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[Part 1.

Obituary.

The writer's association with the late Dr. A. M. Morgan dates from some time in 1902, and during the intervening years until the end came in October, that association was maintained as closely as was possible in regard to the distance that separated us. In 1902 we went west from Port Augusta to the Gawler Ranges and northern portion of the West Coast. Our object was bird study and any incidental collecting considered necessary. Previous to this period, I had done no field ornithology since my school-days, although always keen on birds and their doings. Dr. Morgan encouraged my awakened interest and put me on the right path for making reliable records. He always impressed on his fellow ornithologists the necessity of accuracy in observation. He took nothing for granted. He possessed to a marked degree, what I might term, the scientific outlook. Prior to his visit to me at Port Augusta, he had collected at Laura, where he was practising his profession in the 1890's before going to Adelaide. In that neighbourhood he was fortunate in having the late Malcolm Murray as a fellow enthusiast and collector. In spite of a dry season, with its accompanying shortage of food for our horses and water for ourselves, we had an interesting trip, and obtained many useful records and skins, some of which are now in the National collection on North Terrace. I learnt then to appreciate Mat. Morgan's fine character, and our friendship has never suffered a break. He was intolerant of people who talked or wrote inaccurately on any subject—not only ornithology—and possessed a quiet sense of humour, which at times was most successfully employed in ridiculing such people. As a painstaking observer, who "knew his birds" and continued their study, as Honorary Curator of Ornithology at the South Australian Museum, as long as his



Alexander Matheson Morgan.

Born 11th February, 1867. Died 18th October, 1934.

Obituary.

health permitted, he had, in my opinion, no superior and few equals in Australia. As an example of his thoroughness and keenness in research there is the collection of 700 osteological specimens, mostly sterna and crania, which he collected, prepared, and presented to the National collection. In addition to this gift, Dr. Morgan presented to the South Australian Museum, at different times, all his collection of eggs, consisting of over 670 sets with reliable data, 490 bird skins, and some 150 native aboriginal weapons and stone implements. He was thus loyal to his State and a benefactor to his fellow South Australians, and to all those ornithologists, who look to National collections to provide material for comparison or research. As one of the five foundation members and first President of the South Australian Ornithological Association, he was largely instrumental in bringing together most of those interested in bird study in South Australia, and, when the "South Australian Ornithologist" was launched as the journal of the Association, was a regular contributor. In that Association, of which he was President on five subsequent occasions, the memory of Mat. Morgan will always be kept fresh. His articles in the "South Australian Ornithologist" are too numerous to give in detail, extending as they do from the years 1914 to 1933, and his contributions will be sadly missed by the Editorial Committee. In 1929 he was made a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union.

Dr. Morgan's passing is a personal loss that I do not wish to stress. His work as Honorary Curator of Ornithology at the South Australian Museum has been most thoroughly carried out, and, after eleven years of persevering work, the whole of the skins and eggs stored there have been catalogued, labelled, and re-arranged, and I have been told on excellent authority that any specimen required can now be produced in one minute. With Dr. Morgan this was a labour of love, and he lived to see it completed. I could write much more in appreciation of my old friend and his work in ornithology, but enough perhaps has been said here to show what a loss our Association has sustained in particular—a personal loss—and Australian ornithology in general, by his passing.

A. Chenery.