

## OBITUARIES.

Just as we go to press we learn with the greatest sorrow of the death of Ruthven Deane, on the morning of March 20, 1934, at his home in Chicago. Few, if any Fellows of the Union were more widely known or more beloved than Ruthven Deane. While not engaged in active ornithological work in recent years, he maintained a deep interest in the history of ornithology and of ornithologists, while the welfare of the American Ornithologists' Union was ever uppermost in his mind. He had served for years on both the Council and the Finance Committee and no meeting seemed quite successful without his genial presence.

For many years he had kept up a voluminous correspondence with leading members of the Society in all parts of the country and they came to rely upon his delightful newsy letters for information as to what was going on elsewhere. The service which he rendered in this way he probably never realized. Always loyal, cheerful and sympathetic, with a keen sense of humor, and ever the perfect gentleman and lovable friend, he occupied a niche in the Union which no one can fill.—W. S.

ROBERT WILSON SHUFELDT, U. S. A., a Founder and Retired Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died after a long illness at Washington, D. C., Jan. 21, 1934, at the age of 83. He was the son of Rear Admiral R. W., and Sarah H. Shufeldt, and was born in New York, December 1, 1850. He graduated from Cornell University in 1871 and took his medical degree at Columbia, now George Washington University, in 1876. Shortly after, he was appointed first lieutenant in the Medical Corps of the Army and promoted to Captain in 1881. After several details in Wyoming he was assigned to Fort Wingate, New Mexico, where he remained nearly five years. In 1891 he was retired for disability, but during the war was restored to active service with the rank of Major and assigned to duty at the Army Medical Museum. He was finally retired January 9, 1919.

Dr. Shufeldt was one of the most voluminous writers in the ranks of American ornithologists. His bibliography published in the 'Medical Review of Reviews' in 1920 included 1565 titles, which relate to all phases of ornithology and include many medical and general articles as well as popular contributions on natural history. His main ornithological publications relate to anatomy and include a number of descriptive papers on osteology, a volume on the 'Myology of the Raven,' and an account of the anatomy of the last living specimen of the Passenger Pigeon. He prepared the plate illustrating the anatomy of the common pigeon which forms the frontispiece of the second edition of Coues' Key. Shufeldt was a pioneer in photographing birds and in several articles in 'The Auk,' beginning in 1887, called attention to the value of photography in orni-

thological work. In later years he became interested in fossil birds and published several papers on avian paleontology, including descriptions of a number of extinct species.

In accordance with custom a memorial prepared by one of the Fellows will be presented at a future meeting of the Union.—T. S. P.

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ERNST JOHANN OTTO HARTERT, elected an Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1902, died in Berlin-Südende, after a few days of illness on November 11, 1933, shortly after his seventy-fourth birthday. He was one of the greatest ornithologists of all times and his death will be mourned by the whole ornithological world.

Hartert was born in Hamburg on October 29, 1859, and spent his childhood and youth in various parts of Germany (Hamburg, Silesia, Eastern Prussia, and the Rhine Province). Hunting and the intimate study of nature prepared him for his great task in life. The years of study were followed by years of travelling and exploring. From 1885 to 1892 he took part in three expeditions, one to West Africa (Niger and Benue Region), one to the East Indies (Sumatra, Malay Peninsula, and British India), and one to the West Indies and Venezuela. The results of his explorations he published in numerous scientific papers and in a charmingly written and highly informative book: 'Aus den Wanderjahren eines Naturforschers' (From the 'Novit Zool.' 1901 and 1902).

In 1890 he undertook the cataloguing of the famous bird collection of the Senckenberg Museum and in 1891 he was called to London to complete the 16th volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds' (Swifts and Goatsuckers). Here he met Dr. Günther, the head of the zoological department of the British Museum, who was so taken by the energy and ability of the young man that he recommended him to the Hon. Walter Rothschild as the best candidate for the direction of his new Museum in Tring.

Hartert took over the new position of director of the Rothschild Zoological Museum at Tring (Herts) in the fall of 1892—a position he held for 38 years, thus starting the most productive period of his life. With great persistence and the harmonious coöperation of Lord Rothschild he built up a collection which was not only by far the largest private bird collection of the world, but also better balanced and representative of the bird fauna of the whole world than the collection of any other museum. Although the annual accessions were tremendous, every collection was worked up immediately after its arrival, an unparalleled example to other similar institutions. Hartert himself was an indefatigable collector, who tore himself away from his scientific work whenever he could, to spend a few months collecting in northern Africa or some other favored spot. He made beautiful skins and was very particular about their labelling. His collectors had a world-wide reputation for the beautiful and well-labelled collections they sent to Tring, a fact which was quite a puzzle to some of his

colleagues. I, as one who has collected for Hartert, can unveil the secret. Hartert was in constant touch with his collectors; he sent them advice, suggestions, and encouragement with every mail, but he was amply rewarded for this interest.

The wonderful collections at his disposal enabled him to write an amazing number of treatises on the taxonomy of birds. In 1903 he began his monumental work, 'Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna.' This work, which he completed in 1922, will always be one of the classics of ornithological literature. It was the first ornithological work in which the modern principles of classification (broad genera and consistent application of trinomials for geographical representatives) were rigorously applied. It is still today the "bible" of the Old World ornithologist, and it is primarily responsible for the unparalleled development of Old World ornithology during the last generation.

Hartert did not restrict his interest to the Palaearctic Region, but did equally good work on birds from South and Central America, the African, Indian, Papuan, Polynesian and Australian Regions. He combined a universal knowledge of birds, probably not equalled by any ornithologist now living. It was not a superficial knowledge, however, but a mastery of any subject he took up. He was the outstanding authority on Austral-onesian birds, which were his particular love. In one of his last letters he wrote me: "I am again occupied with revising Palearctic birds and I don't work any longer with New Guinea birds, which nevertheless are for me the altogether most interesting ones, after those from the Solomon Islands." (Dec. 27, 1932). His interest was not restricted to taxonomy, but comprised many subjects of ornithology (particularly oology, and the study of life-history); he had a fine collection of Carabidae, and was also much interested in other branches of natural history. His working capacity was gigantic. Aside from his administrative duties as director of a flourishing museum, and the labor of a vast correspondence, he edited a journal, 'Novitates Zoologicae,' to which he was the main contributor. A bibliography of his writings would fill many pages, and the number of new birds described by him (many in joint authorship with Lord Rothschild) is much more than one thousand.

The new principles of classification advocated by Hartert found at first very little favor with the "old school" on the Continent and in England. "That a foreigner should have achieved so great a success in so heretical a mission in Great Britain, where . . . his views met with great opposition at first from most of the older and most influential ornithologists of the time . . . , tells more than any words of the strength of character, the tenacity of purpose and the soundness of judgment Hartert brought to his task, and these traits were reinforced by intense sincerity and keenness, a constant readiness to help and advise, as well as by an original and very likeable personality" (Witherby, 'Nature,' 1933). American ornithologists who, at that time, already largely employed trinomials, were the

first to appreciate his work. The American Ornithologists' Union elected him a Corresponding Fellow in 1891, and an Honorary Fellow in 1902, in recognition of his merits. Soon he was an Honorary Fellow of all the ornithological societies of the world. In 1904 he received the Honorary Doctor's degree of Marburg University. On his seventieth birthday a "Festschrift" was published in his honor by the German Ornithologists' Society, to which ornithologists from all parts of the world contributed papers, and the British Ornithologists' Union, of which he was Vice-President for some years, presented him with the Godman-Salvin gold medal. In the spring of 1930 he retired from his position at the Tring Museum, and took up residence in Berlin. He was given a study-room at the Zoological Museum and worked there regularly to within three days of his death. His last ambition was to bring his 'Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna' up to date; he had finished three parts of the supplement volume. A month before his death he returned to the hunting grounds of his happy youth to attend an annual meeting of the German Ornithological Society in Eastern Prussia. On this occasion he was elected Honorary President of the Society.

All his life he was anxious to further international goodwill and coöperation. In 1905 he was Secretary of the Fourth International Ornithological Congress in London, and after the war he revived the International Ornithological Congress and was elected its President at Copenhagen in 1926, a task for which he was particularly fitted owing to innumerable international acquaintances, and his fine personality.

This is not the place to give an extensive appreciation of his great personality; detailed obituaries have appeared in the European ornithological journals. A few words from one who had the privilege of knowing him will have to suffice.

Hartert combined a wonderful kindness with great sincerity. He fought courageously for anything he had found true, be it a minor detail of nomenclature or a basic principle of classification; but still he made no enemies, owing to his lovable and cheerful personality. He was most generous and reliable in his advice to fellow-workers, and never tired of training young ornithologists once he noticed that they were really enthusiastic about our science. Many of the leading ornithologists of today were "made in Tring."

Life was not always kind to him; he lost his only son during the war, and he had to witness the end of the great institution he had built up. He bravely overcame all these sorrows and enjoyed the eve of his life at the side of his faithful and understanding wife. Death came suddenly, but it cannot destroy the lasting impression Hartert has made on ornithological science and the picture he has left in the hearts of his friends.—ERNST MAYR.

*Obituaries:*—H. F. Witherby, 'Nature,' 1933, p. 846; H. F. Witherby and F. C. R. Jourdain, 'British Birds,' 1934, p. 224; L. v. Boxberger,

Beitr. zur Fortpfl., 1934, p. 26; E. Steinbacher and E. Stresemann, Journ. f. Ornith., 1934, p. 169.

CHRESWELL JOHN HUNT, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union died after a lingering illness, on October 18, 1933. He was born September 16, 1880, at Vineland, N. J.; his parents, Joseph and Henrietta Jones Hunt being of English and Welsh stock respectively. His father died when Chreswell was but ten years old and his mother moved to Philadelphia. Here the boy attended public school to what good effect may be seen in the literary quality of his writings, although this was probably due in part to his persistent reading, one of his favorite authors being Stuart Edward Wright, whose love of nature is contagious and doubtless influenced young Hunt's after life.

Graduating from the public school Chreswell was apprenticed to a printer and learned that trade well although his interests even at that time were wholly in the outdoors. In 1902 he came to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia and inquired of Dr. Witmer Stone if he might contribute migration records to the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club which held its meetings at the Academy and was seeking additional recorders of migration phenomena. "I was much impressed" writes Dr. Stone by his earnestness and care in making his observations and not only accepted his assistance but invited him to join the Club." He was elected on October 16, 1902, and in the same year became an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union. He was one of the most active members of the D. V. O. C. serving as Secretary from 1907 to 1909, when he removed from the city. He was also a member of the Wilson and Cooper Ornithological Clubs and after removing to Chicago was an organizer and Vice President of the Chicago Ornithological Club, member of the Kennicott Club and a Director of the Illinois Audubon Society.

In association with a fellow member of the Delaware Valley Club he built a cabin on Pensauken Creek, New Jersey, across the Delaware River from Philadelphia, which he named "Domus palustris" and there maintained a row boat in which he explored the surrounding tide water marshes at all seasons and at all times of day and night, learning the habits of their avian inhabitants. He also engaged in tramps through the famous New Jersey pine barrens, and spent much time on the Maurice River in the southern part of the state, at the home of some bird-loving friends. Hunt never collected birds his sole interest being the study of the living bird in its natural environment and his earnestness and persistence in this line of investigation rendered him quite as accurate an ornithologist as those who depended upon the specimen in the hand.

During his Philadelphia residence Hunt was most prolific in his writing though he continued to publish the results of his studies after removing to Chicago. He contributed to 'Cassinia,' the annual of the D. V. O. C., as well as to 'The Auk,' 'Bird-Lore' and the 'Wilson Bulletin,' and we find in all some 33 titles in his bibliography. One is struck by the high literary

quality of his contributions and his attractive style of composition. His 'Pensauken Diary' and 'Some Birds of a Maurice River Farm' (Cassinia, 1907 and 1908) strongly remind one, in their chatty and slightly philosophical style, of Thoreau or Bradford Torrey, while his little sketch 'The Bird to the Bird Lover' (Bird-Lore, 1905) is one of the best explanations of what bird study means to the ornithologist, that we know.

Moving to Chicago in 1909 Hunt entered the Van Trump Testing Laboratories, in which he worked himself up to the position of chemical engineer in testing asphalt for road construction. His work later took him afield and while superintending construction in Arkansas he found time to gather data for some interesting and valuable papers on the birds of that state, which were published in 'The Auk' in 1921 and 1931. He also visited Biloxi, Miss., on vacations, when he felt the need of more outdoor life, and contributed to our knowledge of the birds of this region (Auk, 1923, and 1929). Hunt was married on February 15, 1911, to Florence Smith and they had two sons, Chreswell Hedley and Witmer Smith Hunt.

Never of a robust constitution, Hunt four years ago began to show signs of the fatal malady that finally carried him off, heart trouble and arteriosclerosis. He kept at his work, however, until he fell from his chair and had, in November, 1932, to be removed to a sanatorium in Chicago. Here he recuperated sufficiently to be taken to a farm near Elkhorn, Wisconsin, in the spring of 1933. Here he was once more able to be among the birds and to enjoy to the full their study until the last migrants began leaving for the south.

While still apparently as well as usual he suddenly collapsed, one morning, at the breakfast table, and died instantly.

Chreswell Hunt was one of many whose possibilities as an ornithologist were secondary to the necessities of making a living but what he accomplished stamp him as far above the average bird student and had he been able to accept a position in the Philadelphia Academy, which had been offered him, his name might have been far more prominent in the list of our bird students.—C. W. G. EIFFRIG.

OWEN DUFFEE, an Honorary Life Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died suddenly, on April 18, 1933, at his home in Fall River, Mass.

Born February 13, 1863, in New York City, he was the son of George Borden Durfee and Eliza Owen Borden, members of two of the oldest families then living in Fall River. He was educated in a private school, and, later, in the public schools of Fall River, and graduated from the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute in 1884. Starting in business, in the real estate office of F. O. Dodge, Durfee later became identified with the Fall River Electric Light Co., in which Mr. Dodge was interested, and he remained with that company, in one position or another, the rest of his business life, until, as treasurer, he retired in 1921.

Mr. Durfee was married twice; on June 6, 1893 to Mary Katherine Bronson, who died December 10, 1913; and by whom he had three children, a girl and two boys who survive him; and to Harriet Tracy Marvell on May 22, 1919, who also survives.

He seems to have become interested in birds at an early age, as shown by his carefully written diary and notes, started at the age of sixteen. Always a very keen and careful observer, he confined his interest to New England birds, their habits and life histories, and gathered together a very beautiful collection of their nests and eggs, all collected by himself, and prepared with the greatest care. This collection he very generously presented, in 1925, to the Boston Society of Natural History, of which he was later elected an Honorary Life Member.

He was an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1887 and an Active Member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club since October 6, 1902, having previously been a Corresponding Member; and, whenever possible he attended the meetings, coming from Fall River to Cambridge in order to do so.

Always an outdoor man, taking his vacations in the spring, so he could spend his time with his beloved birds, and in hunting their nests, tragedy came into his life when, in the summer of 1920, he was stricken with arterial trouble in one of his legs, necessitating its amputation, only to have the same trouble appear later in his other leg, which he also lost.

Consigned thus, for the rest of his life, to a wheel chair, he showed the most unbelievable pluck and patience, never complaining, even to those who knew him best.

He kept up his interest in birds, however, in spite of his terribly crippled condition, and, at the time of his death was helping A. C. Bent, working over a large amount of egg data for the 'Life Histories of North American Birds.'—FRED H. KENNARD.

REUBEN NELSON DAVIS, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1920, died at his home in Dunmore, Pa., January 28, 1934, at the age of 75. He was a son of Charles and Julia A. Sheldon Davis and was born on a farm at Lemon, Wyoming County, Pa., April 13, 1858. He was educated at the Wyoming Seminary, Kingston, Pa., and in 1902 received the honorary degree of Ph.B. from Illinois Wesleyan University. At the age of 17 he entered on the profession of teaching and for 37 years taught in several places in eastern Pennsylvania. For some time he was principal of the Archibald High School.

Mr. Davis was much interested in natural history, particularly in botany and ornithology. In 1912 he was appointed Curator of the Everhart Museum in Scranton, Pa., and in 1924 was made Director of the Museum. In 1921 he visited the Canal Zone in charge of the L. A. Watres Expedition and brought back a valuable collection of birds and botanical material from that region.

Mr. Davis did much to popularize the study of natural history in

connection with his school and museum activities. He was an occasional contributor to 'The Auk,' and author of a publication on the 'Butterflies of Lackawanna County, Pa.,' 1914. In addition to membership in the Union he was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Association of Museums, and the Pennsylvania Academy of Science.—T. S. P.

**ERRATUM.** In an obituary notice in the January Auk of my old friend, Dr. Lemuel Fox Woodward, an error has crept in that deserves correction. It is said of Dr. Woodward that, while he was a student in the Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard University, he stroked the Varsity Crew. Actually, during each of the years that he was in Cambridge the stroke of the Varsity was one of the most famous oarsmen Harvard has produced—William Amos Bancroft.

I knew Woodward well during these years, and am well aware—as the published records of Harvard rowing substantiate—that, while he enjoyed the sport, his activities were limited to rowing in some of the minor crews, in 'club races' and scratch races, within the University. Indeed, the scientific work in which he was engaged was of so serious a character that he had little time for other pursuits.—C. F. B.