

Archibald James Campbell, Obit 11th September, 1929.

In the passing of Mr. Archibald James Campbell (born 18th February, 1853), Australian ornithology has suffered an irreparable loss, and those of our members who have been closely associated with him over the years in the study of ornithology have lost a very dear friend. Mathews, in "The Birds of Australia," speaks of him as "the most famous living Australian Oologist, whose works are beyond praise."

In 1883 he published a little booklet, "Oology of Australian Birds," and in 1901 a work entitled "Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds," with coloured plates. He had a very large share in the formation of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, and was for many years Editor of "The Emu," to which journal he contributed many valuable articles.

The writer and Mr. A. J. Campbell came into close contact with each other at the R.A.O.U. Camp-out at Middle River, Kangaroo Island, in October, 1905, since which date the friendship then formed has grown with the years, and it was long a custom, on the occasions of my passing through Melbourne, to meet together at the National Museum, and for an hour or two to talk over some branch or other of Australian ornithology. Mr. Campbell was a strong supporter of scientific collecting, and believed that the hard work and perseverance entailed in making a collection of birdskins was of great educative value to the person willing to undertake this arduous task, as well as being a valuable contribution to scientific knowledge. He has many times in recent year stated that if he had his life again he would make a skin collection instead of an egg collection. He was strongly opposed to the making of new genera on comparatively slight differences, and strongly supported the R.A.O.U. in its rejection on these grounds of most of the new genera proposed by Gregory M. Mathews. At the time of his death he was President of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, a Corresponding Member of the British Ornithologists' Union, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, and an Honorary Life Member of the South Australian Ornithological Association.

—Edwin Ashby.