

the form of lectures to natural history societies, and he helped materially in framing regulations for bird protection. He was a valued member of the Animals and Birds Protection Board and lost no opportunity of emphasizing the economic value of birds, his favourite subject.

For some years he owned a cottage at Fern Tree, on the slopes of Mount Wellington, a few miles from Hobart, and there he frequently entertained visitors from other States, many of whom will recall pleasant outings with him in the surrounding bush, chiefly in search of the Scrub Tit (*Acanthornis magna*), the range and nesting places of which he had fully tagged. In early days he collected skins and eggs and several of the specimens are now in the Tasmanian Museum. A few papers he wrote on the economic aspect of birds are to be found in the pages of the *Tasmanian Naturalist* and the *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*.

He was active until within a few weeks of his death and took daily walks to look at birds and make notes. At other times he sat for hours on the verandah of his home studying the estuary of the River Derwent with field glasses for the sight of unusual sea birds, and often made some interesting records. He retained his interest in birds till the end.—M.S.R.S.

AUSTIN FRANK AUSTIN

Captain A. F. Austin, 2/9 Aust. Armd. Regt., was killed in action on Tarakan on May 10, 1945. He had served through Middle East campaigns with 7 Div. Cav. and, on transfer to 2/9 Armd. Regt., was attached to 9 Div. He was married, and leaves a widow and a young son. He was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Austin of Lake Midgeon, Narrandera, N.S.W., and nephew of T. P. Austin of Cobborah fame.

Several weeks ago I received a letter from him, dated May 7, in which he stated that things had been rather uncomfortable for several days but were now settling down, that his part would be completed in a day or two, and that he would devote the relaxation period to the securing and skinning of specimens of the very interesting bird-life of Tarakan. We had worked together on certain species in Queensland and it is hoped that his notes can be published later.—P.A.B.

Correspondence

GILBERT, GREY, AND MACGILLIVRAY

To the Editor,
Sir,

Writing to Gould from Perth on May 20, 1839, Gilbert mentioned that he had lately met [Sir] George Grey, who

had just arrived in Perth from his trip from Sharks Bay. Hitherto the fact that Gilbert must have had a later and longer meeting with Grey has not been placed on record. At the conclusion of his first visit to Western Australia, Gilbert sailed from Fremantle for Sydney on the *Caledonia*, on January 29, 1840. The vessel called at King George's Sound and stayed a fortnight before going on to Adelaide. Grey had just been married to a daughter of Sir Richard Spencer, the Government Resident at Albany, and he and his bride embarked on the *Caledonia* at King George's Sound and were fellow-passengers with Gilbert across the Bight. At Adelaide Grey and his bride disembarked, sailing for England by the *Katherine Stuart Forbes* on April 11. Gilbert remained on the *Caledonia* while the vessel was at Adelaide and then sailed on in her to Sydney.

Gilbert probably first became acquainted with John Macgillivray also in Western Australia. This occurred during his second visit to the colony. Gilbert was certainly in Perth on September 25, 1843, and on September 30 *H.M.S. Herald*, on which Macgillivray was acting as collector for Lord Derby, arrived at Fremantle from Timor. The vessel stayed a month and there are references to the visit in the local newspapers of the period. Gilbert wrote to Gould from Perth on October 29, but this letter, unfortunately, is not among those recovered by Mr. Chisholm. It probably contained information of the meeting of the two naturalists and its loss is the reason for the fact that this interesting meeting between the two naturalists has not before been noticed.

Gilbert met Macgillivray again when he reached Sydney at the conclusion of his second visit to Western Australia. John Macgillivray was then acting as naturalist on *H.M.S. Fly*, which was at Sydney from January 13 to March 27, 1844, and Gilbert arrived in Sydney at the end of January. Macgillivray has recorded in the *Zoologist* of 1846 that he saw much of Gilbert "a few months before his departure on his last and fatal journey" and he pays a tribute to his friend. In an account of the naturalist, Frederick Strange, which I hope to publish later, there will appear the last known letter written by Gilbert. It is addressed to Strange from Darling Downs on September 16, 1844, and Gilbert mentions Macgillivray.

Yours, etc.,

H. M. WHITTELL.

Bridgetown, W.A.,
July 4, 1945.

The date of publication was October 1, 1945.