

NOTES AND NEWS


WILLIAM DUTCHER, a Fellow and Councillor of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Chevy Chase, Maryland, on July 1, 1920, in the seventy-fifth year of his age. To him, more than to any one individual, is due the present interest in wild bird conservation; the organization and development of the National Association of Audubon Societies, of which he was president from the time of its conception until his death; and the manifold activities that have grown out of this organization. His life is an illustration of what can be accomplished by one who is willing to devote his entire energy to a cause and to persevere in spite of all obstacles. Mr. Dutcher had no backing, save such as he provided himself when, as chairman of the A. O. U. Committee on Bird Protection, he became seriously interested in what was to be his life work, but through his earnestness he interested one influential person after another in the cause until he had built up the organization which will be his monument for all time.

The last years of his life have been particularly sad, since on October 19, 1910, on the eve of a testimonial banquet intended to celebrate the achievement of his greatest ambition, the establishment of an endowed organization for wild bird conservation, he was stricken with paralysis which rendered him speechless and made further active work impossible. He recovered his physical health to some degree but was unable to move about freely, although he did attend the meeting of the Union in New York City in 1918 and some of the meetings of the National Association of Audubon Societies. His power of speech was never regained.

Beside the splendid work that he accomplished as Chairman of the A. O. U. Committee on Bird Protection, before this was taken over by the Audubon Societies, he rendered valuable service as Treasurer of the Union from 1887 to 1903, and as a member of the Council.

In his earlier years he was also an active field student, specializing on Long Island, and published many important papers of the birds of this region besides forming a valuable collection which is now in the American Museum of Natural History.

In those who, like the writer, were closely associated with him in the beginning of his life work, his kindness, generosity and earnestness of purpose inspired a love and admiration that grew stronger as the years passed by; while to the world at large so intimately has his name become associated with the cause of bird protection, that mention of the one at once recalls the other. This in itself is a monument of which one might well be proud.

The president of the A. O. U. has appointed Dr. T. S. Palmer, who was closely associated with Mr. Dutcher in his work, to prepare a memorial address to be read at the meeting of the Union in November and published in 'The Auk' for January, 1921.—W. S.


HERBERT HUNTINGTON SMITH, Curator of the Alabama Museum of Natural History, and one of the ablest and most experienced American field naturalists, met his death on March 22, 1919, by being run over by a freight train at Tuscaloosa, Ala. For some years he had been very deaf and while walking on the railroad track he failed to hear the approaching locomotive.

Mr. Smith was born at Manlius, N. Y., January 21, 1851. He graduated from Cornell University in the class of 1872, and on October 5, 1880, married Miss Amelia Woolworth Smith, of Brooklyn, N. Y. To his wife, who was his constant companion in all his field trips and who prepared many of his specimens, especially the birds, was due in large part his success as a collector. When only 19 years of age and still a student at Cornell, he accompanied his teacher, Prof. C. F. Hartt, to the Amazon on what proved to be the first of a series of trips to the tropics. In 1873 he returned to Brazil to collect along the Amazon, spending about two years in the vicinity of Santarem, a year on the northern branches of the river and on the Tapajos, and a few months in Rio de Janeiro. Upon his return home he was commissioned to write a series of articles on Brazil for 'Scribner's Magazine,' and in 1879 appeared his book on 'Brazil—the Amazons and the Coast.'

A few months after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Smith went to southwestern Brazil, where most of the time between 1881 and 1886 was spent in the vicinity of Chapada and Cuyabá in the Province of Matto Grosso. Of the large collections of birds secured in this region about 4000 specimens were acquired by the American Museum of Natural History and 538 by the British Museum. In 1889 the Smiths collected in southwestern Mexico, chiefly in Guerrero and Oaxaca, for F. D. Godman, who was then securing material for the 'Biologia Centrali-Americana.' The years from 1890 to 1895 were spent in the West Indies, in Trinidad and the Windward Islands, in the interests of the West Indian Commission of the Royal Society. From 1898 to 1902 Mr. Smith was connected with the Carnegie Museum and during this time he spent three years in Colombia in the Province of Santa Marta. Here he became so seriously ill that for a time it was feared he would not recover and this experience put an end to further work in the tropics. After a year in the Museum he determined to take up his residence in the South at Wetumpka, Ala., where he devoted himself largely to collecting and studying freshwater shells. In 1910 he became curator of the Alabama Museum of Natural History, a position which he held until his death.

He was an accomplished linguist and in addition to his book on Brazil he published, in 1886, in Portuguese, 'De Rio Janeiro a Cuyabá.' He was also the author of 'His Majesty's Sloop Diamond Rock' which appeared under the name of H. S. Huntington. He was a tireless collector, but in addition he was a true field naturalist, perhaps one of the best that America has produced. During his sojourn in Brazil his work at-

tracted the attention of the Emperor Dom Pedro II and some years ago Lord Walsingham pronounced him one of the two ablest entomological collectors. In a sketch of his life from which these facts are largely derived (Science, XLIX, pp. 481-483, May 23, 1919), Dr. W. J. Holland ranks H. H. Smith with Humboldt and Bonpland, Wallace, Bates, Natterer, Tschudi, J. B. Hatcher and J. D. Haseman, "who courageously faced dangers in the wilderness in order to secure information at first hand as to the fauna and flora of the great continent where they labored."

T. S. P.

NICHOLAS ALEXIEVICH SARUDNY (or following the Russian form of his name, Nikolai Alekseyevich Zarudnyi), an eminent Russian ornithologist, died in March, 1919, at Tashkent in Turkestan, where he was for some years curator of the museum. According to 'The Ibis' for July, 1920, Major F. M. Bailey, of the Indian Political Service, who has recently been in Turkestan, found Sarudny and his wife "living in one room of his house, all the others having been taken from him by the Bolsheviks. In this one room was his private collection of birds stored in cardboard boxes and filling nearly the whole space up to the ceiling. This valuable collection was 'naturalized' by the Bolsheviks at the time of his death, and is now in the museum at Tashkent."

Dr. Sarudny was an authority on the birds of certain parts of Russia and also on those of Turkestan, Baluchistan, and Persia. He was a careful field naturalist and collector and published a number of papers especially in the 'Messenger Ornithologique' on the birds of Central Asia. His most important works include 'An Excursion through Northeastern Persia' with an account of the birds of that region, 1900 (262 pages); 'Birds of Eastern Persia,' 1903 (467 pages); 'Verzeichnis der Vögel Persiens,' 1911; 'Birds of the Pskov Government,' 1910; and 'Birds of the Aral Sea,' 1916 (229 pages). Three of these were published in Russian and the 'Verzeichnis' in German in the 'Journal für Ornithologie,' 1911, pp. 185-241. Sarudny made four expeditions to Persia in 1896, 1898, 1900-01, and 1903-04, and published several papers on each trip. The second and third expeditions were mainly in eastern Persia and the last, in western Persia, formed the basis of 29 separate articles, most of which were devoted to birds.—T. S. P.

FREDERICK WEBB HEADLEY, of Hertford, England, a member of the British Ornithologists' Union and a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London, died November 25, 1919, after an operation. He was the second son of Rev. Henry Headley, of Brinsop Vicarage, Herefordshire, and was born April 10, 1856. His education was received at Harrow School and the University of Cambridge, from which he graduated in 1878. Two years later he became Assistant Master in Haileybury College, Herts, where he remained until a few months before his death.

According to a sketch of his life in 'The Ibis' for July, 1920, it was his ambition to take a trip around the world and if he had been able to secure passage he would have started in August, 1919. His last work was devoted to field observations during a month spent in making notes on migration at Bardsey Lighthouse, Wales, just before undergoing his operation.

To American readers he is known chiefly by his admirable books on 'The Structure and Life of Birds,' 1895, and 'The Flight of Birds,' 1912. He was also author of 'Fauna and Flora of Haileybury,' 'Life and Evolution,' 'Darwinism and Socialism,' and some short papers.—T. S. P.

DR. HENRY KEMBLE OLIVER, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1900, and a Life Associate since 1909, died at his apartment in Boston, on October 25, 1919. Dr. Oliver was the son of General Henry K. Oliver and was born in Salem, Mass., in 1829. He graduated from Harvard in the class of 1852 and from the Harvard Medical School in 1855. After two years in Paris and Vienna he entered upon the practice of medicine in Boston, where he later became one of the leading physicians. During the Civil War he was appointed medical inspector of camps in McClellan's army.

Dr. Oliver was a philanthropist and one of his principal gifts was a donation of several hundred dollars to Harvard University on condition that the name of the donor should be kept secret until his death. When his health began to fail some years ago, he made over practically his entire fortune to the University to found a department of hygiene, reserving just enough for his own living and personal needs. At the time of his death, which occurred just on the eve of his ninetieth birthday, he was not only the oldest member of the Union but the oldest American ever associated with the Union.—T. S. P.

JOHN HENRY FLANAGAN, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1898, died of cerebral haemorrhage at his home in Providence, R. I., February 23, 1920, after an illness of three months. At the time of his death he was in his 52nd year, having been born at Cranston, R. I., July 7, 1868. His early years were passed at Apponaug and his education was received at La Salle, Manhattan College and the Harvard Law School, from which he graduated in 1895. He studied law in the office of Edwin D. McGuinness, then Mayor of Providence, and his partner, John Doran. Upon the death of Mr. McGuinness in 1901 he became a member of the firm which was then changed to Doran and Flanagan. He was a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association and at one time was Solicitor of the town of Warwick.

Mr. Flanagan was deeply interested in birds and their eggs and had one of the best private collections of eggs in the state, but apparently published little on ornithology. He was a member of the Providence

Gun Club and the Providence Fish and Game Association and did good work in behalf of the protection of wild life. For several years he served as secretary of the Rhode Island Bird Commission and from 1905 to 1908 was Bird Commissioner for Providence County and Chairman of the Board.

He is survived by a sister, Josephine A., and three brothers, Edward J., Thomas L., and Dr. William F. Flanagan.¹—T. S. P.

ROBERT LENOX MAITLAND, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1889, died at his home in New Rochelle, N. Y., on March 11, 1920, in his 66th year. Mr. Maitland was born in New York City, December 16, 1854, and was the son of Robert Lenox Maitland, a New York merchant, and a nephew of James Lenox, founder of the Lenox Library. He entered his father's office on Broad Street, and later became a partner in the commission firm of Robert Maitland & Co. He afterwards retired and devoted his entire time to charitable and other interests, serving on various boards and committees. Mr. Maitland was unusually modest and never sought prominence, but devoted himself earnestly to whatever he was engaged in. Although he does not appear to have published on birds his interest in the subject is attested by the fact that he maintained his membership in the Union for 30 years.—T. S. P.

A biography of Thure Ludwig Theodor Kumlien of Wisconsin, who died in 1888, is in course of preparation by Mr. Publius V. Lawson of Menasha, Wis. The paper will be illustrated and will probably be published by the Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts and Letters.

The Government publications on birds now in press, which will probably be issued at an early date, include the second part of Bent's 'Life Histories' on Gulls and Terns, and a report by H. S. Swarth on the 'Birds of the Papago Saguaro National Monument, Arizona.' The former is a bulletin of the U. S. National Museum and the latter a publication of the National Park Service in the Department of the Interior.

The close of the twentieth year of the new century recalls the fact that the 20th Century has already witnessed great progress in ornithology, as well as in other branches of science, but it is difficult to determine the accomplishments of any particular year. It has been the custom for some time for the president of the British Ornithologists' Club to review the events of the preceding year at the annual meeting of the Club

¹ A sketch of Mr. Flanagan's life from which these facts were mainly derived appeared in the 'Providence Evening Bulletin' of February 24, 1920, and was republished with his portrait in 'The Oologist,' XXXVII, p. 42, April 1, 1920.

but these reviews are all too brief. In this country 'Bird Lore' has published brief summaries for 1901, 1902, and 1910,¹ and 'The Auk' one for 1917², but summaries for the other years are lacking. At recent meetings of the A. O. U. some time has been devoted to a discussion of ornithological progress during the year and it is hoped that members will bear this feature in mind and contribute notes on any work which has come under their observation in 1920.

The excursion of the Swiss Society for Bird Study and Bird Protection to the Swiss National Park occupied 9 days from July 20 to 28 inclusive. The time was spent in tramps through the region from Scans to Zernez in the upper Engadine. Scans is situated at an elevation of 1670 meters, Zernez at 1497, and the highest point reached on the trip was about 3000 meters. The 57 species of birds observed were all land birds and included several of the larger species characteristic of the Alps.

The annual meeting of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union will be held in October, 1920, in Perth, Western Australia. Reports recently received indicate that a good attendance is expected. When it is recalled that the journey from Sydney to Perth is comparable to that from New York to Denver, the enthusiasm of members of the R. A. O. U. in attending distant meetings is worthy of the highest commendation.

The year 1920 marks the bicentenary of Gilbert White, who was born at Selborne, England, July 18, 1720, O. S. According to the London Field of June 26, 1920, p. 945, a memorial window of three lights has been placed in the parish church at Selborne to commemorate his service to ornithology. The subject of the design is "St. Francis preaching to the Birds."

Mr. Rollo H. Beck sailed from San Francisco on Sept. 4 for Tahiti, where he will begin systematic collecting in the South Pacific in the interests of the American Museum of Natural History.

Members intending to present papers at the next annual meeting to be held in Washington, D. C., November 9-11, are requested to notify the Secretary, 1939 Biltmore St., N. W., before November as to the titles of their communications and the length of time required for their presentation. In order to allow time for discussion, which is one of the principal objects of the meeting, papers which are not illustrated should be limited to 30 minutes or less. As previous experience has shown many papers require much more time than has been estimated and authors are therefore requested to make actual tests of the time required for the pre-

¹ Bird Lore, III, pp. 215-216, 1901; IV, pp. 204-205, 1902; XIII, pp. 8-11, 1911.

² Auk, XXXV, pp. 107-110, 1918.

sentation of their communications so as to avoid taking up the time of others. A special invitation is extended to Associates to present papers and take part in the discussions. While all who are associated with the Union are earnestly urged to attend the meeting, this request is emphasized in the case of Members and Fellows upon whom rest the responsibilities of the organization. It is their duty to be present if possible as their council is required in conducting the business of the Society. The business meeting and elections will, as usual, be held on the evening of November 8 preceding the scientific sessions and a full attendance is particularly desired.