

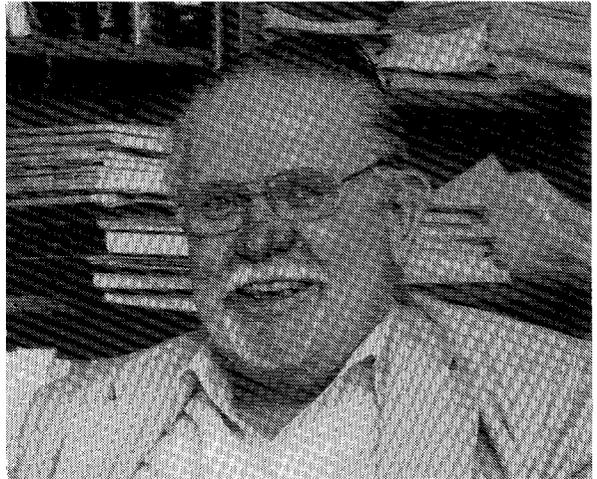
# Obituary

## GLEN MILTON STORR

When Glen Storr died on 26 June 1990, Australia lost an ornithologist whose publications will carry his name far into the future. Glen's interest in natural history was a boyhood one, overshadowed by the sombre events of the Second World War, to be revived and inspired like so many others of his generation, by the enthusiasm of Dom Serventy.

Glen was born in Adelaide, South Australia, on 22 December 1921. He was educated at Cowandilla Primary School and Adelaide High School, where he took his leaving certificate in 1938. In 1939 he joined the South Australian Lands Department as a junior draftsman and cadet surveyor, enlisting in the A.I.F. in 1942. He served with the Second Ninth Field Regiment in Queensland and New Guinea from 1943 to 1945. Returning to civilian life in the South Australian Lands Department he became a licensed Land Surveyor in 1947. But in 1948 he took a holiday in the Cooktown-Laura district of Queensland, a holiday that extended for 12 months while Glen worked in the district, collected plants and observed birds. His first contribution to *Emu* was an account of the birds of the Cooktown-Laura district in Volume 53. He had already contributed papers on the birds of Eyre Peninsula to the South Australian Ornithologist. He continued to work as a surveyor, with a growing interest in birds, until he spent some of the spring of 1952 helping Dr Serventy on Fisher Island. He enrolled in the University of Western Australia in 1953 and proceeded through B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in the Zoology Department. During this time he developed and refined the analysis of macropod faeces as a technique to firstly study the diet of the quokka on Rottne Island (Honours) and then the diets of the Euro and Red Kangaroo on Mundabullangana Station in the Pilbarra. 'Scatology', to give the technique its nickname, became widely used in mammal and bird studies.

After graduating with his Ph.D. in 1960, he continued postgraduate research on kangaroos until he joined the Western Australian Museum as Assistant Curator of Vertebrates in 1962. He became Curator in 1963 and Curator of Ornithology and Herpetology in 1965. From then until his retirement in 1986 Glen worked tirelessly to describe and catalogue the bird and reptile fauna of Western Australia. Glen's contribution to Australian ornithology is two-fold. His regional lists of Queensland, the Northern Territory and the eight regions of Western Australia provide handy reference books to distribution-



al records in the early literature and to specimens held in the Western Australian Museum. They will be of use for many years to come. But Glen did much for ornithology in a less tangible way. By encouraging many young ornithologists and providing a base at which they could subject their records and theories to critical appraisal, he advanced scientific ornithology in Western Australia immeasurably. His published work drew freely on the notes of amateurs and he encouraged them to undertake critical field work on their own account, including them in museum field parties when opportunity offered.

Glen was a loyal RAOU member over his whole career. he was Secretary of the Western Australian Branch in 1954, helping to organise regular meetings of the 'WA Bird Group' in the Museum. He took part in congresses and camp-outs, as his university and curatorial activities allowed. He represented the Western Australian Museum on the Bird Committee of the Western Australian Wildlife Authority for many years, applying his knowledge to help design practical conservation measures for Western Australia. In his later years ill health prevented him from going into the field, but he always made himself available when visitors from other states needed help with local bird identification. His passing is greatly mourned by his colleagues and friends who will long remember his cheerful chuckle and critical mind.

S.J.J.F. Davies

A list of Glen's major publications appears in the *WA Naturalist* Vol. 18 pages 144-6. Ed.