

on the back, neck and back of the head, and the long-striding, 'springy' run. When it stopped it had that same curious habit of the plover, of bobbing its head up and down every now and then with a quick jerky motion. It called frequently at times, then it would not utter a sound perhaps for a few hours. I learned to copy it and it would answer me, the call being best described as 'che-wit,' usually only given once, with perhaps an interval of twenty seconds in between. It very much resembled one of the calls of a Cockatiel (*Leptolophus hollandicus*). It fed on garden worms, slaters and other life that it picked up at the edge of the duck pond and in the lawns.

This bird died after about two weeks before it could get well enough to fly again. I made an examination of the body and found it had, at some time, suffered a severe fracture of the breast bone, as it was all out of shape and calloused over where it had nearly healed. The mark was one that could have been caused by the bird's coming into contact with telephone or other wires. The bird must have been running about for some time before it came into my possession, as the breast bone could not, in my opinion, have knitted so well in the short time that I had it.

There are very large flocks of these and other waders at Stockton and the upper reaches of Newcastle Harbour, and it is highly probable that some of the birds, on arrival after their long migration, become confused with and attracted by the lights and hit the wires when coming down. I have heard of other birds being found dead in Newcastle, but, as all these are referred to by most people as 'snipe,' it is impossible to say what they might be. After seeing the large flocks of Godwits, Oriental Dotterels, Golden Plovers, Sandpipers, and Stints that abound, I think it highly probable that a good many of these birds may become casualties.—
ATHEL F. D'OMBRAIN, West Maitland, N.S.W., 6/8/45.

Obituaries

ARTHUR L. BUTLER

With the death of Mr. Arthur Larchin Butler at Sandy Bay on June 6 last, the Union lost one of its foundation members and Tasmania one of its leading field ornithologists. One time president of the Union, he was 83 years of age.

Few men possessed so extensive a knowledge of Tasmanian birds as Mr. Butler, who gave freely of it to all who sought his counsel. His many activities in other walks of life denied him time to publish his records and observations, though such a proposal was always in his mind; his contributions to the field knowledge of birds were made in

the form of lectures to natural history societies, and he helped materially in framing regulations for bird protection. He was a valued member of the Animals and Birds Protection Board and lost no opportunity of emphasizing the economic value of birds, his favourite subject.

For some years he owned a cottage at Fern Tree, on the slopes of Mount Wellington, a few miles from Hobart, and there he frequently entertained visitors from other States, many of whom will recall pleasant outings with him in the surrounding bush, chiefly in search of the Scrub Tit (*Acanthornis magna*), the range and nesting places of which he had fully tagged. In early days he collected skins and eggs and several of the specimens are now in the Tasmanian Museum. A few papers he wrote on the economic aspect of birds are to be found in the pages of the *Tasmanian Naturalist* and the *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*.

He was active until within a few weeks of his death and took daily walks to look at birds and make notes. At other times he sat for hours on the verandah of his home studying the estuary of the River Derwent with field glasses for the sight of unusual sea birds, and often made some interesting records. He retained his interest in birds till the end.—M.S.R.S.

AUSTIN FRANK AUSTIN

Captain A. F. Austin, 2/9 Aust. Armd. Regt., was killed in action on Tarakan on May 10, 1945. He had served through Middle East campaigns with 7 Div. Cav. and, on transfer to 2/9 Armd. Regt., was attached to 9 Div. He was married, and leaves a widow and a young son. He was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Austin of Lake Midgeon, Narrandera, N.S.W., and nephew of T. P. Austin of Cobborah fame.

Several weeks ago I received a letter from him, dated May 7, in which he stated that things had been rather uncomfortable for several days but were now settling down, that his part would be completed in a day or two, and that he would devote the relaxation period to the securing and skinning of specimens of the very interesting bird-life of Tarakan. We had worked together on certain species in Queensland and it is hoped that his notes can be published later.—P.A.B.

Correspondence

GILBERT, GREY, AND MACGILLIVRAY

To the Editor,
Sir,

Writing to Gould from Perth on May 20, 1839, Gilbert mentioned that he had lately met [Sir] George Grey, who