

Obituary

Mr. J. M. HEWITT, O.B.E.

Joseph Martin Hewitt, O.B.E., died from a heart attack during a bird-watching holiday at Batehaven, southern New South Wales, on December 30, 1962, being then 53 years of age.

Mr. Hewitt was born at Sunderland, County Durham, England, on May 24, 1909, and came to Australia at an early age with his parents, who settled on an orange orchard and farm at Ourimbah, central coastal N.S.W. His youthful days were spent in the bush surroundings of that rural district, a place where birds abound. His higher schooling took place at both Gosford and Katoomba, and later at Sydney University while working as a telegraphist in the Postmaster-General's Department and subsequently in the Attorney-General's Department. He gained his LL.B. in 1939.

During his career he held the following important positions in the Commonwealth Government Service: Administrative Assistant to the Attorney-General, 1945-47; Member of the Australian Delegation to the Dominions Conference, London, and the Far Eastern Conference, Washington, 1945-46; Conciliation Commissioner, 1947; Deputy Chairman, Stevedoring Industry Commission, 1947-49, and, more recently, Chairman of the Stevedoring Industry Authority.

Mr. Hewitt joined the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union some five years ago and soon became an enthusiast and reliable bird-student and a capable and efficient member of the Union. At the time of his death he was the Hon. State Secretary for New South Wales and was also an active member of the Conservation Committee of the R.A.O.U.

In the course of his official duties Mr. Hewitt travelled widely in Australia (Northern Territory, Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania) and took every opportunity to meet local ornithologists and study the bird-life of the places visited, being especially interested in the distribution and movements of both the Cattle Egret and the Fork-tailed Kite.

Mr. Hewitt is survived by his mother, his wife Margery, his son Anthony, and his daughters Diana and Susan, to whom the sympathy of members of the R.A.O.U. is extended.

The following contributions by Mr. Hewitt have appeared in *The Emu*:

"The Cattle Egret in Australia", vol. 60, 1960, pp. 99-102.

"'Cattle Egret' proves to be Little Egret", vol. 61, 1961, p. 96.

"The Cattle Egret near Sydney", vol. 61, pp. 137-8.

[Paper dealing with Ring Dove, in press].

K. A. HINDWOOD