

OBITUARIES.

THE members of the American Ornithologists' Union far and wide were saddened by the death on February 22, 1929, of Dr. Jonathan Dwight at his home in New York in the seventy-first year of his age. There are few if any who have served the Society so long and so unselfishly. Elected an Associate at the first meeting in 1883 and advanced to a Fellow (then known as Active Member) in 1886, he subsequently held the office of Treasurer for seventeen years, Vice President for three and President for three. As Treasurer he also acted as business manager of 'The Auk' and in handling the burdensome financial details did much to keep the publication up to its high standard. He was also one of the Investment Trustees and was mainly responsible for the care of the Society's invested funds. No task seemed too laborious if the A. O. U. was to benefit from it.

In his scientific activities he served for many years as a member of the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of North American Birds and by his wholesome conservatism exercised an important influence on the actions of his associates.

His associations outside of the A. O. U. were mainly with the American Museum of Natural History where he was appointed a Research Associate and where he had deposited his magnificent collection of American birds which formed the basis of his notable publications on molting and on the Laridae. Personally Dr. Dwight was a modest, kindly gentleman in all that that word implies. He endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact and most ornithologists who have visited New York during the past thirty years have delightful recollections of the hospitality of his home and the pleasure of consulting with him his unrivalled library of American Ornithology. He missed we believe but one meeting of the Union, the last, when his illness prevented him from making the journey to Charleston and those who attend these annual gatherings will recall his kindly interest in the work of all whether beginners or masters of our science.

In his passing American ornithology has lost a prominent figure, the Union a devoted officer, and the members a kind and generous friend. Mr. James H. Fleming has been appointed by the President to prepare a memorial address for presentation at the annual meeting in October next.—W. S.

SCARCELY had we learned of Dr. Dwight's death when news came of the passing on March 7, 1929 of Edward Howe Forbush, a little less than a year from the date when a notable gathering of ornithologists met in Boston to congratulate him on the occasion of his seventieth birthday.

To Mr. Forbush, American Ornithology owes a debt of gratitude for the tremendous work that he accomplished in furthering popular bird study and bird conservation. As Ornithologist to the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture he published one of the most important series of reports on economic ornithology that any State has produced, while he travelled over most of the Commonwealth working for the establishment of local bird clubs and instructing the masses on the value of bird life. Indeed in the fore front of every movement for conservation in New England stood the name of Edward Howe Forbush.

Then at the very peak of his career he produced his 'Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States' which will stand as one of the great classics on American ornithology. Unfortunately he did not live to see the last volume published.

To Forbush the living bird rather than the stuffed specimen was the main object of ornithology and no bird walk was to strenuous, no effort too great, if something of interest was to be seen.

Mr. Forbush was elected an Associate of the A. O. U. in 1887, became a Fellow in 1912, and served for several years on the Council, while he took a great interest in the annual meetings and was ever active in advertising the Society and its objects in the effort to increase its membership and broaden its influence.

Probably no member of the Union was more widely known or enjoyed such popularity among the great army of American bird students and his loss will be deeply felt both by those who have profited by his writings and those to whom his personal friendship and leadership meant so much.—W. S.

JUST AS WE GO to press we are shocked to learn of the sudden death of Robert Ridgway at his home in Olney, Illinois in the 79th year of his age. Surely the American Ornithologists' Union has been sorely stricken in the few weeks just passed! and by Mr. Ridgway's death the number of surviving founders is reduced to five.

If in any field of endeavor it were possible to pick out one man as the leader of his fellows, Robert Ridgway would surely be acclaimed the leading American Ornithologist. For more than a generation his name has been identified with his favorite science in the minds of all who share his interests. As Curator of Birds in the U. S. National Museum for over 50 years, as one largely responsible for the success of the first A. O. U. 'Check-List' and as author of those classics in the literature of American ornithology: 'A Manual of North American Birds,' (1887) and the monumental 'Birds of North and Middle America' (1901-1919) as well as of hundreds of other publications, Ridgway was known and honored throughout the ornithological world.

Besides being a Founder of the American Ornithologists' Union he had been a member of its Council ever since organization and had served as

Vice President and President, and for many years as a member of the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature.

Great as is the loss that science has suffered in his passing, it is to those who had enjoyed the privilege of his personal acquaintance that the death of Robert Ridgway comes as a calamity.

At his desk in the old Smithsonian gallery and later in the Bird room of the National Museum he was always accessible to the visiting ornithologist and he was ever ready to talk to the beginners, to explain to them what work he happened to be engaged upon or to discuss their own problems with them. How many of the present generation of technical ornithologists have to thank him for inspiration and encouragement when they were sorely needed.

Modest, retiring, generous, full of kindness, Robert Ridgway the man, will ever hold his place in the hearts of those who knew him regardless of the fame that history will justly accord to Robert Ridgway the ornithologist.—W. S.

DR. FREDERIC AUGUSTUS LUCAS, a Retired Fellow of the Union, died at Flushing, N. Y., Feb. 9, 1929. He was born at Plymouth, Mass., Mar. 25, 1852, and had he lived a few weeks longer he would have reached his 77th birthday. He was the son of Henry Lucas, a sea captain, and Elizabeth Oliver Lucas, and his education was acquired in the public schools, in Ward's Natural Science Establishment, and in the broad school of experience. In 1909 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science from the University of Pittsburgh.

His father was accustomed to take his family with him on his voyages and thus at an early age the son visited the coasts of Chile and Peru and the ports in the Orient and became deeply interested in some of the forms of marine life which later occupied much of his attention. In 1871, he entered Ward's Natural Science Establishment at Rochester, N. Y., where he remained eleven years working at taxidermy, osteology, and museum technique. In 1882 he joined the staff of the U. S. National Museum and during the succeeding 22 years occupied successively the positions of osteologist, assistant curator, curator of the division of comparative anatomy and acting curator of vertebrate fossils. Under his direction a comprehensive exhibit of comparative anatomy was built up which received high praise and was excelled by similar exhibits in few if any other institutions. Removing to Brooklyn, N. Y., in 1904, Lucas served for seven years as curator-in-chief of the Museum of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences and then, in 1911, was appointed Director of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. After twelve years' service in this post he retired from the directorship at three score and ten and as Honorary Director continued actively at work until a few days before his death.

While Lucas' work lay mainly in the fields of osteology, preparation of Museum material and museum administration, he always maintained an

active interest in birds and was a close observer and an accurate writer. He was elected an Associate of the Union in 1888, an Active Member (Fellow) in 1892, and was transferred to the Retired List at his own request in 1921. His publications on birds include a number of titles of which the most important are those relating to the Great Auk and to avian anatomy. In the summer of 1887 he joined an expedition to Funk Island, off the coast of Newfoundland, to collect bones of the Great Auk and his report on the results of the trip still forms one of the most important contributions to our knowledge of the status of this species in America. He was the author of two books 'Animals of the Past,' 1901, and 'Animals before Man in North America,' 1902. He did editorial work on several dictionaries and encyclopaedias, reviewed many books and papers, and the full list of his publications forms an extensive bibliography.

Through his charming personality, affability, cheerfulness and readiness to assist in any way possible, he gained a host of friends. In accordance with the usual custom, a memorial of his work will be presented by one of the Fellows at the next annual meeting of the Union.—T. S. P.

COLONEL WIRT ROBINSON, U. S. A., retired, a member of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1901 (associate from 1897), died in Washington, D. C., on January 20, 1929, after a brief illness. He was a son of the late William Russell and Evelyn (Cabell) Robinson, and was born October 16, 1864, at "Fernley," the plantation of his grandfather, Dr. Clifford Cabell, in Buckingham Co., Virginia. This plantation overlooked the James River, and at that time was bordered by a wilderness of virgin forest in which game of various kinds was very abundant. His father was a keen student of nature, and in rambles about the country with his sons, Wirt and Cabell, imparted much natural history lore to them. Wirt particularly was greatly interested in the subject and eagerly absorbed every item of information he could glean. From his earliest days he was an ardent sportsman, fisherman and naturalist, and as soon as he learned to write, began to keep a diary, in which he recorded the various observations of interest made during each day; this he kept up regularly, almost to the time of his death.

During their youthful years the brothers spent the winters at their father's home in Richmond, where they attended school, and the summers at "Fernley," engaged in natural history pursuits and other outdoor recreations. Their spare time in winter was devoted largely to laying plans for the next summer at the plantation.

From 1879 to 1882, Wirt was a student at Richmond College, and later took a course in chemistry at the Richmond Medical College. In 1883 he entered the U. S. Military Academy, at West Point, from which he graduated in 1887. During his career at this period he was "twice rated as a distinguished cadet, standing above ten in the subjects of mathematics, French, drawing, chemistry, ordnance and gunnery, tactics and discipline. In the latter he was first in his class."

At graduation he was assigned to duty as Second Lieutenant, with the 4th Artillery at Fort Adams, R. I., where he remained for two years, later serving with the Artillery in Georgia and Florida. In 1891 he was designated Instructor of Modern Languages at West Point, and in 1894 was detailed as military instructor at Harvard University, the first officer to be so detailed, and remained in this capacity until 1898. He organized and trained the students and delivered over 90 lectures per year to large classes. His success in this undertaking was noteworthy, and is said to have been in the nature of a forerunner of the present system of Reserve Officers' Training Corps. During his detail at Harvard he embraced the opportunity of adding to his own knowledge by taking courses in calculus and in Spanish. From 1899 to 1903 he was Assistant Professor of Modern Languages at West Point, and from 1904 to 1906 served as head of the department of Chemistry and Explosives at the School of Submarine Defense at Fort Totten, N. Y.; while here, he attacked the subjects of chemistry and related fields with his usual energy, publishing three pamphlets on the analysis of explosives.

In 1906, Colonel (then Captain) Robinson again was detailed to West Point as Assistant Professor of Chemistry and so continued until 1911, when he became Professor and head of the department, a position he held until the date of his retirement, October 16, 1928. In the words of his Order of retirement, "Such is briefly the brilliant record of this unusually cultivated officer and gentleman who now retires to civil life leaving behind him a noble example of 'Duty, Honor, Country,' and an inspiration to the officers and enlisted men of our Army, and to the gentlemen Corps of Cadets, present and future."

Official duties naturally claimed much of Col. Robinson's time, but he found opportunity at every station to increase his knowledge of natural history, and at frequent intervals managed to make short expeditions to easily accessible parts of tropical America. His first trip of this nature, on which he was accompanied by his wife and brother, was made in 1892, to the island of Curaçao, the Magdalena River region of Colombia, and overland nearly to Bogotá. The results of this trip were embodied in an entertaining and copiously illustrated volume entitled "A Flying Trip to the Tropics," published in 1895. In the summer of the same year he visited Margarita Island, Venezuela, and included the adjacent mainland in his itinerary. He returned to Venezuela in 1900, accompanied by Dr. M. W. Lyon, Jr., the mammalogist, and made collections in the vicinity of La Guaira. Reports on the birds and mammals of both of the Venezuelan expeditions were published by him in collaboration with other authors. Other trips were made to Jamaica, Cuba, and Central America. When on an official assignment in Cuba, in the autumn of 1903, he secured a specimen of the Wheatear, the only individual of this species thus far recorded from the West Indies. Several of the birds and mammals obtained on his early visits to South America proved to be new and were described by others, some of them being named in his honor.

When Robinson was a student at West Point, his father purchased a large tract of land near Wingina, in Nelson Co., on the opposite side of the James River, though not far from "Fernley," and here Col. Robinson spent his vacations when not abroad. In later years, as his collections and library expanded, he had a commodious brick building constructed at this place to house his accumulations, in which he arranged the material to his satisfaction, and here he prosecuted his studies during his spare time. His interests were not by any means confined to birds and mammals, for he had a large and varied collection of insects from many parts of the world, though he specialized particularly in coleoptera and lepidoptera; and he possessed a very extensive series of local Indian relics, many examples of which he had personally gathered. He carried on his investigations in natural history with the same unbounded energy and enthusiasm that characterized his work in other lines, though he always did so in the guise of an amateur. When he found a species that was undescribed, as he frequently did, he turned it over to an expert for technical introduction to science. He had a vast fund of information on zoological and other subjects that he freely though unostentatiously imparted to others, quite in keeping with his natural spirit of frankness and generosity. His published writings were not numerous, but include about a dozen items on ornithology in addition to those mentioned above, the earliest being one on albinism in birds, issued in 1889; he was also the author of a treatise "Elements of Electricity," published in 1914.

Upon his retirement, Col. Robinson expected to spend his summers at his brother's home near Wingina, and his winters in Washington, where he hoped to pass much of his leisure time at the National Museum. These plans were set at nought by his untimely death, which occurred just after he settled in Washington in January of this year. His remains were taken to West Point for burial.

Col. Robinson was twice married; first to Alice Phinney, of Newport, R. I., in 1890, who died in 1918, second to Nancy Hinman Henderson, of Chicago, Ill., in 1920, who survives him. A son, Russell Robinson, was born of the first union, and a daughter, Evelyn Byrd Robinson, of the second.—C. W. R.

WILLIAM LYMAN UNDERWOOD, since 1900 an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Belmont, Mass., on January 28, 1929. He will be remembered by many for his genial personality as well as for his occasional delightful lecture on birds or other natural history subjects. Born at Belmont on March 4, 1864, the son of William J. and Esther C. Underwood, he acquired a public school education and in 1880 entered his father's business in the well-known firm of Wm. Underwood Co. Here he became much interested in improved methods of preserving food in tinned form and did much to maintain the world-wide renown of the firm's products. He was intensely fond of out-of-door life and spent many summer vacations at his camps in Maine and in

New Brunswick. Although an ardent fisherman and yachtsman, he cared nothing for shooting but in later life acquired great skill in animal photography, particularly of birds and large game. Many of his flash-lights of moose and deer are of unusual beauty. In 1896 he began lecturing in the vicinity of Boston and delighted many popular audiences with accounts of his field studies, combining much of entertaining and valuable observation with a keen appreciation of the humorous. In 1900 he became lecturer in the biological department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, especially on the application of bacteriology to the canning industries. On one occasion, in the course of a winter's visit to northern Maine his attention was attracted by some unusually large mosquito larvae, which he subsequently brought back and reared. These proved to be a new species, which was named after him, *Eucorethra underwoodi*. On another occasion he brought back from a Maine logging camp the story of an infant black bear, which, after the mother had been killed, was reared by one of the women at the camp and later grew to full size. The history of this cub, which he afterward acquired as a pet, is the subject of his book, "Wild Brother." Another volume, "Wilderness Adventures," is a sheaf of varied exploits and observations, while numerous popular articles in various magazines, indicate his desire to share his happy experiences with others. He was twice married: in 1887 to Ida Cushing of Boston, and after her death to Elizabeth Kelly in 1923. Although he contributed little in the way of published articles on ornithology, he did much to further popular interest in outdoor life and to encourage the use of photography in its study.—GLOVER M. ALLEN.

ON February 4th, in the Flower Hospital, New York, there passed away at the age of 33, one of Canada's most gifted ornithologists and one of the ablest field men on the continent. Cyril Guy Harrold was born on August 5, 1896, at Lapford, Devonshire, England. His death, from meningitis following inflammation of the left ear, itself an outcome of influenza, was extremely sudden and came as a heavy and unexpected blow to his relatives and friends. A sister and brother, both living in Canada, survive him.

Of a retiring and reserved disposition, Harrold was personally known only to a relatively small circle of friends, but his remarkable ability in the field was becoming widely known and there is no doubt that he had a great future before him. Birds were his first love but his interests covered a wide field and ranged from insects to mammals. He was intimate with the birds of the holarctic region generally, much of his knowledge having been acquired at a youthful age during his school life at Trent College, where he was already an enthusiastic reader, observer and collector, skinning and mounting birds as a pastime as opportunity offered. Here, for three years, he was curator of the Natural History Society. He was already gaining distinction as a shot and was one of the school team of four at Bisley when Trent College won the

Country Life Cup in 1912. He came to Canada in April 1914. On account of defective eyesight he was debarred from active service and remained in the Dominion during the war. His interests speedily centered on the native avifauna, first in the east and later in the west and there were but few Canadian species of which he did not ultimately gain first hand knowledge. He was elected an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1923.

Although most frequently collecting by himself, he spent several summers in the field with Mr. P. A. Taverner in the interests of the National Museum at Ottawa. His most important trip was to Alaska for the California Academy of Natural Sciences. Most of his time was spent on Nunivak where, under incredibly difficult climatic conditions, he collected nearly 650 skins and skeletons of birds and mammals prepared in his usual skilled and painstaking manner. His skins are justly famous for their beauty and uniformity. This collection included at least three species new to the north American avifauna and many other rarities. At the time of his death he was attached to the American Museum and was preparing to leave, as collector of birds, with the Madagascar Expedition. During his few weeks in New York, he had won the esteem and affection of all who came into contact with him.

Harrold's publications were few, but his opportunities of writing were very limited. He was an accurate artist and frequently used the pencil in the field although none of his drawings has been published.

In the bare list of facts enumerated above there is little to indicate anything of Harrold's remarkable personality. As a campmate he was unique. He believed that obstacles were made to be overcome and nothing could upset his serenity or damp his ardour. As an observer and collector he was without a rival. He was not only an indefatigable worker and a remarkable shot, but an acute observer, while his knowledge and memory of bird notes was phenomenal. The writer, who was privileged to spend many weeks with him in the field, never ceased to wonder at the infallibility of his identifications frequently based, in the first place, on nothing more than a single note. The subsequently collected specimen invariably proved him to be right.

In the death of C. G. Harrold north American ornithology has sustained an irreparable loss. His relatives and friends will never cease to mourn the departure of a most lovable and gifted personality, the embodiment of generosity and unselfishness, the epitome of all that is included in the term gentleman.—WM. ROWAN.

ABEL CHAPMAN, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1921, died at his home, Houxty, Wark-on-Tyne, Northumberland, England, Jan. 24, 1929, at the age of 77. He was the oldest son of Thomas Edward Chapman and was born at Silksworth Hall, Sunderland, England, October 4, 1851. His education was received at Rugby and for twelve years, from 1875 to 1897, he was a partner in the firm of T. E.

Chapman & Son; later he became a director in the firm of J. W. Cameron & Co., Ltd. He was unmarried, traveled extensively in Europe, Asia, and Africa and has given an account of his experiences in his latest book 'Retrospect,' 1928.

Big-game hunting occupied much of his attention and formed the subject of several of his best known books on East Africa, Soudan, Norway, and Spain. He was a well-known field naturalist and devoted considerable attention to birds. He discovered the nesting of the Flamingo in southern Spain (Ibis, 1884, p. 66) and gave an interesting account of the habits of the Grouse in deep snow in his first book on 'Bird Life of the Borders.' His 'Art of Wild Fowling' is regarded as a classic and his early work 'Bird Life of the Borders' appeared in two editions, 1889 and 1907. Among his other books may be mentioned 'Wild Spain,' 'Wild Norway,' 'On Safari,' 1908, 'Savage Soudan,' 1921 and 'The Borders and Beyond, Arctic, Cheviot, Tropic,' 1924. Chapman was not only a forceful writer but an artist as well and illustrated several of his books with his own sketches. He was an outstanding example of that group of travelers, all too small, who are not only fond of adventure but have the ability and energy to record the results of their trips in an accurate and popular manner, and thus make their experiences available to a large circle of readers.—T. S. P.