

NOTES AND NEWS.

LEVERETT MILLS LOOMIS, a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at the Stanford University Hospital, in San Francisco, Calif., Jan. 12, 1928. He was the son of Rev. Samuel and Maria Rebecca (Hamilton) Loomis and was born at Roseville, Ohio, Oct. 13, 1857.

His early work on birds was done in South Carolina where he began to make observations in 1876. Three years later he prepared a paper containing "A Partial List of the Birds of Chester Co., South Carolina," which was published in the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' with an introductory note by Dr. T. M. Brewer. His ornithological work in South Carolina continued for about 15 years, and in the meantime, in 1883, he was elected an Associate of the Union at the first meeting and, in 1892, one of the Active Members, now known as 'Fellows.' In 1894, having removed to California, he became Curator of the Department of Ornithology in the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, a position which he retained for 18 years. From 1902 until 1912 he was also Director of the Museum of the Academy during the trying period of the San Francisco fire and the re-building of the Academy in Golden Gate Park.

Loomis' chief contributions to ornithology beside his papers on South Carolina birds comprise those on the water birds of California and on the Tubinares. He published a series of five notable papers on the water birds of the California Coast and first called attention to the remarkable migration of sea birds off Monterey Bay. His paper on the birds of the Farallones was largely instrumental in putting an end to the business of gathering Murre's eggs for the San Francisco market, while his discovery of the breeding of two species of Petrels on the Islands effectually stopped traffic in the eggs of the Ashy Petrel collected by the light keepers. His most notable work connected with the Academy consisted in building up two unique collections of beautifully prepared series of water birds, outfitting expeditions to the Galapagos Islands, and securing special legislation exempting the Academy from taxation and authorizing the location of the Museum in Golden Gate Park. He had in manuscript a monograph of the Tubinares which was destroyed in the San Francisco fire, but he largely rewrote it and in 1918 published "A Review of the Albatrosses, Petrels, and Diving Petrels." Just prior to his death he practically completed another extended paper on the Tubinares.

Loomis was unmarried and led a peculiarly quiet and secluded life which accentuated his personal peculiarities, but to those who knew him well and enjoyed his confidence he displayed many admirable traits. He was careful and painstaking in his work, ultra-conservative in his ideas of genera and species, tenacious of his views, and expended a vast amount of care in the preparation of his manuscript. His contributions to orni-

thology and his work in connection with the restoration of the California Academy of Sciences after the fire have earned him an enduring place in the history of California ornithology.

In accordance with an order of the Council a memorial of his life and work, prepared by one of the Fellows of the Union will be presented at the next annual meeting.—T. S. P.

BRADSHAW HALL SWALES, formerly of Detroit and Grosse Isle, Michigan, a member of the American Ornithologists Union, died at his residence in Washington, D. C., on January 23, after a trying illness of over a year. He was born in Detroit, June 30, 1875, and passed the early part of his life there. He was a graduate of the University of Michigan, taking the degree of LL.B. in 1896 and LL.M. in 1897, and in the latter part of the same year was admitted to the Michigan bar and began practice in Detroit.

Mr. Swales was elected an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1902 and a member in 1909.

On removing permanently to Washington Mr. Swales in 1918 was appointed honorary custodian of the section of birds' eggs in the National Museum, and subsequently in 1921 was made honorary assistant curator of birds. He was greatly interested in foreign birds and contributed many genera and species of rare birds to this museum through the Swales Fund, established for this purpose.

In 1902 he married Mary Rhoda Medbury, of Flint, Michigan, who survives him. He was a founder of the Baird Ornithological Club and its president at the time of his death. The club proposes to publish in the July 'Auk' a more extended memorial of Mr. Swales with portrait.

In addition to ornithology, Mr. Swales was very much interested in anthropology, especially in relation to the American Indian, and also in the early history of the West.—C. W. R.

HARRY BALCH BAILEY, Corresponding Fellow and one of the Founders of the American Ornithologists' Union, died in Buxton Hospital, Newport News, Virginia, at eleven p.m., February 10, 1928, after a brief illness from double pneumonia. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts, February 27, 1853, and at the time of his death was in his 75th year. He graduated from the Boston High School at the age of 15, when through the desire of his mother he entered the wholesale dry goods business. About 1872 he became connected with a shipping firm in Boston. At this time he became interested in ornithology, especially in eggs, and with William Brewster, Ruthven Deane, and others, also watched in the Boston markets for desirable specimens of birds. He was active in the affairs of the Nuttall Ornithological Club at its foundation, and was one of its officers. To the first number of the Bulletin of that organization he contributed an article on the breeding birds of Cobbs Island, based on notes obtained during his honeymoon, and a notice on the covers of the early numbers

stated that subscriptions should be sent to H. B. Bailey at No. 13 Exchange Street, Boston.

In 1875, Mr. Bailey removed to New York, where he was partner in a shipping firm owning some 14 sailing vessels. In 1878, he assisted in the founding of the Linnaean Society of that city. An important contribution of this time was an index and summary of the many notes on birds that had appeared in the first twelve volumes of *Forest and Stream*, which was published in 1881, covering 195 pages, and is an invaluable key to a body of ornithological literature too often overlooked. Though he was one of the founders of the American Ornithologists' Union through financial reverses he was forced to resign in 1891, but was elected a Corresponding Fellow in 1926.

In 1889, he moved to Newport News, Virginia, to a branch of the New York shipping house and there remained established until the time of his death. Through his personal collecting, through friends in the shipping business, and through such army friends as Charles Bendire and Edgar A. Mearns his private museum grew rapidly. On leaving New York his collection, numbering many specimens, went to the American Museum of Natural History. In Virginia with no congenial men interested in birds with whom to associate he turned his attention to entomology, amassing a considerable collection much of which was unfortunately destroyed while in storage awaiting the completion of a new home. Through the coleopterist Dr. E. A. Schwarz, many valuable specimens of insects were presented to the Smithsonian Institution and are preserved in its study series. After the loss of his own insect collection, though he continued to collect insects assiduously, Mr. Bailey turned attention to assisting his son Harold H. Bailey in building up his oological collections and library. From 1908 to 1916 he was interested in studies of the birds of the Alleghanies in Virginia; and for many years was occupied at intervals in work in the field in Florida. As in early life he had visited California and the Dakotas his field experience in ornithology was considerable, and he retained until his death a boyish enthusiasm for all branches of natural history, an interest shared only with the public library in Newport News which he founded and of which he was acting librarian.

His many friends among the ornithologists of the country will mourn his passing and will miss his friendly visits and communications. His death marks the going of another of those instrumental in guarding the early welfare of the American Ornithologists' Union and in shaping its policies during its period of growth. In accordance with custom a memorial dealing fully with the man and his work in ornithology will be prepared and published later.—A. W.

JAMES EDMUND HARTING, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, elected in 1883, died at his home at Weybridge, Surrey, England, Jan. 16, 1928, at the advanced age of nearly 87. He was the eldest son of James Vincent Harting and Alexine Milne Fotheringham,

daughter of Colonel R. H. Fotheringham, R.E., and was born in London, April 29, 1841.¹ His education was received at Downside College and London University. For some time he traveled extensively on the Continent and visited several museums, especially those in Paris and Leyden. Later, in 1893, he accompanied Sir Herbert Maxwell to Thessaly to obtain material for a report on the vole plague. In 1868, he was elected a member of the British Ornithologists' Union, a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, and began the practice of law, in which however he continued only about 10 years.

Harting's literary career began in 1863 with the publication of his first paper. Six years later he made his first contribution to the 'Field,' on Jan. 1, 1871 became natural history editor, and by December, 1920 had contributed to the paper 2326 articles, including 124 obituary notices. For 50 years he was connected with its staff, and although for the last seven years he practically lived in retirement he retained his connection with the 'Field' until his death. For 20 years, 1877-96, he edited the 'Zoologist' and for many years was Librarian and Assistant Secretary of the Linnean Society.¹

His first book, 'Birds of Middlesex,' appeared in 1866 and was followed from time to time by a number of other special works, including 'Birds of Shakespeare,' 1871; White's Natural History of Selborne, 1875-76; 'Ostriches and Ostrich Farming,' 1877; 'British Animals Extinct within Historic Times,' 1880; 'Essays on Sport and Natural History,' 1883; and 'Recreations of a Naturalist,' 1906. He was an authority on British birds and published two 'Handbooks' on the subject, one in 1872 and the other, an enlarged edition, in 1901. He was deeply interested in falconry, in which he was also regarded as an authority. His interest in this subject found expression in a number of publications, including an article in Chambers' 'Encyclopaedia,' a work on 'Hints on the Management of Hawks' in two editions (1884 and 1898), a 'Perfecte Booke for Keepinge Sparhawkes or Goshawkes,' 1886, and 'Bibliographia Accipitraria,' containing a catalogue of 378 titles on falconry, which appeared in 1891.

For many years Harting was a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London. In 1880, he received a silver medal, from the Acclimatization Society of France 'for publications,' and in 1913 a gold medal from the Apothecaries' Society for preparation of a catalogue of the Society's Library. Shortly before his death he presented to the office of the 'Field' his invaluable 'Index Rerum,' including 60 pamphlet boxes of information alphabetically arranged and his books on shooting and game laws, which had formed his private reference library during his years of editorial work.—T. S. P.

LUTHER EVERET WYMAN, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1907, for two years President of the Southern Branch of the

¹In the list of officers of the Linnean Society his name appears as James Edmund Fotheringham Harting.

Cooper Ornithological Club of California, and for the last twelve years Curator of Ornithology in the Museum of History, Science and Art in Los Angeles, died at his home in Los Angeles on January 7, 1928, from pneumonia after a short illness. He was born in Sycamore, Illinois, on September 20, 1870, the second of seven sons of Byron and Nettie (Lowell) Wyman. His love of nature developed early and while in the Sycamore High School he made a collection of mounted birds, which he later gave to the school and to the University of Chicago. He later attended Knox College at Galesburg, Illinois, where he was graduated in 1893.

He was for about fifteen years a Member of the Board of Trade in Chicago, where he succeeded well. He was married in Chicago on July 11, 1899 to Alta Penfield, who survives him. Two children were born of this union, both dying in infancy.

The strain of the responsibilities of his work in Chicago were too great, and he suffered a nervous breakdown, which compelled him to sever his connection with the Chicago Board of Trade. Removing with Mrs. Wyman to Nampa, Idaho, for his health he bought an apple ranch. There they lived for four years, his health steadily improving in the outdoor life and the opportunity for pursuing his studies in Natural History. There he became a member of the U. S. Biological Survey, sending many specimens of birds and mammals to Washington.

Mr. F. S. Daggett, an old Chicago friend had meanwhile removed to Los Angeles, and had been appointed Director of the Museum of History, Science and Art; and here Mr. Wyman was summoned to take charge of the excavation of fossils in the La Brea asphalt pits. This work he performed well and carefully, and the remarkable collection of fossils in the Los Angeles Museum is thus a monument to his ability and conscientiousness.

He was then appointed Curator of Ornithology in the Museum, which position he held at his death. But though ornithology was his official position it was but a small part of his duties. Work in the field of mammalogy and herpetology also fell to his share, and to these in later years photography was added, an art in which he became so proficient that more and more of his time had to be given to it. Of strictly scientific work he did little, as he had little opportunity for it. The 'Field Book of Birds of the Southwestern United States,' prepared with Miss Elizabeth F. Burnell of the Nature Department of the Los Angeles public schools, was his chief work.

To the teachers in the Los Angeles public schools he was a helpful and unflinching guide; to the children that thronged his steps always kind; to the other employees of the Museum always kind and sympathetic; to the Audubon Society of Southern California he was a constant help and inspiration; to the Cooper Club a tower of strength, as Secretary and later President.—L. B. B.

KARL ALBRECHT PEMBER, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1921, died Jan. 11, 1928, at Tucson, Arizona, where he was spending the winter in the hope of obtaining relief from asthma. His home was at Woodstock, Vt., where he was born Nov. 9, 1879. He was appointed State Ornithologist of Vermont in April 1923 and during the past five years has been active in furnishing information regarding the birds of the state. He delivered a number of lectures on bird protection and the economic value of birds, and in March 1924 published a 'List of the Birds of Woodstock, Hartland and Vicinity.'

Mr. Pember was much interested in oölogy and particularly in the eggs of the Duck Hawk. In a lecture on 'The Peregrine Falcon in Vermont,' delivered before the Vermont Botanical and Bird Club in January 1926, he explained his interest in this species as follows: "Back in the early nineties I made a collection of birds' eggs and gave to this occupation a bit more than the average fervor usually displayed amongst the boys of that time. . . . But I found that as the years had come along I could not rob a bird's nest as readily as I used to and so narrowed down my oölogical activities to birds of prey. . . . One day in June 1918 I was pottering about with my egg collection when a farmer came in and said that there was a pair of 'Vultures' that lived on a cliff behind his farm and took heavy toll from his poultry and that of his neighbors. As I knew that these couldn't possibly be Vultures in Vermont, birds that nested on a cliff and were big enough to carry off hens were certainly worth while investigating and I called at his farm near Gaysville just as soon as I could. . . . We didn't see the birds that trip but identified them later from the egg taken at that time." Ever since that incident Mr. Pember maintained his interest in the Duck Hawk. He visited at least 15 aeries, brought together a fine series of 25 sets of this species, published a brief article on 'Duck-hawkiana' in 'The Oologist' for May 1923, and at the time of his death had collected much material with the object of publishing a book on this bird.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Anna B. Pember, to whom we are indebted for kindly furnishing the foregoing information regarding her husband's ornithological activities. — T. S. P.

DR. A. K. FISHER who became a member of the staff of the U. S. Biological Survey upon its establishment in 1885 has been relieved of the increasingly onerous duties as head of the division of economic investigation in charge of the rodent and predatory animal control operations, which he has so ably managed for many years past, and has been assigned to research work in relation to the economic value of Hawks and Owls.

This is a subject upon which Dr. Fisher is our leading authority and it is gratifying to learn that he is free to return to this work which has always held his interest.

Moreover, just at the present time, these birds are badly in need of competent investigation. Unless their habits have materially changed

since Dr. Fisher made his last report, which we very much doubt, then his advice has been sadly neglected of late and it should be brought back forcefully to the attention of those who are apparently bent upon the extermination of these mainly useful and always attractive species.

We wish Dr. Fisher all success in his return to research work.

THE International Zoological Congress at the meeting at Budapest, September 4-9, 1927 adopted an amendment to Article 25 of the Code of Nomenclature (the Law of Priority) which provides that after December 31, 1930, in order to make a new specific or generic name available an author must accompany it by a description sufficient to distinguish it from other species or genera, or a definite bibliographic reference to such description and in the case of a generic name must clearly designate a type species.

The operation of the rule is postponed until January 1, 1931, so that all systematic writers may become accustomed to it.

The full text of the action may be had from Dr. C. W. Stiles, Public Health Service, Washington, D. C.

DR. E. W. NELSON has published a most interesting resumé of bird banding work in the National Geographic Magazine, for January, 1928, under the title "Bird Banding, the Telltale of Migratory Flight." It is profusely illustrated with half-tone illustrations from photographs showing methods of banding and flocks of wintering water fowl.

WILLIAM HAVELOCK ROBB of Belleville, Ontario, Canada, has published an attractive little book of poems called "The Quill and the Candle. Poems of Birdland in Canada."

The verses are illustrated by reproductions of a number of paintings by Allan Brooks and there are preludes to the poems describing briefly the character or personality of the several species. The publisher is the Ryerson Press, Toronto.

A MOST successful meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club was held at Nashville, Tenn., December 30-31. Thirty-five papers were read; there was a field trip to Radnor Lake, an informal reception at the home of Mr. A. F. Ganier and the annual dinner of the Club. On January 1, 1928 there was a Field Day at Idlewild Wood on Stones River.

THE annual meeting of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association was held recently at the University Club Boston, Mass. Addresses were made by Harrison F. Lewis, Oliver L. Austin, T. Gilbert Pearson, Ludlow Griscom and John B. May.

Francis B. White was elected President and Charles B. Floyd Secretary-Treasurer.

THE Delaware Valley Ornithological Club held its thirty-eighth annual meeting on January 5, 1928, at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Phila-

delphia. Lantern slides were exhibited by members illustrating field trips of the year. The officers elected for the ensuing year are: President, John D. Carter, Vice President, Samuel C. Palmer, Secretary, J. K. Potter, Treasurer, H. T. Underdown. Philip Livingston was appointed editor of 'Cassinia' and John C. Gillespie in charge of migration investigations.

THE Sixth Annual Meeting of the Baird Ornithological Club, was held at the residence of R. W. Williams, 206 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md., on the evening of March 20, 1928.

Officers elected for the ensuing year are: President, Dr. Alexander Wetmore; Vice President, Robert W. Williams; Secretary, Frederick C. Lincoln; Councilors, Dr. C. W. Richmond and Dr. T. S. Palmer.

It is not too early to make plans for attending the annual meeting of the A. O. U. in Charleston, S. C., next autumn. This will be the first meeting to be held south of Washington and we look for a larger attendance of members from the southern states who do not usually come to the annual gatherings on account of the long journey. We trust that all members who have formed the habit of attending will also be present to enjoy the proverbial hospitality of Charleston and take part in what will be one of the most notable of A. O. U. meetings.

READERS of the 'Auk' will be interested to learn that the 'Ten Year Index of The Auk', covering the years 1911 to 1920 is now in press and about one-third of the material is in type. An announcement will be made in the July 'Auk' regarding the appearance of the 'Index' and the terms on which it may be obtained.

The manuscript of the new A. O. U. 'Check List' is also practically completed except for some revision of the ranges of the species, but as it was decided to issue the 'Index' first, arrangements for publishing the 'Check List' cannot be made until the Charleston meeting of the Union next November.

FROM a recently published letter written in 1884 we quote the following: "You may perhaps imagine the state of supreme disgust that I am in at not receiving my copy of the April 'Auk.' I have written you twice about it, and once to Estes & Lauriat, and unless I hear from some one soon about the matter shall come to the conclusion that the publication is like its namesake—defunct." This sounds strangely familiar in the ears of 1928 officers of the A. O. U., having to do with distribution of 'The Auk.' Members of the Union should not take failure to receive a copy of 'The Auk' as a personal insult as there are bound to be casualties from a variety of causes in so large a mailing list as ours. Missing copies will be gladly replaced as soon as notice is received by the Business Manager, 200 Cedar St., Cherrydale, Va.