

nowhere. What would be to the point would be a categorical rebuttal of my remarks, which, I may emphasize, are concurred in by Dr. Falla and Mr. Fleming. I can only refer Mr. Mathews back to my article.

Forster's "mention," in 1794, of *Procellaria gavia* from Norfolk Island, does not affect the issue. Presumably it was a sight record and if he had handled a true *assimilis* from there such an acute observer as he was would not have failed to notice that it was different from the bird he had described as *gavia*. In another place in this issue (page 11), Mr. Hindwood and I refer to the caution which must be used in interpreting the sight records of the early voyagers. Gould himself almost certainly erred in his identification of *Pterodroma leucoptera*, and Forster apparently never realized there were two small white-breasted shearwaters in these seas. He examined one and described it very fully, and what more natural than that he should attribute all similar shearwaters he saw, but did not procure, to that species? The two would be very difficult to distinguish in life, particularly by a transient observer with little previous data to guide him. Even in this century the Fluttering Shearwater has been persistently mistaken for *assimilis* in New South Wales.

Yours, etc.,

Sydney, May 9, 1941.

D. L. SERVENTY.

To the foregoing Mr. Mathews' reply, in conclusion, is: "I have seen Dr. Serventy's remarks and have nothing further to say except that, as the detailed account of the upper surface is the most important part of Forster's description, it should control our judgment, especially as he was such an accurate observer and describer."

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## Obituary

HAMILTON STUART DOVE

A dozen years or more ago, when it was suggested that I might "give a hand with *The Emu*," Leach, the then editor, passed me a first batch of contributions to "look over." On top was a single sheet in a writing that I came to know well. "Stuart Dove," he mused, "the most inveterate writer of 'Stray Feathers.'" Later, another commented, jocularly, on that same aspect—"I always imagine Stuart Dove as sitting on a rocky cape peering across Bass Strait for the first migrant from the mainland." Indeed, such matters were his special province, and *The Emu* is full of odd notes and records of migratory visitors and their comings and goings.

Now he has gone—at the age of 77. From cuttings sent to me by Miss Jessie Fletcher his intense interest in the bush and its flora and fauna is confirmed. Living the life of a recluse, unmarried, but in the company of his numerous natural history specimens, he was a well-known and well-liked figure in Devonport. He read widely, turned his attention to many subjects, and was always willing to assist children and others concerned with the ways of the bush or the wonders of the skies.

Stuart Dove came out to Tasmania, from England, over 50 years ago, with his brother, whom he assisted at his farm, at Flowerdale, for some time. But he preferred solitude, apparently, and settled at Devonport, whence he made many roving excursions. He contributed notes for many years to *The Advocate*, and appears to have built up a reputation as a good naturalist in that connection. His death was sudden. Feeling unwell on Sunday, May 18, he saw a doctor. Next day he walked into Devonport for medicine, but died that night.—C.E.B.

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Recent numbers of *The Ibis* disclose the death of several well-known British ornithologists. These include Miss E. L. Turner, an authority on "Broadland Birds," who died on August 13, 1940. Miss Turner's investigations on the Norfolk Broads led to the re-establishment of the Bittern as an English-breeding species. See *Ibis*, 14th ser., vol. v, no. 1, p. 188.

On December 21, 1940, Henry Eliot Howard died—see *Ibis*, tom. cit., no. 2, p. 335. Eliot Howard was a first-class field-man, whose intense work on bird-behaviour and the territory theory placed him in the van of English ornithologists.

The same issue of *The Ibis* (p. 321) records the death of its editor, Dr. Claud Buchanan Ticehurst, on February 17, 1941. A full account is given, with a bibliography showing numerous papers extending from 1902. These indicate the scope and variety of his interests and justify the reference to him as an ideal combination of the field naturalist and museum worker. His *British Warblers* is well known, and his latest book, *A Waterhen's Worlds*, was favourably reviewed. Dr. Ticehurst came early under the influence of Dr. Alfred Newton, with great benefit to his ornithological outlook, as he himself said. He spent considerable time in India.

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