

#### NOTES AND NEWS.

WILLIAM LEON DAWSON, a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died of pneumonia in Columbus, Ohio, on April 30, 1928. He was in the prime of life and seemed to be in perfect health up to the 23rd of April. Mr. Dawson was born in Leon, Iowa, on February 20, 1873 and was thus in his fifty-sixth year.

From earliest boyhood he was passionately fond of birds and his journals show painstaking and systematic records of his observations from his sixteenth year. He was educated for the Congregational ministry and preached for four years but was compelled by ill health to abandon the pulpit in 1902 while he was pastor of the North Congregational Church of Columbus, Ohio.

He turned at once to ornithology and began the preparation of a work on 'The Birds of Ohio,' which was published in 1902-03. Following this he removed with his family to Seattle, Washington, and in 1909 'The Birds of Washington' appeared in conjunction with J. H. Bowles. This work at once attracted attention as Mr. Dawson had a peculiar ability in the preparation of handsome books. Removing to California, soon after, he conceived the preparation of 'The Birds of California' on a scale to surpass anything of the kind that had yet been published. He set about securing photographs of the birds for the purpose of illustration, and soon became one of the most successful of bird photographers. This notable work, in four volumes, profusely illustrated with halftones and color plates from paintings by Allan Brooks, appeared in 1923 and has been universally recognized as the finest work on the birds of any state that has been published.

Mr. Dawson's interest in oölogy led to the establishment in Santa Barbara, Calif., of the Museum of Comparative Oölogy but after a few years the scope of the museum was broadened and Mr. Dawson's connection with it severed. While at Santa Barbara he laid plans for a work on the birds of Mexico and a successful season was spent in the study of Mexican birds under the auspices of the museum but the project was later abandoned.

Returning to his old home in Ohio he then began preparations for a new edition of the 'Birds of Ohio' on the lines of 'The Birds of California' and had the photographic material largely prepared, expecting to begin the writing of the text during the coming year. Simultaneously he was securing photographs and field notes on the birds of Florida for a work to follow that on Ohio birds and had been spending three months each winter in Florida for this purpose.

Mr. Dawson leaves a wife, Frances E. Dawson, who for thirty-three years has been his secretary and general assistant; two sons, William O. Dawson, a photographer, and Giles E. Dawson, an instructor in Western Reserve University, and a daughter, Barbara.—W. S.

COUNT OTTO VON ZEDLITZ UND TRÜTZSCHLER, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1923, died suddenly Dec. 4, 1927, after a brief illness, at Varberg, near his home, Tofhult, in southern Sweden. He was born March 23, 1873, at Gute Schwentnig near Zobten, in Silesia, on an estate which had been in the possession of the family since 1734. He attended school in Breslau and served a few years as a lieutenant in the 'Leihkurassieren' in that city.

From 1910 until the outbreak of the great War he spent much of his time in travel, in expeditions from Africa to northern Europe and the Arctic. In the summer of 1900 he accompanied Dr. Arthur Berger and Capt. J. Roth on a hunting trip to Norway and Spitzbergen. In 1904, 1905 and 1906 he made three expeditions to Tunis, the results of which appeared in the 'Journal für Ornithologie' in 1909. In 1908 and 1909 he conducted ornithological explorations in Eritrea and the adjoining regions of Abyssinia. In the following year he visited Spitzbergen for the second time; in 1911 made a trip to the Sinai Peninsula and at the same time sent his collector, C. W. Muller, to southern Somaliland; finally in the spring of 1913 he went to Algeria, where he met Lord Rothschild and Dr. Ernst Hartert. During the War he was stationed on the east front from 1915 to 1918, and the results of his observations appeared in a paper in 'The Avifauna of the Pripet Marshes.'

After the war he removed to Sweden where in the Province of Västergötland he took up his residence at Tofhult which remained his home for the remainder of his life. His collection of 7481 birds was presented to the National Museum in Stockholm where it forms one of the units of the National collection (See Auk, 1926, p. 445).

Count Zedlitz's publications appeared mainly in the 'Journal für Ornithologie' where he published the results of most of his expeditions, but he contributed also to many other journals, including the 'Ornithologische Monatsberichte,' 'Fauna och Flora,' 'Revue Francaise d'Ornithologie,' the 'Proceedings of the 5th and 6th International Congresses' and others. In recognition of his work he was elected to office in the Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft in 1915 and 1924, and he was made an Honorary Member of the Societe Ornithologique de France and the Verein Schlesischer Ornithologen. A more extended notice of his work, from which these facts have been obtained, may be found in the 'Journal für Ornithologie,' 1928, pp. 231-235.—T. S. P.

DR. JOHANNES BÜTTIKOFER, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, elected in 1886, died at Bern, Switzerland, June 24, 1927, at the advanced age of 77. Born at Rahnhüh in the Canton of Bern, August 9, 1850, he received his education at the Swiss capital but gained his fame entirely in foreign lands.

He had a strong taste for natural history and at the age of 29 became zoological assistant to Professor Hermann Schlegel, one of the foremost zoologists of Europe, then at the height of his fame and widely known

as Director of the Museum of Natural History at Leyden, Holland. Büttikofer's activity extended over a period of 45 years divided into two parts of which the first—18 years—was spent at the Leyden Museum followed by 27 years at Rotterdam as Director of the Zoological Gardens. A year after receiving his appointment at Leyden he was detailed with G. F. Sala to undertake a zoological expedition to Liberia. Two years later, in 1881, he returned much impaired in health, his companion having died the previous year.

Shortly after the death of Professor Schlegel, early in 1884, Büttikofer was appointed Conservator of the Ornithological Department of the Leyden Museum and during the decade in which he held this position he published a number of papers based on his own field work and that of other collectors of the Museum. In 1886 accompanied by F. X. Stampfi he made a second expedition to Liberia, returning a year later ill with malaria but leaving his assistant who returned subsequently with considerable collections. Later, with Max Moret as assistant, he visited Borneo and spent about nine months, from November 1893 to July 1894, traversing the island from east to west as zoologist of an expedition in charge of Dr. A. W. Nieuwenhuis. A report of the 'Zoological Results of the Dutch Scientific Expedition to Central Borneo' relating to birds and including notes on 269 species by Büttikofer appeared in the 'Notes of the Leyden Museum,' in 1900 (XXI, pp. 145-276). While connected with the Museum Dr. Büttikofer published about 45 papers chiefly in the 'Notes of the Leyden Museum' and also a popular account of his travels in Liberia entitled 'Reisebilde' which appeared in two volumes in 1890. During his directorship of the Zoological Gardens at Rotterdam administrative duties occupied most of his attention but he published a few contributions in 'Ardea.' Upon retiring from his post at Rotterdam he returned to the land of his nativity and passed his remaining days at his old home in Bern. His activities are commemorated in the names of several birds of Liberia and the East Indies, including *Accipiter büttikoferi* Sharpe and *Ædicnemus büttikoferi* Reichenow, from Liberia; *Cyrtostomus büttikoferi* Hartert, from the Lesser Sunda Islands, and *Rhipidura büttikoferi* Sharpe, from Dammer Island in the Banda Sea.—T. S. P.

HENRY LUKE WHITE, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, elected in 1920, died at his home Belltries, Scone, New South Wales, May 30, 1927 at the age of 67. He was the son of Francis White of Edinglassie Estate, Muswellbrook, and was born at Anambah, West Maitland, N. S. W., May 9, 1860. His grandfather James White was one of the early settlers and went to Australia as sheep manager of the Australian Agricultural Co. at Port Stephens. Henry White received his education at Calder House, Redfern near Sydney, and in Mr. Belcher's school at Goulburn. He also studied surveying and passed his final examinations in 1884. Three years later he married a daughter of the late E. S. Ebsworth of Sydney.

In later years White became a pastoralist on a large scale and a patron of various local, public and charitable projects. While he had little time for collecting birds himself he sent collectors into little known parts of Australia and in this way secured not only rare specimens but much valuable information regarding little known species. He was a patron of Australian ornithology in the broadest sense of the term and brought together a large collection of birds and a collection of Australian eggs that was said to be the finest in the world. These collections were always open to students and those interested in ornithology. In 1917 he presented his collection of over 8000 bird skins to the National Museum in Melbourne. He was a member of the British Ornithologists' Union and an honorary member and patron of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union to which he gave \$5,000 to further its scientific work and a complete set of John Gould's 'Birds of Australia' for its library. He was also widely known as a philatelist and was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. His collections of the stamps of New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia valued at \$250,000 were presented to the Public Library of New South Wales.

His contributions to ornithology are commemorated by several birds named in his honor including *Falcunculus whitei* and several subspecies. Would that there were more patrons of ornithology like Henry L. White, not only in Australia, but in other parts of the world!—T. S. P.

RECORDS of land birds coming aboard ships at sea are by no means uncommon but evidence that birds cross the Atlantic in this way is difficult to obtain. The following note in 'British Birds' for April, 1928, (Vol. XXI, p. 282) was contributed by Charles E. Alford, who describes an interesting case as follows: "On October 9th, 1927, the S. S. "Alaunia" started on her westward voyage from Southampton, and on the same day four Greenfinches (*Chloris c. chloris*) flew on board. One of them disappeared during the voyage, but three remained on the ship until the shores of Newfoundland were sighted, when they apparently flew ashore. They roosted during the voyage on a band round the funnel, on the lee-side, being fed by my informant (a passenger on the vessel) and provided with water by one of the stewards. The weather throughout the voyage was unusually fine."

THE Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union which held its 26th Annual Congress at Perth, Western Australia, in October, 1927, has recently announced that the Annual Meeting in 1928 will be held in South Australia.

E. W. GIFFORD of Oakland, Calif., began breeding foreign Doves and Pigeons in 1908 and since 1923 has limited his collection to rare species, particularly Partridge Pigeons and Quail Doves. In 'The Auk,' for July, 1925 (pp. 388-396), he published an interesting account of the

Gray-hooded Quail Dove (*Gallinocolumba rubescens*) in captivity and he has recently contributed to 'Parks and Recreation for' March-April, 1928 (pp. 296-299), his experiences with several other species. His collection now comprises the following 7 species: Grayson's Pigeon (*Zenaidura graysoni*) from Socorro Island, Revillagigedo group; Golden-heart (*Gallinocolumba helviventris*), a rare relative of the Bleeding Heart, from New Guinea; the White-fronted Amethyst (*G. kubaryi*) from the Caroline Islands; the Black-fronted Amethyst (*G. jobiensis*) from New Guinea; the Buff-hooded (*G. xanthonura*) from the Marianne Islands; the Gray-hooded (*G. rubescens*) from the Marqueses Islands; and the Blue-headed Partridge Pigeon (*Starnoenas cyanocephala*) from Cuba.

THE Howard Smith Paper Mills, 407 McGill St., Montreal, Canada, have published a most attractive calendar with reproductions of twelve of the paintings of the birds of Eastern Canada by Major Allan Brooks which form part of the Wallace Havelock Robb Collection in the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology at Toronto. The reproduction is remarkably well done. The species represented are the Baltimore Oriole, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Goldfinch, Scarlet Tanager, Loon, Ruffed Grouse, Blue Jay, Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch, Screech Owl, Flicker, Bluebird and Kingfisher. The plates are also issued separately suitable for framing at one dollar the set.

In noticing a recent work by Mr. Robb in the April 'Auk' his name appeared through an error "William" Havelock Robb, and we take this occasion to make the correction.

MR. ALFRED L. BAILEY formerly of the Field Museum staff has been for some months Director of the Chicago Academy of Sciences.

A NEW sportsmen's organization the "American Wild Fowlers" was founded in May, 1927. Its aims are to interest all persons in the intelligent preservation and increase of migratory Wild Fowl in order that legitimate sport, recreation and a game food supply may be insured for the present and future; to support the Biological Survey and to assist and cooperate with it and with State game agencies in all policies approved by the Executive Committee of the "Wild Fowlers." Mr. John C. Phillips is president and Nash Buckingham is executive secretary. The headquarters are in Washington and the board of fifteen directors represent all sections of the United States, with Charles Sheldon as chairman of the Executive Committee. The Association is financed on a three-year basis and will not attempt to enroll a large membership but welcomes correspondence from all interested in the welfare of Ducks and Geese. Information is especially desired on shrinkage of water surface through drainage, etc.; existance of all legitimate shooting clubs, data on factors affecting duck supply,—disease, oil-pollution, over-shooting, etc. and worth while statistics showing the actual kill of birds at various points.

THE friends of Mr. Edward Howe Forbush tendered him a dinner at the University Club in Boston, Mass., on April 24, 1928, on the occasion of his seventieth birthday. About 125 were in attendance, representing many organizations interested in ornithology and in the conservation of wild life. Mr. John L. Saltonstall of the Associated Committee for Wild Life Conservation presided, and Hon. Herbert Parker was toastmaster. Addresses were made by Dr. Arthur W. Gilbert, commissioner of Agriculture of Mass., Dr. Glover M. Allen, president of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, Dr. Witmer Stone, Vice President of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and Dr. Alfred O. Gross of Bowdoin College.

DR. NAGAMICHI KURODA enroute to the International Congress on Bird Protection at Geneva, visited most of the ornithological centers of America and examined the collections both in the museums and the zoological gardens.

ARRANGEMENTS for the Charleston Meeting of the Union are rapidly approaching completion. The meeting will be held the week of November 19, with the first scientific session on the morning of the 20th. Headquarters will be at the Francis Marion Hotel, and scientific meetings at the Charleston Museum.

Plans have been made to visit localities made famous by the work of Audubon and Bachman as well as such points of interest as the Magnolia Gardens, and there will be one water trip. The local committee emphasizes the fact that the historical association of the localities to be visited is considered more than the birds to be seen, as November is not a good month for birds, but the winter bird life of the South will, we feel sure, amply repay ornithologists from the north, aside from the abounding historic interest of the Charleston region. Let every one prepare to make the trip!