

Obituary

WILLIAM PLUMB.

A recent R.A.A.F. casualty list promulgates the presumed death of W.O. William Plumb, a keen West Australian ornithologist and member of the Union.

Mr. Plumb was born at Osborne Park, W.A., on May 3, 1916. He was educated at Narrogin State School and Albany High School. In 1936 he entered the Education Department of W.A., training at the Teachers Training College, Claremont. During his career as a teacher, he taught successively at Boddington, Pickering Brook, Hakea, Ballaying, Wellard and Narrogin. He volunteered for service early in the war, and was enlisted as an air-crew trainee in June, 1942. After training in Australia, Canada and England, he was posted in 1944 to a strategical pin-pointing Lancaster squadron as a bomb-aimer. He participated in the Dortmund-Ems Canal raid on the night of November 4. On November 6, 1944, his eleventh trip, the Lancaster O for Oboe failed to return.

I believe that Mr. Plumb first became interested in ornithology while a student at the Teachers Training College, and that his interest was stimulated by his association with our member, Mr. S. R. White. My own association with Mr. Plumb dated from the time of his appointment as head-teacher of the Wellard School. I found him a most enthusiastic bird-watcher and an admirable companion in the field. Together we made a number of trips to the lakes of the Rockingham district and to the islands of Warnbro Sound, and later we made excursions to Warnbro Sound with Messrs. S. R. White, V. Serventy and Axel Poignant.

Though Mr. Plumb did not record any of his observations in *The Emu* (it is hoped that it will be possible to publish some of his field notes in the near future) he was a keen and careful worker and, but for the war, would doubtless have come to the fore in that respect.

He leaves a widow and two sons.—ERIC SEDGWICK.

DR. G. M. ANDERSON.

The death occurred at Hobart on April 16 of Dr. George Murray Anderson, aged 79. He was a member of the R.A.O.U. since 1919, but resigned a few years ago.

Born at Circular Head, he graduated in medicine from the University of Aberdeen. He practised at Franklin for more than 50 years, and for many years served single-handed in a huge district, extending from Huonville to Recherche, over which he travelled by horse buggy and boat.

Dr. Anderson was a keen naturalist and first-class rifle shot. His brother, Dr. Bruce Anderson, also a member of the R.A.O.U., died at Launceston last year.—M.S.R.S.