

ALAN H. LENDON, 1903-73

The death on July 12, 1973, of Alan Harding Lendon has robbed Australia of one of its leading ornithologists, the world of an authority on Australian parrots, and many of us of a close and valued friend.

Dr. Lendon first joined the Association as a junior member as early as July 26, 1918. His membership was later permitted to lapse for a time, and he re-joined the Association on May 27, 1938, immediately taking a prominent part in its activities. He became president in 1940/1 and held that office again in 1947/8. In 1948 he joined the Royal Australasian Ornithological Union and in 1963 was elected to the position of vice-president. In 1966/7 he was president of that body. He was also one of the foundation members of the Adelaide Ornithologists Club, and held the position of president in 1961 and again in 1970.

The Psittacines were undoubtedly his favourite group in the field as well as in the aviary, where he achieved world recognition, and had numerous successes in breeding many of the species. He was also very interested in the migratory waders, and spent many hours at the I.C.I. and Price Saltfields.

His writings have included: Avicultural Observations on Australian Parrots (*S. Aust. Orn.*, 18, 42), Records of Australian Birds that have been bred in Captivity (*S. Aust. Orn.*, 19, 22), Distribution of Australian

Psittacines (*S. Aust. Orn.*, 25, 3), Some Unusual Wader Records (*S. Aust. Orn.*, 25, 240), *Australian Parrots in Captivity* (The Avicultural Society, London, 1951) and Notes on Northern Territory Birds (*Australian Bird Watcher*, 2, 191 and 4, 84). His major work, however, has been the revision of Cayley's *Australian Parrots*, the publication of which has been so long delayed. It is to be greatly regretted that he did not see the final fruits of the large amount of work that he put into its preparation.

Dr. Lendon organised and led ornithological excursions to the Northern Territory and the north-eastern part of Western Australia, North Queensland and northern New South Wales, and also made several journeys in search of the Paradise Parrot. In addition, he took part in many weekend trips to various parts of South Australia.

His interest in nature in general and birds in particular began at an early age, and he has always been a keen and practical conservationist. For many years as a member and then as Chairman of the Flora and Fauna Advisory Committee to the Minister of Agriculture, and as a member of the Fauna and Flora Reserve Board administering Flinders Chase, Kangaroo Island, he made a significant contribution to the preservation of the wild life of South Australia.

—C. E. RIX.