

OBITUARY  
DR G.M. STORR (1921-1990)

On 26 June one of Australia's most eminent biologists, Glen Milton Storr, passed away peacefully at his home in Perth. Although retired some four years, for Glen there was no such thing as retirement and he was, typically, preparing for another day at work in the Museum.

Glen was born in Adelaide, South Australia, on 22 December 1921. He received his primary education at Cowandilla Public School and his secondary education at Adelaide High School (obtaining the Leaving Certificate in 1938). In 1939 he joined the South Australian Lands Department as a junior draftsman and cadet surveyor. He enlisted in the A.I.F. in 1942, serving with the Second Ninth Field Regiment in Queensland and New Guinea in 1943-45.

After the war he returned to the Lands Department, passing his exams and being licensed as a Land Surveyor in 1947. A boyhood interest in natural history was rekindled during surveys in South Australia and north Queensland. A two-week holiday in north Queensland in 1948 (to escape the southern winter) turned into a year long working holiday in the Cooktown-Laura district, bird observing and plant collecting.

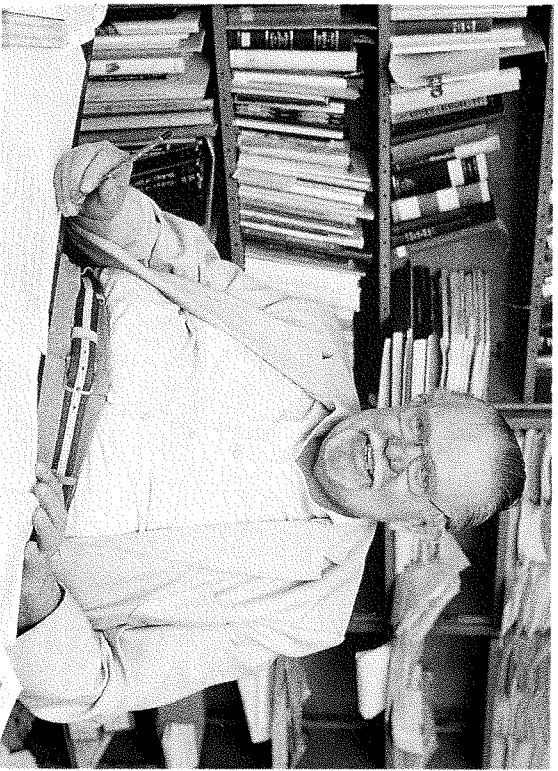


Figure 1. Dr G.M. Storr at the Museum 1986.

Through Herbert Condon, Curator of Birds in the South Australian Museum, he met Dr D.L. Serventy, whom he accompanied to Bass Strait in the spring of 1952 for field work on the Short-tailed Shearwater. Encouraged by Dr Serventy, Storr decided to give up surveying for a career in biology. He enrolled at the University of Western Australia in 1953 to major in zoology and botany. He was awarded B.Sc. (First Class Honours) in 1957 after research into nutrition of the Rottmest Island quokka. Continuing these investigations, he obtained his Ph.D. in 1960. After post-graduate research into the nutrition of Pilbara kangaroos, he was appointed Assistant Curator of Vertebrates (birds, reptiles, amphibians and fishes) in

the Western Australian Museum in 1962. On the return of the Curator (G.F. Mees) to the Netherlands in 1963, Glen was appointed Curator of Vertebrates. Meanwhile he had begun taxonomic research into the reptiles of Western Australia, a group he took an interest in while still at the U.W.A. During his numerous trips studying macropod diet he accumulated a substantial collection of about 5000 reptiles "Glen's dowry" as he jokingly called it, which was donated to the Museum on his appointment. In 1962 that represented a 1596 increase in the Museum's reptile collection. After the removal of the fish collection from his care in 1965, he became Curator of Ornithology and Herpetology, a post he held until his retirement in 1986.

It is impossible to overstate Storr's impact on Australian ornithology and herpetology, although a late starter his contribution to these fields is staggering. He published over 200 scientific papers and books, described 3 genera, 180 species (including some originally described as subspecies) and 50 subspecies of reptile. He worked on reptiles by day and burnt the midnight oil on birds by night. With reptiles, his principal goal was to lay the foundation to the alpha taxonomy (naming of species) of reptiles in this State. This daunting task he tackled systematically and with total dedication, not allowing himself to be diverted to other possibly more attractive and intellectually rewarding projects. His numerous revisions of Western Australian reptiles formed the basis for the handbooks produced by him, L.A. Smith and R.E. Johnstone on the lizards and snakes of Western Australia.



Figure 2. G.M. Storr, Rottmest Island circa 1958.

In those exciting times between 1962 and 1990, when the new taxa were lined up on shelves awaiting description and it was possible to discover new species of reptile within ten kilometres of the Perth G.P.O. a 'whos who' of Western Australian natural history was commemorated by Glen in the etymology of Western Australian reptiles: *Diplodactylus fulleri* (named after Phillip John Fuller of CALM); *Diplodactylus jeannea* (after Jean Rozanne

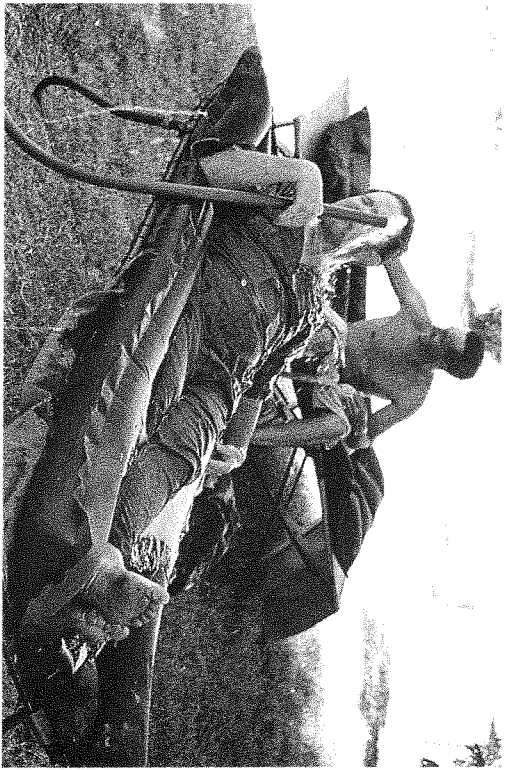


Figure 3. Cooling off at Mundabullangana 1962, B. T. Clay in background.



Figure 4. Camp at Cavenagh Range 7 July 1963. Left to Right: John Calaby, Reg Moreau, Don Serventy, Glen Storr and Kent Keith.

Thipthorp of W.A. Museum); *Diplodactylus kennedyi* (after Kevin Francis Kennally of the W.A. Herbarium); *Diplodactylus mcmillani* (after W.A. naturalist Robert Peter McMillan); *Diplodactylus rankini* (after Sydney herpetologist Peter Rankin); *Diplodactylus wellingtonae* (after W.A. naturalist Betty Doreen Wellington); *Diplodactylus wilsoni* (after Brisbane herpetologist Stephen Karl Wilson); *Diplodactylus wombeyi* (after Canberra naturalist John C. Wombey); *Phyllodactylus marmoratus alexanderi* (after naturalist William Backhouse Alexander); *Aprasia haroldi* (after W.A. naturalist Gregory Harold); *Aprasia smithi* (after Lawrence Alec Smith of the W.A. Museum); *Delma butleri* (after W.A. naturalist W.H. (Harry) Butler); *Delma haroldi* (after Gregory Harold); *Ctenophorus caudicinctus graafi* (after teacher Mark DeGraaf); *Ctenophorus clayi* (after Brian T. Clay of University of W.A.); *Ctenophorus fordi* (after naturalist Julian Ralph Ford); *Ctenophorus mckenziei* (after Norman Leslie McKenzie

of CALM); *Diporiphora lalliae* (after Mrs G.E. (Lally) Handley, formerly of the W.A. Museum); *Tympanocryptis butleri* (after naturalists Margaret and Harry Butler); *Tympanocryptis chapmani* (after Andrew Chapman of CALM); *Tympanocryptis lineata houstoni* (after Terry Francis Houston of W.A. Museum); *Carlia johnstonei* (after Ronald Eric Johnstone of the W.A. Museum); *Cryptoblepharus camabyi* (after naturalist Ivan Clarence Carnaby); *Ctenopus alleni* (after naturalist Nicholas T. Allen); *Ctenopus ariadnae* (after Ariadna Neumann, formerly of the W.A. Museum); *Ctenopus burbridgei* (after Andrew A. Burbridge of CALM); *Ctenopus delhi* (after John Dell of the W.A. Museum); *Ctenopus ehmanni* (after Harry Ehmann of Sydney Technical College); *Ctenopus greeri* (after Allen E. Greer of Australian Museum Sydney); *Ctenopus hantoni* (after naturalist Timothy Marcus Stephen Hanlon); *Ctenopus helena* (after American naturalist Helen Louise Planka); *Ctenopus johnstonei* (after Ronald Eric Johnstone); *Ctenopus piankai* (after American ecologist Eric R. Pianka); *Ctenopus serventyi* (after naturalist Dominic Louis Serventy); *Ctenopus yangsoni* (after naturalist William Kenneth Youngson); *Egernia douglasi* (after Athol Mardon Douglas, formerly of the W.A. Museum); *Egernia slateri* (after naturalist K.R. Slater); *Eulamprus brongersmai* (after Dutch herpetologist L.D. Brongersma); *Hemiergis initialis brookeri* (after naturalist Michael G. Brooker); *Lerista christinae* (after its discoverer Christine Davidge); *Lerista greeri* (after Allen E. Greer); *Lerista griffini* (after Philip Griffin formerly of W.A. Museum); *Lerista haroldi* (after Gregory Harold); *Lerista hamphreysi* (after naturalist Robert B. Humphries); *Lerista kendricki* (after Peter G. Kendrick of CALM); *Lerista petersoni* (after naturalist Magnus Peterson); *Lerista picturata bogynesi* (after naturalist Alexander Baynes); *Lerista picturata edwardsae* (after Adrienne Edwards of South Australian Museum); *Menictia maini* (after Professor Albert R. Main formerly of University of W.A.); *Morethia butleri* and *Noroscincus butleri* (after Harry Butler); *Varanus kingorum* (after zoologists Max and Dennis King); *Ramphocoryphops howi* (after Richard Alfred How of the W.A. Museum); *Ramphocoryphops margaretae* (after Margaret Butler); and *Rhinophloeophagus spectabilis bushi* (after naturalist Brian Bush).

Glen's other major interest was avian faunistics. Following work on the birds of the Northern Territory and Queensland, he compiled avifaunas for eight regions of Western Australia. The last of these, Birds of the Southwest Division was in press at the time of his death. He was extremely meticulous with his bird notes and the effort required for these bird monographs was considerable. It involved searching the literature and unpublished notes of fieldworkers, and compiling thousands of pages of notes on bird distribution, ecological status, abundance, habitat preferences, movements and taxonomy. The end result is that Western Australia has a vast data bank of information that will form the basis for a handbook on the birds of this State (a project he was working on with me at the time of his death).

His "List of Queensland Birds" published in 1973 and revised in 1984, deserves special mention. It is best here I think to quote from Shane Parker's review (S. Austr. Orn. 26: 146-148).

"Although this is ostensibly a list of the birds of a single State, it is to my mind one of the most important works ever published on the distribution of Australian birds. Its value as a basis to systematics and as a source of problems for further investigation is enormous."

This was certainly the case as many researchers including Julian Ford, Richard Schodde and Shane Parker himself used both the list and the data

sheets as a treasure trove of information from which to launch their own studies.

Glen was a very special person to know and have as a friend and colleague. His enthusiasm for birds and reptiles was infectious and his knowledge of these groups on a world scale was profound, whether the subject be systematics, taxonomy, distribution, biogeography, behaviour or nomenclature. He had an extraordinary ability to recall the historic literature and was well versed in Greek and Latin and many colleagues wore a path to his den for help with matters of nomenclature.

For me personally he was most influential in determining the course of my life. I joined Glen and Laurie Smith in the Department of Ornithology and Herpetology in early 1970 and our work together has been a most fruitful and enjoyable collaboration.

Due to ill health Glen did not go into the field after 1970 but he personally sponsored many expeditions and collecting trips for friends and associates. Despite his ill health he never grumbled and was always cheerful. Ask him how he felt and he would say "for a bloke as crook as I am, I'm pretty fit".

In some ways he was a surprising contradiction. On the one hand was that sparkling intelligence, a man of great insight and genius. On the other hand he could be easily baffled by simple mechanics. I once walked into the lab to find he had pulled his entire microscope to pieces to replace a blown globe in the light source. On hearing my entry he looked up with a globe in his hand and exclaimed, "where does this bloody thing go". He also confessed to me once that he never used the heater in his car because its operation remained largely a mystery. Even his old paper stapler that required three independent actions to fill, always beat him hands down.

Glen was a generous benefactor of the Western Australian Museum. He donated hundreds of volumes of bird and reptile periodicals including the *Emu*, *South Australian Ornithologist*, *The Australian Bird Watcher* and *Copeia*. After his retirement in 1986 he was appointed Honorary Associate of the Museum and provided with laboratory space and other facilities which allowed him to continue his work. Asked on retirement whether he had any personal ambitions he'd been deferring until now, he laughed and replied, no he wasn't contemplating marriage; but planned to continue working on two main projects, the bird handbook and the revised edition of the skink book.

He never married and was largely a private man who loved his work, ball, music and sport. He was not hard to know, however, and was always generous with his time to others tapping his knowledge. Lunch time at the Museum would often find him holding court on matters of ornithology, herpetology, linguistics, the sad state of the world or relating bizarre or humorous experiences gained throughout his life. Sadly or strangely few honours were bestowed on this great man, however, his books and papers will be a lasting legacy for future generations. As I mentioned in the beginning, Glen was encouraged by Dom Serventy to take up a career in biology. He in turn has inspired a new generation of naturalists including his long time friend W.H. Butler, J.R. Ford (dec.), A.S. George, I.A. Smith, J. Dell, K.F. Kennally, M. Peterson, N. Kolichis, P.J. Fuller, G. Harold, P. Griffin, B. Mayran, J. Smith, S. Wilson and D. Knowles.

Glen Storr was unique in the diversity of his contributions to both ornithology and herpetology. He never wavered from his devotion to

science and his work will enable many of us to stand on his broad shoulders and look a little further.

Much sympathy is extended to his surviving family particularly his sister Betty, brother-in-law Vernon and brother Eric.

From the numerous scientific and scholarly notes, papers and books written by Dr Storr the following selection illustrates the breadth of his interest. The list includes all his Western Australian Naturalist publications.

#### PAPERS AND BOOKS PUBLISHED BY G.M. STORR

- 1947:  
Storr, G.M. Some birds observed on southern Eyre Peninsula. *S. Austr. Orn.* 18: 31-37.
- 1953:  
Storr, G.M. Bird life at Yoting. *West. Austr. Nat.* 4: 21.
- 1954:  
Storr, G.M. South-western bird notes. *West. Austr. Nat.* 4: 147-144.
- 1955:  
Storr, G.M. & G.M. Dunnet Fork-tailed Swifts over Cockburn Sound and Rottnest Island. *West. Austr. Nat.* 5: 22-23.
- 1956:  
Storr, G.M. Arctic Terns on the Swan River. *West. Austr. Nat.* 5: 70-72.
- 1957:  
Storr, G.M. Second record of a gannet ringed in New Zealand. *West. Austr. Nat.* 5: 230-231.
- Storr, G.M. & N.E. Milward. Another Arctic Tern in Western Australia. *West. Austr. Nat.* 5: 231-232.
- 1958:  
Storr, G.M. Are marsupials "second-class mammals"? *West. Austr. Nat.* 6: 179-183.
- 1959:  
Serventy, D.L. & G.M. Storr. The spread of the Mediterranean Snail on Rottnest. *West. Austr. Nat.* 6: 193-196.
- Storr, G.M. Extension of known range of some Western Australian birds. *West. Austr. Nat.* 7: 22-23.
- Storr, G.M. & J.R. Ford. Northern extension of known range of Brush Bronzewing. *West. Austr. Nat.* 7: 51.
- 1960:  
Storr, G.M. *Egernia* has a new skink from the south coast of Western Australia. *West. Austr. Nat.* 7: 99-103.
- 1961:  
Storr, G.M. *Ablepharus bowtonii clamus*, a new skink from the Esperance district, Western Australia. *West. Austr. Nat.* 7: 176-178.
- Storr, G.M. An unconfirmed report of the Crab-eater Seal on the south coast of Western Australia. *West. Austr. Nat.* 7: 206.
- Storr, G.M. The flora of the Shoalwater Bay islands. *West. Austr. Nat.* 8: 43-50.

- 1962: Storr, G.M. Annotated Flora of Rottnest Island. *West. Austr. Nat.* 8: 109-124.
- 1963: Storr, G.M. Additions to the Esperance bird-list. *West. Austr. Nat.* 8: 188.
- Storr, G.M. Some factors inducing change in the vegetation of Rottnest Island. *West. Austr. Nat.* 9: 15-22.
- Storr, G.M. *Ablepharus butleri*, a new scincoid lizard from Western Australia. *West. Austr. Nat.* 9: 46-47.
- 1964: Storr, G.M. *Ctenotus*, a new generic name for a group of Australian skinks. *West. Austr. Nat.* 9: 84-85.
- Storr, G.M. *Denisonia monachus*, a new elapid snake from Western Australia. *West. Austr. Nat.* 9: 89-90.
- 1965: Storr, G.M. Some snakes new for Western Australia. *West. Austr. Nat.* 9: 171-172.
- Storr, G.M. Notes on Bald Island and the adjacent mainland. *West. Austr. Nat.* 9: 187-199.
- 1966: Main, A.R. & G.M. Storr. Range extensions and notes on the biology of frogs from the Pilbara region, Western Australia. *West. Austr. Nat.* 10: 53-61.
- 1967: Storr, G.M. List of Northern Territory birds. *Spec. Publ. West. Austr. Mus.* No. 4: 1-90.
- Storr, G.M. Black Falcon in Metropolitan Area. *West. Austr. Nat.* 10: 138-139.
- Storr, G.M. & J.R. Ford. Rediscovery and taxonomic status of the Western Australian gecko *Diplodactylus michaelsoni*. *West. Austr. Nat.* 10: 160-162.
- 1968: Storr, G.M. A new knob-tailed gecko from southern Australia. *West. Austr. Nat.* 10: 180-182.
- 1969: Storr, G.M. Green-winged and Flock Pigeons in the Kimberley Division. *West. Austr. Nat.* 11: 69.
- 1970: Storr, G.M. *Aprasia smithi* a new worm-lizard (*Pygopodidae*) from Western Australia. *West. Austr. Nat.* 11: 141.
- 1973: Storr, G.M. List of Queensland birds. *Spec. Publ. West. Austr. Mus.* No. 5: 1-177.
- Storr, G.M. The Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus moluccanus*) in Perth, Western Australia. *West. Austr. Nat.* 12: 116.
- 1975: Storr, G.M. & R.E. Johnstone. An observation of the Pheasant-tailed Jacana in Western Australia. *West. Austr. Nat.* 13: 60-61.
- Storr, G.M. An observation of the White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) in Western Australia. *West. Austr. Nat.* 13: 64-65.
- Storr, G.M. Dangerous Snakes of Western Australia. 24 pp. *West. Austr. Museum, Perth.*
- 1976: Storr, G.M. & R.E. Johnstone. First record of the Kerguelen Diving-petrel in Australia. *West. Austr. Nat.* 13: 145-146.
- 1977: Storr, G.M. Birds of the Northern Territory. *Spec. Publ. West. Austr. Mus.* No. 7: 1-130.
- Storr, G.M. & R.E. Johnstone. The Short-tailed Shearwater in southwestern Western Australia. *West. Austr. Nat.* 13: 203.
- Storr, G.M. & R.E. Johnstone. First Australian record of the Pintail Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*). *West. Austr. Nat.* 13: 207-208.
- 1979: Storr, G.M. & R.E. Johnstone. Second Australian specimen of the Pintail Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*). *West. Austr. Nat.* 14: 157.
- 1980: Storr, G.M. Birds of the Kimberley Division, Western Australia. *Spec. Publ. West. Austr. Mus.* No. 11: 1-117.
- Storr, G.M. The western subspecies of the Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae grisea* (Vieillot). *West. Austr. Nat.* 14: 202-203.
- 1981: Storr, G.M. Birds of the northeastern interior of Western Australia. *Rec. West. Austr. Mus.* 9: 65-99.
- 1982: Storr, G.M., R.E. Johnstone & L.A. Smith. A specimen of the White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) from Geraldton, W.A. *West. Austr. Nat.* 15 (2): 19-20.
- Storr, G.M., L.A. Smith & R.E. Johnstone. *Lizards of Western Australia*. I. Skinks. University of W.A. Press, Perth.
- 1983: Storr, G.M. & R.E. Johnstone. Snakes of the Perth Metropolitan Area. *SWANS* 13 (2): 20-24.
- Storr, G.M., L.A. Smith & R.E. Johnstone. *Lizards of Western Australia*. II. *Dragons and Monitors*. Pp 113 + 20 pl. *West. Austr. Museum, Perth.*
- 1984: Storr, G.M. Birds of the Pilbara Region, Western Australia. *Rec. West. Austr. Mus. Suppl.* No. 16: 1-63.
- Storr, G.M. Revised list of Queensland birds. *Rec. West. Austr. Mus. Suppl.* No. 19: 1-189.
- 1985: Storr, G.M. Birds of the Gascoyne Region. *Rec. West. Austr. Mus. Suppl.* No. 21: 1-66.
- Storr, G.M. & R.E. Johnstone. *Field Guide to the Birds of Western Australia*. 2nd Edition. Pp 214 + 40 pl. *West. Austr. Museum, Perth.*
- Storr, G.M. Birds of the Mid-eastern Interior of Western Australia. *Rec. West. Austr. Mus. Suppl.* No. 22: 1-45.

# CLUB NEWS

## Programme

General Meetings are held on the first Friday in the month at the Naturalists' Hall, 63-65 Meriwa Street, Nedlands, at 8 p.m.

The Retired and Leisured Group meets on alternate Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Meetings of the Intermediate and Junior Members are held following the General Meetings and take the form of excursions to places of natural history interest.

Excursions and field days for Senior, Intermediate and Junior Members are planned from time to time and will be advertised in the Club's monthly newsletter "The Naturalist News".

## THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATURALIST

(Journal of the W.A. Naturalists' Club)

### Editor

Mr K. F. Kennelly  
W. A. Herbarium,  
Dept. Conservation & Land Management,  
P. O. Box 104, Como, W. A. 6152  
Telephone (W) 367 0507 (H) 341 5364

### Editorial Committee

Mr John Dell and Mrs Loisette Marsh  
W. A. Museum

### BRANCHES

#### Kwinana-Rockingham-Murray Branch

Contact person: Bob Goodale  
104 Edward Street, Perth 6000  
Phone: 527 4289

#### Darling Range Branch

Contact person: Rae Papatius  
P.O. Box 76, Kalamunda 6076  
Phone: 293 1676

#### Wanneroo & Northern Suburbs Branch

Contact person: Mr Mike McAllan  
9 Leucosia Court, Heathridge 6027

### DONATIONS TO THE CLUB

Members are reminded that they may make financial contributions to the Club through three main funds. Only two of these are associated with tax deductibility privileges at present — the Library Fund, for additions to Naturalists' Hall and the Yunderup Field Station Fund for the construction and furnishing of our field station at Culeenup Island, Murray Delta. The General Purposes Fund, under present taxation laws, is unlikely to receive tax deductibility privileges but it is a very important fund from the Club's point of view, as it helps our publication activities, hall maintenance and other miscellaneous activities. Members are asked to remember the Club and its needs when preparing their Wills and Testaments.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Membership: Senior, \$30.00; Double Membership, \$37.00; Family Membership, \$40.00; Nomination Fee (Seniors only), \$5.00; Preceding Subscriptions include "The Western Australian Naturalist"; Intermediates (aged 14 to 17 years), \$12.00; Juniors (aged 9 to 13 years), \$12.00.

- 1986:**  
Storr, G.M., R.E. Johnstone & P. Griffin. Birds of the Houtman Abrolhos. Rec. West. Aust. Mus. Suppl. No. 24: 1-42.  
Storr, G.M. Birds of the South-eastern Interior of Western Australia. Rec. West. Aust. Mus. Suppl. No. 26: 1-60.  
Storr, G.M., L.A. Smith & R.E. Johnstone. Snakes of Western Australia. Pp 187 + 24 pl. West. Aust. Museum, Perth.
- 1987:**  
Storr, G.M. Birds of the Eucla Division of Western Australia. Rec. West. Aust. Mus. Suppl. No. 27: 1-81.
- 1988:**  
Storr, G.M. & R.E. Johnstone. Birds of the Swan Coastal Plain and adjacent seas and islands. Rec. West. Aust. Mus. Suppl. No. 28: 1-76.
- 1990:**  
Storr, G.M., L.A. Smith & R.E. Johnstone. Lizards of Western Australia. III. Geckos and Pygopods. Pp 141 + 20 pl. West. Aust. Museum, Perth.

R.E. JOHNSTONE