

in the vegetation and the bird population. Remnants of the "Brigalow Belt", now very much chopped out in southern Queensland, was in evidence. It was on this excursion that the Emu and three chicks were seen, also the Spotted Bower-bird and its bower, the Chestnut-tailed Thornbill and many others. A visit to Nangram Lagoon in the afternoon yielded the usual quota of water birds, plus a pair of Crimson-winged Parrots. Again many species were found nesting.

The last day was a short and relaxing drive along the scenic edge of the range for a number of the members, the main event of which was the sighting of the Crested Hawk.

The number of members and their friends plus the local visitors averaged between 35 and 40.—N. JACK.

OBITUARY

DR ALAN EDELSTEN

It is regrettable to have to record the death of Dr Alan John Ernest Edelsten, M.A., B.M., B.Ch. (Oxon), of Dorset, England, who was associated with Australian ornithology in that he and his brother, Dr Geoffrey Edelsten, great-grandsons of the eminent John Gould, were basically responsible for a great deal of valuable Gouldiana being acquired in recent years by the Mitchell Library, Sydney.

Dr Edelsten, who died on February 18, 1968, was aged 61 years. He was a son of Mrs Helen Edelsten (see *Emu*, 59 (1), 1959), who was the daughter of Gould's eldest daughter Eliza. Remarkably, although John and Elizabeth Gould had six children, and although all became adults, only one of them married, and although she was married twice she had only one child. That child, Helen Muskett, was to enter a medical atmosphere—two of her uncles, Henry and Franklin Gould, had been doctors, she herself married Dr E. A. Edelsten, and two of her three sons became doctors. Moreover, it would appear that the artistic ability of Elizabeth Gould became a family heritage; for at least two of her children were skilled artists, and similar ability has been strongly manifested in recent years by both Dr Alan Edelsten and one of his sons.

Before World War II Dr Edelsten was in practice at South Petherton in Somerset—it was there that I met him in 1938 and acquired much original Gouldiana—and later, after service in military hospitals and on troopships, he became established at Glanvilles Wootton in Dorset, the county of his grandfather Gould's birth. There he became well-known through his attachment to horse-riding, his art exhibitions, and his general public service; and, more personally, he became highly esteemed as a skilful and devoted doctor. He was, indeed, a most agreeable man, of several talents, and thus a warm body of sympathy, expressed at a largely

attended memorial service, has been extended to his widow, three sons and daughter.

Gouldiana made available by the Edelsten brothers in 1938 has been the subject of numbers of articles in the *Emu* and other journals, and of two of my books, *The Story of Elizabeth Gould and Strange New World*. More recently, Dr Alan Edelsten sent me further letters written by Mrs Gould (see *Int Ryl Austrn Hist. Soc.*, 49 (5), 1964), and more recently again he forwarded a considerable batch of correspondence exchanged from 1859 onward between Charles Gould, sometime Government Geologist in Tasmania, and his father and sisters in England; this remains to be discussed.—A. H. CHISHOLM, Sydney, March 28, 1968.

DUDLEY JOHN DICKISON

When the death of Dudley John Dickison at the age of 70 years occurred in Melbourne on April 22, 1967, the R.A.O.U. lost a link with the past, a devoted worker and a generous source of wide knowledge; for birds, books and the R.A.O.U. had been passionate interests in Mr Dickison's life for fifty years. It was fitting that he had been elected an Hon. Life Member in 1932.

Born at Warragul on Oct. 10 1896, Dudley Dickison came to Melbourne to become a Government clerk about 1914, and remained working in the Stamp Duties Office until his retirement some years ago. His work for the R.A.O.U. may, on the one hand be prosaically calculated, though with distinction, in terms of the 27 years of Hon. Secretaryship and the 16 years as Hon. Librarian which he gave. But, on the other hand, in terms of generous and personal effort his contribution was incalculable, for he was truly one of those people to whom natural history societies have always been indebted for hours of personal devotion given to routine affairs (as a minor example it was his habit for years to pay a lunch-time call at the R.A.O.U. room to attend to mail), and for kindness and understanding shown to members—new and old. In this latter regard the writer will assuredly not be alone in treasuring an encouraging note from "D. Dickison" received on first joining the R.A.O.U.

Mr Dickison was one of the few giants in this matter of years of service and, through this, he linked us with the past for he it was who recalled as personal acquaintances many members who were historical names to most of us.

In field ornithology he was what is usually and aptly described as indefatigable; a great walker, a keen observer, and a keeper of notebooks written up after the day was over. Melton was one of his favourite areas, as had been Ashburton in earlier years. His first love was for the hawks and his knowledge of the group was

extensive. It was a great pleasure to be in the field with him and one would wish to have seen him climb in earlier days.

Although the list of papers and notes published by Mr Dickison from 1923-1948 is quite extensive (see Whittell), it represents only a fraction of the field data stored in his journals. These offer a splendid and most significant source of recorded information reflecting the changing ecology of Melbourne environs, and its avifauna, and it is a pleasure to record that they are in the safe keeping of the late Mr Dickison's nephew.

Mr Dickison visited the National Museum of Victoria only occasionally but these times were sources of pleasure to the present Curator of Birds. In addition his special knowledge, gladly given, was sought by 'phone from time to time. The history of ornithology in Victoria was one of his particular interests and it had been his intention to delve farther into the subject. The scanty biographical information concerning the early collector Stafford provided one such field of research and the Nat. Mus. Vic. Ms material had been exhausted without adding to his knowledge. Ill health had prevented him from pursuing such studies more fully.

In the field of the history of Australian, and especially Victorian, ornithology, and in the lore of bird books his knowledge was both broad and detailed and on many occasions at R.A.O.U. meetings, where the writer had the pleasure of sitting beside him for some years, little notes were passed in which he shared news of discoveries and purchases.

Mr Dickison was a careful writer and his "The First Fifty Years of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union—1901-1951" (*Emu* 51: 186-284) will stand as a most valuable compendium and a source of compact information from one of the few people who could have supplied it so ably. Another contribution of value was that of "A Resume of Gould's Major Works" (*Emu* 38: 118-131). His private collection of ornithological books was a valuable one.

"Dudley Dickison" was, in build, a big man of gentle disposition and soft voice. He belonged, in part, to an earlier era. He is survived by his widow,—and by a lasting affection and respect in the R.A.O.U.—A. McE.