

it into the town, where it was kept for some days. It was then forwarded to Perth, and, after being taken to the Museum, was deposited in the Zoological Gardens, South Perth.

When captured originally one of the red tail-feathers was missing. While at the Zoo, it was very tame and adopted a most motherly attitude towards a Fairy Tern, with which it shared the same compartment. As was only to be expected, the bird did not survive its captivity, and, unfortunately, the skin was not preserved nor was it sexed. However, it was noticed by one of us (Whittell) that, since capture, the remaining streamer feather had been moulted, and that two short new feathers, which did not extend as far as the tips of the other tail-feathers, were apparent when the latter were separated.

The egg has been deposited in the Perth Museum; when blown the contents appeared to be quite normal, and the egg was apparently fresh when taken.

The Tropic-birds—there appears to have been a small party—had been seen by several residents of Busselton, none of whom had previously noticed birds of that type. On the evening of February 1, 1940, one flew over a house at Quindalup, which is eleven miles south of Busselton.

How these birds managed to range so far south is a matter for conjecture—for certainly the weather during the previous few weeks had not been stormy. We believe that not only is this a southern breeding record, but that it is the first record of the bird's having nested on the mainland of Australia, or, as a matter of fact, on the mainland of any other part of the world. As Mathews and Iredale state,* the normal breeding places are on isolated islets.

*"Manual," 1921, p. 81.

Obituary

RONALD RICHARD MINCHIN

Mr. R. R. Minchin, the Director of the Adelaide Zoological Gardens, recently died at the age of 35 years. He became a member of the Union and of the South Australian Ornithological Association in 1938. The deceased was keenly interested in Australian parrots, in particular, and had great success in breeding most forms at the Gardens. Members who visited Adelaide in connection with the 1936 Congress will remember the splendid show of parrots and the enthusiasm of Mr. Minchin with regard to their activities.

Both Mr. Minchin's father and grandfather were Directors of the Zoological Gardens. He is survived by his widow and a young son.—C.E.B.

The date of publication was July 5, 1940.