

## Obituary.

### Mrs. S. A. WHITE.

Members of the R.A.O.U. will much regret the death of Mrs. Ethel Rosine White, wife of Captain S. A. White, of Wetunga, Fulham, Adelaide, a former President of the Union; the event occurred on May 10 last, after a lingering illness. Deceased, the eldest daughter of Mrs. and the late Samuel Toms, was born at Adelaide and was married there in 1906. She thoroughly associated herself with her husband's field work and went so far as to accompany him on a big trip through the interior, a journey of about 1,600 miles on camels. Apart from private expeditions, Mrs. White frequently attended the annual excursions of R.A.O.U. members, and was always helpful and cheery. One of the Christian names of the deceased lady was commemorated when the beautiful Lilac-crowned Wren was separated by Mathews from the *Malurus* genus and termed *Rosina coronata*.

### Mr. G. A. KEARTLAND.

One of the older school of Australian ornithologists, Mr. George Arthur Kearnland, died at Melbourne in May, 1926. A compositor by trade (chiefly employed by the Melbourne Age) Mr. Kearnland was a naturalist by inclination, and held membership in the R.A.O.U. in its earlier years. He was born near Heidelberg, on the Yarra, June 11th 1848, and at an early age had a passion for birds and their ways and was skilful in trapping those he wished to observe. As a member of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, he contributed much of his field information in papers, and frequently led excursions of the club. He was with the expedition to King Island, Bass Strait, Nov. 1887, and to Kent Group three years later. He afterwards became well known for his field notes and specimens collected on the "Horn Expedition to Central Australia," 1894, and on the "Calvert Exploring Expedition in Western Australia," 1896. In the former expedition he procured a new Honey-eater which was named *Ptilotis keartlandi* by A. J. North. In the latter expedition through great privations a valuable collection (birds and eggs) was abandoned in the desert, and two of his comrades—C. F. Wells and G. Jones—perished from thirst.

Mr. Kearnland was endowed with a kindly disposition, and specimens and information were always at the disposal of his friends. In the "Special Catalogue No. 1" (*Nests and Eggs*) of the Australian Museum the author, A. J. North, drew largely on G. A. Kearnland's first-hand observations. When Sir Malcolm McEachern was returning to Scotland, he acquired the extensive private collection of Mr. Kearnland, which the McEachern family eventually donated to the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh where it remains, for all time, the property of the nation.

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Mr. H. E. FINCKH.

The many naturalists who have visited the home of Mr. H. E. Finckh, at Mosman, Sydney, will regret to learn that he died at his residence on May 31, after a very brief illness, at the age of 62. Mr. Finckh's aquarium was the best in Australia, and he succeeded in keeping many Australian fish, notably the tropical curiosity, *Periophthalmus kolreuteri*, the "fish that winks and hops." He also had many birds as pets, including some of the few live specimens in Australia of the New Caledonian Kagu (*Rhinochetus jubatus*). These particular Kagus (which are still alive) formed the subject of an article, illustrated by Mr. Finckh's photographs, in *The Emu* more than twenty years ago (Vol. IV., pl., XII, 1905).

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## Mr. J. W. ISRAEL.

The sympathy of members of the R.A.O.U. is accorded Mrs. J. W. Israel, of Melbourne, an old member and a regular attender at annual camps, on the death of her husband, which occurred at Melbourne on May 30. Mr. Israel was the Auditor-General for the Commonwealth of Australia, and the value set upon his services was indicated by the fact that he was retained in the position much beyond the retiring age. He practically died "in harness," at the age of 75 years. The exigencies of his office prevented Mr. Israel being closely associated with ornithology, but he sometimes attended meetings. Members who made the trip to Stradbroke Island during the congress of 1919 will remember how Mr. Israel enlivened the company with his wit and humour.

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## Mr. ISAAC DE LANY.

An old naturalist who passed away in Victoria during May last was Mr. Isaac William De Lany. A keen nature-lover, he was, however, of a retiring disposition and did not pass on his field knowledge, save such as was in letters to friends, or that mentioned in A. J. Campbell's *Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds*. Of later years he became a member of the R.A.O.U. Mr. De Lany was born at Windsor, Victoria, sixty-one years ago; he was educated at Wesley College and afterwards settled in the timbered tracts of Gippsland. In carving a home (for farming and grazing) in the virgin bush in those early days, he enjoyed ample opportunity to study bird life. As expected, he devoted much time to Lyre-Birds, and he differed from the majority of observers by insisting that these birds were not such wonderful mimics, but acquired their remarkably varied voice from heredity.

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## Mr. E. C. OSBORNE.

The death at Cardinia, Victoria, on March 25 last, of Mr. Ernest Charles Osborne deprived the R.A.O.U. of a staunch member. Mr.

Osborne had served with the Australian forces in the Great War, and he never fully recovered from wounds received in action. By profession a solicitor, he was held in high esteem among the residents of his district.

#### Mr. W. L. MAY.

Members of the R.A.O.U. much regret the death of Mr. William Lewis May, of "Maydena," Sandford, Tasmania, one of the original members of the Union.

Our late member passed away at a private hospital in Sydney on August 30th last, on his homeward journey from a health trip to Fiji and Samoa. He was born of Quaker parents, in 1861, at Wanstead, South Australia, his home being a farm adjoining the belt of Mallee that borders the River Murray. In 1874, his father, William May, and family removed to Tasmania, and W. L. May with his brothers built up the well-known orchardists' business of May Brothers.

The late W. L. May from boyhood was keenly interested in natural history, and early made water-colour paintings of the birds of his locality. Subsequently, he and his brothers built a yacht, which enabled him to dredge and pursue the study of conchology, in which science he became an authority. A number of his papers on Tasmanian conchology have been published by various scientific societies and the Tasmanian Government. His last collecting trip was with Mr. Edwin Ashby, a relative, to Robbin Island, North West Tasmania, in November, 1924. One who intimately knew our late member, states: "His uprightness of life and conduct and his hospitable kindness constituted a valuable influence in the district where he lived."

#### Reviews.

##### Dr. PHILLIPS ON DUCKS.

["A Natural History of the Ducks"—By John C. Phillips, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard College, U.S.A. Published by Houghton Mifflin Co.]

Previous volumes of Dr. Phillips' important work have been reviewed in *The Emu*, Vol. XXIV., pp. 78-9, and Vol. XXV, p. 306, and now the fourth and final volume has been received from the author. It is indeed a great accomplishment to have given to the world such a complete history of the birds of a single Order and an Order so interesting as "The Ducks."

The chief interest to Australians, in Vol. IV., is the sub-family *Oxyurinae* which contains the Blue-billed Duck (*Oxyura australis*) and The Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*), while in the larger Australian region there are the unique Salvadori's Duck (*Salvadorina waigineusis*) of New Guinea, and the beautiful Blue Duck (*Hymenolaimus malaco-*