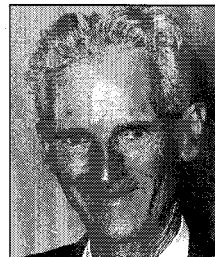


Obituary

E.F. BOEHM 1911–1994



Erhard Boehm, who died on 14 September 1994 after a few years of declining health, was a survivor from the age of distinguished amateur naturalists. Self-taught, he was free to set his own standards of record-keeping (he was meticulous) and to explore any aspect of the natural world that attracted his interest.

Born in Eudunda, some 100 km north-east of Adelaide, on 8 April 1911, Erhard grew up and lived most of his life on a nearby rural property at Sutherlands. Here he studied not only the birds, publishing his first scientific paper at the age of 17, but also the former indigenous people, mammals, reptiles, and plants. His writings span the time when much of this marginal agricultural area was still being cleared; they provide a unique historical ornithological record (*Emu* 52, 296; 53, 291; 57, 311). The South Australian Museum and Herbarium are significantly richer for his contributions. He wrote more than 150 articles for the volumes of *Emu* (to which he also contributed numerous reviews, especially of material in German), the *South Australian Ornithologist*, the *Australian Bird Bander* (now *Corella*), and other publications, and was still publishing into his eighties. He also addressed conservation issues and in the mid-1950s he was South Australian representative on the RAOU Standing Committee on Conservation.

The breadth of his interests precluded severe specialisation, but he did take a particular interest in corvids. He started banding in his fifties and Ian Rowley helped him set up a suitable trap from which both Erhard and his wife Doreen would retrieve ravens for study. More than 1000 ravens were banded at Sutherlands and Erhard helped to clarify the fourth species of corvid, *Corvus mellori* (Rowley, *Emu* 66, 191–210).

When he retired it was hard to tell, such was the energy he brought to birdwatching, conservation, and public speaking near his new home in the north-east suburbs of Adelaide.

To casual acquaintances Erhard seemed aloof and unbending, but those who persuaded him of their interest in wildlife and concern for conservation found him generous with time, information, and encouragement. Australian ornithology is poorer for his departure, and we extend our sympathy to his widow Doreen and to their surviving daughter and grandchildren.

Publications by E.F. Boehm in *Emu*

Bilateral ovaries in Australian hawks. 42, 251. Yellow-fronted Honeyeater in the Murray Mallee, South Australia. 43, 220. Notes on the pterylography of the Australian Raven. 44, 230–231. Olive-backed Oriole in South Australia. 45, 297. Little Crow in the Northern Territory. 46, 67. Fuscous Honeyeater in South Australia. 46, 77. Flight of the Ground Cuckoo-Shrike. 47, 58. Australian birds on animate perches. 47, 233–234. Shy Ground-Wren hops. 47, 367. Mimicry of Black-backed Magpie. 47, 395–396. Bilateral ovaries in Australian Goshawk. 48, 176. Parent birds transporting their young. 49, 50. A flightless Australian Dotterel. 49, 256. Diurnal birds singing at night. 50, 62–63. Dotterels swimming. 50, 96. Abnormal erythraemia in birds' eggs. 50, 139. Breathing of birds in hot weather. 50, 210–211. Fortuitous mimicry: a note of warning. 51, 174–175. Swift Parrot in South Australia. 52, 211–212. Cape Barren Goose inland. 52, 222. Some ecological factors affecting bird life in the region of the north-west bend of the Murray River, S.A. 52, 296–300. Little Grass-birds in strange surroundings. 53, 267–268. Water birds of the Mount Mary Plains, South Australia. 53, 291–295. Starlings perch on horses. 54, 126–127. Gulls eat fruit. 55, 23. Scrub-Robin on Murray River swamp. 55, 74. Golden Plover inland in South Australia. 55, 107. Playgrounds of the Chestnut-crowned Babbler. 55, 159–160. Banded Plover as a wader. 55, 296. Shock moult in birds. 55, 314. Plumed Tree-Duck in South Australia. 56, 68. Aerial singing of Jacky Winter. 56, 210. Black-backed Magpie extends range. 56, 348. Pipit sings from tree-tops. 57, 215. Perching birds (*Passeriformes*) of the Mount Mary Plains, South Australia. 57, 311–324. Cormorants and mussels. 59, 63. Parrots and cockatoos of the Mount Mary Plains, South Australia. 59, 83–87. Remarkable inland record of the Osprey. 59, 100. Comparison of Marsh Sandpiper and Wood Sandpiper. 60, 56. Hawks bathing. 60, 60. Little Corella in southern South Australia. 60, 67–68. Little Friar-bird in South Australia. 60, 71–72. Food parasitism by Silver Gull. 60, 195–196. Autumn flocking of White-winged Chough. 60, 210. Notes on some South Australian waders. Part I. 60, 211–218. Indian Turtledove extends range in South Australia. 61, 55. Nankeen Kestrel as predator on house mice. 61, 60. Pink Cockatoo in southern South Australia. 61, 138–139. Welcome Swallow and altered land-use. 61, 143–144. Status of Pacific Gull in South Australia. 61, 210. Remarks on ducks and their allies in South Australia. 61, 237–241. Some habits of the Fork-tailed Swift. 61, 281–282. Black legs in Curlew Sandpiper. 61, 282. Plumage succession in Adelaide Rosella. 61, 333–334. Birds feeding on dung. 62, 59. Juvenile plumage in White-headed Stilt. 62, 173. Flocking of White-backed Magpies. 62, 176. High-level feeding of Willie Wagtail. 62, 191. Notes on some South Australian waders. Part II. 63, 276–282. Variation in hybrid magpies. 63, 296. Display-singing of the Australian Raven. 63, 303. Quail-thrushes as songsters. 63, 417. Breeding of the Whistling Eagle. 66, 318 (with R.P. Heinecke). Breeding of Singing Honeyeater. 67, 26.

After this, he published mainly in the *Australian Bird Bander* and *Corella*.

John Seymour