

here. Certain other bird-books produced in Britain are ill-informed, when they are not merely silly, in their references to Australian birds. Moreover, I have had occasion to write to both *The Ibis* (twice) and *The Auk* correcting statements that would never have been made if their authors had taken the trouble to glance through the pages of *The Emu* and/or through a few books written in this country.

But, alas, we ourselves are not without sin in this matter, for some of us, while quoting from writers abroad, overlook material observations and theories born of the Australian earth. Angus Robinson is mildly guilty in this regard. So, in the same issue of *The Emu*, is my old friend, G. R. Gannon, who in his suggestive article on 'The Nature of Bird Activities' cites observations from other countries that could have been improved upon by references made in Australia. Incidentally, I too have recently fallen into a sin of omission, for when recording the feeding of a young Pallid Cuckoo by a House Sparrow, and stating that I knew of no other instance of an introduced bird's fostering a parasitic species, I altogether forgot that Norman Chaffer had recorded a Bulbul/Cuckoo association in the previous issue of *The Emu*.

The moral of all this appears to be that ornithological study should begin at home and extend to every available source. Given such a foundation, broad-based and well-balanced, we may perhaps accomplish work that will serve as a healthy example, causing even the most insular of ornithologists overseas to awake to the fact that they cannot afford to neglect Australia.

Melbourne,

Yours, etc.,

October 30, 1945.

A. H. CHISHOLM.

## Obituary

A. F. BASSET HULL

Arthur Francis Basset Hull, who died at Manly, Sydney, on September 22, 1945, at the age of 83 years, was a philatelist with a world-wide reputation and an ornithologist of note. He published books on the stamps of Tasmania, New South Wales and Queensland and was the recipient of many philatelic honours.

His interests in natural sciences embraced oology, conchology (specializing in Loricates), and ornithology. He was a member of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union from 1906 to 1924 and President during 1919-1920. He contributed a number of important papers to *The Emu*. His investigations brought to light much interesting information relating to the distribution and breeding of sea-birds occurring in the coastal waters of New South Wales; he

also investigated the bird life of the islands of the Recherche Archipelago, south-west Australia. On one occasion he barely escaped with his life when his boat was capsized on the Narooma Bar. He discovered the nesting place of the Gould (or White-winged) Petrel (*Pterodroma leucoptera*), and was thus able to publish the first description of the egg of that species.

Mr. Hull was born on October 10, 1862, and educated in Tasmania. His friend and companion on bird expeditions of those early years, the late A. L. Butler, who was also 83 years of age, predeceased him by a few months. After taking a law degree, Mr. Hull joined the New South Wales Civil Service in 1892. In 1902 he visited England and the Continent to study methods in dealing with the problems of the unemployed. From 1903 to 1921 he was in charge of legal matters in the New South Wales Department of Mines.

Mr. Hull took a keen interest in the work of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales, of which body he was President on three occasions, and honorary secretary and editor for many years. He was an active member of the Council of that Society for some thirty-five years.

He was President of the Linnean Society of New South Wales in 1923-24, and contributed a number of scientific papers to the *Proceedings* of that Society, including an important work on the birds of Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands. Mr. Hull was a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists Union and a Corresponding Member of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. He was a member of the Taronga Zoological Park Trust for some sixteen years and was on the honorary ornithological staff of the Australian Museum, Sydney. Other interests included poetry and music. He was co-author, with Tom Iredale, of *A Monograph of the Australian Loricates*, 1927. In 1936 the M.B.E. was conferred on him.

Mr. Hull maintained his mental alertness and keen interest in his many activities to within a few days of his passing. An excellent oil painting by Hayward Veale was presented to the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales by Mr. E. J. Hallstrom in 1941, to commemorate his unrivalled service to that Society of which he was a Fellow and an Honorary Member.

Contributions to scientific literature by Mr. Hull are listed in the *Index to The Emu* (vols. 1-37, p. 100), in the *Index to the Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* (vols. 1-50, 1929, p. 15) and in the indices to the various volumes of *The Australian Zoologist*.—K.A.H.

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