

cessation of growth, all observations that only cover short intervals of time are of but little value; and, in this inquiry, no measurements were recorded; unless the growing colony had been under observation for a period of 100 days.

It is pointed out that all coral colonies increase in size by the surface division of the zooids, and that therefore the shape of the colony is a great factor in determining the rate of its growth. The massive colonies, that are the most important agents in making island dry land, have been the subjects of but few accurate observations, for their measurement is not so easy as is that of the branching forms. The results obtained by the author agree most nearly with those obtained previously by Dr. Guppy upon the same islands, and differ somewhat widely from some of the older observations.

The massive forms gave an average increase of $\frac{1}{37}$ of their circumference in 100 days, and the branching forms grew at the average rate of 2,74 centimetres in 100 days, — or roughly 3,7 inches in a year.

II. Mitteilungen aus Museen, Instituten usw.

1. Das Kgl. Institut für Binnenfischerei in Friedrichshagen am Müggelsee bei Berlin, hervorgegangen aus der Biologischen Station des Deutschen Fischereivereins, wurde am 3. Oktober d. J. eröffnet. Es hat die Aufgabe, durch wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen und Arbeiten die Fischerei in den Binnengewässern zu heben. Dies soll auf verschiedenen Wegen erreicht werden. In erster Linie sollen die biologischen Verhältnisse der Fische, ihre Fortpflanzung, ihre Ernährung, ihre Wanderungen usw. erforscht werden, damit, ähnlich wie es bereits für die Teichwirtschaft geschehen ist, eine rationelle Wirtschaftslehre für die Seen, Flüsse und Bäche aufgestellt werden kann. In zweiter Linie soll ein für die Fischerei möglichst günstiger Modus vivendi gegenüber den von der modernen Kultur in unsern Gewässern durch den Einfluß der Industrie, Schifffahrt und Landesmelioration herbeigeführten Veränderungen angestrebt werden. Weiter soll das Institut auch Unterrichtszwecken dienen, indem darin Kurse und praktische Übungen für Fischerei-Interessenten und Beamte, welche mit der Fischerei zu tun haben, abgehalten werden, und endlich soll Gelehrten Gelegenheit geboten werden, süßwasser-biologische Studien zu betreiben. Leiter des Instituts ist Dr. P. Schiemenz, Professor für Fischerei an der landwirtschaftlichen Hochschule in Berlin, Assistent für Biologie cand. rer. nat. H. Törlitz, Assistent für Chemie Dr. G. Plenske, Volontärassistent Dr. Ph. Depdolla.

2. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

Abstract of Proceedings, August 26th, 1908. — The President invited discussion upon the general question of the **welfare of the indigenous fauna and flora, and the best means of safeguarding it.** — The Secretary gave a brief summary of the various attempts to preserve faunas and floras from extermination in other countries and States by means (a) of protected National Parks and Reserves, with or without the co-operation of contiguous private estate-owners; (b) of restrictive legislation enacting the permanent protection of animals, etc., for specified periods, or during close seasons, preventing undesirable introductions and exports, etc.; and (c) of educational or other organisations for the enlightenment of those in need of it, in order to prevent or minimise the wanton destruction of animals and plants. — Mr. A. J. North, of the Australian Museum, contributed a short paper on „Bird-Protection and Bird-Destruction in New South Wales“, in which he pointed out certain weak points in the original Acts in force in the State, and outlined the efforts which had been made to remedy them. It was impossible to afford full protection to many species unless absolute protection was given, because of irregularities in breeding habits. Vast destruction of birds was due, directly or indirectly, to the introduction of undesirable aliens, particularly rabbits and foxes, and to the efforts made to keep these in check. He advocated the reprinting of the Acts in force, together with the additions that had been subsequently made, in the newspapers so that the widest publicity might be given to them. Gould Societies might very advantageously be inaugurated throughout the State, to take up work on the lines so successfully followed by the Audubon Societies of the United States; and to bring about the observance of „Bird Day“ in the schools. But there could be no doubt that perhaps the most urgent need at present was better administration of the legislation provided in the existing Acts. — Mr. Frank Farnell, Chairman of the National Park Trust, spoke of an unsuccessful movement, largely for the protection of the native flora and fauna, which he had initiated in 1905. The Premier at the time, Mr. (now Sir) Hector Carruthers, warmly supported the movement; but the Bill necessary to provide for its effectiveness was not carried; and the effort failed. Still more recently he had been instrumental in getting a proposed Bill drafted, to provide for the introduction, acclimatisation and preservation of animals and birds which are or may be deemed to be of economic value to New South Wales, and for other purposes consequent thereon or incidental thereto, to be known as the „Birds and Native Animals Protection and Acclimatisation Act, 1906“; but until the Cabinet made it a Government measure, its chance of coming into operation was remote. With reference to the National Park, the speaker said that the Trustees fully recognised that it was, first and last, the People's Park; that they were keenly alive to the desirability of preserving the native plants and animals throughout the area of 60 square miles under their jurisdiction; that they had reason to be gratified not only with the way in which the Park was fulfilling its purpose as a sanctuary for bird and other life, but with the more appreciative attitude, on the part of those who visited the Park, to the main objects of the Reserve, as well as to what the Trust was trying to make it. He concluded an interesting address by offering the Society his hearty support. — Mr. F. J. W. Harrison, Secretary to the

Kuring-Gai Chase Trust, spoke of the magnificent possibilities of the Chase, as a national park and preserve, though these were not being fully realised quite so rapidly as the members of the Trust wished to see, partly because of the natural obstacles in the way of affording adequate protection to the fauna and flora with the resources at their disposal; and partly because marauders were apt to take advantage of this deficiency. They had a large area, about 35,300 acres to deal with; at present only 3,500 acres were enclosed; much of it was very difficult to patrol adequately on account of the physical configuration of the area; and so much of it was at present unfenced. Still the Trustees were sanguine as to the future of the Chase; because they were hopeful of improving the existing conditions by degrees, as well as of seeing a steadily growing intelligent appreciation of the right way to treat a People's Park on the part of those who had access to it. — Mr. F. Montague Rothery, Secretary of the Animals' Protection Society of New South Wales, spoke of the interest of the Society which he represented, in the subject before the Meeting; and of the steps which it had already taken, or proposed to take, to advance matters, among others by arranging for a deputation to wait upon the Colonial Secretary. Personally he advocated the repeal of the Birds' Protection Act of 1901, because it was cumbersome and misleading, in favour of a simple Act which should provide for the protection of all birds and their eggs, with the exception of those birds regarded as pests, to be specified in a separate schedule. — Mr. J. H. Maiden, representing the Royal Society of New South Wales, communicated a letter which had been received from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in London, upon the subject of the treatment which is now being meted out to Birds of Paradise in New Guinea since the rescission of the Proclamation made in 1904 for the protection of these birds; and asking for the support of the Society in obtaining a renewal of the Proclamation. The Royal Society of New South Wales had accordingly approached the Commonwealth Government through the kind offices of the Premier of New South Wales. Copies of the correspondence were communicated to the Meeting. The speaker then addressed himself more particularly to the difficult question of the best means of securing the protection of native plants. As the representative of the Zoological Society of New South Wales also, Mr. Maiden communicated a message from the Hon. Secretary to the effect that the Society was arranging for a deputation to the Premier. — Mr. R. Etheridge, junr., Curator of the Australian Museum, spoke in favour of the retention of most of the clauses of the Act of 1901, provided the Act was properly put into operation. For example, the present Act provided that mere possession of a scheduled bird was sufficient to constitute liability; this was a wise provision and should be retained. The existing schedules, however, were defective and confusing. The suggestion that the birds that might be shot should be specified, and all others protected, was an excellent one. The urgent need for reform in the administration of the Act was evidenced by the enormous amount of trapping of native birds, including scheduled birds such as the lyre-bird, for commercial purposes, and by the openly conducted sale of scheduled birds, such as sea-gulls, in Sydney. — Mr. Deane specially referred to the very serious complications which the rabbit-destruction question created, so long as the laying of open poisoned baits and the poisoning of waterholes were resorted to on a large scale. — Mr. R. T. Baker entered a plea for provision for the

reservation of future national parks in the Dorrigo, on the Richmond River, in the Pillaga Scrub, and elsewhere, before it was too late. In time to come such reserves would be important additions to the national assets of the State and of Australia, as well as of great importance from a botanical standpoint. — Mr. H. J. Carter and Mr. E. Cheel offered observations on special phases of the question; and the President summarised the suggestions which had been put forward. — It was thereupon resolved: — 1) That the hearty congratulations of the Meeting be tendered to Professor Baldwin Spencer, of Melbourne University, the leader of the influential deputation which waited upon the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth on 5th August, upon its favourable reception, with promising results. The object of the deputation was to urge (a) That the exportation of the skins and plumes of certain Australian birds should be prohibited; (b) That Lord Avebury's Bill in the British Parliament be supported; and (c) That the Federal power be used as far as practicable for the preservation of the bird-life of Australia and Papua. — 2) That a subcommittee consisting of Messrs. R. T. Baker, W. W. Froggatt, A. G. Hamilton, J. H. Maiden, A. J. North, and the ex officio Members, be appointed to confer with the other Societies which are contemplating an appeal to the Government, so as to promote co-operation in this and other respects.

III. Personal-Notizen.

Herr Dr. E. Neresheimer, zurzeit Privatdozent a. d. Kgl. technischen Hochschule und Assistent a. d. Kgl. biolog. Versuchsstation f. Fischerei, München, wurde für 1. Januar 1909 als Abteilungsvorstand an die k. k. landwirtschaftlich-chemische Versuchsstation in Wien, Trunnerstraße 3, berufen.

Greifswald.

Herr Dr. R. Streiff, bisher am Zoolog. Institut in Gießen, ist seit 1. Oktober d. J. Assistent am Zoologischen Institut der Universität.

Berichtigung.

In dem Aufsatz von C. Börner über Chermesiden I, Bd. 33, S. 611 ist zu lesen, Zeile 5 v. u. (Anmerkung) zwischen: „die Länge“ »Fühlergeißellänge zur« einzuschalten; Zeile 4 v. u. dagegen: »zur Tarsaldiagonale des Vorderbeines« zu streichen.

S. 603 sind die Figurennummern 5 u. 6 sowie 7 u. 8 zu tauschen, um sie in Einklang mit den Nummern der Erklärung zu bringen.

In dem Aufsatz von F. Poche über die Anatomie und die systematische Stellung von *Bradypus torquatus* (III) Bd. 33, S. 567 ist zu lesen S. 567, Zeile 2 v. u.: *Hemibradypus* statt: *Hemybradypus*.

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