

NOTES AND NEWS.

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In the ordinary routine of life tragedy seems far removed and when it does come into our experience it is overwhelming. So the instant death of LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES in an automobile grade crossing accident, on August 22, 1927, leaves us stunned with the suddenness and the enormity of our loss. To be thus cut off at the very peak of his notable career is an irreparable calamity to the fields of both science and art.

From the day when the late Dr. Elliott Coues introduced him at a meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union and exhibited some of his earliest bird paintings, we have seen Fuertes steadily advance in this line of effort until he had become one of the most notable bird artists that the world has known, with probably no superiors and but one or two who could be counted his peers. At the same time he acquired a knowledge of bird life that placed him in the front rank of ornithologists entirely independent of his remarkable ability as an artist.

Hundreds of thousands of bird lovers and lovers of art who have known and benefitted by the work of Fuertes the artist, will mourn his loss, but it is upon the far smaller number who were privileged to know Fuertes the man, that the blow of his death will fall most heavily. Kind and generous; cheerful and unassuming; with an enthusiasm that was contagious; a personality that brightened every assemblage of which he was a part, and remarkably free from the eccentricities which so often accompany genius; we cannot think of his life as passed; we cannot picture an A. O. U. meeting without his genial presence; we cannot realize that the hand that wrought such masterpieces of bird portraiture is forever stilled.

Dr. Frank M. Chapman has been requested by the President of the Union to prepare a memorial which will be presented at the stated meeting in November, and later published in 'The Auk.'—W. S.

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THE New England Ruffed Grouse Investigation has continued and a circular letter to the contributors to the fund, issued September 1, 1927, gives a summary of the work that has been carried on. Dr. E. E. Tyzzer of the Harvard Medical school, has investigated the specimens sent in with regard to disease. He has found no one disease or parasite which is responsible for the periodic fluctuations in the number of birds, although many different Grouse diseases and parasites have been found, any of which may become a serious menace if the normal vitality of the birds is lessened by unfavorable conditions. Specimens sent in have been utilized in every way possible and valuable data has been secured on molt, weight, measurements, food, etc.

While no general appeal is made this fall for specimens, any sick, injured,

or dead birds that are picked up should be sent to Dr. A. O. Gross, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me., as it is from such specimens that much important information may be secured.

HON. GEORGE SHIRAS, Esq. has issued a little pamphlet on the 'History of the First Migratory Bird Bill and its subsequent Enactment' which will be of great interest to those interested in game protective legislation and in the passage of this most important piece of legislation.

THE Illinois Audubon Society has published another of its attractive bulletins for spring and summer, 1927. This is the most pretentious publication put out by any of the Audubon Societies and contains much of importance and interest to those outside the ranks of the society. Among other articles may be mentioned an account of a visit to Bird Haven, an account of the Robert Ridgway Wild Life Sanctuary, and a paper by Mr. Ridgway himself, on the relation of birds to the farmer and fruit grower. There are many records of importance which must be quoted in future works on the birds of the State, and many beautiful half-tone illustrations. The Society deserves great credit for maintaining this excellent publication.

MR. FRANCIS A. FOSTER, County Commissioner of Marthas Vineyard, has given to the Federation of Bird Clubs of New England, a tract of 600 acres of forested land on the island to be maintained as a bird reservation and will provide an endowment for its maintenance.

DR. THEODORE SHERMAN PALMER, Secretary of the American Ornithologists' Union, gave an address before the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club, at the University of California, on July 28, 1927. His subject was "Early Western Ornithologists." His scholarly and informative paper was listened to attentively by a large audience.

PRESIDENT WETMORE has appointed the following committee to consider the matter of the award of the Brewster Memorial Medal which will be awarded this year: James H. Fleming, chairman, Charles W. Richmond and Outram Bangs.

ARRANGEMENTS for the annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union to be held in Washington are well in hand and the usual announcement regarding hotel headquarters and the conduct of meetings will be mailed to all members. The meeting of the Fellows and the annual business meeting for Fellows and Members will be held on Monday, November 14.

Public meetings for the presentation of papers will open Tuesday morning, November 15, in the Natural History Building of the U. S. National Museum, and will continue until the afternoon of November 17. There will be an excursion on November 18 in which all may participate.

Papers now scheduled for the program will be of general interest and a large attendance is anticipated. Titles of all papers must be in the hands of the Secretary by November 5, or it will be impossible to place them on the program.

'THE AUK' is once more indebted to Mr. H. Prentiss Baldwin, who has contributed the entire cost of publishing the papers on Ptilosis and the Nesting Behaviour of the House Wren, while Mr. A. W. Schorger has kindly contributed Plate XIV. It is through the generosity of such members that the journal is maintained at its present size and quality.