

NOTES AND NEWS.

HANS FRIEDRICH GADOW, elected as a Corresponding Member of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1884 and an Honorary Fellow in 1916, died at his home, Cleramendi, near Cambridge, England, May 16, 1928, at the age of 73. He was the eldest son of M. L. Gadow, a Prussian Inspector of Forests and was born in Pomerania, Germany, March 8, 1855. His education was received at Frankfurt-on-Oder and at the Universities of Berlin, Jena, and Heidelberg. At Jena he studied under Ernst Haeckel and at Heidelberg under the eminent anatomist Carl Gegenbauer, from whom he evidently received the inspiration of much of his later work. Shortly after his graduation he was invited to London by Dr. Günther to assist in the preparation of the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds.' Here he remained two years and prepared Vol. VIII, containing the Titmice Shrikes, and Nuthatches, and Vol. IX, the Sunbirds and Honey-eaters.

On the resignation of Osbert Salvin as Curator of the Stricklandian collections at Cambridge, in 1884, Gadow was appointed to the position and also made Lecturer on the Morphology of Vertebrates. He had now found his place and in these two positions began what proved to be his life work. He became naturalized, joined the British Ornithologists' Union in 1881, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London in 1892, and married Miss Clara Maud Paget, daughter of Sir George E. Paget, Regius Professor of Physics at Cambridge.

Gadow's work was chiefly associated with anatomy and morphology and with the classification of the higher groups of vertebrates. The list of his publications began with a paper on the digestive system of birds in 1879, and one on the myology of the pelvis and hind limb of Ratite Birds in 1880. Among his most important publications are the volumes on the 'Classification of the Vertebrata,' 1898, a translation of Haeckel's work entitled 'The Last Link,' 1898, and the volume on 'Aves' in Bronn's Thier-Reichs begun by Selenka in 1867 and completed by Gadow in 1884-93. Mention should also be made of the volume on 'Reptiles and Amphibia' in the Cambridge Natural History (1901). He wrote two popular books of travel: 'In Northern Spain,' 1897, and 'Through Southern Mexico,' 1908, containing an account of his experiences in these countries. To these are to be added his numerous articles on anatomy in Newton's 'Dictionary of Birds' of which he was one of the editors, and many papers contributed to the 'Philosophical Transactions' of the Royal Society, the 'Proceedings' and 'Transactions' of the Zoological Society of London, *Ibis*, the 'Journal fur Ornithologie' and other journals.

The names of Gadow and Furbringer are closely associated with the classification of vertebrates. Not only were these authorities contemporaries and friends but they were more or less associated in their investi-

gations, and the results of their work form the basis of the present classification of birds. In fact Gadow's classification was largely followed by Ridgway in his 'Birds of North and Middle America' (See Vol. I, p. 6), and by Knowlton in his 'Birds of the World.'—T. S. P.

MRS. ANNIE CONSTANCE MEINERTZHAGEN, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1919, met a tragic death at her estate, Swordale, near Evanton, Ross-shire, Scotland, July 6, 1928. With her husband, Colonel Meinertzhagen, she was returning from a revolver target practice and was examining her revolver supposing it to be empty. "Her husband who was walking ahead, was startled by an explosion and turning round saw his wife fall; and she was found to be dead."

Annie Constance Meinertzhagen was the elder daughter of the late Major and Mrs. Randle Jackson of Swordale and was born June 2, 1889. At an early age she developed a taste for natural history, especially birds, and after leaving school she and her sister, Miss Dorothy Jackson, the entomologist, studied zoology under Prof. E. W. Macbride for three years at the Imperial College. In 1915 she was elected an Honorary Lady Member of the British Ornithologists' Union, and on March 3, 1921, she married Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen.

Miss Jackson's early work took the form of photography and field work, especially with waders and ducks. Under her maiden name she contributed to 'British Birds' beginning in 1908, and the following year began a series of notes contributed to the 'Annals of Scottish Natural History.' She was also the author of a series of articles on moults of British ducks and waders which formed the foundation of her work on the plumages of these birds contributed to the 'Practical Handbook of British Birds.' In preparing this material she not only examined all available specimens in England but spent three weeks in Copenhagen examining the collection of ducks belonging to Dr. E. L. Schioeler, and part of her honeymoon in working on the birds in the Rothschild Museum at Tring. Under her married name, Mrs. Meinertzhagen has published a number of important papers in the 'Ibis,' including a 'Review of the Genus *Burhinus*' in 1924, a 'Review of the Subfamily *Scolopacinae*' in 1926, and a 'Review of the Family *Cursoridae*' in 1927. In 1925 she went to India with her husband and from Bombay they went up to Sikkim and southern Tibet to see what birds wintered in that region, and returned via Darjeeling to London early in the following year. Mrs. Meinertzhagen was one of the active, talented, Lady Members of the British Ornithologists' Union who have made substantial contributions to systematic ornithology, geographic distribution and migration. Her sudden death in the height of her activity is a serious loss not only to her family and friends but to both the British and the American Ornithologists' Unions. A more extended notice may be found in 'British Birds' for August, 1928, the source of most of these facts.—T. S. P.

DR. JOHN SMITH DEXTER, Prof. of Biology in the University of Porto Rico, at Rio Piedras, P. R., and an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1919, died April 19, 1928, in the 43d year of his age. He was born at Schioctin, Wis., August 21, 1885 and graduated from Ripon College, Wis., in 1908. The following year he received the degree of M.S. from the University of Wisconsin, and in 1914 the degree of Ph.D. from Columbia University. Since leaving the University of Wisconsin he has filled the chair of biology in several institutions including Northland, Olivet and Northwestern Colleges, and the Universities of Saskatchewan and Porto Rico. He has been connected with the last named institution since 1923. While located at Saskatoon, he contributed to 'The Auk' some 'Notes on Birds of the Beaver River Valley' and on 'The European Gray Partridge in Saskatchewan.'—T. S. P.

REV. GEORGE BENNETT, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1913, died at McGregor, Iowa, August 18, 1928, in the 77th year of his age. He was born in England, on Carlean Farm, near Camborne, Cornwall, and had resided in Iowa for some years. Since his retirement from the ministry, a few years ago, he has devoted his attention largely to conservation. He was one of the founders of the American School of Wild Life Protection, established in 1919, which has a summer term of about two weeks each year at McGregor. This school, the outgrowth of an idea conceived about 14 years before, is a unique institution and has been very successful. Mr. Bennett was a contributor to 'Iowa Conservation' for some years and was publisher of the magazine 'Wild Ways.' He was an enthusiastic conservationist, a field agent and lecturer of the Iowa State Fish and Game Commission, and contributed articles to the press and delivered many lectures on the protection of birds and game. He is survived by his wife and four children, Mrs. W. E. Butler of Stamford, Conn.; Mrs. A. M. Nelson of Falconer, N. Y.; George Bennett, Jr., of Nutley, N. J.; and H. Arnold Bennett, of Buffalo, N. Y.—T. S. P.

ALBERT LANO, an Associate of the Union since 1917 (and 1890-1905), died at his home in Fayetteville, Arkansas on July 3, 1928 after an illness of some six weeks, having been stricken with heart trouble in May last.

Mr. Lano was born on January 2, 1860, at Chaska, Minnesota. His early life was spent on a farm but he later studied pharmacy in Minneapolis and Milwaukee and went into business in several towns in Minnesota removing to Fayetteville in September, 1912.

From early life he was deeply interested in birds and formed a large and valuable collection which he gave to the University of Minnesota when he left the state. He was known to ornithologists all over the country with whom he corresponded and exchanged specimens, and he published not a few notes in 'The Auk' and other journals.

In Fayetteville, Mr. Lano took an active interest in nature study in the

schools and gave many lectures on birds, to the boys and girls, being known to them all as the "bird man." He was also a member of the Masonic and Eastern Star lodges for over forty years.

Mr. Lano married Miss Ida Harmon who, with three daughters, survives him.—W. S.

ALBERT HESS, of Berne, president of the Swiss Society for the Study and Protection of Birds, died of heart failure on May 13, 1928.

He was deeply interested in bird protection and in the activities of the Society which he had helped to found, contributing many articles on Swiss birds to its official organ the 'Ornithologische Beobachter.'

He was born on October 14, 1876, and was thus in his fifty-second year.

MISS MARY STELLA CLARKE, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union met a mysterious death at Cape May, N. J., on January 14, 1927, at the age of about 64. She had arrived that evening,—a dark stormy night—and her body was found frozen on the beach the next day.

She had been accustomed to spend the winters in Washington, D. C., and the summers in the mountains or at the sea shore and had been for many years interested in bird study. In early life she had been a teacher and a nurse.—T. S. P.

THERE appeared in the 'Military Surgeon' of May 1927, some recollections of Dr. Elliott Coues written by Lieut.-Colonel H. C. Yarrow, who was, I believe, formerly associated with him in the United States Army and which probably have been seen by but few ornithologists so that they will bear reprinting. Lt.-Col. Yarrow says in part:—

"Climb up with the writer to the tallest tower of the Smithsonian and entering a small corner room we should find seated at a desk a man in his shirt sleeves, writing away as if his life depended upon his work. He was a handsome man of less than forty, with bushy, brown hair and brown beard, only ceasing his work occasionally to roll a cigarette, the tobacco for which he took from a calvarium on the table before him.

This was Elliott Coues, and at the particular time of which we write he was attached to the Geological Survey under Major Powell. At the moment he was writing a history of the amatory intercourse of the birds of the Southwest, more particularly the Grouse. He would invite us to be seated and would perhaps call our attention to an interesting mammal or bird which lay on the table before him. Coues was a man of most varied intellectuality. One hour he would write a learned dissertation on the tail feathers of the humming bird, and the next hour pen a wonderfully humorous sketch entitled "Grace before Meat" or a facetious article entitled "Buffalo Chips." The latter paper was made part of a special edition of *Forest and Stream* so highly was it thought of.

It was the custom of a number of men connected with the different scientific surveys to meet at one or the other of the offices and talk over their triumphs past or to come when they took the field again. On one

of these Sunday mornings a discussion took place as to who was the best taxidermist, that is to say, preparer of mammal or bird skins.

The writer protested that his assistant, Mr. H. W. Henshaw, could not be excelled by anyone in the world in preparing this special line of work. Some one, however, declared that Dr. Coues was the better of the two. However, to make a long story short, a trial was to take place between these two gentlemen the following Sunday. Accordingly, material having been prepared and supplied in the form of English Sparrows, they sat down side by side and commenced their work. Mr. Henshaw had skinned his bird and prepared it for purposes of study in one minute and thirty-five seconds. Dr. Coues required one minute and forty seconds. So it will be seen that these two great men could hardly be considered as rivals.

Coues, it is thought, was the best known ornithologist, with regard to United States birds, of any man in the world, and his various books which he published from time to time will show that this claim is worth consideration. At one time he was appointed professor of anatomy at Columbian University and there was always a crowd of students to hear him lecture. He was most entertaining and most convincing in his arguments. One evening the writer went there wishing to hear a lecture on a special subject, and found the professor absent from his desk. He presented himself, however, within a few minutes and made an apology to the class for his lateness, by stating that a most interesting event had just occurred in his family and its name was William Drinkard. There was a burst of applause from the students at this statement because William Drinkard had been the predecessor of Coues in the anatomical chair.

A wonderful man, full of ability, but with a slant in certain directions that interfered very seriously with his duties as a medical officer of the United States Army."—W. H. BERGTOLD.

THE International Committee for Bird Preservation held its third biannual meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, May 21-22, 1928, under the chairmanship of Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, President of the National Association of Audubon Societies. Representatives from sixteen countries were present. The objects of the Committee are set forth briefly in the following extracts from its Declaration of Principles.

We believe that wild-bird life is of great importance in the world in helping to preserve the balance between species which nature is constantly seeking to adjust, that birds have a great importance for science, exercise a great esthetic influence on all right-minded people, and are of great value to mankind as food, as destroyers of rodents and injurious insects, and as incentives for reasonable field sports.

We believe that, through ignorance, selfishness, and from an undue desire for gain, mankind is reducing the number of birds in many countries at an alarming rate, having, in fact, already exterminated from the earth various interesting and valuable species.

We are in sympathy with all reasonable methods taken to increase the number of game-birds in order that the surplus may be used for food or sport. We commend the study of the food-habits of wild birds, in relation to agriculture, horticulture, and forestry, and the publication of the information thus obtained in order that the people of the world may acquire a more accurate conception of the value of bird-life.

We rejoice in all efforts being made by educational institutions of whatever nature, as well as by thousands of private individuals, in imparting to the general public knowledge regarding the appearance, habits, activities, and songs of wild birds, so that adults and children alike may be taught to appreciate the esthetic value of the living bird.

The chief result of the conference was the preparation of the following recommendations for official action:

That to protect migratory birds during the period of their spring migration and while engaged in rearing their young, all shooting, trapping, or other destruction of birds, together with their sale or exposure for sale, shall cease not later than March 1, in Europe, Asia, northern Africa, and North America, and not later than September 1 in countries in the southern hemisphere, and that such prohibition shall continue until the opening of the shooting season in the autumn. In countries north of 56° latitude north, moderate spring shooting of some species might be allowed through Government license for about twenty days on account of their different climatic conditions.

The Committee believes that, owing to the diversity of legislation and of custom in the different countries, the best chance of promoting international agreement which would be acceptable to a large number of states and also effective for the protection of birds, is to confine its recommendations to two very definite proposals which it suggests might be considered by an international conference.

The first proposal is intended to protect migratory birds during what is, for them, the most important season of the year, namely while on their way to, and while in, their breeding-haunts; but the Committee recognizes that there must be some exceptions to complete protection of every species and this must be left for future settlement.

The second proposal is intended to prevent the destruction of birds by oil-pollution in navigable waters.

A most interesting program of papers was presented at the meeting including the address of the President and discussions of the need of bird protection and methods employed in Sweden, Hungary, Italy, America, Switzerland, Holland, France, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Belgium, Norway, Bulgaria, New Zealand and Japan.

At a dinner held on May 21, Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson was reelected chairman and Dr. J. M. Dersheid of Brussels, was chosen European Secretary. It was decided to hold the next meeting in connection with the International Ornithological Congress to convene in Amsterdam, Holland, in 1930.

It is a great satisfaction to all interested in bird protection to realize that we are now actually in a position where international action is a probability and if the League of Nations can be induced to take the matter up, the goal would appear to be won. It seems hopeless to expect the preservation of the shore birds of the western hemisphere, no matter how earnestly Canada and the United States may labor if the birds are to be slaughtered in winter in South America, and similar conditions in the Old World emphasize the necessity of international and universal action.

The International Committee deserves all praise for the progress that has been made in so short a time but immediate action in many cases is needed if certain birds are to be saved from extermination.

THE Biological Survey announces a general readjustment of the season on Woodcock and a reduction of the period to one month in any one state. Whether even this restriction will save the bird from extermination is open to question. In an interesting summary of the situation in 'Nature Magazine' for August, Mr. E. A. Preble calls attention to the fact that New York allows its 300,000 licensed hunters 24 Woodcock each, if they can find them, and that Pennsylvania's 800,000 licensed hunters kill about 30,000 Woodcock per year.

From the official returns of New York, comparing Woodcock killed with Woodcock hunters, it took twelve men fortified by dogs, guns, etc., to kill each Woodcock in 1921; fourteen, in 1922; twenty-one in 1923, and eighteen in 1924. Later figures are awaited with interest, and when we learn that there are now 5,750,000 licensed hunters in the United States we wonder how long any game can survive, especially with the rapid conversion of wild lands to farming or other purposes.

DR. DAYTON STONER, formerly of the University of Iowa, is now an Associate Entomologist in the U. S. Bureau of Entomology but will during the coming spring and summer complete his survey of the birds of the Oneida Lake region for the Roosevelt Wild Life Experiment Station.

MARTINUS NIJHOFF, The Hague, announces the publication of 'L'Oiseau chez Lui,' a series of colored plates by Roger Reboussin with text by J. Rapine, published in parts of eight plates each, subscription to the first series of ten plates, 200 francs. A sample shows that the plates are from paintings in which the aim is to produce action and artistic effect, quite different from the detailed work which we are most familiar with in ornithological portraiture, but very effective.

CAPT. D. PRIEST, 'Mashumba,' P. O. Inoro, Marandellas, S. Rhodesia, announces that he is prepared to care for naturalists or sportsmen desiring to carry on exploration in Africa.

THE Water-fowl census to be taken by 3,000 volunteer observers under the direction of the Biological Survey is being looked forward to with

interest. It is planned that each observer select an area that can be covered in a single day and where a large number of birds may usually be found. This same area is to be covered year after year so that results will be strictly comparable, and the counts are to be made with the greatest care. The Survey is gratified by the wide response and satisfactory organization that has been effected.

In closing this, his seventeenth volume of 'The Auk,' the editor wishes to acknowledge the financial assistance generously given by certain members of the Union: to Dr. Thomas Barbour who made possible the colored plates of the new Cuban birds which appeared in the January issue and to Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin who provided for the publication of the papers on the foot disease of Chipping Sparrows and the distribution of House Wrens, in the April issue; as well as the bird banding bibliography which appears as a supplement to this volume. To the Baird Ornithological Club we are indebted for the portrait and biography of Bradshaw H. Swales in the July number.

We trust that a large number of A. O. U. members have already made arrangements to attend the forty-sixth Stated Meeting of the Union at Charleston, beginning November 19 next. Attention is called to the fact that the titles of all papers to be presented at the meeting must be in the hands of the Secretary by November 1, with the time required for their delivery and a statement as to whether lantern or motion picture machine will be required for illustration. It is also important that the statement of time required shall be an actual trial, not a guess, as one almost invariably underestimates in such cases and thus delays the program.

