

Evidently they were striking out overland across unfavourable country in search of new territory, and they may have come from the Murray River, 25 miles to the east, or from the Light River, about the same distance to the west.

However, at the time the far north interior of the State and Central Australia was suffering from the effects of severe drought. As birds such as the Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus australis*), Fantail-Warbler (*Cisticola exilis*), and Grass-bird would be driven out of their haunts there by the unfavourable ecological factors which would have developed, it is reasonable to suppose that they would migrate towards some point on, or near, the coastline of the continent. Consequently, there is at least a remote possibility at such a time that the birds noted by me in strange surroundings had come some hundreds of miles on a southward migration.—ERHARD F. BOEHM, Sutherlands, S.A., 1/6/53.

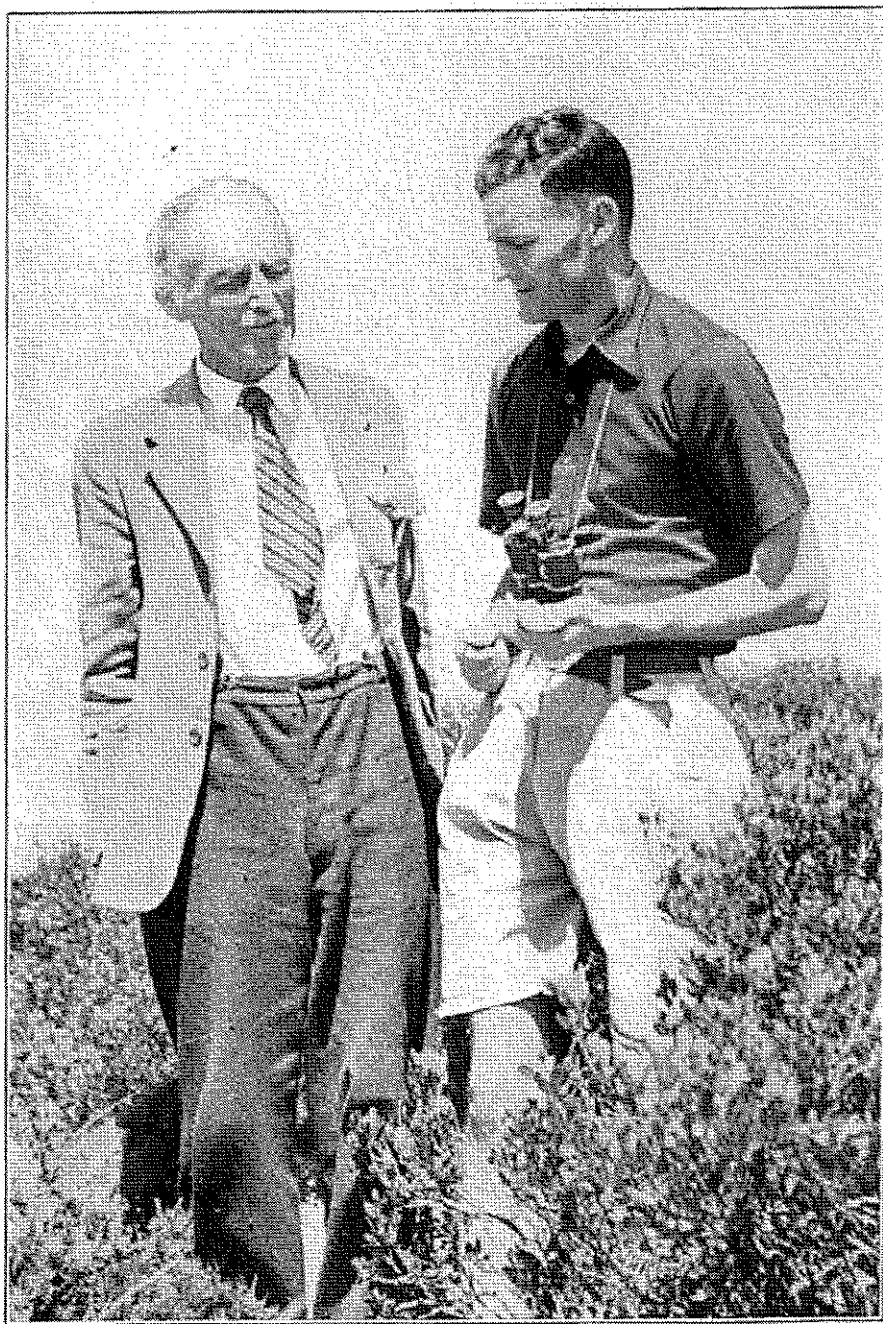
Obituaries

ALEXANDER J. GRAY

Alexander Gray, who died on April 20, 1953, after a long illness, was born in Dunkenny, Stirlingshire, Scotland, on June 30, 1888. In 1912 he came to Australia, where he followed his profession of engineer, but a few years later he enlisted in the A.I.F. and served overseas in the First World War. He became interested in the Sherbrooke Forest and its Lyrebirds during the 'thirties, and for a number of years took a very active interest in the welfare of the forest. It was only when he became stricken with a long fatal illness that he ceased to visit there. His interest in birds was almost entirely confined to Lyrebirds, and in conjunction with Mr. A. G. Campbell he published an article on these birds in *The Emu*, vol. 42. Two short articles on the same subject appeared later.—D.J.D.

F. LAWSON WHITLOCK

Frederick Lawson Whitlock, an honorary member of the Union, died in Bunbury, W.A., on June 15, 1953, aged 93 years. His wife pre-deceased him in December, 1952. For some years he had been living in retirement at Bunbury with his daughter. He was active to the end, despite the handicap of deafness. In latter years he became very interested in entomology, his ornithological activities being almost confined to patrolling the beaches in winter for storm-drifted sea-birds. His last published article, which appeared in *Gould League Notes*, 1952, dealt with that subject.



The late Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock (left),
with Dr. D. L. Serventy.

In *The Emu*, vol. 39, p. 279, Major H. M. Whittell published an interesting account of Mr. Whitlock and his ornithological excursions, to which members are referred. Working largely for H. L. White, he made trips to a number of out-of-the-way areas chiefly in Western Australia, but including the journey to the James Ranges in Central Australia in search of the Night-Parrot.—C.E.B.

TOM GIVENS

Thomas Victor Givens, the author, with Mr. W. B. Hitchcock, of the article on *Cisticola juncidis* in this part, died on April 26, 1953. He contributed three papers to *The Emu*, the first, vol. 26, p. 56, also dealing with *Cisticola*—field notes on days with the 'Corn-birds' along the Bulleen flats.

Mr. Givens saw service in New Guinea and Bougainville during the recent war. After discharge from the Army he rejoined and served in New South Wales and in Darwin until January, 1953. At Darwin he carried out observations on the local avifauna and also collected birds and other animals for various sanctuaries and other faunal institutions.—C.E.B.

Reviews

Western Australian Ornithology.—The May issue of *The Western Australian Naturalist* (vol. 3, no. 8) is devoted largely to ornithological papers. Chief of these is D. L. Serventy's account of 'The Southern Invasion of Northern Birds during 1952'. Fifteen species are discussed, their distribution during this irruption being compared with that of their normal range and former irruptions (if any). Most interesting is the case of the Letter-winged Kite, which was recorded from several localities over a large portion of the State: previously there was only one reliable record for Western Australia. These birds must have come from the east, whereas the more usual movement was from the Kimberleys for varying distances southwards. Examples of the latter were afforded by the Brolga (as far south as Beacon in the wheat belt—an extension of 650 miles), Straw-necked Ibis, White Ibis (first extra-tropical records—as far south as Busselton), White-necked Heron, Pied Goose (the first south-western records since 1905), and the Fork-tailed Kite (first recorded irruption into extra-tropical Western Australia, with map).

As Brian Glover has already described the irruption in South Australia (*South Australian Ornithologist*, vol. 20, pt. 7), it remains for eastern ornithologists to do likewise. Such papers are not only interesting in themselves, but also supply definite data on the wanderings of certain species, and will doubtless be valuable to future speculations on the 'wherefores' of bird-distribution.

The remaining contributions are short. D. N. Calderwood describes a nest of a Senegal Dove made partly of wire. E. H. Sedgwick reports a probable breeding record of the Red-capped Robin at Woorooloo, within the normal breeding range of the Scarlet Robin. At Bow River, J. W. Baggs observed three Ground Parrots, the first seen in Western Australia since 1913, when F. L. Whitlock saw them at Denmark, 25 miles farther east.—G. M. STORR.

Further Remarks on the Cracticidae.—Dean Amadon (*S.A. Orn.*, 1953, 21, 6-7) has replied to certain criticisms of his paper (*Amer.*