

author of his contribution. It is hoped by such means to assure that the work will be completed in as short a time as possible.

Obituary

GERALD FREER HILL

Australian ornithologists of the present generation may know little of Gerald Hill, but during his long association with the R.A.O.U. he published several valuable papers in *The Emu*, was a field-collector in north-western Australia for H. L. White, State Secretary for the Northern Territory for nine years (the only State Secretary the Territory has ever had) and, for a short term, Hon. General Secretary to our Union.

He was born in Victoria in 1881, and became, as A. J. Campbell remarked, "a keen ornithologist, whose father, G. R. Hill of Malvern, Victoria, and brothers were all enthusiastic naturalists." For a time he resided in New Zealand, and while there contributed his first paper to *The Emu* on the birds of the Ararat district, Victoria. He became Hon. General Secretary to the Union about November 1908 and resigned in July 1909, when he went for ten months (August 1909 to June 1910) to the Drysdale Mission Station in the Kimberley district collecting on behalf of H. L. White. From February 1911 to April 1912 he was a member of the Barclay Expedition, which covered much of Australia that was then little known ornithologically, and traversed a zig-zag route from Oodnadatta to Borroloola in the Gulf country. On each of these trips he secured valuable data on little-known birds.

He was Government Entomologist at Darwin from 1913 to 1917. From 1920 to 1923 he was employed at the Tropical Institute at Townsville; he then joined the staff of the National Museum, Melbourne, from 1923 to 1926. From the early 1920's he specialized in the study of termites, and in 1926 joined the staff of the C.S.I.R., eventually being recognized as a world authority on that group of insects.

He retired in 1942 and lived at Durras, on the south coast of New South Wales, for the remainder of his life. He died on January 18, 1954, and is survived by his widow and three sons, one of whom, William, shared his father's interest in birds, and frequently accompanied him on local bird excursions. Despite his non-participation in Union affairs during later years, Gerald Hill maintained his keen interest in ornithology until his passing.

His name is perpetuated in the nomenclature of Australian birds by *Platycercus venustus hilli* Mathews, 1910 (the north-western race of the Northern Rosella), *Eopsaltria hilli* A. J. Campbell, 1910 (now regarded as the female of *Pachycephala robusta* and the north-western race

of that whistler), *Nycticorax caledonicus hilli* Mathews, 1912 (the north-western form of the Night-Heron), and *Neopoëphila personata hilli* Mathews, 1923 (apparently a recognizable subspecies of the Masked Finch from Borrooloola).

His contributions to *The Emu* are as follows: Vol. 6, pp. 176-179, 'Birds of the Ararat District, Part 1'; vol. 7, pp. 18-23, 'Birds of the Ararat District, Part 2'; vol. 8, pp. 22-23, 'Birds of Inverloch (Vic.)'; vol. 10, pp. 258-290, 'Field Notes on the Birds of Kimberley, North-west Australia'; vol. 12, pp. 238-262, 'Ornithological Notes, Barclay Expedition'; vol. 13, pp. 195-196, 'Charcoal in Finches' Nests'.—A.R.M.

Reviews

Lorenz on Behaviour of Ducks.—*Avicultural Magazine*, Sep.-Oct. 1951 (vol. 57, pt. 5) to May-June 1953 (vol. 59, pt. 3) published an English translation of Dr. Konrad Lorenz's 'Vergleichende Bewegungsstudien an Anatinen', *Journal für Ornithologie*, 1941. The translation, entitled 'Comparative Studies of the Behaviour of Anatinae', is by Dr. C. H. D. Clarke (Division of Fish and Wildlife, Ontario, Canada). It was made available to *Avicultural Magazine* through the initiation of Mr. F. H. Kortright (author of *The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America*). The translation as printed is illustrated with the numerous blocks used in the original printing, and made available by Professor Dr. Erwin Stresemann, editor of the *Journal für Ornithologie*. In view of his work on the subject since 1941, Dr. Lorenz made alterations and additions to the translation. After publication in parts the complete translation was reprinted and issued as a booklet, now being noted (88 pages, 5/- stg., The Avicultural Society, 61 Chase Road, Oakwood, London).

This note does not attempt to review Lorenz's paper, of which another ethologist of senior status, Dr. N. Tinbergen, stated in *The Ibis* (April 1946, vol. 88, p. 261)—"Together with Heinroth's work on the Anatidae this work will stand as a classic. In an introduction the historic origin of the various signal movements is considered and the importance of their study for both ethological and taxonomic-evolutionary problems is discussed. At the end, the numerous details of the admirable descriptive part are put together into a tentative systematic arrangement. . . . The excellent drawings, based on cinematographic pictures, deserve special mention." Although Lorenz retains certain families and genera either reduced or not retained by Delacour and Mayr in their later review of the Anatidae, those authors reported ('Supplementary Notes on the Family Anatidae', *The Wilson Bulletin*, June 1946, vol. 58, no. 2, p. 109) that Lorenz's ". . . conclusions on the interrelation of the Anatini are in nearly complete agreement with our conclusions. We hope that it will soon be possible to make this work available to American readers in an English translation, not only for the importance of his conclusions, but also as a model of modern ethological technique."

All except two of the seventeen species and one hybrid dealt with in Clarke's translation are of the dabbling 'tip-up' ducks; the other two are 'perching' ducks. The only Australian species included in detailed comment is the Chestnut-breasted Teal, *castanea*, which, with the Grey Teal, *gibberifrons*, shows in several respects, Lorenz states, a significant connection with the Mallard types, and "between themselves these two species [of teal] are just as closely related as the Mallard species with a showy breeding plumage are to those without one."