

## OBITUARY

STANLEY ALFRED LEONARD LAWRENCE

The death of Stanley Lawrence on 21 December 1973 marked the passing of a quiet and unassuming man who endeared himself to all who knew him. Born at Clifton Hill in Victoria in 1894 he grew up to be a young man who possessed a real love of nature and of the great outdoors.

With his friend, the late Ray Littlejohns, who later became his brother-in-law, he would often walk up to thirty kilometres in a day, mostly in the country between Thornbury and Greensborough in Victoria, observing the birdlife and taking photographs. That countryside in those days was mostly open paddocks and the two young men would often have to carry heavy cameras and other equipment, very different from the photographic equipment of today.

These outings and the quality of their photographs resulted in their joint authorship of a book, *Birds of our Bush*, published about 1920. It contained many fine photographs by both men and the late Dr Leach said in the Introduction: 'One pleasing and perhaps unexpected result of the work of Messrs Littlejohns and Lawrence is to prove that photography is not necessarily an expensive hobby. The apparatus they used was of the simplest and of moderate cost. The directions so clearly given will enable many to follow their footsteps. May their effort meet with the public recognition it deserves.'

Stan Lawrence was on the Council of the RAOU in the early 1920s and was associated with L. G. Chandler, Dr Bryant and Charles Barrett. He wrote

several articles, mostly on bush birds, for EMU about that time and he remembered Council meetings at the Royal Zoological Gardens during the directorship of Dr Le Souëf. His love of nature showed itself in many of his activities; for, he was a foundation member of the Nature Photographers' Club of Australia, in the early 1920s, also a foundation member of both the Victorian Aquarium Society in the early 1930s and later of the Victorian National Parks Association.

An early member of the Bird Observers' Club of Victoria, his activities with that Club and the RAOU lapsed in the 1920s because of family commitments. However, in the 1940s, he revived his associations with both these organizations and took an active interest in the Bird Observers' Club, being a member of its committee for several years. He attended with his wife, Carol, most of the annual camp-outs of the RAOU during the 1950s.

Failing health in the late 1960s considerably limited his activities and one of his last outings was a visit to the Iron Range in Northern Queensland in 1970. During his later life he took a great interest in growing native plants, particularly orchids, and his home on one of the highest parts of Croydon had many such plants to attract the honeyeaters.

I am sure that the sympathy of all RAOU members goes to his wife, Carol; also to a son and daughter of a previous marriage.

D.E.T.