ophioglossum pendulum*, Linn., showing fructification. By Mr. D. Best.—Specimens of beetle, *Scolecobrotus Westwoodii*. By Mr. A. Coles.—Egg of the Black-breasted Buzzard, *Gypoictinia melanosterna*, from New South Wales; also four specimens of the cuckoo *Eudynamus Flindersi*, from Queensland. By Mr. C. French, F.L.S.—Exotic butterflies (Papilionidæ), including ten species of the genus Ornithoptera. By Mr. C. French, jun.—Rare eggs of *Sterna melanauchen*, Black-naped Tern, from North Queensland. By Mr. J. Haase.—Victorian skippers, *Hesperilla Donnysa* and *H. flammeata*, *Trapezites idothea*, and the scarce *T. Andersoni*; also larvæ of the butterfly *Xenica Hobarti*, reared from eggs. By Mr. F. M. Reader.—Orchid, *Prasophyllum fusco-viride*, in illustration of his paper. By Mr. G. E. Shepherd.—Rare eggs of Crested Hawk from New South Wales, and White-eyed Duck from Macorna, and also egg of Brush Cuckoo found in nest of the Scarlet-breasted Robin with two of the latter's; also adult and young male specimens of Brush Cuckoo.

After the usual conversazione the meeting terminated.

EXCURSION TO BLACK ROCK.

THIS excursion, which took place on Saturday, 11th December, was fairly attended. On arriving at Black Rock we were rather disgusted to find that it was almost high tide. However, by means of long sticks we were enabled to get a fair lot of representative sea-weeds. The commonest was the green, thin *Ulva latissima*; its broken lettuce-like leaves were strewn all along the shore, as well as lining the few tide pools that could be reached. Two distinct species of *Cladophora* were also found growing on the rocks. Mixed with these were the slimy masses of *Enteromorpha*; this is a curious plant, forming tufts of long, green, hollow hairs. The attention of the party was next directed to the long, soft fronds of *Caulerpa Brownii* and *Codium elongata*. These are apparently alike, but their structure is very different, the caulerpa being really unicellular although so very complex; it is easily dis-

tinguished by its long creeping stems, which give off at intervals bright-green, upright, cylindrical, branching fronds. They feel like soft velvet, only rather slimy. Harvey says that their reproduction is still unknown. Although they have absolutely no division walls in their structure, they have a system of vegetable beams and rafters which keeps their outside walls in position. The *Codium* has the same soft, slimy feel, and is green and cylindrical, but there the likeness ceases, being multicellular, the inside of the stems being solid. From the solid centre spring thousands of tiny hairs like the pile of velvet; between, or rather growing on these hairs, or ramuli, as they are called, are thousands of zoospores from which new plants arise. Another *Caulerpa* (very rare), *C. sedioides*, was also found; it consists of branching fronds bearing bright-green air bladders. The tide was so very high that it prevented the party from obtaining many specimens of really local plants—these, of course, must be found growing on the rocks, or their exact locality cannot be determined. It is to be hoped that another excursion may be settled for some Saturday when a low tide may be reckoned on, for the members of the party were tantalized by seeing thousands of plants growing on the rocks, but entirely beyond reach. Black Rock is evidently a well chosen ground under favourable circumstances. It would be very interesting to follow out the different families that grow in pools left by the retiring waves, commencing with those that are first uncovered, and in which will be found many kinds of green seaweed (*Chlorosperma*). Gradually, as one explores seaward, the green will be seen to give place to olive-green, brown, and even almost black seaweeds. In the lowest tide pools, or under some of the larger brown seaweeds, may be obtained a number of the red seaweeds. However, our party had to content itself by dragging out masses of seawrack, from amongst which quite a number of good specimens were obtained. The delicate fronds of *Callithamnion Griffithsia*, *Areschougia*, and *Plocamium* were mixed up with great masses of different kinds of *Fucacea*. No less than six of these last were obtained, including *Sargassum*, *Sierococcus*, *Cystophira*, *Hormosira*, and *Ecklonia*. The broad, serrated fronds of *Ecklonia* were especially noticeable. Other brown seaweeds were *Myriodesma*, *Haliseris*, *Myriocladia*, and *Zonaria*. A few pieces of the white, coral-like *Amphora* were mixed up amongst the long branches of brown *Cystophora*, and the serrated edges of a beautiful bright red *Phacelocarpus* were entwined amongst the long, nearly black, grass-like fronds of *Melanthalia*. A great number of leaf-like fronds were found, but although somewhat resembling the smaller species of *Lenormandia*, we were inclined to think that they belonged to some land plant. Only one species of *Gelidium* was obtained; this was a green variety, *G. glandulifolium*. It is particularly necessary to see if

this seaweed is common on the shores of the Bay, as it may become a useful article of commerce; it is very plentiful at Barwon Heads after a storm. Some of our party turned their attention to zoology. Several egg bags belonging to sharks and dogfish were obtained, and a rather uncommon specimen of nudibranch mollusc was found on one of the rocks, as well as several varieties of Diatoms and Hydroids.

After thoroughly working out the narrow fringe of shore that could be reached under the circumstances, the party turned its attention to the maritime plants growing at the bases of the steep rises towards Beaumaris, where the following plants were found in flower:—*Lobelia pratioides*, *Apium prostrata*, *Goodenia geniculata* and *ovata*, *Calocephalus Brownii*, and *Atriplex cinereum*.

Altogether it was a most enjoyable and interesting trip, and the members returned to town thoroughly satisfied with their outing.—H. T. TISDALL.

NOTES ON THE NIDIFICATION OF THE EMU WREN.

BY G. E. SHEPHERD.

(Read before the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, 14th December, 1897.)

As but little is known concerning the nidification of that beautiful and most interesting bird the Emu Wren, *Stipiturus malachurus*, Lath. (V.), I shall endeavour to give some information regarding its nesting habits, some of which, at least, I hope will be new to members and others taking an interest in oology.

In the first place I may say that the birds are far from rare, though the eggs are exceedingly so—a fact no doubt, due to the extreme difficulty experienced in finding the nest. In October, 1892, I found my first nest in the following curious manner. I had noticed a White Egret flying along the edge of the tide on the shore of Western Port Bay, and being anxious to secure the bird, I commenced stalking through the scrub fringing the fore-shore. Whilst so engaged I flushed an Emu Wren from a thick *Salonica* bush, and discovered the nest, situated in the thickest part of the foliage, and containing three eggs, which were nearly hatched. Possessed of the knowledge thus obtained, I made repeated and persistent efforts to again find a nest, but without success until September, 1895, on the 14th of which month I succeeded in finding a nest containing two fresh eggs. This nest I also found accidentally through riding across a shallow swamp fringed with stunted ti-tree, from amongst which I saw the bird flutter, and after a short search discovered the nest. Two days afterwards I discovered another nest in a patch of thick, low scrub. In this instance three eggs were taken, somewhat incubated, one of which broke when being blown. Unfortunately



Tisdall, Henry Thomas. 1898. "Excursion to Black Rock (Saturday 11 December [1897])." *The Victorian Naturalist* 14, 138–140.

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