

## Obituaries

### WILLIAM DAVID KERR MACGILLIVRAY.

On Sunday, June 25, 1933, there passed on at Broken Hill, N.S.W., after a short illness, Dr. W. D. K. MacGillivray, one of the finest ornithologists Australia has produced. It is hard to believe that one of his fine physique and robust habit should suddenly have gone from the earth he loved so well, and which had been the means of delighting him in the work of unmasking many of its secrets.

Born at Kallara Station on the river Darling, N.S.W., on November 27, 1867, MacGillivray was the third son of George MacGillivray and his wife Janet (Haxton), of Milnathort, Fifeshire, Scotland. When he was about three years old, the family went to Eastern Creek, a tributary of the Flinders, in the "Gulf country", Queensland, where they took up land for a station. This country was then in its virgin state, entirely unfenced, and the nearest white folk were forty miles away. The district was full of native tribes ready at any time to make an attack on the white intruder. For lack of playmates (his two elder brothers being at work) the boy had perforce to make friends with piccaninies, and soon learned their craft in the search for anything living, in the shape of birds, other animals, insects, etc., which formed part of their diet, and before long he became as expert as they were.

Young MacGillivray soon started a collection of natural history objects, and got together a small museum of specimens of all sorts—beetles, butterflies, moths, reptiles, etc. Thus the first ten years of his life were passed, years in which he amassed a wonderful amount of information on the native flora and fauna, and cultivated that power of observation which became so useful to him later on, and which made for accuracy in all his writings, statements, and stories of his life amongst primitive surroundings. When one broke down his innate modesty in anything about himself, one felt that he never drew on his imagination, but detailed facts. At the end of 1877 he was taken away to school, and was entered as a pupil at St. Kilda Scotch College, near Melbourne, under the founder, Mr. Alex. Gillespie.

During his school days he began collecting afresh, and all the localities within easy distance of Melbourne, such as Caulfield, Coburg, Preston, Heidelberg, etc., were explored. MacGillivray matriculated in 1885, and, in 1886, began his medical course, and like myself had the privilege of learning biology under the eminent professor, the late Sir Baldwin Spencer, the influence of whose teaching made a marked impression on each of us.

It was during this period that the writer became acquainted with MacGillivray, and a friendship was formed which grew in strength with the years, and which remained till the end. I had been collecting in Victoria since 1877, and as I had been taught how to "skin" birds for specimens, it became my privilege to show MacGillivray the *modus operandi*, which he quickly learned. Most of our spare time we spent together in excursions to bird haunts, ranging as far out as the foot of the Dandenongs, and, more close at hand, to Blackburn, Bayswater, Deep Creek, and Anderson's Creek on the Yarra side of the country. After the enjoyable long days we would return, tired enough, but never too tired to set to and preserve what the day had produced.

During these outings it was always a great source of pleasure and interest to hear him tell of his boyhood days amongst the aboriginals, and of the birds especially, the names of which he did not know at the time, but subsequently was able to ascertain.

On one occasion we were the guests of Mr. Jack MacGregor at his holding on the Koo-wee-rup swamp. At that time the swamp was not completely drained, a few large channels or drains only being then cut. A fortnight spent there gave a fine opportunity for studying waders and swamp birds generally, and MacGillivray's knowledge of swimmers and waders was greatly added to thereby.

On gaining his medical degree in 1890 MacGillivray acted as *locum tenens* in various parts of Victoria, and in each place all his spare time was devoted to his hobby, and all of his letters to me were "bird" letters, with usually a list of those species identified. After a few months spent in Launceston (Tas.) he returned to Melbourne and was appointed to the staff of the Children's Hospital, when he had but few chances to do much in the way of outings.

In 1895 MacGillivray was married to the third daughter of Dr. J. H. Eccles, and then went to practice in Coleraine, in the Western District of Victoria, a town in the centre of a large pastoral district, which offered scope for a large amount of investigation. Through the Doctor's suggesting it, the writer began practice at Casterton, some eighteen miles off, but exigencies of work kept us from many meetings. Later on, MacGillivray started practice at Hamilton (Vic.), where, in spite of a busy life in the bigger town, he made use of all trips to the stations, etc., to study the natural history of his surroundings. Later on we find him at Broken Hill, N.S.W., where he soon built up a fine (especially surgical) practice, and led a very busy and active life. From "The Hill," in his holidays and when occasion offered, he would explore the surrounding country, often going very far afield.

About 1896 the writer had given Mr. W. McLennan, a

young enthusiastic bird-lover and "born" observer, of Casterton, a letter of introduction to the Doctor at Broken Hill, where McLennan was seeking employment. This meeting of two such men turned out to be of the greatest benefit to Ornithology, for not only did they investigate together from Broken Hill, but later MacGillivray engaged McLennan to explore Queensland's inner country and the Gulf country, also part of each side of the Cape York Peninsula. The results of these trips are probably well known to ornithologists, as their valuable records of new forms have been published.

In 1916 MacGillivray enlisted in the A.M.C., and was ordered to France, where he attained the rank of Major, and was on service there until the Armistice. On his return to Broken Hill the Great Barrier Reef occupied his attention, and he made a number of excursions to many of the islands composing that fascinating region, chiefly with the idea of studying our migrant birds and shore birds generally. It was on his return from his last trip there, early in this year, that the writer met him for the last time on his way back to rejoin his son, also a medical man, helping in the practice. He had the misfortune to cut his foot on a shell on this last trip. This turned septic, and he was laid up some weeks resting the foot, which finally got well. He was at this time apparently in excellent health, in spite of some slight muscular wasting in the upper arms, the result of having struck his head on a submerged log when diving in a creek, out from Broken Hill, some months earlier.

Consequently after a letter from MacGillivray in April, the news of his sudden death came as a great shock to all who had known him, and to many who only knew of him from his ornithological writings, etc.; and there is no gainsaying the fact that his death has left a gap in our ranks that will be very difficult to fill!

Quiet in demeanour, shunning the limelight of publicity, and of amiable nature, with a temper that was not to be ruffled, his character was the means of endearing the Doctor to all he came into contact with. Although reserved he had a fine sense of subtle humour, and an always-nearby smile reflected the lurking merriment within.

MacGillivray was always an intense hater of shams, fakes and the like, and both in his professional and lay life was a stickler for facts, a quality that was reflected in the plainness of his writings on all nature subjects. In fact, most of us used to say "Whatever MacGillivray says, goes."

As an undergraduate he did not go in for sport broadly, although he was a good oarsman, and was very proud of his oar from the winning boat when he was one of the Ormond College crew. Professionally, his accuracy of observation stood him in good stead, and enabled him to marshal all

his findings when it came to a diagnosis. As a surgeon he was above the ordinary, and he had a fine reputation in Broken Hill amongst the big mining community. Big man as he was, children were never afraid of him, but at once "took" to him. I had opportunities for seeing this during his two years at the Children's Hospital.

During his last five years or so he began to lose some of his sense of hearing, and as time passed this defect increased. He lamented the fact that he could no longer hear the lower notes of birds, and later some of the louder ones. This began to cut him out of his beloved study. Nothing daunted he turned his attention to the study of native flora, which gave him the chance to employ his keen eyesight. Always an observer of the trees, plants, flowers, etc., that he came across in his ramblings, he soon acquired a botanical mind in addition to his ornithological one, with the result that he was gradually getting together an herbarium of our native flora. Undoubtedly he was thus enabled to replace what he was missing in the way of hearing bird voices, and to find another outlet for further acquisition of knowledge, by training his observation powers in another direction. A collector himself, MacGillivray considered that collecting should not be carried out merely for indulging the collecting habit, or to strive to have a larger collection than someone else. He contended that "series" collecting should be done only by a few, and he had a particularly strong dislike to rapacious collectors, whether for their own, or some other's benefit. In fact, in his very last letter to me, he told me of an incident that he knew of, from another collector, who refused even to speak again to one whom he saw kill a brood of young ones in order to obtain another laying of eggs!

Such was Dr. William MacGillivray. I trust that in attempting to supply these few lines I may be forgiven for imperfections in portraying the character, etc., of such an outstanding personality. I wish here to state that I am indebted to Mr. Gregory M. Mathews's short biography of the Doctor published in Vol. III, No. 7, of the *Austral Acian Record*, for some of the items in this article, and I herewith record my thanks to him.

The following is a list of the contributions from the pen of the late Dr. W. D. K. MacGillivray to *The Emu*:—

"The Region of the Barrier Reef" (X, 16, 88); "Along the Great Barrier Reef" (X, 216); "New Parrot for Australia and Description of Eggs" (XIII, 187); "Descriptions of Nests and Eggs of *Manurella caesiaca* and *Neochmia phaeon albiventer*" (XV, 36); "A new Honeyeater: *Macgillivrayornis claudi*" (XV, 77); "Ornithologists in North Queensland" (XVII, 63, 145, 180); "Notes on Sea-Birds" (XIX, 162); "Drought Notes from Western New South

Wales" (XX, 93); "The Nesting of the Australian Pelican" (XXII, 162); "Interesting Conduct of the Southern Stone-Plover" (XXII, 309); "A Spring Excursion into South-Western Queensland" (XXIV, 13, 90); "Birds of the Capricorn Islands" (XXV, 229); "The Charming Bourke Parrot" (XXVII, 65); "Birds from a Coastal Boat" (XXVII, 92); "Bird-life of the Bunker and Capricorn Islands" (XXVII, 230); "Through a Drought-Stricken Land" (XXIX, 52, 113); "A May Visit to the Capricorn Islands" (XXX, 270); "The Shining Flycatcher" (XXXI, 81); "The Flock Pigeon" (XXXI, 169); "The Yellow-billed Kingfisher" (XXXII, 1).

In addition to the above papers articles by Dr. MacGillivray were written for the Barrier Reef Commission at its request. Also he was at work on a book on Australian birds for use in schools.—E. A. D'OMBRAIN.

#### CLIVE ERROL LORD

On Saturday, July 15, 1933, after a short illness, Clive Errol Lord, one of Tasmania's leading ornithologists, died at the early age of 43 years.

He was born at Hobart in the year 1889, both his father, the late Octavius Lord, and his mother being members of Tasmania's oldest families. He was educated at Buckland's and the Hutchins Schools. Upon leaving school, he entered upon the study of architecture, and at the date of his death was a Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and of the Tasmanian Institute of Architects. Mr. Lord was at the time of his death Director of the Tasmanian Museum, having been appointed Assistant-Curator in 1918, Curator in 1920, and Director in 1923. Natural history matters always interested him, and in the year 1904 he, with some others, one of whom was the writer, founded the Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club, of which he was Secretary and President for many years. He was a born organizer, as the camps-out of the Field Naturalists and the R.A.O.U., which were held in Tasmania, demonstrated, especially the former, where numbers up to one hundred were successfully catered for. He acted as Honorary State Secretary for our Union for a number of years—having joined it in 1911—and in 1931 he was elected as President. His presidential address was a masterly review of Tasmanian ornithology. Two years ago he was paid the high compliment of being one of the few Australian delegates to be invited to the centenary celebrations of the British Science Association in London. He was Secretary of the Royal Society of Tasmania for 15 years, where his great work for that Society caused him to be awarded the honour of being presented with the Society's Medal, of which there

is only one other holder. He was also a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, a corresponding member of the Zoological Society of London and an Associate of the Australasian National Research Council.

He contributed many papers to the Royal Society of Tasmania and other societies, and issued several small handbooks dealing with scientific matters as well as the early history of Tasmania—on which matters he was considered an authority. Some years ago, in conjunction with Mr. H. H. Scott, Curator of the Victoria Museum, Launceston, he compiled a comprehensive work, *A Synopsis of the Vertebrate Animals of Tasmania*. The one of his activities which will live longest, however, was the establishment of the Animal and Birds' Protection Board, an object for which he worked for a number of years, and which culminated in the year 1928 in an Act of the Parliament of Tasmania dealing with faunal protection. He was an original member of the Board, and continued to be a member up to the date of his death. His scientific knowledge, combined with his wide and lifelong acquaintance with the natural resources of his native State, particularly in out-of-the-way places, made him a most useful member of the various boards and committees on which he so ably served.

For many years Mr. Lord was Secretary of the Botanical Gardens, and after his return from England two years ago he undertook much additional work, in regard to the reorganization of the gardens. Amongst other activities he was also closely interested in problems of early Tasmanian history, and in particular the records of the vanished aborigines. He published several popular treatises, notably one on the snakes of Tasmania, and some stories of early Tasmanian times. Finally, he might also be classed as an explorer, having done much investigation in the Port Davey locality and other less well-known parts of the State. He published much about his trips, and rendered great service to the Tourist Bureau authorities. He was actively connected with the National Park in the Derwent Valley, being Secretary to the Trustees thereof. He was particularly keen on having Lyrebirds introduced into the Park—an object that it is hoped will be carried out in the near future.

He was of a most genial disposition, which endeared him to a large number of friends; nothing was too much trouble to him, being always ready to assist a fellow-worker. His death will cause general regret throughout the State of Tasmania, and also in naturalists' circles on the mainland, where he was well known for his work in natural history.

Papers by Mr. Lord in *The Emu* are as follow: "A Trip to the National Park of Tasmania at Mount Field" (XIX, 98); "On the Nest and Eggs of the Kent Island Scrub-Wren" (XXII, 305); "Historical Associations of Adven-

ture Bay" (XXIII, 208); "The South-West Coast of Tasmania" (XXVI, 264); "Southern Outposts" (XXVII, 16); "The 'Button-grass' Parrot" (XXVII, 42); "A Review of Tasmanian Ornithology" (XXXII, 211).—A. L. BUTLER.

#### DAVID WILLIAM GAUKRODGER

A former Queensland member of the Council of the R.A.O.U., and a bird-photographer of distinction, Mr. David W. Gaukrodger, who died in Brisbane on August 3, aged 68 years, was one of the best naturalists ever produced by the pastoral industry. Born in New Zealand, where he received his early training in wool-growing, Mr. Gaukrodger migrated to New South Wales and afterwards to Queensland, where he became manager of the important station known as Alice Downs. The great plains of Central Queensland carry many fascinating birds, and Mr. Gaukrodger was attracted to them after photographing the nest of a Wedge-tailed Eagle in or about the year 1918. During the next few years he studied and photographed many species, among them the Emu, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Bastard, Ground Cuckoo-Shrike, Black-backed and Purple-backed Wrens, Grey-crowned Babbler, Rainbow-bird, Spotted Bower-bird, Striped and Spiny-cheeked Honey-eaters, and various Finches. All of the pictures were admirable, and some remain unique. A considerable number of his photographs have appeared in *The Emu*, notably those of the Emu and the Wedge-tailed Eagle, in association with Mr. Gaukrodger's important articles on these two species (Vol. XXIV, p. 3, and Vol. XXV, p. 53). A photograph of Mr. Gaukrodger himself appears with the article on the Emu.

Several unusual factors were associated with Mr. Gaukrodger's work in ornithology. One was that a busy pastoralist, and a man who "took up" birds in middle age, should be so successful; another was his remarkable ingenuity in creating devices for photographic purposes; and a third was the extraordinary enthusiasm he aroused among residents of the district. "See how I've got 'em trained!" he used to chuckle, when a telephone call would come from a sheep-station perhaps fifty miles away announcing the discovery of a nest, or maybe a casual labourer in the bush would stop the car to report the finding of a Bower-bird's playground. Every ornithologist who visited hospitable Alice Downs enjoyed this enthusiasm, and enjoyed, too, the company of David Gaukrodger—a zestful, talented, and charming man. The sympathy of a wide circle of friends will be extended to Mrs. Gaukrodger and her daughter in their bereavement. —A. H. CHISHOLM.

For further notes on Mr. Gaukrodger and the birds of Central Queensland, see W. B. Alexander, "A Week on the Upper Barcoo" (*Emu*, Vol. XXIII, p. 82); A. H. Chisholm, "Birds of the Great Plains" (*Birds and Geographical Places*, p. 45), and Sir William Beach Thomas (*A Traveller in News*). There is also a picture of Mr. Gaukrodger on one of his remarkable photographic devices in Chisholm's *Mateship with Birds* (facing p. 139).

#### MRS. E. J. BANFIELD

A link in the history of bird-study in North Queensland has been snapped by the death of Mrs. E. J. Banfield, which occurred at Wynnum, near Brisbane, on June 9, ten years after the passing of her famous husband, "The Beachcomber", of Dunk Island. Although Mrs. Banfield did not write for publication, it was her companionship and stimulus that enabled her husband to live for a quarter century on the little tropic isle. It was also through the help of this cultured and courageous woman that Banfield was able to study natural history in general and birds in particular, and to write several books that are known throughout the world. Mrs. Banfield, too, was fond of birds. She was on the best of terms with the dainty Sun-birds that nested beneath the verandah of the island bungalow; she received "Jacky", the Yellow-spotted Honeyeater, to morning and afternoon tea; and she was the only person who could hold the confidence of the Scrub-fowls that stole out of the jungle to feed with her poultry.—A.H.C.

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On December 20 next the tenth Embury Barrier Reef Expedition will leave Sydney for Hayman Island, via Proserpine, Queensland. Accompanying the party as ornithologist will be Mr. A. J. Marshall, R.A.O.U., whilst the marine zoologist on the trip will be Mr. F. A. McNeill, of the Australian Museum, Sydney. As a result of prior expeditions, much data relative to the natural economy of the reef-haunting and island-frequenting birds has been collected; and under the supervision of the late Dr. W. D. K. MacGillivray, R.A.O.U., hundreds of sea-birds were banded on the last Embury expedition. Not only will pelagic forms be studied but the itinerary includes a cruise to Double Cone Islands so that members may study the interesting Nutmeg Pigeon nesting, whilst several other cruises ensure that the visitor will see many of the rarer tropic Honeyeaters, Flycatchers, and other land-birds which are found on the mainland isles. The expedition is organized by Mr. E. M. Embury, of Manilla, New South Wales, who will be pleased to send an illustrated syllabus to anyone interested.