

## OBITUARY

### JOHN ALAN DEVITT

John Alan Devitt passed away early in 1972 at the early age of 42 years. Although he was severely handicapped by being confined to a wheel-chair, he will be long remembered as an efficient and capable ornithologist. Mr Devitt joined the RAOU in 1947 when only 17 years old and, because he could not move about freely, his studies centred round bird behaviour rather than distribution. Illawarra members of the RAOU met regularly during the 'fifties and 'sixties at his residence in Wollongong to discuss the birdlife of the district and current ornithological literature.

'Jack' Devitt was responsible for compiling and keeping the Illawarra bird list up to date. He was

also the author of many valuable articles in natural history journals and his name appears often in the résumé of the RAOU Congress and Camp-out at Mt Keira in 1954. It was my pleasure to work with him in compiling 'Additions to the birds recorded from the Illawarra district' (Emu 62: 184-187). I now have his field note-books, which contain a wealth of unpublished information.

John Devitt was a proud man who did not allow his physical handicap to deter him. He was a gentleman of integrity and humility imbued with the highest Christian ideals and principles. Sympathy is expressed to his mother and members of the family.

A.R.S.

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