

The Ornithology of H. L. White.

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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 borealis*), from Northern Territory. *Emu*, XIII, p. 187.

New sub-species of Wren (*Malurus lamberti dawsonianus*), from Queensland. *Emu*, XVI, p. 69, with col. plate.

New Species of Honeyeater (*Meliphaga albilineata*). *Emu*, XVI, p. 165.

New sub-species of Scrub-Bird (*Atrichornis rufescens jacksoni*), from Queensland. *Emu*, XIX, pp. 257-8, with col. plate.

New sub-species of Whistler (*Pachycephala olivacea macphersonianus*), from Queensland. *Emu*, XIX, p. 273.

New species of Parrot (*Psephotus narethæ*), from Nullarbor Plains. *Emu*, XXI, pp. 81-3, with col. plate.

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

(b) NEW NESTS AND EGGS.

Descriptions of nests and eggs of *Pœcilodryas pulverulentus* and *Malurus dulcis*. *Emu*, X, pp. 132-4.

Nest and eggs of *Calamanthus montanellus*. *Emu*, X, p. 293.

Descriptions of new eggs—*Cracticus mentalis*, *Xanthotis filigera*, etc. *Emu*, X, pp. 339-40.

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 flaviventris*. *Emu*, XIII, p. 186.

Descriptions of new eggs—*Colluricincla woodwardi*, *Amytornis woodwardi* (= *dorotheæ*), *Falcunculus whitei* and *Malurus coronatus*. *Emu*, XIV, p. 57.

Australian Cuckoos. *Emu*, XIV, pp. 144-54, with 9 plates.

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

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

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

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

Description of nests and eggs of *Malurus leucopterus edouardi* and *Eremiornis carteri*. *Emu*, XVII, pp. 157-9.

Description of new eggs—*Malurus leucopterus*, *Stipiturus hartogi*, *Calamanthus 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 edwardi* and *Gerygone tenebrosa*. *Emu*, XXI, pp. 31-2.

Descriptions of new nests and eggs—*Cinclosoma alisteri*, *Climacteris melanota*, etc. *Emu*, XXI, p. 164.

Description of nest and eggs of *Turnix olivii*.

Description of eggs of *Psephotus chrysopterygius*. *Emu*, XXII, p. 89.

Descriptions of new nests and eggs—*Amytornis purnelli*, *A. modestus*, etc. *Emu*, XXIII, pp. 241-2.

Notes on eggs collected in Central Australia by F. L. Whitlock. *Emu*, XXIII, pp. 243-7, with 8 plates.

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.

To Cape York from September 11, 1910, to February 3, 1911. *Emu*, XI, pp. 17-32.

Through Northern Territory from January 8, 1913, to March 23, 1914. *Emu*, XIV, pp. 39-57.

To Cardwell District (accompanied by A. J. Campbell), August to October, 1916. *Emu*, XVII, pp. 2-38, with 8 plates.

Cardwell District, again, from end September, 1925, to end of January, 1926. *Emu*, XXVI, pp. 1-13, with plate. (Introduction and Annotations by A. J. Campbell.)

(b) TRIPS BY SIDNEY WM. 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. 233-283, with 19 plates (really a "special part" of *Emu*).

To Dorrigo Scrubs, Bellenger 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 Bon and Frankland Rivers and Nornalup 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, south-eastern Queensland, August, 1919, to January, 1920. *Emu*, XIX, pp. 258-272, 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.

To Kimberley, north-western Australia. *Emu*, X, pp. 258-290, with 6 plates (1911).

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

Northern Australia—Narrative by H. L. White. *Emu*, XVI, pp. 117-158, with map. Observations by W. McLennan, pp. 205-231. Critical remarks on species from "Gouldian-Gilbert Type-locality," by A. J. Campbell. *Emu*, XVIII, pp. 172-188.

Torres Straits Islands—"Additions to H. L. White Collection," with collector's notes by A. J. Campbell. *Emu*, XX, pp. 49-66, with col. plate and text-map.

Groote 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.

Four months "On the East Murchison." *Emu*, IX, pp. 181-219, with 9 plates and map (1910).

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

"Dampier Archipelago." *Emu*, XVIII, pp. 240-253, with 5 plates. (Also notes by A. J. Campbell, pp. 254-265.)

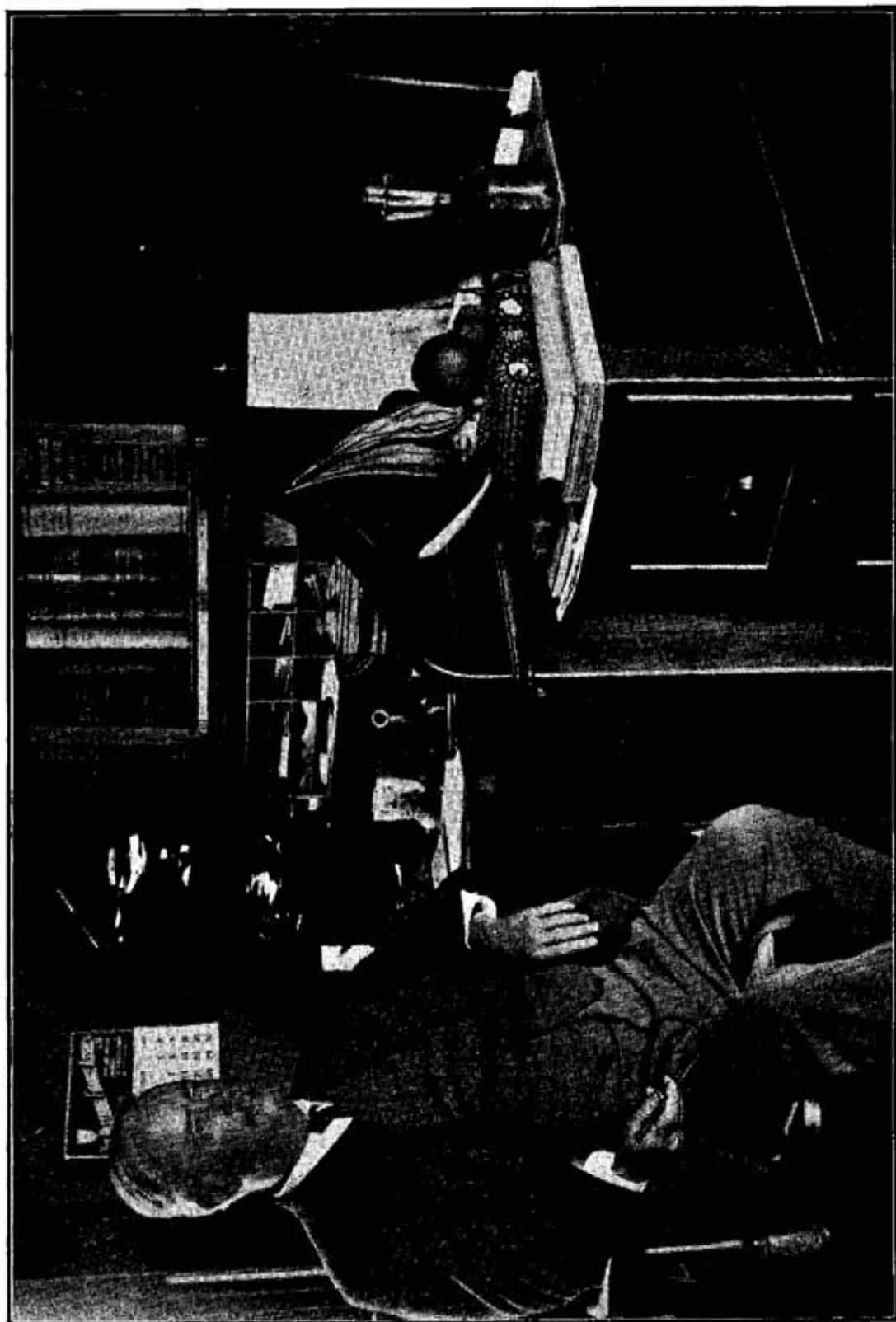
"Dirk Hartog Island and Peron Peninsula." *Emu*, XX, pp. 168-186, with 2 plates and map (1921).

"The Nullarbor Plain." *Emu*, XXI, pp. 170-187, with 6 plates (1922).

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

"Journey to Central Australia." *Emu*, XXIII, pp. 248-281, with plates (and including annotations by A. J. Campbell).

"Ten Months on the Fitzroy River." *Emu*, XXV, pp. 1-21, and 3 plates. (With introduction by A. J. Campbell.)



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