

South Australian Ornithologist, vol. vi. nos. 5 & 6,
Jan. & Apl. 1922.

- White, S. A.** Description of *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa* — Yellow-rumped Tit.
Morgan, A. M. Observations on birds in north-western Australia.
Chenery, A. Notes on birds seen during a recent visit to the Western Darling, N.S.W.
McGilp, J. N. Notes by the late Dr. Angrove, Tea-tree Gully, S.A.
White, S. A. Description of *Psephotus haematonotus*—Red-backed Parrot.
Morgan, A. M. A trip to the Baudin Rocks.

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- FRONTISPIECE.—Photographs of ornithologists who have contributed to our knowledge of Japanese Ornithology.
Takatsukasa, Prince N., and Kuroda, N. A new generic name, *Neocalophasis*, proposed for the Mikado Pheasant (*Calophasis mikado* O.-Grant).
Matsudaira, Viscount Y. On the moulting of Gulls.
Kuroda, N. Birds in the vicinity of Shizuura, Suruga, with map and photographs.
Hachisuka, M. On *Chaunoproctus ferreirostris*; 2 photos.
Momiyama, T. Notes on some birds from Hachijo Island.
Enomoto, Y. Method of flight of *Aquila chrysaetos*; figs.
Fujita. Birds of Shikoku.
Nibe, J. Anomalies of egg-marking.
Hachisuka, M. Pheasants in Britain, with a plate.

XXXIII.—*Letters, Extracts, and Notes.*

The Hermit Ibis in the Sudan.

SIR,—On the 11th of February, 1922, when about six to eight miles south of Singa on the Blue Nile, I saw several hundred, perhaps over one thousand in all, individuals of this species (*Comatibis eremita*). I shot one, a male; the skin is now in the Giza Zoological Museum.

This is only the third occasion on which I have met the Hermit Ibis in the Sudan. The large number of individuals appears worthy of being recorded.

A few dozen Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopica*) were with the great crowds of Hermit Ibis.

El Giza, Egypt.

9 March, 1922.

S. S. FLOWER,

Major.

Sudan Doves.

SIR,—In 'The Ibis,' 1920, p. 831, Messrs. Sclater & Mackworth-Praed, when discussing *Streptopelia turtur turtur*, state that it seems probable that *Streptopelia t. arenicola* may also occur in the Sudan. It is therefore interesting to record that we have recently received a typical example of *Streptopelia turtur arenicola* collected by Major Flower near Sennar, Blue Nile, on 14 February, 1922. It is an adult female.

Yours etc.,

El Giza, Egypt.

5 March, 1922.

MICHAEL J. NICOLL.

Sense of smell possessed by Birds.

SIR,—Referring to Mr. Gurney's paper in the last 'Ibis,' a few years ago at Moyles Court, Ringwood, we had evidence of a remarkably keen sense of smell in Pheasants.

Three old cocks and a hen from the coverts surrounding the garden, removed and ate hundreds of crocus bulbs buried some three or four inches deep; this occurred in the month of August, when all vegetative organs of crocuses have died off and disappeared.

There was no disturbance of the soil to find the bulbs, just a neat perpendicular hole immediately above each bulb.

To man a crocus bulb has no scent whatever. The Pheasant must possess a very highly specialised olfactory nerve.

Yours faithfully,

13 Arlington Street, S.W. 1.

14 May, 1922.

ROSE HAIG THOMAS, F.L.S.

Wild Bird Protection.

The following letter appeared in the 'Times' of April 10 last :—

SIR,—In consequence of the exhibition of some clutches of wild birds' eggs at the last Oological dinner, Lord Buxton, at the annual meeting of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, drew public attention to the action of certain oologists as constituting a distinct menace to the effective protection of wild birds and to the due enforcement of the laws passed for their protection. Lord Buxton forwarded a copy of his speech to the British Ornithologists' Union for their observations.

In the first place, the committee of the B.O.U. would point out that the Oological dinners are not held under the auspices of the British Ornithologists' Union, nor are those who attend or exhibit necessarily members either of the B.O. Union or the B.O. Club. In view, however, of the public interest in the question of the protection of wild birds and of their eggs, the committee of the B.O.U. desire publicly to state (as they have already assured Lord Buxton) :—

(1) That they are desirous of encouraging the protection of rare birds in England in every way possible ;

(2) That it is their ambition to limit the collecting of eggs to the taking of such as are required in the interests of science, and they specially protest against the taking of eggs of any birds in any locality where they are rare, or the taking of eggs in unnecessary numbers ;

(3) That it is their emphatic desire to support, both in letter and in spirit, the Acts which provide for the protection of birds and their eggs, and they deprecate very strongly the action of any member who disobeys these laws, or who incites any other to break or evade them.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

H. J. ELWES,

President, B.O.U.

E. C. STUART BAKER,

Hon. Secretary, B.O.U.

British Ornithologists' Union,
6 Harold Place, Upper Norwood,
S.E. 19.

The position of the Union in regard to protection and conservation of bird-life has been the subject of discussion by the Committee of the Union on several occasions recently.

The Committee desire to appeal to all members of the Union to assist them in carrying out the principles laid down in the letter as printed above, and they ask all collectors, either of bird-skins or birds' eggs, to refrain from collecting long series of rare species, the amassing of which may contribute to the extinction of those species as British Birds. The Committee also desire to protest most strongly against the custom of some collectors of bribing keepers and other employees of landowners to procure for them rare birds and eggs. Such conduct can only bring the Union into disrepute.

Many members of the Union have urged the Committee to take action against members who have, or are said to have, committed offences dealt with under Rule 8 of the Union. As, however, the Committee have to act as judge and jury in such cases and to decide on the evidence whether the offence has been committed or not, it does not appear to be possible for the Committee as a body to take action, although there is nothing to prevent any individual member of the Committee from so doing. The whole procedure in regard to such cases is laid down in Rule 8, and any accusation against a member made under that rule should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, who will place it before the Committee at the earliest moment.

For the convenience of Members who have not a copy of the rules by them, Rule 8 is reprinted here as follows:—

If, in the opinion of the Committee, any Member shall have acted in a manner injurious to the interests or good name of the Union, or his Membership shall have become undesirable, or he shall have personally assisted in or connived at the capture or destruction of any bird, nest, or egg in the British Isles, by purchase or otherwise, likely, in the opinion of the Committee, to lead to the extermination or serious diminution of that species as a British bird, the Secretary shall be directed to send, whenever

possible, a registered letter to that Member, stating the nature of the offence of which he is accused, together with the name of the informant, or the source of information, and asking for an explanation of the same. After allowing a reasonable time (not less than a clear fortnight after the receipt of the Secretary's letter) for reply or for appearing in person before the Committee if he so desire, the Committee, providing not less than four are agreed, shall have power to remove the gentleman's name from the List of Members. Such Member may, if he so desire, stand for re-election by Ballot at the next Annual General Meeting, and in the event of his re-election no fee for re-admission shall be required.

Plumage Bill.

The Board of Trade send the following announcement :—

By virtue of the Importation of Plumage (No. 2) Order, 1922, the names of certain birds (which are set out below) have been added to the Schedule to the Importation of Plumage (Prohibition) Act, 1921, and their plumage can therefore be imported into the United Kingdom without special licence :—

The Common Jay ; the Common Magpie ; the Common Starling ; the Java Sparrow ; the West African Ring-necked Parrakeet ; the Chinese Bustard ; the Green (or Japanese) Pheasant ; the Copper Pheasant ; and the Golden Pheasant.

The Advisory Committee appointed under the Act, in recommending the addition of the names of the three last-mentioned birds to the Schedule, further recommended that the matter should be referred to them again for review after the expiration of twelve months.

The Board of Trade accordingly desire it to be known that the addition of these birds is provisional, and that the question of their continued inclusion will be referred again to the Committee for consideration twelve months hence.

Board of Trade,
12th June, 1922.

Ringed Tern in South Africa.

From the Report of the South African Museum at Capetown for 1921, we extract the following item:—"An interesting addition has been that of an example of the European Common Tern, *Sterna fluviatilis*, ringed in Sweden (Göteborg Museum), and shot at the Berg River, Cape Prov. on the 24th of December, 1921. The bird turns out to have been ringed in 1913 and was thus nine years old. The species is not uncommon in Table Bay at the non-breeding season."

Personalia.

Dr. E. HARTERT has recently returned from Cyrenaica (Tripoli), where he has been spending a few weeks collecting for the Tring Museum.

Rear-Admiral H. LYNES, C.B., and Mr. WILLOUGHBY LOWE returned home from Darfur in May last, bringing with them very extensive collections in every branch of Natural History, including a fine series of bird-skins. We hope to publish a report on these before very long. We also offer our congratulations to Admiral Lynes on his promotion to Flag-rank.

We learn that Dr. C. E. HELLMAYR, of Munich, has been appointed Associate-Curator of the division of birds in the Field Museum of Natural History at Chicago, and will take up his appointment this autumn.

Capt. S. A. WHITE, who has already done much exploration work in South Australia, is engaged on a journey across the Australian continent from north to south by a new and hitherto unexplored route.

A good many ornithologists from overseas have recently been paying a visit to England. Among them may be mentioned Dr. JONATHAN DWIGHT of New York, a Fellow of the



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