

Cheltenham, 24th September.—Fourteen members took part in this excursion, which also served as an opportunity for collecting for the exhibition of wild flowers in the following week. Striking across the country towards the Bay, large quantities of *Sprengelia incarnata* were passed, and near a spring the curious little Hepatica, *Symphyogyna rhizoloba*, was obtained. Near here one of the party found a beautiful white variety of the orchid *Glossodia major*, a very rare flower, and shortly after the equally rare variety, a white *Caladenia deformis*, was obtained. During the afternoon about sixty species of plants were collected in bloom. The party returned to town by way of the Sandringham line, very pleased with the outing.

Dandenong Creek, 1st October.—This was a new locality for a club excursion, and was reached by special coach from Oakleigh. Twelve members attended, and spent a very interesting afternoon. About a dozen species of birds were taken, among which were a snipe, a ground thrush, etc. Four varieties of birds' nests were obtained. A few lepidoptera were taken, and a number of flowering plants collected.

The following persons were duly elected members of the Club:—Messrs. Alexander M. Roy, Albert Wiseman, and Arthur Wiseman.

PAPERS READ.

1. By Miss F. M. Campbell, entitled "Vegetable Pathology," in which a number of interesting facts were mentioned, showing the great pecuniary losses inflicted on farmers and others by diseases produced by parasitic fungi and by insects, and advocating the study of fungi, with a view to remedial measures.

The chairman mentioned that in the State of New York an annual report was furnished by the Agricultural Experimental Station on plant diseases.

2. By Mr. D. Sullivan, F.L.S., entitled "The Mosses of Victoria," Part II. This was a continuation of the list of Victorian mosses, together with some useful hints on where to look for and how to collect them.

3. By Mr. A. Coles, entitled "The Protection of the Birds of Australia." The author suggested three ways of better protecting birds—first, by enforcing the present Game Act; secondly, by teaching boys the harm they are doing in robbing the nests; and thirdly, by instructing policemen in the characteristics of the various species of birds, so that they may be able to distinguish the protected ones.

This paper caused considerable discussion, during which Mr. Coles mentioned that the beautiful regent and rifle birds do not attain their full plumage until their fourth year.



Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria. 1887. "[Untitled summary account of an excursion to] Cheltenham, 24 Sept [1887]." *The Victorian Naturalist* 4, 98.

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