

OBITUARY: GLEN M. STORR

One of the most prominent figures in the study of the distribution and taxonomy of Australian birds, Dr Glen Storr, died on 26 June 1990.

Glen Storr was born in Adelaide on 22 December 1921. His childhood interest in natural history took something of a backseat in the initial part of his adult life, which, apart from a brief stint in the A.I.F. in Queensland and New Guinea during the Second World War, found him working as a surveyor in South Australia and north Queensland. In 1952, through H. T. Condon, Curator of Birds at the South Australian Museum, he accompanied Dr D. L. Serventy, himself one of the leading figures in Australian ornithology, on a field trip to Bass Strait. Finally, his long-standing interests in natural history began to dominate the course of his life.

He was most interested in Australian birds and reptiles and to this end he studied at the University of Western Australia, taking a Ph.D. there in 1960. Eventually, he became Curator of Ornithology and Herpetology at the Western Australian Museum, a position he held until his retirement in 1986.

Though the many papers that he wrote on the taxonomy of Australian reptiles easily outnumber his ornithological output, he wrote some of the most significant treatises on the distribution of Australian birds that are ever likely to appear in Australian ornithology. His checklists of the

distribution of birds in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia will for a long time serve both as the most detailed sources of information on their subjects and as fine examples of how widely scattered distributional information can be brought together in a useful and smoothly functioning whole. In these publications, his taxonomy, especially at the generic level, was always provocative. For many years, I have been convinced that Glen Storr *must* have consumed monotypic avian genera for breakfast each day!

Glen Storr became a member of the South Australian Ornithological Association on 28 February 1957 and remained a member until his death. He was always keen to help those interested in the study of birds and reptiles and I, for one, will long remember his generosity in helping me both as a keen young birdwatcher and later in gladly refereeing papers submitted to this journal when I was its editor.

The South Australian Ornithological Association extends its sympathy to his surviving family, his sister Betty, brother-in-law Vernon and brother Eric. A more detailed account of Glen Storr's life and his contribution to Australian ornithology and herpetology will appear in the *Western Australian Naturalist*.

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