

## Obituary

Dr. F. M. HOUSE

On July 13, 1936, there died at Gnowangerup, South-Western Australia, one whose name will always be connected with Australian ornithology. In 1901 Dr. House joined, as naturalist and botanist, the expedition organized by Mr. F. S. Brockman, Chief Inspecting Surveyor of Western Australia, to explore North-West Kimberley beyond the Mount Leopold Ranges. The expedition started from Pavey's Creek on May 9, and passing around the southern side of the Cockburn Range, reached the Pentecost River on May 15. A period of six months and eighteen days was spent in surveying the district and the expedition finally reached Wyndham on November 26. Mr. C. G. Gibson, Assistant Government Geologist of Western Australia, who contributed ornithological notes to this journal between 1908 and 1911, was also a member of the expedition. Dr. House collected 43 bird skins, which were reported on by Mr. A. W. Milligan, and among them proved to be a new species of *Amytornis* which Milligan named *housei* after the collector. Three unsexed specimens of this Black Grass-Wren were collected and apparently they are still the only specimens in existence. The eggs are as yet unknown. The results of the expedition are to be found printed in *Western Australian Parliamentary Paper No. 2, 1902*. It is, however, now out of print.

Dr. House was born at Privett, Hampshire, England, in 1865, and after qualifying for the medical profession, came to Western Australia in 1891. In 1896 he became Resident Magistrate and Medical Officer in the Kimberley District. Later he was Medical Officer at Katanning, south Western Australia, and also, until 1908, Resident Magistrate of that district. After the war, in which he served with the Australian Medical Corps in Egypt and France, Dr. House started sheep breeding at "Privett," Gnowangerup, and became a very successful merino sheep breeder.—H.M.W.

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## Council Meetings of the R.A.O.U.

Since the publication of the last report the following matters, amongst others, have been dealt with by the Council:

*Collecting.*—Members in various States have forwarded their views, but, almost without exception, the matter has been dealt with from the personal point of view. Council has practically reached finality on the matter, and is at present waiting for information from N.S.W.

*Scientific Expeditions in Mandated Territory.*—Mr. E. Troughton drew the attention of the Council to the activities of the Archbold and other expeditions in New Guinea. Council decided to request the Prime Minister's Department to require, in future, the lodgment in Australian institutions of duplicates of ornithological specimens collected by such expeditions.

*New Members.*—The request for members to endeavour to persuade others to enrol has resulted in several new members being obtained—from every State except South Australia. Continuance of efforts is urged and State Secretaries are asked to arrange for local meetings to discuss ways and means to increase the membership. Every member should endeavour to obtain one new member at least.

*Assistance to C.S.I.R.*—The President and Dr. Spencer Roberts have been concerned with suggestions for the rendering of assistance by the Union to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, and those members have been authorized to advance the scheme as far as possible and to forward a general statement to the Annual Congress.

*Victorian Fauna and Flora Protection, etc.*—The Council approved of a suggestion by the Chief Inspector of Fisheries and Game, Victoria, that Painted Quail be placed on the fully-protected list. Tree planting schemes and the planting of sand dunes at Phillip Island, thus preserving Mutton-bird rookeries, have been commended by the Council.

*Association for Advancement of Science.*—The Council appointed Dr. W. R. B. Oliver, Mr. R. A. Falla, and Mr. C. L. Barrett (if present) its delegates to the forthcoming New Zealand session.

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The following new members have recently been enrolled:—Victoria: A. S. Chalk, Burnley; David H. Fleay, Zoological Gardens, Parkville; Prof. F. Wood Jones, Melbourne University, Carlton; Miss N. Cox, North Carlton; Rev. F. Thomas, Bendigo. Queensland: Mark Harrison, Edwin Bernays, Brig-Gen. J. C. Robertson, Frank Barlow, Cecil Booth, all of Toowoomba; Valdie Christensen, Urangan, via Maryborough. New South Wales: The Hon. Mr. Justice Milner Stephen, Sydney. Tasmania: Miss G. Gellibrand, Ouse; Tasmanian Fauna Board, Hobart. Western Australia: M. W. E. Elliott, Nedlands.

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The members of the N.S.W. branch of the Union have commenced the issue of a monthly Bulletin to contain news of domestic importance. It is stated to be supplementary to *The Emu*. It aims to stimulate interest in Union affairs and to act as a medium for obtaining new members. This first part is largely comprised of a report of the local discussion concerning the report on collecting appearing in *The Emu* (Vol. xxxvi, p. 65).

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## Reviews

[*The Birds of the Malay Peninsula*, Vol. iii, Sporting Birds; Birds of the Shore and Estuaries. By the late H. C. Robinson, and Frederick N. Chasen. Pp. i-xxi, 1-264, 25 colour plates. 1936.]

The third volume of this work projected by the late H. C. Robinson has been written by F. N. Chasen, who will complete the work with two more volumes. On the title page there is a line, "Issued by authority of the Federated Malay States Government"; when will a similar work appear with a similar citation in Australia?

This volume is of importance to Australians in that most of the birds are common to our continent and the remainder are very interesting forms. The scheme is of the well-known type, the synonymy brief and conservative, the