The Ornithology of H. L. White.

By A. J. Campbell, C.M.B.O.U., Melbourne.

Allan Octavian Hume was a member of the Indian Civil Service and crowned his official career as Secretary to the Government of India. During his residence in India (he was born and died in England), Hume devoted his spare time to ornithology, chiefly between the years 1862 and 1885. He was aided by many collectors, chiefly William Davison, and up to that time brought together the largest collection of ornithological material ever amassed by a private individual, and which Hume donated to the British Museum of Natural History. So important was the collection considered that Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, Chief of the Bird Department, was sent to India to pack and protect the specimens. The collection contained, besides bird-skins and numerous types, about 19,000 eggs. Dr. Sharpe stated that the collection was “one of the most splendid donations ever made to the nation, and added to the Museum the most complete collection of birds and eggs from the British Indian Empire, the world has ever seen” (see Ibis, 1885, p. 456).

History repeats itself. Hume of India has become, as it were, a “prototype” to Henry Luke White, of Belltrees, in Australia. In about the same time (or nearly 30 years), with the aid of reliable collectors and a liberal purse, White amassed, for an individual, the finest collection in Australian ornithological material, “the world has ever seen,” with complete and careful data of same. The bird-skins (between 8,000 and 9,000) were given to the nation (through the National Museum, Melbourne), during his life-time. The magnificent and beautiful collection of about 12,000 eggs was a posthumous gift.

H. L. White was a born collector, or there would have been no such contributions to natural science, particularly to the ornithology of Australia. That he found time for interest in ornithology is somewhat marvellous, when one considers his exacting duties as senior partner of a large and influential pastoralists’ firm. Australians will ever revere the name of Henry Luke White, not to mention the monument of material (for students and others), he has left behind, in the National Museum, Melbourne.

Here follows the Bibliography, in chief, of H. L. White:

(a) NEW AUSTRALIAN BIRDS.

New sub-species of Honeyeater (Entomophila picta borcalis), from Northern Territory. Emu, XIII, p. 187.

New sub-species of Wren (Malurus lamberti dawsonianus), from Queensland. Emu, XVI, p. 89, with col. plate.

New Species of Honeyeater (Meleagroidea abilitina). Emu, XVI, p. 165.


Two new sub-species from Northern Australia—*Gymnorhina tibicen eylandensis* and *Geophaps scripta peninsularis*. *Emu*, XXI, p. 163. [Some students believe the former a full species.—A.J.C.]

(b) NEW NESTS AND EGGS.


Nest and eggs of *Calamanteus montaneus*. *Emu*, X, p. 293.


Description of eggs of *Ninox strenua*. *Emu*, XII, p. 21.

Notes on the Cassowary (*Casuarius australis*). *Emu*, XII, pp. 172-8, with 4 plates.

Descriptions of two new eggs—*Neositta leucoptera* and *Pezoporus flaviventer*. *Emu*, XIII, p. 186.


Descriptions of new nests and eggs—*Microeca brunneicauda*, *Amytornis whitei*, etc.

Description of eggs of *Notophoyx flavirostris*. *Emu*, XVI, p. 100.

Description of new or rare eggs—*Ninox humeralis*, *Climacteris minor*, *Eulabeornis castanocentris*, etc. *Emu*, XVI, pp. 159-64, with 2 plates.

Description of nest and eggs of *Stipiturus ruficeps*. *Emu*, XVII, p. 39.


Description of new eggs—*Maturus leucophterus*, *Stipiturus hartogi*, *Calamanteus hartogi*, etc. *Emu*, XX, p. 186.

Nests and eggs not previously described—*Atrichornis rufescens jacksoni*, *Pachycephala olivacea macphersonianus*, etc. *Emu*, XX, pp. 193-4, with 2 plates.

Descriptions of new eggs—*Menura superba edwardii* and *Gerygone tenebrosa*. *Emu*, XXI, pp. 31-2.


Description of nest and eggs of *Turnix olivii*.

Description of eggs of *Psophotus chrysopterygus*. *Emu*, XXII, p. 89.


THE H. L. WHITE COLLECTORS.

Mr. White would not have considered the "Bibliography" complete without the mention of his emissaries and their exploits in the field. Taken in alphabetical order there are:

(a) TRIPS BY H. G. BARNARD, QUEENSLAND.


(b) TRIPS BY SIDNEY W. J. JACKSON, NEW SOUTH WALES.

In addition to being H. L. White's curator of collections, or ornithological secretary, Jackson by direction made several trips of exploration, notably:

To southern, central and northern Queensland, from June to December, 1908. *Emu*, VIII, pp. 233-235, with 19 plates (really a "special part" of *Emu*).

To Doddridge Scrubs, Bellinger River, New South Wales, from August to December, 1910. *Emu*, X, pp. 327-336, with 4 plates and plan.

To Cambo-Cambo District, north-western New South Wales, August, 1911, to January, 1912. *Emu*, XII, pp. 65-104, with 15 plates.

To Ben and Frankland Rivers and Normallup Inlet District, Western Australia, August, 1912, to January, 1913.

To Great Forester River Swamp, north-eastern Tasmania, August, 1915, to January, 1916.

To Diamantina country, western Queensland, June to October, 1918. *Emu*, XVIII, pp. 160-172, with 7 plates.


To the Macpherson Range (second trip), August, 1920, to January, 1921. *Emu*, XX, pp. 195-209, with 10 plates.

(c) TRIP BY G. F. HILL, MELBOURNE.


(d) TRIPS BY W. R. MCLENNAN, VICTORIA.


Grote Eylandt, Northern Territory—"Some Birds" (with observations from diary of W. McLennan), by A. J. Campbell. *Emu*, XXI, pp. 188-197.

Cape York Peninsula—McLennan's Narrative, Notes and Birds, by H. L. White, *Emu*, XXII, pp. 99-116, with 11 plates (1922). A particularly successful trip; besides many ornithological novelties, a unique scavenger moth (from a Parrot's nest) and a large venomous snake, a new genus, were discovered.

(e) TRIPS BY F. L. WHITLOCK, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.


"In the Stirling Ranges." *Emu*, X, pp. 305-317 (1911).


(Also notes by A. J. Campbell, pp. 254-265.)

"Dirk Hartog Island and Peron Peninsula." *Emu*, XX, pp. 168-186, with 2 plates and map (1921).


"To the Fortescue River and Hamersley Ranges." *Emu*, XXII, pp. 259-273, with 4 plates (1923).

"Journey to Central Australia." *Emu*, XXIII, pp. 248-249, with plates (and including annotations by A. J. Campbell).

THE LATE H. L. WHITE IN HIS STUDY.
Latest Photo, by S. W. Jackson.