

The Victorian Naturalist.

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FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF VICTORIA.

THE ordinary monthly of the Club was held at the Royal Society's Hall on Monday evening, 11th October, 1909.

The president, Prof. A. J. Ewart, D.Sc., occupied the chair, and about 90 members and visitors were present.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter was read from Mr. H. H. Newton, secretary to the Parliamentary Committee on Daylight Saving, asking for an expression of opinion from the members on the subject. The chairman briefly explained the details of the proposal, and it was resolved, on the motion of Messrs. Barnard and Keartland, that the Club support the proposal, Prof. Ewart and the hon. secretary being deputed to represent the Club's views before the committee.

VISITOR.

The chairman introduced Mr. A. L. Deane, C.E., an ardent worker in the botany of New South Wales, as a visitor to the meeting. Mr. Deane briefly replied.

REPORTS.

A report of the excursion to Eltham on Saturday, 25th September, was given by the leader, Mr. G. A. Keartland, who reported a fair attendance of members. The day was not too favourable for birds, owing to a fairly strong wind blowing. The party proceeded towards the river, where, amid the wooded slopes, several interesting birds were noted. Among these may be mentioned the Brown Flycatcher, *Microeca fascinans*, the Fuscous Honey-eater, *Ptilotis fusca*, the Fan-tailed Cuckoo, *Cacomantis flabelliformis*, and the Striated and Yellow-rumped Tits, *Acanthiza lineata* and *A. chrysorrhoa*. Many Orioles were heard, but only one pair seen. It was remarked that the locality, once so full of indigenous birds, was becoming more and more the home of such introduced birds as sparrows, starlings, goldfinches, and minahs. The entomologists of the party reported finding several larvæ and chrysalides of the scarce mistletoe blue butterfly, *Orgyris abrota*, Hew. Several members devoted themselves to botany, and were successful in noting many interesting plants, among them the beautiful *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*, which is very abundant in the local cemetery. Here, also, fine specimens of the everlasting *Helichrysum lucidum* and of *Daviesia corymbosa* were seen. Towards the river the orchids *Caladenia carnea*, *C. Patersoni*, and *Pterostylis nutans* were obtained. Taken altogether, a very satisfactory outing resulted.

A report of the excursion to Frankston on Saturday, 9th

October, under the leadership of Prof. Ewart, D.Sc., was given by Mr. J. R. Tovey, who reported a good attendance of members. Along the roadside many introduced plants were noted, such as *Bartsia latifolia*, which is usually parasitic on grass-roots; *Sparaxis grandiflora*, and others. Passing over the heath-ground at least 60 species were found in flower, of which *Thelymitra antennifera*, *T. aristata*, *Glossodia major*, and *Diuris pedunculata* were the principal representatives of the orchids. Many white specimens of the beautiful blue squill, *Chamaescilla corymbosa* were noted. The white blossoms of *Ricinocarpus pinifolius* and *Leptospermum myrsinoides* were very abundant. Attention was drawn to the floral mechanism of the introduced Cape Weed, *Cryptostemma calendulaceum*, and it was remarked how much this plant had deteriorated in the poor sandy soil till its leaves were barely two inches long, and the inflorescence in some cases possessing only six ray florets.

A report of the junior excursion to Blackrock on Saturday, 2nd October, was furnished by the leader, Mr. E. B. Nicholls, who reported an excellent attendance of some 50 juniors, together with several adult members. The excursion was devoted to ornithology, and many interesting birds were noted. The first nest observed was that of the Yellow Robin, one of the characteristic birds of the belts of tea-tree along the coast. A rare find was a Tawny Frogmouth, which remained on its nest sufficiently long for a photograph to be taken. Several nests of the Mountain Thrush with young birds were seen, the parent bird in each remaining quietly and allowing a good view at close range. In the scrub towards the beach nests of the Brown Tit and Scrub-Wren were found. At the beach several species of sea-birds, such as the Gannet, the Pacific Gull, and the Tippet Grebe, were pointed out, and their peculiarities discussed. Attention was also directed to some of the forms of animal life washed up on the shore, and a passing reference was made to the botanical specimens met with during the afternoon. At the close of the outing the party was entertained at tea at "Woongara," after which an interesting series of bird-skins was shown, and the differences in the species met with during the day pointed out.

On the motion of Mr. Barnard and Dr. Sutton, a vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Mr. Nicholls for the trouble he had taken to entertain the juniors and make the excursion so instructive.

[Some excellent views showing the proceedings at this excursion appeared in the *Australasian* of Saturday, 9th October.—ED. *Vict. Nat.*]

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

On a ballot being taken, Mr. Henry Anjou, Neerim-road, Murrumbena, Mr. S. Simpson, State school, Glenroy, and Mr.



Kearland, George Arthur, Ewart, Alfred J., and Nicholls, E B. 1909. "Reports: (G. A. Kearland - report of the excursion to Eltham on Saturday, 25th September; A J Ewart - report of the excursion to Frankston on Saturday, 9th October; E B Nicholls - report of the junior excursion to Blackrock on Saturday, 2nd October)." *The Victorian Naturalist* 26, 81–82.

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