NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS’ CLUB
Meets at Girls’ and Infants’ School, Abbott Street, Cairns, usually on second Monday in each month, at 8 p.m.

Next Meeting—Monday, 13th January, 1936.

Lecture by Mr. M. J. Manski, “The Structure of Orchids as Compared with Other Flowers.”

Election of Members.
Father Norman, Yarrabah.
Dr. E. R. G. Sheil, Innisfail

Notice
Will those who desire to organise or participate in excursions at short notice, kindly communicate with the Hon. Secretary.

The November Meeting
There was a very good attendance of Scouts and Scouters and the various phases of Natural History Study were dealt with in detail. As a result of this meeting Natural History will be given more prominence in the training of scouts. One scouter even went so far as to say that the scouts may form a Junior Field Naturalists’ Club of their own. In any case there will be co-operation between the Scouts and the Club, to the advantage of both.

Exhibits at the November Meeting.
Dr. Flecker—Herbarium specimens

SOME NOTES ON BIRD LIFE AT CAIRNS.

By E. S. HANKS (Victoria)

Two minutes from the Cairns Town Hall is a field for the investigation of bird-life unequalled by any of its kind so far visited by the writer. The particular types of birds to which I refer are those known as “Waders”—birds which follow the receding tides to feed on the shores, reefs and mud-flats.

Many of these waders nest in far Northern Asia, making a journey of nearly half round the globe to reach southern latitudes for our summer, and returning to spend the northern summer in the Arctic circle. What a journey for a small bird! And it is the careful observation of the coming and going—a census of the species present from week to week, which is so necessary to extend what is known of these migrations.

For this work the beach at Cairns is unexcelled and residents have a unique opportunity in a field where much remains to be done.

During a visit to Cairns recently, large numbers of birds were observed feeding along the beach. At the sandy edge were a number of Silver Gulls (Larus novaehollandiae) overhead a Gull-billed Tern (Gelochelidon nilotica) flew searching the shallows for small fish. This Tern has black legs and—unlike any other species of Tern—has a bill resembling that of a Silver Gull. In shallow water a large white Egret (Egretta alba) was manoeuvring a fish it had just caught into a suitable position for swallowing. Several of the gulls and a Little Egret (Egretta garzetta) hun-
grilly watched the large white bird devour the morsel but dared not molest it. Not for off several specimens of the White Gull (Phlegantus novaehollandiae) were probing the mud with long black curved bills. Three other species noted also for long curving bills, and noted for their ability to change the length of their neck, as a burghard-like and almost tern-like. His burghard-like head and sudden dart of the bill marked him as essentially a bird that lives by stealing.

Turnstones (Arenaria interpres) were noted on the beach. A red-capped Dotterel (Charadrius Ruficapillus) ran almost at our feet. A single specimen of the Grey Plover (Squatarola squatarola) passed by; this was the first ever seen by the writer and it remained under observation for over half an hour. Godwits (Limosa lapponica) though plentiful did not come very close in and may have been absent; the godwits were noted correctly being "Blue Godwits". In evidence the whole way along the beach and large flocks of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (Erolia eurasiatica) were individually and company flying. Many other species of waders were present but were not identified and a desire was noted in molting plumage, perhaps not fully molted from their northern phase for many of these quiet-plumed waders have a more white coloured phase up north in the breading season.

A number of birds seem to find sustenance on the beach in addition to the ordinary species. A pair of Mangrove Kingfishers (Melanoleucus chloris) made frequent excursions using a boat as a vantage point. A pair of Magpie-larks (Grallina cyanoleuca) and a number of Peaceful Doves (Geopelia plumbea) also fed on the sandy edge of the beach.

**FOSSILS AND THEIR MEANING.**

Synopsis of Lecture given to the North Queensland Naturalists' Club by F. S. COLLIVER, Esq., Hon. Sec. Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria.

(Continued from Page 6)

Often these organic remains are replaced by mineral matter, and thus the fossils consist of quartz, limonite, barite, vivianite, etc., taking on the same shape and outline of the internal structure of the organic original.

The variety of fossils is amazing, practically all living families are represented, and far a greater number of now extinct groups, in some cases little more change is noted from the earliest types to those of the present time; e.g., a lump shell or brachiopod (Lingula) found in the Silurian deposits of Victoria differs little from the living form found in Mission Bay, New Queensland; generally speaking, however, transition stages can be noted and family histories from the beginning to end may be traced.

Back in the earliest strata (Pre-cambrian) lower types of life as radiolaria, molluscs and crustaceas are found only. In Silurian times the first fish made their appearance, and the crustacea become more numerous, as the fish increase in size and number the (crustacea) Trilobites decrease and finally in Carboniferous times become extinct.

In Silurian time too, the first land plants make their appearance. It is interesting to note that Victoria has produced specimens of the oldest land plant in the world. These come from the lower Silurian of the Matlock district; at the Carboniferous era the amphibia apparently have their beginning: the reptiles follow on and the first mammals appear in the Oligocene, whilst Man in his early stages begin about the pliocene.

Some of the groups reached their maximum development quickly and just as quickly declined e.g.: the reptiles in the Jurassic age were characterised by their tremendous size and variety of grotesque form. Some of the animals reached the length of 300 feet and were 20 feet high. Other types were smaller but more fearsome looking, and remains of several of these have been found in Queensland deposits of Jurassic age. Then in the Eocene these animals had declined to only a remnant of what they were.

(To be continued)
ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

Vol. 1, no. 10, p. 8. Acronychia parviflora Add loc. Mt. Bartle Frere (Flecker) and mo. 10.
No. 11, p. 7. Poranthera microphylla. Add loc. Atherton Tablel. (Flecker) and mo. 9.
P. 8. Phyllanthus simplex. Add loc. Mt. Mulligan (Flecker) and mo. 4.
Glochidion Ferdinandi. Add loc. Bartle Frere (Flecker).
No. 12, p. 7. Before (Trema) samboinensis add (T. aspera), var. virgata, 4. Mt. Mulligan (Flecker)
P. 16. Alternanthera angustifolia. After loc. add (F.M.B.)
Mt. Mulligan (Flecker).
Gomphrena decumbens. For introduced read Mexico and Trop. Amer.
P. 10. Before Family NYCTAGI-

Corrigenda.

Villoni, Sm. 10. Betw. Torrens Cr. and Pentland (Priest).
Hovea longifolia. Add loc. Pentland (Priest).
P. 15. Lamprolobium fruticosum. Add loc. Mt. Mulligan (Flecker) and mo. 4.
P. 23. Before (Desmodium) A. trichostachyum add (D.) nemo-
rosum, F. M. 10. Bartle Frere (Flecker).
P. 27. Glycine tabacina. Add loc. Proserpine (Macpherson) and mo. 5.
P. 40. Before (Cassia) Sophera var. schinifolia add (Cassia So-
phera, L.) 6.
Daradgee (Priest).
Cassia occidentalis. Add loc. Darad-
 gee (Priest) and mos. 6 to 11.
Vol. 4, p. 7, Aristolochia Thouzetii. Add loc. Proserpine (Macpherson) and mo. 10:
P. 12. Delete P. 7, bottom of page et seq.