

We put to sea again the following Easter and spent a wonderful time amongst the sea birds in Spencer's and St. Vincent's Gulfs, the account being published in *The Emu*. September, 1917, found Dr. Morgan amongst the birds of Lake Victoria and a hundred miles down the Murray (*The Emu*, Vol. xviii, pt. i). There were too many trips to enumerate but through them all my late friend's cheerful companionship stands out very strongly.

After Dr. Morgan disposed of his practice and retired he became honorary ornithologist to the South Australian Museum and carried out that work to the benefit of the Museum and his own lasting credit. He gave his collection of bird skins and eggs to the Museum some time ago. Dr. Morgan's papers were complete and authentic and his death was a great loss to Australian ornithology. A widow, two sons and a daughter survive him.—S.A.W.

Correspondence

RELATION OF BIRDS AND INSECTS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—A. H. Chisholm in his interesting "Bird Wonders of Australia," states that there is nothing in text-books to indicate that Starlings in Britain place ants under their wings and thus the suggestion arises that the habit has been cultivated since Starlings were introduced into Australia.

This curious behaviour has been known to me for some years, although I have never been fortunate enough to see British Starlings thus employed. But my attention was drawn to the habit by an Essex man who, when I was in England, asked me whether I had ever watched Starlings collecting insects and placing them under their wings. He told me that I would see them in the autumn walking about on the lawn, picking up insects and stowing them under their wings. It was his belief that they did so prior to migrating (seasonal migration from one part of England to another) in order to have food with them when needed.

Whether his theory is more correct than that of the placing of ants under the wing for the control of parasites I cannot say, but it indicates that this habit is an old-standing one in the Starling family and I believe it dates back prior to their introduction into Australia.—Yours, etc.,

PERRINE MONCRIEFF.

"The Cliffs," Nelson, N.Z., November 7, 1934.

The Report of the Bird Observers Club and some other matter has been held over.