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Obituary

WILLIAM HERBERT GUTHRIE-SMITH

"H. Guthrie-Smith," as he was known, writer of several books on the New Zealand out-of-doors, exponent of all that forest and bird protection measures stood for, died at his home, Tutira, New Zealand, on July 4, 1940, in his 80th year. He was a pioneer sheep-farmer, taking over the Tutira run in 1882. An account of that property, with its fauna and flora and its vicissitudes through the years—in fact the atmosphere of it—is presented in *Tutira*, a book acclaimed as of fine literary merit. Other works include *Birds of the Water Wood and Waste*, *Mutton Birds and Other Birds*, *Bird Life on Island and Shore* and *Sorrows and Joys of a New Zealand Naturalist*. Commentators have remarked on the material in certain of Guthrie-Smith's books as being the valuable records of well-known areas from day to day, so that the changes—often those brought about by man's marring hand—are presented clearly and well. Others contain the shrewd observations garnered during extensive travel about New Zealand.

Accounts of Guthrie-Smith's life and work coming to our notice are those by Dr. R. A. Falla, "Forest and Bird," Nov., 1940; and by Johannes C. Andersen, *Trans. Roy. Soc. N.Z.*, Dec., 1940. The deceased was a member of the R.A.O.U. for some years.—C.E.B.