

NOTES AND NEWS

LANGDON GIBSON, an associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1887, died on September 4, 1923.

He was born in Boston, Mass., January 5, 1866, his parents being Charles DeWolf and Josephine Elizabeth Gibson. He attended a private school in Boston and at the age of ten moved with his family to Flushing, N. Y., where he continued his education at the local high school and institute. He went directly from school to a business position in Wall Street without going to college and held several positions in banking houses.

Gibson was always devoted to outdoor sports and activities and was skillful at all games in which he took an interest, excelling in skating and tennis, while he became a noted oarsman on the crew of the New York Rowing Club.

Being temporarily out of business at the time that the Stanton Expedition to explore the Grand Canyon of the Colorado was planned, he joined the party, and the trip, hazardous as it was, exactly suited his hardy constitution and love of adventure and the experiences which he went through enriched his life in no small degree. Soon after returning he heard of Peary's proposed expedition to the north coast of Greenland under the auspices of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and succeeded in joining it as ornithologist, spending the winter of 1891-2 in the arctic, and making a valuable collection of birds and eggs which is preserved in the Academy's museum. He obtained the only breeding specimen and downy young of the Greater Snow Goose that have ever been taken and also downy young of the Knot. The technical report upon this collection was prepared by the writer of this sketch and Mr. Gibson was to have added his field notes but complete absorption in business after his return delayed this part of the work which was not published until long after (see 'Auk,' 1922, pp. 350-363).

In 1892 Gibson entered the treasurer's office of the General Electric Co. and was later transferred to the shipping department at Schenectady, N. Y., finally becoming production manager, which post he held until his retirement on account of failing health in 1921. The last years of his life he spent in Florida in the winter and on the New England coast in the summer, devoting himself to fishing and the study of wild life and to writing up his Greenland notes. He also wrote several short notes for 'The Auk.'

Mr. Gibson is survived by his widow Katherine B. Gibson and two sons as well as by his brother Charles Dana Gibson, the well known artist. One of his intimate friends has said in a published appreciation "Langdon Gibson was a man of very unusual and interesting personality. The influence of such men cannot be judged by their direct accomplishments alone, because by example and suggestion they make others better, more

manly and generous." As a business man he was a model of industry, zeal and dependability and had a peculiar faculty for making friendship. He had a great love for science and as his limited experience shows had great ability as an explorer and a thorough knowledge of American bird life. Like many others who have had of necessity to follow a business career he missed what, we have no doubt, would have been an equally brilliant career in science.—W. S.

DR. E. W. NELSON, chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture retires from that post on May 9, 1927, having completed ten years of executive service. His connection with the Bureau however dates back to 1890 and his long scientific career, especially as a field naturalist, is well known to our readers.

Dr. Nelson desires relief from the engrossing executive duties which have fallen on his shoulders, in order to resume his research work on birds and mammals.

He will be succeeded by Paul G. Redington now Assistant Chief of the Forest Service, in charge of the branch of public relations.

The former Chiefs of the Biological Survey were, like Dr. Nelson, ornithologists and mammalogists of note—Dr. C. Hart Merriam and Mr. H. W. Henshaw, and the present change transfers the work of the bureau to the direction of a man of rather different interests.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL of Canada has, on the recommendation of the Minister of Mines, designated the museum in Ottawa, formerly best known as the Victoria Memorial Museum, as the National Museum of Canada.

'CARAS Y CARETAS' the popular illustrated magazine of Buenos Ayres has begun the publication of a series of colored plates of the birds of Argentina with explanatory notes. The plates are from paintings by M. Paul Matzel, made under the direction of Dr. R. Dabbene and presented by M. Doello Jurado director of the Museum Natural History. The first plate presents the four species of Toucans.

THE ANNUAL meeting of the New England Bird Banding Association was held February 2, 1927, in Boston followed by a buffet supper. Addresses were made by E. H. Forbush, Prof. Dallas Lore Sharp, Thorton W. Burgess, Charles B. Floyd and others.

AT A meeting of the Nuttall Ornithological Club held on March 7, the fiftieth anniversary of Mr. Charles F. Batchelder's connection with the Club was duly celebrated and an engrossed message signed by some forty members was presented to him.

THE WESTERN Bird Banding Association has published a mimeographed bulletin containing much local bird banding news and several book reviews.

THE Delaware Valley Ornithological Club held its thirty-seventh annual meeting on the evening of January 6, 1927. The officers elected for the ensuing year were President, George H. Stuart, 3d.; Vice-President, John D. Carter; Secretary, Julian K. Potter and Treasurer, Henry T. Underdown.

IN A publicity article explaining the bird banding work of 'British Birds' under the direction of H. F. Witherby, High Holborn, London, England, it is stated that 170,000 birds have now been banded and special attention is called to the Kittiwake Gull which was banded in the nest on the Farne Islands on the east coast of England, June 30, 1924, and was shot in Labrador October 28, 1925, having crossed the Atlantic.

MR. JOSEPH MAILLIARD has resigned his position as curator, department of ornithology and mammalogy, California Academy of Sciences, to take effect February 28, 1927. On account of advancing years Mr. Mailliard felt that the active administrative duties of the department should be placed in younger hands and that he would like to be able to devote more of his time to investigation and study of the birds and mammals of western America. As a graceful recognition of his long and valuable services to the Academy the Council elected Mr. Mailliard curator emeritus of the department.

Mr. Harry S. Swarth, curator of ornithology in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California has been appointed as Mr. Mailliard's successor and will assume his new post March 1, 1927.

WITH THE formation of the Associated Committees for Wild Life Conservation, representing the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the Massachusetts Fish and Game Protective Association, and the Federation of the Bird Clubs of New England Inc., a real step has been taken in the direction of combining the efforts of these important organizations in conservation matters of common interest to all three. It has been felt for some time by those who have urged this step that much duplication of effort could be avoided and greater results could be obtained by such joint action. Those who hunt birds with guns and those who hunt with glasses are alike keen to uphold and enforce the laws protecting our birds. All realize that it is essential to provide reservations and sanctuaries to protect wild life at all times if it is to escape serious decimation and in some cases complete extinction.

This joint Committee will undertake such conservation work as can better be done by their combined efforts, while each constituent organization will continue to work on the special matters which interest it alone. The Associated Committees do not ask for funds as a new organization, but by a joint appeal, make it possible for all patrons of the parent organizations intelligently to support their activities. All funds raised, with the exception of those devoted to the actual expense of carrying on

the work, are employed as stated in the appeals. No compensation whatever is paid to any member of the Associated Committees.

The Associated Committees urge, 1: That the laws protecting song, insectivorous and game-birds must be kept impartially enforced.

2: That reservations and sanctuaries are needed in which all wild life may live undisturbed.

3: That all enemies of our wild life (natural and human) must be kept under control and that the game-birds so far as possible should be propagated to increase the number, or at least to fill the places of those taken.

4: That the Commonwealth should provide funds from the general tax levy to purchase, maintain, and administer throughout the State suitable breeding, nesting and feeding areas for birds and animals.

5: That if future generations are to enjoy those things which delight the lover of the out-of-doors, be he sportsman or bird-lover, the work of conservation must be carried on actively to insure this heritage.

THE MUSEUM of Comparative Zoology has recently acquired the complete Gault collection of Irish birds and the first shipment (some 4000 skins) from the great LaTouche collection of Chinese birds. This collection is rich in rare and disappearing forms and contains many types. Dr. G. M. Allen has returned from some months in Liberia and secured many birds new to the collection as also did Mr. George Schwab during his last two years stay at Sakbayeme, southern Cameroons. The birds from Dr. Eric Mjoberg's recent journey to Mt. Tibang in North central Dutch Borneo have been received and the first examination shows that the so-called "Kina Balu fauna" has a considerable extension along the high ranges far to the south of that peak. Mt. Tibang had not been previously ascended by a naturalist.

Mr. Arthur Loveridge will return in March after a long sojourn in Tanganyika Territory, first in coöperation with the Smithsonian-Chrysler Expedition and later independently in the Uluguru and Usambara Mountains. Here in these outlying rain forest areas, the former somewhat neglected by the Germans during their occupation of the Territory, he has been most successful in getting fine series of the rarer birds among many other special objects in which he is interested.

The installation of the Arthur C. Bent collection and the receipt of a complete collection from Crete, Cyprus and Sardinia, and much additional material from Siberia, Russia, New Zealand, Mexico, Guatemala, western Panama and several other regions has made this year noteworthy as few years have been for the Museum at Cambridge.

As we go to press there comes a note from James P. Chapin encamped at 15,000 feet on Mt. Ruenzori, central Africa, where he is facing the great glaciers of Mt. Stanley. He describes the interesting problems upon which he is engaged relating to the zonal distribution of life on the mountain, and reports a most interesting collection of bird skins.