

It was built in a clump of starfern, growing by a tussock. Though the spot was left untouched, the bird was afraid to return (16/2/28). The pair of these Wrens which frequented my garden reared three clutches last season. They brought their young ones to the doorstep in search of bread crumbs. They readily ate these when they are crumbled very small. A pair of Crescent Honeyeaters (*Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*) built their nest and reared their young in a low Pelargonium bush growing in the garden. The nest was only a foot away from a path that was constantly used (September-October, 1927). Another interesting nesting site, but this time of the Yellow-winged Honeyeater (*Meliornis nova-hollandiae*), was between the spreading leaves of a large cabbage. The nest was not found until the young were almost ready to leave. When I asked about making a photograph of this extraordinary situation for a nest, I found that the cabbage had been cut for the table, and the part containing the nest had been cast away. For the first time in three years the Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius ruficapillus*) nested on this beach, hatching its young safely (February, 1928). I have discovered here a haunt of the Lewin Water-rail (*Rallus pectoralis*). Owing to the illness of my sister during the last six months of 1927, in consequence of which I took charge of her school, I was unable to study the locality and ascertain if any differences occurred between this southern range of the bird compared with its family life, as I knew it in its north-eastern habitat. On 20/3/28, I found a large Albatross dead on the beach. We had had a rough sea for several days. The bird was very large, and quite white, with the exception of some of the wing feathers. Its colouring appeared to agree with the description of the Snowy Albatross (*Diomedea chionoptera*), as described in Lord and Scott's book, *The Vertebrate Animals of Tasmania*. I informed Mr. Clive Lord by telephone of my belief in the identity of the bird. He expressed a wish to see it, so I sent the Albatross to the Museum. Mr. Lord recorded this in the last issue of *The Emu*. A bird resembling the Blue Petrel (*Halobæna carulea*) was also brought ashore during the storm, but it was in a very damaged condition. — Miss J. A. FLETCHER, R.A.O.U., "Lyeltya," Eaglehawk Neck, Tas.

Obituaries

WILLIAM LEON DAWSON.

A letter has been received from Mrs. Frances E. Dawson announcing the death of her late husband, William Leon Dawson, in Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A., on 30th April, 1928. He was 55 years of age, and was in good health a week before his death, which was due to pneumonia. He had been a prominent member of the American Ornithologists' Union, and a member of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, and his fame as an ornithologist and oologist was world-wide. In 1902-3 a work

by him, *The Birds of Ohio*, was published. In 1909, in association with J. H. Bowles, he produced the *Birds of Washington*, and five years ago his magnificent and beautifully illustrated book, *The Birds of California*, in four volumes, was circulated. He had gathered much material in the way of field notes and photographs for proposed publications on the birds of Florida, the birds of Mexico, and a second edition of the birds of Ohio.

While the ornithological world will regret his untimely death, it will also extend its sympathy to Mrs. Dawson, who for many years had rendered him great assistance in the preparation of his works.

LEVERETT MILLS LOOMIS.

Leverett Mills Loomis, well known American ornithologist, died at San Francisco on January 12, 1928, aged seventy years. He is best known to Antipodean ornithologists through his publications on the Petrels, in which Antarctic species are discussed. His Monograph of the Petrels was not quite completed at his death, but the finishing touches are now being given it by Mrs. M. E. McLellan Davidson, his colleague in the California Academy of Sciences.

Science suffers a severe loss in Mr. Loomis's death, for he was a most careful, indefatigable and fearless seeker of the truth. His scorn of poor work, and his failure to fall in line with the current vogue for geographic sub-species, however, narrowed the circle of ornithologists who kept in close touch with him. His attitude as to sub-species was not that they did not exist, but that their position as incipient species was unproven. The latest findings as to the mechanism of species origin show how sound his attitude was in this respect.

Mr. Loomis was curator of the Department of Ornithology of the California Academy of Sciences from 1894 to 1912, and Director of the Museum from 1902 to 1912.—E. W. GIFFORD, Curator, University of California.

JOHN HOPSON, R.A.O.U.

It is often a "blind" pen which writes of the dead, since we would rather praise a likeable man for his virtues than contemplate his failings. But a tribute may be sincere and a faithful portrait because there are no ugly warts of character on the face that has become a memory. So, John Hopson, of Eccleston, New South Wales, has left friends who will ever hold in honour the name of the former naturalist. He will be remembered, probably, long after many scientific men, of some note now, are forgotten.

John Hopson was a nature-lover, a keen observer, and a master of bush-craft. He helped many naturalists, welcomed them to his home, and accompanied them to Barrington Tops. Lacking his guidance, few of us, if any, would have gleaned more than a few grains of knowledge in that "Land of Mist." Our friend, unlike some men of science, who smile at the field

naturalist, had a large mind, and a heart to match. He was a hater of meanness, a lover of truth and generosity. Those of us who knew John Hopson, the rare and beautiful nature of the man, when he died, felt that Australia had lost one of her noblest sons—a hackneyed tribute, truly, but noble is the word that must be linked with the name of the Eccleston naturalist. He loved all living things, and knew the ways of birds on the Barrington Plateau, and in his home river valley.—C.B.

F. G. LAWRENCE.

Mr. Frederick George Lawrence, R.A.O.U., of Fremantle, Western Australia, died suddenly on June 8 last, after a period of ill-health. He was 61 years of age at the time of his death, having joined the R.A.O.U. in 1920, and had been a member of the old Natural History and Science Society (now the Royal Society), and the Western Australian Naturalists' Club. Of a quiet and retiring disposition, he rarely came in contact with his brother naturalists, but took a keen interest in various branches of science. Besides ornithology, he was interested in microscopy, and had prepared a number of slides of local foraminifera. Other interests included photography, chess and bowls. Mr. Lawrence, who was a bachelor, was born in London, coming to Western Australia at the end of 1897. He joined the firm of Lionel Samson and Son immediately on his arrival, and attained the position of accountant to the company in 1902. He was deeply respected by the business community with which he came in contact.

News and Notes

Nature-Study Expedition.—The fifth of the Nature-Study Expeditions organised by Mr. E. F. Pollock, F.R.G.S., of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales, and the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, has been timed to take place immediately after Christmas, and during the summer educational vacation. The locality chosen is the Kuring-gai Chase National Park, Broken Bay, and the Hawkesbury River. An ideal situation in the park, fronting a beach opening on to Broken Bay, has been selected for the camp-out. Some of the grandest scenery in Australia is within easy reach, and all the many accessible beauty spots will be visited during the four weeks the expedition will be operating. The camp will be on similar lines to those conducted in recent years by Mr. Pollock to the Great Barrier reef area and Lord Howe Island. Scientists from other States have notified their intention to participate. Ladies and gentlemen interested in Nature Study—Zoology, Ornithology, Botany, etc.—should