

this the trustees alone appear to be responsible and not the bird-room of the Museum.

The new South Australian list places figures in parentheses after the vernacular names to indicate the consecutive number of the species in the official Checklist. There are sixteen species added that were not in the first edition. South Australia's recorded species now amount to 369, out of the total number found in the Commonwealth of 707.—H.W.

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## Obituary.

### MR. H. L. WHITE.

With the death of Mr. Henry Luke White, R.A.O.U., C.F.A.O.U., which occurred at "Belltrees," Scone, on May 30, after a lingering illness, Australia lost one of its most notable figures, and ornithology in this country was robbed of its most distinguished patron.

Mr. White, who was born at Anambah (West Maitland) on May 9, 1860, was a son of the late Francis White, of Edinglassie Estate, Muswellbrook, and a grandson of James White, who came to Australia in 1825 as sheep manager of the Australian Agricultural Company at Port Stephens. He was educated at Calder House, Redfern, and Mr. Belcher's school, Goulburn. He studied for surveying, and passed his final examination in 1884. In 1887 he married a daughter of the late Mr. E. S. Ebsworth, of Bronte House, Waverley.

Mr. H. L. White was a most public-spirited man. He had been president of the Upper Hunter Shire Council since its inception, missing only two meetings in 20 years. For upwards of 35 years he was a member of the Pastures Protection Board, and for 40 years he was a member of the Upper Hunter Stock Board. He was a generous patron of local, public, and charitable and religious institutions and movements.

As a philatelist Mr. White won world-wide distinction. He was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. In 1897 he purchased the Queensland collection from Mr. E. D. E. van Weenen. He then became interested in specializing in the States of Australia. Mr. White gave magnificent collections to the trustees of the Public Library of New South Wales for incorporation in the Mitchell Library. In 1917 he presented his collection of New South Wales fiscal and postal stamps, considered by philatelists to be the most complete in the world, and at the time estimated to be worth £14,500. Its value has probably appreciated considerably since. In 1921 he made another gift to the library of his Queensland and Western Australian collections, and the three collections are now estimated to be worth £50,000.

As an ornithologist Mr. White also won world-wide renown. He was a member of the British Ornithologists' Union, and a corresponding fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, besides being an honorary member and strong supporter of the R.A.O.U. His collection of Australian birds' eggs is the finest in the world. In 1917 he presented to the National Museum in Melbourne his priceless collection of over 8,000 skins of Australian birds. He gave £1,000 to the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union in furtherance of its scientific work, and he also presented to it a complete set of John Gould's famous *Birds of Australia*, valued at £500.

The name of H. L. White will live, of course, through the magnificent collections he has donated for public and semi-public use; it is commemorated also through the names *Amytornis whitei*, *Falcunculus whitei*, *Lacustroica whitei*, and at least a score of bird-names the owners of which are at present given sub-specific rank. Further, Mathews has used the name for more than one genus when dividing genera. The names of Mr. White's collectors, too, are freely applied to Australian birds, chiefly sub-species, which fact in itself is an indication of the value of the field work Mr. White was instrumental in having done. Indeed, the pages of *The Emu* would have been much less interesting for many years past without the contributions of men sent afield by H. L. White—among them F. L. Whitlock, S. W. Jackson, H. G. Barnard, W. McLennan, E. D. Frizelle, and J. P. Rogers.

The deceased gentleman is survived by Mrs. White, one son—Mr. Alfred Henry White, who was a noted Cambridge Blue—and two daughters—Mrs. W. P. Minell and Mrs. H. V. Horder, of Nerida, Moss Vale. His brothers are Mr. Frank White, of Saumerex, Armidale, Mr. Arthur G. White, of Belltrees, and Mr. Victor M. White, of Roslyn Gardens, Sydney.

A full-page photograph of Mr. H. L. White appeared in *The Emu*, Vol. XVII, Plate 24 (January, 1918).

#### MR. R. S. ARCHER.

Mr. Robert Stubbs Archer, R.A.O.U., of "Gracemere," Rockhampton, Queensland, died on December 29, 1926, at the age of 68 years.

Although Mr. Archer would not have claimed to be an ornithologist, he took a keen interest in the protection of the birds in the Rockhampton district, and it was through his influence that the mere at Gracemere, with an area of country round it, was made a Bird Sanctuary and closely watched.

Those who took part in the 1924 Congress will remember the kindness and hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Archer and family, when the charming old family home at Gracemere was visited by members of the R.A.O.U.

Robert Archer was a fine type of a very fine family who were the pioneers on the country that is now Rockhampton, but was then virgin forest and formed at the time part of New South Wales. Although of a retiring nature, long residence in the district—Gracemere had been his home for nearly fifty years—and a reputation for unvarying uprightness had drawn him into many local affairs. He was Chairman for very many years of the Rockhampton Harbour Board, and President of the Rockhampton Agricultural Society almost continuously since 1894, Chairman of the Local Board of Directors of the Mount Morgan Gold-mining Co., as also of the Rockhampton Branch of the Graziers' Association. He was, too, Patron of that active body, the Central Queensland Bird Protection Association.

His kindness of heart and consideration for others made him a wide circle of friends, by whom his loss will be greatly felt. It is pleasing to know, however, that Mr. Archer leaves behind those who will also carry on the family tradition at Gracemere.

#### MR. F. S. SHENSTONE.

Many members of the R.A.O.U. regretted to learn of the death of Mr. Fred. Salkeld Shenstone, of Sydney, which occurred on May 15. Although not a member of the Union, Mr. Shenstone, in his capacity of secretary of the publishing firm of Angus and Robertson, came into close contact with many members and with some aspects of the Union's work; and his death at the age of 51 was a distinct loss to ornithology.

#### MR. CLAUDE KINANE.

Many nature-lovers will regret the death of Mr. Claude Kinane, whose fine work in nature-photography attracted much attention years ago. As one of a party of young nature-students, who called themselves "The Woodlanders," and spent the week-ends in a hut at Olinda (Victoria) named after Thoreau's "Walden," Claude Kinane got some bird-pictures which have never since been equalled in Australia. He was the first to get pictures of the newly-hatched Cuckoo throwing its fellow-nestlings—some Blue Wrens—out of the nest, and no one has since succeeded in getting Cuckoo pictures at the same interesting stage. One might watch for a lifetime and then never have the luck to get that subject at the vital moment.

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## Notes and Comments.

Any member desirous of bringing forward important business for consideration at the next Annual General Meeting should note that notices of such business must be forwarded to the Honorary General Secretary not later than August 1.