

intensity of notes, does not weaken the graphic system in any way, for I have mentioned more than once how variations in intensity may be represented by this method, and have recorded this factor in the field in many of my more recent records.

"The proof of the pudding is in the eating." If either method proves to be unworthy in the light of the other, it will sooner or later be discarded, regardless of either Mr. Moore's or my opinions on the subject at the present time. I only ask that the future student of bird songs give both methods a fair and unprejudiced trial in the field, and then use that method which he truly finds to be most accurate, comprehensive, scientific and simple.

ARETAS A. SAUNDERS.

New Haven, Conn.

Mar. 9, 1916.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE American Ornithologists' Union has sustained one of the greatest losses in its history in the death of Daniel Giraud Elliot on December 22, 1915. Dr. Elliot was one of the founders of the Union and its second president while his deep interest in the society and its welfare was maintained until the time of his death. His name and his scientific publications are familiar wherever ornithology and mammalogy are studied, but those who were privileged to know him personally will appreciate far more the loss that we have sustained. Possessed of a striking personality, dignity and kindness of manner Dr. Elliot left a lasting impression upon all with whom he came in contact, and inspired with love and respect those with whom he was familiarly associated.

In accordance with custom the president of the Union has appointed one of the Fellows to prepare a biographical notice to be read at the Meeting in November and published in the January number of 'The Auk.' Dr. Frank M. Chapman has been his choice and has accepted the appointment. It will therefore be only necessary in this connection to mention briefly some of the principal events in Dr. Elliot's life.

Daniel Giraud Elliot was born in New York City, March 7, 1835. In early life he travelled for some years in southern Europe, the West Indies and Brazil. Returning to New York he pursued the study of ornithology which seems to have always been his chief interest. Much of his time was spent at the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia, which was then,

through the influence of John Cassin, Dr. T. B. Wilson and others the center of ornithological activity in America.

In 1864 he began the publication of his 'Monograph of the Tetraonidæ,' the first of a series of sumptuous folio works with hand colored plates. There followed monographs of the Pittidæ and Phasianidæ and a volume on new or unfigured North American Birds.

In 1869 Dr. Elliot went to England and remained abroad almost continuously until 1883. In these years he became closely associated with the British ornithologists and this period of his life is pictured in his biography of Dr. Sclater (Auk, 1914, pp. 1-12). His publications during this period comprise monographs of the Paradiseidæ, Bucerotidæ, and the Felidæ, the last marking the beginning of his study of the mammals. Numerous other papers were published in 'The Ibis' and the 'Proceedings' of the Zoological Society of London,' etc., and on his return to America, he contributed a number of chapters to the 'Standard Natural History.'


Dr. Elliot was the scientific advisor of the trustees during the early days of the American Museum of Natural History and was instrumental in securing for them many of the first collections obtained by this institution, while his own collections and library passed into its possession through gift and purchase.

In 1894, Dr. Elliot accepted the curatorship of zoölogy in the Field Museum, at Chicago, and at once began the accumulation of a vast collection of mammals while a series of comprehensive volumes from his pen on the mammals of North and Middle America were published in rapid succession. While at the Field Museum Dr. Elliot made a notable expedition to Somaliland, Africa, and later to the Olympic Mountains of Washington, securing valuable collections.

Returning to New York in 1906 he established himself at the American Museum and began his 'Review of the Primates' an undertaking upon which he was engaged for six years and which necessitated his visiting all of the principal museums of America, Europe and Asia.

Dr. Elliot was an artist of ability and the plates of his earlier monographs were from his own paintings. In addition to his numerous scientific publications he prepared, in 1895-1898, three volumes of a more popular type on the game birds of North America which were well received by sportsmen and others interested in these groups.

Dr. Elliot was a member of a number of scientific Societies, both at home and abroad. In 1906 Columbia University conferred upon him the degree of Sc. D. and 1915 he was made a trustee of the American Museum in which institution much of his interest had been centered. During his long life he was the recipient of many other honors in recognition of his splendid publications and his distinguished contributions to the advancement of systematic zoölogy.



HENRY EELES DRESSER¹ an Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Cannes, France, on November 28, 1915, where he had gone in the hope of recovering his health. Mr. Dresser's name has been closely associated with bird study in England for over half a century and he was one of the last of a generation of systematic ornithologists to whom the science is largely indebted for its present advanced position.

Mr. Dresser was for years a member of the Linnæan Society and the Zoological Society of London and joined the British Ornithologists' Union in 1865, serving as secretary from 1882 to 1888. His most notable work was the monumental 'Birds of Europe' in nine quarto volumes with colored plates, with which his name will ever be associated. This appeared from 1871 to 1881 with a supplementary volume in 1895-6. He later published an octavo 'Manual of Palaæartic Birds,' which was an invaluable reference volume to many who were unable to obtain the larger and far more expensive work. Mr. Dresser was also the author of an illustrated work on the eggs of European birds and monographs of the Rollers and Bee-eaters, besides many shorter articles.

He accumulated a large collection of birds and eggs and an extensive library, all of which have come into the possession of the Manchester Museum.

In spite of the extent of Mr. Dresser's ornithological activities and the magnitude of his achievements, his time was not devoted exclusively to his favorite study. For many years ornithological investigations were incidental to a busy business career, though for many years before its publication was begun he had definitely planned his 'Birds of Europe' so that his observations were made with that object in view.

He was born in London, May 9, 1838, and was educated in England, Germany and Sweden. In 1856 he entered the office of a lumber firm in Finland, this being his father's business, and for eight years was engaged in lumber industry in various parts of Europe and in New Brunswick. In 1863 he took a cargo to Texas consigned to the Confederate government and during some months' residence near San Antonio was intimately associated in ornithological investigation with Dr. A. L. Heermann then residing there. From 1864 to 1871 he was engaged in the iron trade in London travelling extensively meanwhile in many parts of northern Europe, Turkey and the Balkan States. His wide experiences and his familiarity with a number of languages gave him a fund of knowledge which was always placed cheerfully at the service of his friends and correspondents and several of his translations have made available to English speaking ornithologists important papers in Russian, Swedish, etc.

Mr. Dresser was noted for his cheerfulness and sweetness of temper, qualities which even those who knew him as did the writer, only as a correspondent, can readily appreciate.— W. S.

¹ For most of the facts contained in this notice, acknowledgment is made to an obituary by Mr. J. E. Harting in 'The Field' for Dec. 11, 1915.

WILLIAM CHARLESWORTH LEVEY, son of William Marshall and Anne Maud Charlesworth Levey, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, November 13, 1887, and died July 5, 1914, at his summer home on the east shore of Alton Bay, Lake Winnepesaukee, New Hampshire. He was deeply interested in bird protection and conservation, and was a skilled photographer, some of his pictures appearing in Forbush's 'Game Birds, Wild Fowl and Shore Birds.' His annotated lists of the birds of South Carolina, and of Alton Bay, New Hampshire, were published in Maynard's 'Records of Walks and Talks with Nature.' — J. H. S.

LESLIE WALDO LAKE, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died February 7, 1916. He was born April 25, 1849, in Hamburg township, Erie Co., N. Y. He was principal of several schools, and from 1888 to 1891 was district School Commissioner. In the latter year he engaged in business in Hamburg, where he always took a prominent part in public affairs. Mr. Lake was one of the oldest and best known amateur ornithologists in this section and was also much interested in botany and archæology. — T. L. B.

SINCE systematic ornithology is not much over a century and a half old we have only recently begun to consider what was going on one hundred years ago. This sort of retrospect is well worth while as it brings more clearly to our attention the relative position of various important works which we are accustomed to quote independently, without much regard to their relationship to other publications. A series of notes gathered by Dr. Charles W. Richmond in his researches amongst the ornithological literature of the past, and kindly placed at the disposal of 'The Auk,' throw some interesting light on the progress of ornithology in 1816 — a really notable year in the history of our science.

The work which stands out as the great work of the year is of course Vieillot's 'Analyse,' an unpretentious brochure of 128 pages in which a classification of birds is set forth including some 138 new genera. It is announced as among the new books for the week of April 20, 1816 (Bibl. de la France of that date) though curiously enough Vieillot maintained that it was published in December (Ferussac's Bull. xv, Sept. 1828, p. 143).

Several authors tried to discredit Vieillot's important work by elaiming that he had had access to the Paris Museum's galleries and had adopted various manuscript names which Cuvier had placed on the specimens and which were about to be published in his 'Règne Animal,' which appeared in December, 1816. (cf. Mathews Nov. Zool. XVIII, p. 18). A 'critique' on the 'Analyse' was published by Temminck in Amsterdam in 1817. As a matter of fact Vieillot had the 'Analyse' in mind and at least partly prepared long before 1816 (cf. his Ois. Chant. p. 74). In 1813 he submitted the manuscript to the Turin Academy and in 1814 to the Linnean Society of London neither of which accepted it. (Analyse, p. 20,

note). In London Stephens had access to it and adopted several of Vieillot's names publishing them in his continuation of Shaw's 'General Zoology' (Vol. IX, pts. 1 & 2) which probably appeared in the first half of 1816, as it is noticed in the 'British Review' for August, 1816, as one of the new books from the period April 10 to July 10, of that year. This presents a nice question of priority but it would appear as if Vieillot deserved the benefit of the doubt!

Vieillot's ability as a systematic ornithologist seems not to have been appreciated by his contemporaries and he was apparently treated very unfairly. Correspondence between ornithologists of his time would no doubt reveal some very interesting side lights upon this matter!

Vieillot's Analyse was the expression of a more or less widespread desire for more generic groups than were provided in the systems of Linnæus and Brisson. Additional genera had of course been proposed since their time but they were scattered here and there and most of them were for new species rather than for segregates of the old genera.

Bonnaterre in his volume of the 'Encyclopedie Méthodique' (1790); Lacépède in his 'Tableau' (1799) and Daudin in his 'Traité Élémentaire' (1800) made attempts in this direction, but the first and last of these works were never completed while the second was never followed by a fuller treatment such as the author evidently intended; so that the field lay open for Vieillot and he took advantage of it, though the conservatives evidently did what they could to discourage him, and not until years after his death was his work appreciated at its full value. Curiously enough the eccentric Rafinesque came near depriving him of his glory as he likewise produced an 'Analyse' in 1815 in which a number of substitute names are suggested for existing genera and 138 new names are proposed! These latter however, are unaccompanied by diagnoses or specific examples so that they fall as *nomina nuda* and it is impossible to tell for what birds they were intended.

Another publication of 1816 is a curious 'Systematic Catalogue of Indigenous Mammals and Birds in the British Museum' by W. E. Leach printed on one side of the leaves in the form of labels. The several new names that occur here have been pretty generally rejected today as *nomina nuda* but the book is in any case an interesting curiosity and a great rarity. Both it and Vieillot's 'Analyse' were reprinted by the Willoughby Society. The introduction to the Leach reprint, by the way, fails to mention among the known copies of the original one in the library of the Philadelphia Academy.

On January 22, Mr. C. William Beebe of the New York Zoölogical Society sailed for Demarara to establish a tropical zoölogical station for the study of the evolution of birds and the life histories of important South American species. Incidentally large numbers of living vertebrates will be secured and shipped to New York for exhibition in the Zoölogical Park. Mr. Beebe is accompanied by Messrs. G. Inness Hartley, Paul G. Howes and Donald Carter.

At the Annual Meeting of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club held at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, January 6, 1916, Henry W. Fowler was elected president for the ensuing year; George H. Stuart 3rd, Vice President; J. Fletcher Street, Secretary and Dr. Samuel C. Palmer, Treasurer. Communications were made during the past year by Dr. Wm. E. Hughes, on 'Bird-life in Italy'; Samuel N. Rhoads, 'A Trip to Guatemala'; David E. Harrower, 'Birds Observed in Costa Rica'; Dr. Witmer Stone, 'Our Western Birds and their Haunts' and J. Fletcher Street, 'Rare Birds of the Pocono Mt.'

MR. W. LEON DAWSON of Santa Barbara, Cal., has made over his valuable collection of birds' eggs and nests to a board of trustees who are incorporating an institution to be known as the Museum of Comparative Oölogy, in which it is hoped to accumulate a representative collection of the nests and eggs of the birds of the world. Mr. Dawson is to have responsible control of the collection during his life in order to insure its proper care during the early years of the enterprise. At the expiration of three years during which he will be engaged in field work in connection with the forthcoming 'Birds of California,' a campaign will be inaugurated for an endowment and a group of buildings suitable for housing the collection. A number of prominent oölogists and ornithologists have been invited to form a Board of Visitors to coöperate with the museum management.

'BLUE-BIRD,' formerly edited by Dr. Eugene Swope, has now passed into the hands of Elizabeth C. T. Miller of Cleveland, Ohio, who as owner and editor is conducting it as a monthly. Volume VIII began with the December number and presents a very creditable appearance.

THE next stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held at the Academy of Natural Sciences, at Philadelphia, November 14-16, with a business session on the 13th. It has been the general consensus of opinion that a return to the former time of meeting, the second Tuesday of November is desirable as it is convenient to the largest number of members. In accordance with the recent amendments to the By-Laws, proposed for the purpose of broadening the organization of the Union, the class of Members will this year, for the first time, take part in the business sessions and participate in the election of Members, Associates and Officers. This innovation will doubtless bring together a much larger number of Members and Fellows than usual. Furthermore owing to the fact that last year's meeting was held in San Francisco, where most of the eastern members were unable to attend, there will be an unusually full attendance of all classes from the east at the Philadelphia meeting, while not a few from 'the coast' stimulated by last year's meeting have signified their intention of being present. All in all this meeting promises to be one of the largest that the Union has held and it is none too soon for members to

make their plans for attending. We earnestly urge those who have not before attended to do so this year as the social intercourse made possible by these gatherings is of inestimable benefit both to the individual and the society, in promoting ornithological interest.