

We have read of the "flora of a single tree." Here is the avifauna of a single tree—a tall, slender wild cinnamon tree ("canella" of the natives), which Mr. Beebe observed on the Amazon, and noted in a chapter sandwiched in his Guiana jungle matter. The tree was twiggy and laden with a wonderful harvest of brownish berries:—

"From daybreak to dark the canella tree was seldom deserted. Usually a score or more of birds fluttered and fed amongst its branches. In the few hours I was able to devote to its study I identified seventy-six different kinds, and, together with those which I saw but could not name, I judged that more than a hundred species must have come to the berries during that week in early May. The first day I secured sixteen specimens, all different; and the following day yielded fourteen more, only one of which was a duplicate of the first day's results." (Here follow names and habits of same.)

We congratulate Mr. Beebe on his unique book on nature. We sometimes hear the expression, "the fortunes of war." In the Great War just concluded it was our good fortune to have the United States of America as an ally; therefore we claim Mr. Beebe as one of ourselves. Moreover, he writes in our language and speaks our mother tongue. It is a happy coincidence, too, that this book, with its title, "Peace"—even the "Peace of the Jungle"—should synchronize with the end of the dreadful war.

Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union.

THE annual meeting of the Union was held at No. 2 Temple Court, Melbourne, on 4th December, 1918, at 7.30 p.m.

There were present:—Col. G. Horne (in the chair), Messrs. W. B. Alexander, A. J. Campbell, R. H. Croll, Z. Gray, H. E. Hurst, W. H. D. Le Souëf, H. W. Ford, A. H. E. Mattingley, F. Keep, G. Hill, A. C. Stone, A. Wilkie, F. Tregellas, J. A. Ross, Dr. B. Nicholls, Miss H. Bowie, Capt. H. L. Cochrane.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Council has much pleasure in presenting to the members of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union its Eighteenth Annual Report.

Thirty-four of our members are still at the front, and all honour to them! We deeply regret that four—probably five—in addition, have given their lives during the past year, namely:—Reginald Hutchinson, Victoria; A. M'Kenzie Kirkwood, Victoria; Maurice Thompson, Victoria; R. H. M. Eltis, Victoria; and G. Arnold Young, Queensland (missing for over a year).

At the conclusion of the war an honour board will be erected in the Union's room, so that the names of the brave men who have obeyed their country's call will be handed down to posterity.

Seven members have resigned during the year. Sixteen members

have joined from Victoria, eleven from New South Wales, three from Queensland, three from South Australia, and one each from Western Australia, Tasmania, India, and Norway, making a total of thirty-seven.

The visit to Queensland for the purpose of holding the annual meeting in Brisbane and a camp-out has been again postponed until the war is over. (Arrangements are now being considered for the resumption of the annual congress and camp-out.)

The Union's room at Temple Court, Melbourne, has proved of much service. Two handsome egg-cabinets have been added—one kindly presented by Mr. H. L. White, and the other by Mr. T. G. Austin. The Council is much indebted to both these gentlemen for their generous gifts. Our hon. secretary, Mr. Le Souëf, has also presented a commodious cabinet in which most of the Union's bird-skins are kept; it is, as far as possible, insect-proof. Mr. H. L. White has presented the Union with over three hundred sets of birds' eggs, with full data, and other members have generously given clutches. It is hoped that a full catalogue of the collection will be published in *The Emu* later on, so that our members can see what we still need. Mr. Stone and his helpers have worked well during the year in getting the collection in order. Mr. White has also most generously given the Union twenty-eight of Gould's coloured illustrations, being part of his famous supplement of "Birds of Australia." These are all framed in blackwood, and adorn the Union's room.

The collection of bird-skins is slowly increasing, and Mr. A. J. Campbell, with his two assistants, has got them all in order. Mr. Wm. Howat has kindly presented the Union with a large case of mounted birds, mostly Parrots, for its room.

Mrs. Otway Falkiner, Miss A. J. Fletcher, Mr. Chisholm, Mr. Howe, and others have also presented pictures of interest to the Union.

The conversaziones held at the room on the first Wednesday in every month have been well attended, and many instructive papers have been read, also interesting discussions have taken place; these are usually notified in *The Emu*.

A quarterly meeting is held at the National Museum, through the courtesy of the Director, where members have the privilege of discussing the relationship one species has with another, &c., and also of inspecting Mr. H. L. White's splendid collection and other bird skins.

The Council have again to thank the Royal Zoological and Acclimatization Society for so kindly continuing to house the spare stocks of *The Emu*, &c.

The library continues to increase. The librarian, Mr. W. B. Alexander, has been assiduous in his duties, and his report is appended. The Union's journal, *The Emu*, has been kept well up to its usual standard, despite increased cost, &c., and the papers are of interest and value.

W. H. D. LE SOUËF, *Hon. Sec.*

The following office-bearers were unanimously elected:—President, A. F. Basset Hull; vice-presidents, Dr. J. A. Leach, Chas. A. Barnard; hon. secretary, W. H. D. Le Souëf; hon. treasurer, Z. Gray; hon. librarian, W. B. Alexander; hon. editor of *Emu*, Dr. J. A. Leach; hon. assistant editor, R. H. Croll; hon. press correspondent, Dr. Brooke Nicholls; hon. auditors, J. Barr, J. Hedding.

Local State Secretaries:—New South Wales, A. S. Le Souëf; South Australia, Capt. S. A. White; Western Australia, W. T. Forster; Tasmania, Clive E. Lord; New Zealand, W. R. B. Oliver; Queensland, A. H. Chisholm; Northern Territory, G. F. Hill.

Members of Council:—Victoria, Gen. C. S. Ryan, C.B., A. H. E. Mattingley, A. C. Stone, F. E. Howe; New South Wales, Dr. J. Burton Cleland, Dr. D'Ombraïn; Queensland, Dr. T. Harvey Johnstone, E. M. Cornwall; South Australia, Edwin Ashby, J. W. Mellor; Western Australia, Major A. E. Le Souëf, P. T. Sandland; Tasmania, Robert Hall, H. Stuart Dove.

The following new members had also been elected by the Council during the past year:—

Victoria.—Mr. G. Murray Black, Tarwin Lower; Dr. J. L. Blakie, Surrey Hills; Dr. R. J. Bull, Surrey Hills; Mr. F. Doyle, Melbourne; Mr. Frank Francis, A.I.F., Broadmeadows Camp; Mr. A. MacCaskill, jun., Coleraine; Mr. W. J. O'Neill, Melbourne; Mr. H. Pye, Dookie; Mr. G. M. Quiney, Ascot Vale; Mrs. Ellis Rowan, Upper Macedon; Mr. G. E. Shepherd, Somerville; Mr. H. E. Starke, Malvern; Mr. Hedley Smith, St. Kilda; Sir Baldwin Spencer; Mr. J. M. Thomson, Hawthorn; Mr. H. S. Trevena, Fairfield; Mr. R. Voige, Casterton.

New South Wales.—Mr. Wm. Brennan, Moree; Mr. Neville W. Cayley, Sydney; Mr. T. H. Clee, Moree; Mr. R. G. Hays, Armidale; Mr. A. P. Kemp, Quirindi; Dr. W. J. S. M'Kay, Sydney; Mr. J. MacPherson, Sydney; Mr. Howard Macfarlane, Bathurst; Mr. F. L. Robin, Sydney; Mr. James Sloane, Mulwala; Miss N. Curwen-Walker, Moree.

Queensland.—Mr. H. J. Kersey; Mr. H. A. Longman, Brisbane; Mr. T. C. Marshall, Brisbane.

South Australia.—Mr. J. N. M'Gilp, Copley; Rev. A. H. Nutting, Port Augusta; Mr. J. H. Welfare, Semaphore.

Western Australia.—Hon. Justice R. B. Burnside, Perth.

Tasmania.—Mr. R. W. Legge, Cullenswood.

India.—Mr. W. A. Tucker, C.P., Sangar.

Norway.—The Librarian, Zoological Museum, Christiania.

The notice by Mr. A. J. Campbell that rule 6 be altered from "seven" to "ten" members, and by Mr. W. B. Alexander that all presidents be *ex-officio* vice-presidents, having been brought up for discussion, were withdrawn for the present, on the hon.

RECEIPTS AND

For Year ended

RECEIPTS.				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To	Balance—General Fund...	...	...	20	7	9			
"	"	Colour Fund ...	...	14	5	8			
							34	13	5
"	Subscriptions ...	...	...	157	5	0			
"	"	Arrears ...	...	52	5	0			
"	"	Advance ...	...	14	5	0			
							223	15	0
"	Sales, £5 2s. ; Covers, £1 3s. ; "Check-lists," 12s.						6	17	0
"	Donations ...	...	...				118	8	0
"	Exchange, £1 19s. 9d. ; Interest, £1 8s. 2d.						3	7	11
"	Colour Fund—Donations ...	...	...	60	6	3			
"	"	Advertisement ...	...	1	0	0			
							61	6	3
"	Trust Fund—Interest ...	...	...				45	0	0
							£493	7	7

ASSETS AND

At 30th

ASSETS.				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Savings Bank—Credit Balance ...	...	...	...				106	1	4
Subscription Arrears, estimated good ...	...	...	...	30	0	0			
Less prepaid ...	...	...	...	15	0	0			
							15	0	0
Library ...	...	...	...				325	0	0
Blocks, estimated at ...	...	...	...				20	0	0
Emus in Stock, estimated at ...	...	...	...				200	0	0
Furniture and Specimens ...	...	...	...				185	0	0
Tent, Material, Punch, and Register ...	...	...	...				3	17	6
Trust Account—Commonwealth War Bond ...	...	...	...				1,000	0	0
							£1,854	18	10

Z. GRAY, L.C.A., *Hon. Treasurer.*

MELBOURNE, 1st July, 1918.

EXPENDITURE

30th June, 1918.

EXPENDITURE.						£	s.	d.
						£	s.	d.
By	<i>The Emu</i> , vol. xvii.—Printing, &c.	...	...	...	...	164	6	6
"	" vol. xvii.—Blocks	...	...	...	...	14	5	2
"	" vol. xvii.—Coloured Plates	...	...	...	...	33	12	0
"	" vols. xvi.—xvii.—Patrons	...	...	...	...	1	18	0
						<hr/>		
"	Registration Fee, £3 15s. ; Articles, £13 10s.	...	...	...	...	214	1	8
"	Postage, £7 4s. 8d. ; Stationery, £7 11s. 1d. ; Insurance, 5s. 5d. ; Exchange, £2 3s. 1d. ; Commission, £1 7s. 7d. ; Covers, 15s. 1d.	...	...	...	...	17	5	0
"	Room—Cabinets, £85 ; Gas, 10s. 7d. ; Cleaning, 3s. 6d. ; Brass Plates, £1 8s. ; Freight, £1 10s. 1d. ; Sundry, £2 15s. ; Tabs, 3s. 6d. ; Naphthaline, 2s.	...	...	...	...	19	6	11
"	Trust Fund—Rent, £32 10s. ; Binding, £8 2s. 6d. ; Lantern Sheet, £2 5s. ; Cabinets, £1 15s. ; Pictures, 7s. 6d.	...	...	...	...	91	12	8
						45	0	0
						<hr/>		
"	Balance—General Fund	...	...	...	...	387	6	3
"	" Colour Fund	...	...	...	...	64	1	5
						41	19	11
						<hr/>		
						106	1	4
						<hr/>		
						£493	7	7
						<hr/>		

LIABILITIES

June, 1918.

LIABILITIES.						£	s.	d.
<i>Nil.</i>								
By Balance	...	...	...	...	...	1,854	18	10
						<hr/>		
						£1,854	18	10
						<hr/>		

Audited and found correct.

JAS. BARR, A.C.P.A., } *Hon. Auditors.*
JAS. HEDDING, }

MELBOURNE, 1st October, 1918.

secretary explaining that the Union's hon. solicitors had advised that the notices were irregular.

The balance-sheet and the hon. secretary's report were unanimously adopted.

It was resolved, on Mr. A. J. Campbell's motion, that the annual meeting desires that the Council of the Union should approach the Commonwealth Government and request it to investigate the industry of boiling down Penguins for their oil on Macquarie Island, in case of decrease of its wonderful feathered inhabitants.

A letter was read from Mr. Basset Hull, Sydney, thanking the Union for the honour they had done him in electing him president of the Union for the ensuing year.

A letter was read from Captain S. A. White, Adelaide, stating that the new Act for the further protection of bird-life has been thrown out this session by Parliament, but that it was decided to bring it up again next year, and that there was every chance of its passing.

Much appreciation was expressed at the work that Captain White was carrying on in South Australia, especially by lecturing on behalf of the insectivorous birds of the State, and the way in which he had worked to try and get the new Bird Protection Bill through Parliament.

The chairman, Colonel G. Horne, congratulated the Union on the increase of its membership during the past year and the satisfactory way in which the affairs of the Union had been conducted generally. He considered that the papers published in *The Emu* still maintained their high character and usefulness, and it was largely due to that that the number of members was steadily increasing.

Mr. A. C. Stone read an interesting report on the ringing of Mutton-Birds and White-faced Storm Petrels, and also a report on the egg collection belonging to the Union.

Mr. Alexander read a report on the Union's library, and stated that the first volume of Beebe's "Monograph on the Pheasant" had been received for review in *The Emu* from the publishers, Messrs. Witherby and Co.

The subject of authors' reprints was also discussed.

Mr. Alexander read an instructive article entitled "What are Australian Seas?" illustrating his points with lantern views, and the rather difficult subject was discussed. The balance of opinion seemed in favour of calling all seas that were nearer to the coast of Australia than any other as belonging to this country, and that Petrels and other birds found in those parts could be counted as Australian.

Mr. G. Hill showed thirty interesting lantern slides of views which he had taken in North-West Kimberley and Northern Territory. The views were selected with the object of showing the class of country in which certain birds were to be found, to enable one to make a comparison of the geological, floral, and avi-

faunal features of the two regions. He was struck with the fact that so many species of plants and birds are common to both regions, and mentioned a number of examples. The very restricted range of such birds as *Leucotreron alligator*, *Petropharsa rufipennis*, and *P. albipennis* was commented upon. Many views taken in North-West Kimberley might be shown as typical views of many localities in the Northern Territory. In referring to Mr. W. M'Lennan's recent trip to the King River, he said he could appreciate the many difficulties and hardships experienced by that collector. The rugged nature of some of this country, the hostility of the natives, the difficulty of procuring food, and the attacks of insects and other pests, all contributed to make the collector's life an exceedingly strenuous one.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. A. J. Campbell said he was very interested in the views and in the remarks made in reference to them, especially in view of a paper he had in course of preparation. In the paper he would refer to the question of the separation of certain species of birds within a definite zoological region into several sub-species. He thought Mr. Hill's remarks were of particular interest in this connection. Mr. W. B. Alexander said he had noticed a great similarity in the species of insects and mammals received from North-West Australia and the Northern Territory, particularly amongst the butterflies and kangaroos. There was no doubt, in his opinion, that North-West Kimberley and the northern portion of the Northern Territory are one zoological region. Mr. Le Souëf thought that Mr. Hill had modestly passed over the difficulties and dangers met with by a naturalist in Northern Australia. In referring to the tall grass which covered most of the country in the summer months, he said that even when mounted on horseback one had difficulty in finding one's way about, the coarse grass in many places being so high. He quite concurred with what the lecturer stated regarding the distribution of species in various types of country.

HON. LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

In order that the various periodicals received in exchange for *The Emu* may be accessible to members, the Council has decided to have the volumes bound and placed in the Union's room. Owing to lack of funds, only the ornithological journals are being bound at present, but it is hoped ultimately to bind all the periodicals received. In the case of a considerable number of the journals it was found that back parts were missing, but requests were sent to the various societies and individuals concerned, with the result that in most cases these parts were replaced free of charge. Bound volumes of the following periodicals are now on the shelves in the Union's room:—*Austral Avian Record*, *South Australian Ornithologist*, *Ibis*, *Auk*, *Condor*, *British Birds*, *Revue Francaise d'Ornithologie*, *Avicultural*

Magazine, Bird-Lore, Wilson Bulletin, Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union, and Zoologist.

REPORT ON THE RINGING OF WILD BIRDS.

So far as the records go, the first ringing of wild birds took place on 25th March, 1913, at Forest Caves, Phillip Island, Victoria, when Messrs. L. G. Chandler, J. Gabriel, and H. Slaney placed aluminium rings on 51 adult and young Short-tailed Petrels or Mutton-Birds (*Puffinus brevicaudus*). All rings used were numbered consecutively, and marked "B.O.C." (Bird Observers' Club), "Melbourne." Then at Mud Island, Port Phillip Bay, Victoria, on 10th January, 1914, two of our members—Messrs. L. G. Chandler and H. Slaney (both at present on active service)—placed aluminium rings on the legs of 44 adult and young White-faced Storm Petrels (*Pelagodroma marina*).

Later on the subject of ringing birds was brought up before the R.A.O.U., and it was decided to alter the markings on the rings to "Inform R.A.O.U., Melbourne," and this was at once carried out, and a specially printed register was obtained, so that now all particulars of birds rung by either the B.O.C. or R.A.O.U. members are permanently recorded.

Under the new arrangement the following ringing has taken place by R.A.O.U. members:—

- 11th December, 1915, Mud Island, Victoria.—42 *Pelagodroma marina*.
- 2nd January, 1916, The Nobbies, Victoria.—20 *Puffinus brevicaudus*.
- 15th December, 1916, Mud Island, Victoria.—39 *Pelagodroma marina*.
- 8th December, 1917, Mud Island, Victoria.—25 *Pelagodroma marina*.
- 30th November, 1918, Mud Island, Victoria.—57 *Pelagodroma marina*.

From the above it will be seen that 95 birds were rung by the B.O.C. and 183 by the R.A.O.U., making a total of 278 birds actually rung.

In the middle of February, 1914, a dead *Pelagodroma marina* (White-faced Storm-Petrel) with a B.O.C. ring numbered 6 on its leg, was picked up at Gembrook by "Ekans," and forwarded to Mr. Donald Macdonald. This bird was rung on 10th January, 1914.

On 30th November, 1918, during a ringing visit paid to Mud Island, a Petrel was found in its burrow bearing a R.A.O.U. ring numbered 116. This ring was placed on this bird on 16th December, 1916.

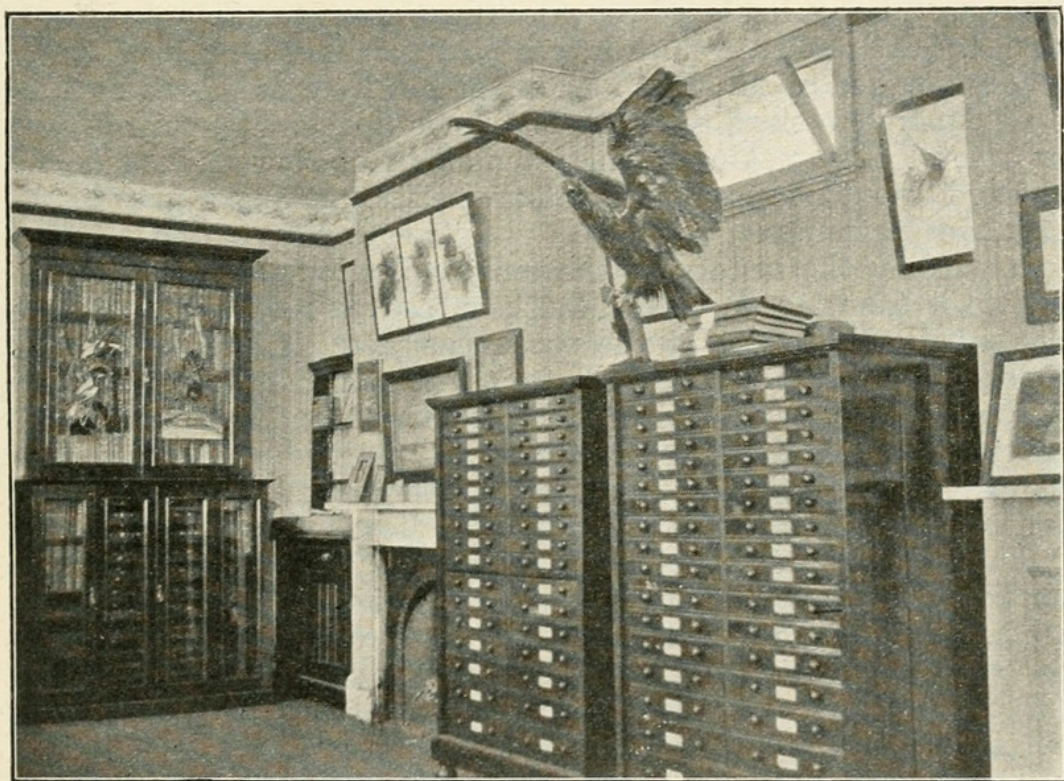
As time passes many more birds will no doubt be rung, and it is confidently expected that valuable information on migration will be gathered thereby.

A. CHAS. STONE, *Recorder.*

REPORT ON THE R.A.O.U. OOLOGICAL COLLECTION.

Within the space of a few months the Union has become possessed of a splendid collection of Australian birds' eggs, numbering over 700 sets, and containing about 500 species according to the Union list, all side blown, and full data. This fine result is principally owing to the generosity of Messrs. H. L. White, Thos. P. Austin, and J. H. Bettington.

The following have also generously helped the collection from time to time :—Miss J. A. Fletcher, Capt. Cochrane, R.N., Messrs. G. F. Hill, F. E. Wilson, F. E. Howe, and A. Chas. Stone.



Corner in the R.A.O.U. Room, Melbourne, showing the "H. L. White" and "T. P. Austin" Egg Cabinets, and the Library containing the great works of Gould and Mathews, the gifts of H. L. White.

PHOTO. BY A. C. STONE.

The collection is housed in two handsome blackwood cabinets presented to the Union by Messrs. H. L. White and Thos. P. Austin. Each cabinet contains 34 drawers (18 inches x 30 inches) arranged in two tiers, and all are furnished with locking glass tops. The drawers are fitted with graduated cardboard trays lined with white cotton wool, in which the sets are arranged according to classification, and with each set is placed a ticket setting out the scientific and common name, date of finding, locality, name of finder, and other interesting particulars where procurable.

An illustrated catalogue of the collection has been compiled,

but photographs of birds, eggs, and nests are urgently needed to help completion. Members and friends are also invited to donate sets of eggs to the collection with the view of making it of greater scientific and educational value.

The collection may be inspected by members at any time.

A. CHAS. STONE, *Curator*.

REPORT ON THE SKIN COLLECTION AT THE R.A.O.U. ROOM.

With the assistance of Dr. Brooke Nicholls and Mr. F. E. Wilson, I have arranged roughly the collection of bird-skins in the R.A.O.U. room, which were mostly unnamed, except those kindly donated by Mr. H. L. White, Mr. F. E. Wilson, and others.*

Of Australian skins there are 297 kinds (including 3 sub-species), or a total of 965 skins, besides a number of New Guinea (about 45) and about 260 extra-Australian species, making a grand total of 1,270 specimens.

Regarding the history of the main collection, the Council purchased it from Mr. A. Coles, Bourke-street, for £10—almost a gift, notwithstanding most of the specimens were without data. Mr. Coles obtained the collection from the widow of the late Mr. Joseph Andrews, a good field ornithologist and intimate friend of the late Mr. Kendall Broadbent, of the Queensland Museum. Unfortunately, owing to the melancholy circumstances surrounding Mr. Andrews' death, the data of the collection were lost.

The collection has now been named, or rather numbered, in accordance with the Union's official "Check-list," which, with its ready reference to plates and literature, was found very helpful for the undertaking. An interleaved copy of the "Check-list" (as a catalogue) will be left in the room, with the Australian species indicated, and showing sexes where possible.

The collection is a nucleus of a good working one, and will prove exceedingly useful to members for ready reference for the commoner kinds. There are several duplicates of the more southern forms, and if exchanges could be effected with, say, the Western Australian and Queensland Museums, the collection would become still more useful. But this is merely a suggestion.

The Council is indebted to Mr. D. Le Souëf, our present hon. secretary, for his generous and valuable gift of an insect-proof cabinet for the collection; but a cabinet with more roomy drawers is still required for some of the larger skins, which are yet in ordinary packing cases.

A. J. CAMPBELL,
Hon. Curator, Skin Collection, R.A.O.U.

* This does not include mounted specimens or those under glass, which are acknowledged in the hon. secretary's report.

We have read of the "flora of a single tree." Here is the avifauna of a single tree—a tall, slender wild cinnamon tree ("canella" of the natives), which Mr. Beebe observed on the Amazon, and noted in a chapter sandwiched in his Guiana jungle matter. The tree was twiggy and laden with a wonderful harvest of brownish berries:—

"From daybreak to dark the canella tree was seldom deserted. Usually a score or more of birds fluttered and fed amongst its branches. In the few hours I was able to devote to its study I identified seventy-six different kinds, and, together with those which I saw but could not name, I judged that more than a hundred species must have come to the berries during that week in early May. The first day I secured sixteen specimens, all different; and the following day yielded fourteen more, only one of which was a duplicate of the first day's results." (Here follow names and habits of same.)

We congratulate Mr. Beebe on his unique book on nature. We sometimes hear the expression, "the fortunes of war." In the Great War just concluded it was our good fortune to have the United States of America as an ally; therefore we claim Mr. Beebe as one of ourselves. Moreover, he writes in our language and speaks our mother tongue. It is a happy coincidence, too, that this book, with its title, "Peace"—even the "Peace of the Jungle"—should synchronize with the end of the dreadful war.

Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union.

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At the conclusion of the war an honour board will be erected in the Union's room, so that the names of the brave men who have obeyed their country's call will be handed down to posterity.

Seven members have resigned during the year. Sixteen members



Le Souef, William Henry Dudley et al. 1919. "Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 18(3), 223–232. <https://doi.org/10.1071/mu918223>.

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