

New York: Original (founders)	1883	
	1913	
Washington:	1895	
	1898	
	1910	
	1920	
Philadelphia:	1899	
	1916	
San Francisco:	1915.	
Biological Survey,		A. K. FISHER.
Washington, D. C.		
August 7, 1922.		

### Life Histories of North American Birds

Editor of 'THE AUK':

Realizing that no one man can know all there is to know about all the birds and that the completeness of the 'Life Histories of North American Birds' depends upon the coöperation which the author receives from others, I wish to make this report of progress and appeal to your readers for contributions.

Two volumes have been published and the third, containing the Petrels and Pelicans and their Allies, is printed and should soon be out. The manuscript for the fourth volume, containing the Ducks, up to and including the Ring-necked Duck, is now in Washington in finished form and ready for publication. It is not too late to add to this, when I correct the galley proof, any notes of importance on habits or distribution, nor is it too late to substitute any particularly fine photographs for those that I have already selected.

I am now at work on the fifth volume, which will contain the remainder of the Ducks and the Geese and Swans. I expect to finish this during the winter and send it to the publishers in the spring. The life histories are practically all written, subject to revision, but the photographs have not been selected.

I have no notes on the courtship of the American and White-winged Scoters or of any of the Geese, except the Canada, or on any of the Swans or Tree Ducks. I have no nesting photographs of the Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Golden-eye, any Geese except the White-fronted and Canada, any Swans or any Tree Ducks. I should be glad to receive contributions of notes or photographs to fill in any of the gaps referred to above. Or I should be glad to correspond with anyone who has anything else to offer. I am, of course, well supplied with photographs illustrating nests, eggs and young of all the common species, but there are many gaps still to be filled. I am trying to read everything that is published on American birds, but I have no access to private notes, that have not been published, unless they are sent in as contributions. I shall soon begin work on the

sixth volume, which will contain the Herons and Rails and their allies. Contributions for this would be welcome at any time. Contributors will receive full credit for whatever material they send in and, if it is material that I can use, their names will be placed on the mailing list to receive the volumes when published.

Those who have seen the earlier volumes can understand what is wanted. Hoping for some generous cooperation I am

Very truly yours,

A. C. BENT,

Taunton, Mass.

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#### NOTES AND NEWS

DR. MAXIMILIAN FÜRBRINGER, Professor of Anatomy at the University of Heidelberg, died at Heidelberg, Germany, March 6, 1920. He was born at Wittenberg, Germany, Jan. 30, 1846 and received his early education at the gymnasium at Gera. From 1865 to 1869 he studied natural history and from 1870 to 1873 pursued a course in medicine at Jena and Berlin. At an early age he devoted his attention to the subject of the anatomy of vertebrates and in 1879 was appointed Professor of Anatomy and Director of the Anatomical Institute at Amsterdam. In 1888 he became Professor of Anatomy at Jena and in 1901 succeeded to the same chair at Heidelberg, a position previously held by his former master Carl Gegenbaur. Here he remained until his death.

As an avian morphologist and student of the evolution of birds, Fürbringer had few peers and possibly no superior. His great work 'Untersuchungen zur Morphologie und Systematik der Vögel,' in two volumes, which appeared at Amsterdam in 1888 contains an outline classification of birds that was characterized by Prof. Alfred Newton as "unquestionably the most remarkable recent contribution to systematic ornithology." In recognition of this work he was elected a Corresponding Member of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1891 and in 1916 was made an Honorary Fellow. Among his other works may be mentioned a summary of existing knowledge of the anatomy of birds contributed to the Reports of the Second International Ornithological Congress in 1891 and a paper of some 150 pages to the 'Jenaische Zeitschrift für Naturwissenschaft' in 1902. These were followed in 1903 by a Biography of Carl Gegenbaur and in 1909 by a new edition of Gegenbaur's 'Anatomy of Man.' Unfortunately these great works in German are not accessible to most English and American ornithologists although brief notices of the 'Untersuchungen' appeared in the 'The Ibis' and in 'Nature' in 1888 and a review of his report to the International Ornithological Congress on avian anatomy was published in 'The Ibis' for 1903, p. 614.

—T. S. P.