

## Obituary

THOMAS CARTER—1863-1931.

On January 29 of this year, 1931, died one of the greatest of the Australian ornithological pioneers, Thomas Carter, aged 67. Carter came of Yorkshire stock, which stood to him in his pioneer days. He was able to show a great interest in natural history in spite of the adverse conditions which obtained at his sheep station, Point Cloates, in Mid-West Australia. Bearing this in mind the quality as well as the quantity of Carter's work stands out prominently in Australian bird study.

Carter was born at Masham, in Yorkshire, on April 6, 1863. His father was James Carter of an old family there, and it was from him that Carter inherited his love of natural history. He kept a daily diary all his life from the age of eleven years. Educated at Sedbergh, he joined his father in business for a few years, during which time he made several ornithological trips, one with the Rev. H. H. Slater to Iceland. At this time he met Bowdler-Sharpe, Eagle Clarke, Seebohm, etc.

On November 1, 1886, he left England for Australia, where after trying his hand at different callings he finally settled down at Point Cloates as a pastoralist, exactly three years later. The next thirteen years were spent in developing the country and systematically collecting and recording the bird life of this hitherto unexplored locality. One of his geographical triumphs was the discovery of the long lost Jacob Remessens River mentioned by Pelsart. This river was called the Yardie, and is so named in later maps.

It was from this locality that Carter discovered the unique Desert Bird, called after him *Eremiornis carteri*. From here he went further south in Western Australia and settled in Broome Hill in 1905, where he continued his bird studies. He came home with his family and settled them in Sutton, in Surrey, where the children were educated. He travelled backwards and forwards for several years. Finally he sold out and joined his family in Sutton just before the war. He joined the forces and did good work at home.

Carter explored Dirk Hartog Island and brought before the world again after nearly one hundred years *Malurus leucopterus* and *M. textilis*, as explained in the *Austral Avian Record*, Vol. III, 1917, where a list of his publications will also be found on pp. 173-174. Naturally a man who had done such work in the early days was always interesting in his talks, but he was very retiring in his disposition, and although he lived in England for the last decade, was known to few of his fellow-workers. His name will always live in Australian Ornithology, so many forms having been named

after him. In the January number of the current volume of *The Emu*, N. J. Favaloro established the genus *Carterornis*, which I called after Carter in 1912.

In September, 1903, he married Miss Annie Ward, by whom he had a son and two daughters. The eldest girl died just as she reached womanhood. He is survived by his widow, son, and daughter.

GREGORY M. MATHEWS.

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## Library Notes

The receipt of the following publications is acknowledged:—

*The Ibis*, 12th Series, Vol. VI, No 4; 13th Series, Vol I, No. 1.

*The Condor*, Vol. XXXII, Nos. 5 and 6; Vol. XXXIII, No 1.

*The Victorian Naturalist*, Vol. XLVII, Nos. 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

*Australian Science Abstracts*, Vol. 9, No. 4; Vol. 10, No. 1.

*Linnean Society of N.S.W.* Abstracts of Proceedings. Nos. 439 and 440.

*The South Australian Ornithologist*, Vol. X, Part 8; Vol. XI., Part 1.

*The Avicultural Magazine*, Vol. VIII., Nos. 9, 10, 11 and 12; Vol. IX, Nos. 1 and 2.

*American Game*, (a) June-July, (b) August-September, (c) November-December, 1930.

*Coloured Plates of the Birds of Ceylon*, Part 3. See review in last part.

*The Queensland Naturalist*, Vol. VII, No. V.

*Scientific Publications of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History*, Vol. I, No. 2, Observations on some Wyoming Birds. Vol. I, No. 3—A new genus of African Starlings, by Harry C. Oberholser. Vol. I, No. 4—Notes on Birds from Arizona and New Mexico, by Harry C. Oberholser.

*The Auk*, Vol. XLVII, No. 4; Vol. XLVIII, No. 1.

*Farmers' Bulletin*, No. 1647, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Game-laws for season 1930-31.

*Bird-Lore*, Vol. XXXII, Nos. 5 and 6.

*Annals of the Transvaal Museum*, Vol. XIV, Part 1.

*A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China*, Part V. See review in last part.

*Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*, Vol. LX, 1930. The Birds of Matto Grosso, Brazil. By Elsie M. B. Naumburg.