

NOTES AND NEWS

ALLAN OCTAVIAN HUME, an Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union elected at the first meeting in 1883, died at his home, The Chalet, Upper Norwood, England, July 31, 1912, at the age of 83. No notice of his work having been published in 'The Auk' at the time of his death, it is desirable that some record of it should appear in this journal. Mr. Hume was born in England June 6, 1829, and was the youngest son of Joseph Hume, a former well-known Member of Parliament. At the age of 20 he graduated from the East India College at Haileybury and entering the Indian Civil Service was detailed to the Northwest Provinces. When the Indian Mutiny broke out he was acting as Collector at Etawah between Agra and Cawnpore, and on account of meritorious service on this occasion received the award of C. B. in 1862. In following years he filled various high positions in the Home, Revenue and Agricultural Departments of the Indian Service at Simla and as Secretary to the Government of India. In 1870 he returned to the Northwest Provinces as a member of the Board of Revenue and in 1882 retired from the Indian Service but did not return to England until some years later.

During his years of residence in India, but chiefly between 1862 and 1885, Hume devoted his spare time assiduously to ornithology and with the aid of various collectors, especially William Ruxton Davison, brought together one of the largest collections of birds ever amassed by any private individual. These he preserved at his home in Simla in a room specially designed for the purpose. He had outlined a complete work on the birds of India, but by accident his nearly completed manuscript was destroyed in 1885. He thereupon abandoned his work on Indian birds which would necessarily have to be largely rewritten and offered his entire collection to the British Museum of Natural History. After two years of negotiation Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, then at the head of the bird department, went to India to pack and ship the specimens, and in 'The Ibis' for 1885 (p. 456) gave an interesting account of his trip to Simla and his return with the Hume collection. This collection contained 62,000 bird skins, including 258 types, and about 19,000 eggs. In the words of Dr. Sharpe it was "one of the most splendid donations ever made to the Nation, and added to the Museum the most complete collection of birds and eggs from the British Indian Empire the world has ever seen."

Hume's contributions to Indian ornithology were numerous and important. In addition to short notes and brief articles he published a number of separate works, among which may be mentioned the following: 'My Scrap Book, or Rough Notes on Indian Oölogy and Ornithology' (1869-70); 'Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds' (1873-75); 'The Indian Ornithological Collector's Vade Mecum' (1874); 'List of the Birds of India' (1879); with William Davison, 'List of the Birds of Tenasserim'

(1878); and with C. H. T. Marshall 'The Game Birds of India, Burmah, and Ceylon' (1879-80).

He was also editor and publisher of an ornithological journal known as 'Stray Feathers,' of which 11 volumes appeared at Calcutta between 1873 and 1888. A 12th volume containing a general index of the whole series was published by Charles Chubb in 1899.—T. S. P.

It may interest readers of 'The Auk' that the great collection of birds made by Rock in western Kansy, China, is probably all safe and sound. Thirteen large boxes have already been received at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, containing several thousand skins from the Nanchan and Richthofen ranges and from various localities in Choni, Labrang and Tebby country. Much of this region was entirely unknown ornithologically. The balance of the collection is reported to have reached Shanghai safely and to have been shipped to Boston.

The Museum of Comparative Zoology has also acquired Mr. Arthur Loveridge's collection of African birds. This series contains several genera and many species new to the collection and, although the series of individuals of any one species is small, the number of forms represented is about 760. Since this collection is very largely from Tanganyika Territory and especially from the higher mountain ranges it will fill many gaps in the Museum collection. Mr. Loveridge has also just returned from the Uluguru and Usambara ranges where he has been collecting for some months and this collection has also been safely received in Cambridge.

The second shipment of the La Touche collection has also come safely to hand. His birds were largely from eastern China and supplement the Rock material in a most useful way.

THE Baird Ornithological Club of Washington, D. C., held its Fifth Annual Meeting on March 23, 1927, when officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Bradshaw H. Swales; Vice President, Alexander Wetmore; Secretary, Frederick C. Lincoln; Members of the Council, Charles W. Richmond and Theodore S. Palmer. Paul Bartsch was elected to Active Membership.

During the year papers were presented by Doctors Fisher, Bell, and Palmer and Messrs. Goldman, Howell and Lincoln. Guests entertained by the Club during this period, include, Dr. B. W. Evermann, of San Francisco, Calif., Dr. John C. Phillips of Wenham, Mass., Dr. Charles W. Townsend of Ipswich, Mass., R. Bruce Horsfall, of Washington, D. C., Donald R. Dickey, of Pasadena, Calif., and Ernest P. Walker of Juneau, Alaska.

The 75th birthday of Dr. Leonhard Stejneger was celebrated on October 27, 1926 with appropriate ceremonies.—F. C. LINCOLN, *Secretary*.

THE New England Sportsmen's Show held in Boston January 28-February 5, was an unqualified success. Made possible by a guarantee fund raised by the Massachusetts Fish and Game Protective Association

and sponsored and put through by that Association, it differed markedly from any previous shows of that nature.

As we look back thirty odd years to the first of the Boston Sportsmen's Shows, and they were creditable Expositions too, we realize what great advances have taken place in the public's interest in all sorts of outdoor activities. But perhaps even more remarkable is the changing attitude of the shooter and fisherman towards the wild life which he is dependent on for his recreation. I am sure that had they tried in the older Shows to stress the importance of conservation, fire protection, sanctuaries, and even wildflower preservation, they would have been laughed out of court. But all these things are now taken as a matter of course, be they purely sentimental or not.

The popularity of this Show was evidenced by the enormous attendance, (over forty-five thousand in the last two days alone). Eastern Canada was well represented, so were the Canadian National Parks and larger Railroads and all of them sent competent men who were supplied with attractive and instructive leaflets and booklets. Our own American National Parks, our Biological Survey, our Forest Service and Bureau of Fisheries set up splendid exhibits and these educational features were given the most prominent sites.

The Fish and Game Commissions of all the New England States were well represented;—in one case even the State Forestry Department, so that visitors from out of the way parts of New England could find a State booth where they could meet friends and talk over local affairs.

In conservation, travel, or natural history, the following Societies fitted out more or less elaborate display booths: Federation of the Bird Clubs of New England, Massachusetts Audubon Society, National Association of Audubon Societies Harvard Travellers Club, Boston Society of Natural History, Massachusetts Forestry Association, Izaak Walton League of America, New England Wild Flower Preservation Society and our own Massachusetts Fish and Game Protective Association.

So encouraging was the response to our efforts that we hope to stage another Sportsman's Show in two or three years time.—JOHN C. PHILLIPS, *Massachusetts Fish and Game Protective Association 3 Joy St., Boston.*

Mrs. Grace Rainey Rogers has given \$156,000 to the National Association of Audubon Societies. The sum is to be held as an Endowment Fund for the maintenance of the Paul J. Rainey Wild Life Sanctuary in Louisiana. This territory, owned by the late Mr. Rainey and used by him and his friends as a shooting preserve, was presented to the Audubon Association by his sister, Mrs. Rogers in 1924. The endowment is given in lieu of the annual contributions which she has hitherto provided for its upkeep.

"This Louisiana Sanctuary is the largest of our bird reservations. For three years," said Dr. Pearson, "we have been guarding these 42 square miles of marsh. We do a good deal in the way of planting of duck foods and by other means seek to render the Sanctuary attractive to the vast

swarms of Wild Fowl that resort to the region in Winter. More than 50,000 Wild Geese were on the Sanctuary at one time the past season. One of the great needs today is for more wild life sanctuaries," he added. "Large areas where no shooting can ever be permitted are needed in order to secure the future supply of Wild Fowl. There should be a series of these along the lines of migratory flight down the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard, as well as throughout the length of the Mississippi Valley."

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE, by a recent Executive Order, has set aside a tract of about 2,350 acres in Jasper County, S. C., as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds. The area embraces certain abandoned rice lands belonging to the United States abutting on the Savannah River, near Savannah, Ga., and is to be known as the Savannah River Bird Refuge.

The new reservation has been placed under the administration of the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. It will be unlawful for any person to hunt, trap, capture, disturb, or kill any bird or wild animal of any kind whatever, or take or destroy the eggs of any such bird, or to injure, molest, or destroy any property of the United States within the limits of the reserve, except under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

THE Legislature of Indiana has just passed and the Governor has signed a law giving protection throughout the year to the American or Bald Eagle.

It is a fineable offense to kill or shoot the bird and to molest its nest or eggs. This law will become effective during April, 1927. It was largely through the efforts of the Indiana Audubon Society and the Isaac Walton League that this measure was passed. Numerous articles were written and printed in the daily papers at intervals during the legislative session.—S. E. PERKINS III.

MUCH interest was shown on May 27 by lovers of birds and friends of the late Theodore Roosevelt in the unveiling of a memorial bronze group of unusual attractiveness. The ceremony took place at Oyster Bay on the grounds of the Bird Sanctuary owned and maintained by the National Association of Audubon Societies. Adjoining it is the little cemetery where President Roosevelt lies buried.

Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, President of the Audubon Association said, "We are here today for the unique purpose of unveiling a memorial to a former President of the United States because he was a lover of wild birds. While occupying the position of President, at the suggestion by the Audubon Society, he created by executive order various Federal bird reservations where the wild denizens of sea or land might for all time find sanctuary.

"The gifts of more than two thousand of our members and friends made possible the erection of this fountain, the conception of the form and the execution of which, was wrought by the mind and the hands of one of America's most beloved sculptors, Bessie Potter Vonnoh.

In its composition the fountain is designed to represent the relation of children to the living birds in both of which Theodore Roosevelt ever held such a deep and abiding interest. In the figure the girl is seen providing water for the birds in summer while the little boy at her feet holds a tray with which to furnish birds with food in winter."

Dr. Frank M. Chapman, said "Theodore Roosevelt was born with a bird in his heart and it sang to him throughout his life. As a boy its voice appealed to him so strongly that at one time he determined to become an ornithologist. At the age of fourteen a 'Roosevelt Museum of Natural History' was established. Numerous specimens were collected, some of which, now in the American Museum, bear witness to the care with which they were prepared. Observations on the relation between color, habit and environment in certain Egyptian birds made at this time show that the young naturalist was not merely a collector, but also a student of bird-life.

Dr. Eugene Swope and Mr. George K. Cherrie also spoke.

THE Ceylon Government proposes to publish 48 finely executed coloured plates of Ceylon Birds.

The plates are the work of Mr. G. M. Henry and a short description of each bird has been prepared by Mr. W. E. Wait, M. B. O. U., C. F. A. O. U.

PART I. (Sixteen plates) will be ready on July 1, 1927, and the remaining parts will be issued at yearly intervals.

Price for each part of 16 plates—£. 1. 10s. from Dulau & Co., 32 Old Bond St., London, W. 1 or The Colombo Museum Colombo, Ceylon.

THE Secretary of Agriculture, with the approval of the President of the United States, has reduced the bag-limit on Woodcock to four instead of six. Yellow-legs, which were found to be not increasing, have been given a closed season for two years, so that during 1927 and 1928 the only "shore-birds" that may be shot are Wilson's Snipe and Woodcock. Attention has been especially called to the illegal killing of Upland Plover in Texas, owing to an impression that the shooting of this bird was permissible. The Reedbird or Bobolink is now protected at all times throughout the United States except that persons owning or leasing lands in the Carolinas, Georgia or Florida, may shoot them from August 16 to November 15 when seriously injuring their rice fields, under special permit from the Secretary of Agriculture.

THE Heath Hen situation on Marthas Vineyard does not seem to improve, as only thirteen birds could be found at the annual census for 1927. Previous estimates however may have been a little too large although it seems certain that the total number now living is under twenty.

The possibility of the young having died from 'blackhead' disease introduced by poultry, which have been permitted to roam on part of the reservation used by the Heath Hens, has caused the banishment of the poultry; while shooting rabbits in the adjoining woodland has been pro-

hibited and planting of garden patches of vegetables relished by the birds has been continued. An additional warden has been supplied and everything possible is being done in a last effort to save the species.

THE report of Dr. Thomas Barbour, President of the executive committee of the Institute for Tropical Research in America, on the Barro Colorado Island Biological Station, is most interesting, presenting the possibilities offered to students, details of transportation and expense etc.

Dr. Frank M. Chapman spent part of the winter and spring (December 22 to April 1) at the laboratory studying the habits of *Zarhynchus* one of the Hang-nests and photographing wild life. He also presented the station with the cottage which he had erected for his use and which is now available for others.

An endowment of \$250,000 is needed to place this unique and invaluable station on a permanent basis and it is earnestly hoped that this may, in some way, be realized. Dr. Barbour's interest and generosity in planning and helping to maintain Barro Colorado is worthy of all the support that can be given.

WHARTON HUBER of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia is at Bear River Marshes, Utah, obtaining additional material for the study series of Ducks being assembled at the Museum. The expedition is made possible through the support of Philadelphia sportsmen.

WE learn of the return of the Abyssinian expedition of the Field Museum of Natural History with a valuable collection of birds and mammals.

MR. WALLACE HAVELOCK ROBB has given to the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology his collection of paintings of Canadian Birds by Major Allan Brooks, the formal presentation to take place in October. Meanwhile a plan is under way to publish reproductions of these paintings in colors, the first of which by Brigdens Ltd. of Toronto represents the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and is an exceptionally fine piece of color work.

THE Audubon Society of the District of Columbia has cooperated with the Public Library in compiling and publishing a small pamphlet of 'Bird Books' recommended by the Society. The titles are arranged under several headings: Books for Identification and Reference; Books for Popular Use; Books for Young People and Periodicals. The shelf or catalogue number of each book is given.

DR. ALEXANDER WETMORE has just returned from an expedition to San Domingo and has brought back a valuable collection of birds including one species new to science.