

## OBITUARIES.

MISS EMILIE SNETHLAGE, the distinguished explorer, died of heart failure on November 25, 1929, at Porto Velho, the starting point of the Madeira-Mamoré Railroad, Brazil. Born on April 13, 1868, at Kraatz, near Grantee, in the Prussian Province of Brandenburg, as the daughter of the Rev. Emil Snethlage, she received a private education in her father's house, and graduated in 1889 at Berlin with qualifications for teaching in high schools. After spending ten years as governess in Germany, England, and Ireland, Miss Snethlage, in 1900, took up the study of natural history at the Universities of Berlin, Jena, and Freiburg, and finally obtained the degree of Ph.D., her thesis being an investigation of the origin of the muscles in insects. In 1905, on the recommendation of Dr. A. Reichenow, she was appointed zoological assistant in the Museum Goeldi at Pará, and thenceforth, excepting several visits to Europe, Brazil was her permanent home. Miss Snethlage soon became actively engaged in the exploration of Amazonia and made numerous journeys in connection with ornithological, geographical, and ethnological researches, her most remarkable feat being the cross-country trip from the Xingú to the Tapajóz through an entirely unknown wilderness which had never before been visited by white men. On Goeldi's retirement, the learned lady succeeded him as head of the zoological section of the Pará Museum, and held that position until 1917, when Brazil entered the World War. Reinstated after the armistice, Miss Snethlage returned to Pará, but in 1922 joined the Museo Nacional at Rio de Janeiro as "naturalista viajante." In this capacity she undertook various expeditions to Maranhão, Espírito Santo, Minas Geraes, and Goyaz, explored as pioneer naturalist the Ilha do Bananal, and accompanied E. Kaempfer on his ascent of the Serra do Caparão. In 1929, she started on another trip to Amazonia which ended in her sudden death among the glorious tropical forests she loved so well.

Miss Snethlage, who had an excellent knowledge of Brazilian birds, was particularly interested in their life-history and in problems of geographical distribution, and to both subjects she has made important contributions. Outstanding among her numerous publications are the "Catalago das Aves Amazonicas," forming vol. VIII of the "Boletim do Museu Goeldi," 1914, and an ecological study on the distribution of bird-life in Amazonia (Journ. Orn., 1913). It is a great pity that she was not spared to write the account of the breeding habits of the birds of her adopted country, a work she had had in mind for many years and which she hoped to publish after retiring to her native land. Science would have greatly profited from the results of her long experiences and studies of that subject. A good many new birds discovered by Miss Snethlage were named in her honor, among them *Snethlagea*, a genus of Flycatchers, dedicated to her by the late Count Von

Berlepsch. It may justly be said that Miss Snethlage did more towards the advancement of Brazilian ornithology than anybody else since Natterer's time. She was elected an Honorary Lady Member of the British Ornithologists' Union and a Corresponding Member of the A. O. U. since 1915.—C. E. H.

REV. JOHN MALLORY BATES, one of the oldest Associates of the American Ornithologists' Union, died suddenly at the advanced age of 84 at the Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital, Hastings, Nebr., on May 25, 1930, shortly after an operation. Only ten days before he had attended the annual meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union at Omaha, where he took an active part in the proceedings, presented a paper on the program, attended the banquet, and made an excursion to Fontenelle Forest in search of botanical specimens.

Born at Wallingford, Conn., Jan. 3, 1846, the son of Levi Whitcomb Bates and a descendent of an old Connecticut family, young Bates graduated from Trinity College, Hartford, with the degree of A.B. in 1872 and A.M. in 1875. During 1873-74 he served as vice principal of the High School, in 1876 graduated from Berkeley Divinity School in Middletown, Conn., and entered upon his life work as an Episcopal clergyman. A few years later he went West and spent the rest of his life in Kansas and Nebraska. He served as chaplain and headmaster of Bethany College in Topeka, Kans., from 1883 to 1886, and in the latter year removed to North Platte, Nebr. From 1888 to 1902, he lived at Valentine, in the Sand Hill region in the northwestern part of the state and then moved to Red Cloud in southern Nebraska, where he resided for the last 28 years.

J. M. Bates was interested in both botany and ornithology and was regarded as an authority on the fauna and flora of his adopted States. He was 43 years of age when he took up the study of systematic botany, but he published a number of botanical papers, including those on the trees, sedges, and rusts of Nebraska, short notes on the flora of certain regions, and descriptions of several new species. He was particularly interested in the economic value of fodder plants of the State and his most extended work was probably that 'On the Sedges of Nebraska,' 1914.

His publications on birds by no means indicate the extent of his ornithological activities, for he was very generous in placing his observations at the disposal of others instead of publishing them under his own name. In 1896 he turned over his notes on the birds of northern Nebraska to Prof. Lawrence Bruner for use in connection with Bruner's 'Nebraska Birds,' and some of his notes later appeared in Bruner, Walcott, and Swenk's 'Birds of Nebraska,' 1904. He was a correspondent of the Biological Survey for 36 years contributing regularly notes and observations on migration. Several of his papers appeared in the 'Proceedings of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union,' and the 'Wilson Bulletin.' In 1900 he explained his attitude in regard to publication as follows: 'It falls to the lot of some

through lack of time or ability to confine themselves to the elementary work in natural science of observing and reporting. I am one of those who are thus limited . . . I am, I regret to say, unable to make the subject anything more than an incident in my life and a side issue on the nature study I love so well." Elected an Associate of the Union in 1899, he allowed his membership to lapse after a short time, but was re-elected in 1918. He was also a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, and a charter member of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union of which he was elected president in 1902.—T. S. P.

RAYMOND COMTE DE DALMAS died on Feb. 4, 1930, at Paris, France, where he had been born on Feb. 5, 1862. While his name is very nearly forgotten by present-day ornithologists, he was actively engaged in ornithological pursuits towards the end of the last century. In 1893-1897, accompanied by Mr. F. de Schaeck, now connected with the University of Geneva, Switzerland, Count Dalmas on his yacht "Chazalie" undertook various cruises to the Mediterranean, Morocco (Rio de Oro), Florida, the West Indies, and Central America, and sponsored the late Eugene André's collecting trips to western Colombia and Venezuela (Orinoco-Caura basin). As a result of these enterprises, he amassed a considerable collection, and published a number of papers on the birds of tropical America in the "Mémoires de la Société Zoologique de France," the "Ornis," and the "Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club," describing several striking novelties. Later, his interests drifted away to entomology, and he became quite an authority on spiders. Count Dalmas was an expert chess-player and enthusiastically devoted to photography and trout-fishing. His bird collection, part of which was destroyed by accident, has been acquired by the Tring Museum and the Zoological Museum at Munich, Germany, respectively. He is survived by his widow, three daughters, and several grand-children.—C. E. H.

CHAUNCY WARD CHAMBERLAIN, of Boston, Mass., an Honorary Life Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Boston, on August 6, 1930, and was buried in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, at Arlington, Mass.

His parents were Alfred Chamberlain and Sarah Damon, daughter of David Damon a Universalist minister.

Born in Boston, December 24, 1851, he spent most of his youth in Arlington, Mass., where he went to school until, after graduating from the High School, he entered business. He first went to work for his uncle, Henry Damon, who was in the shoe manufacturing business, and stayed with him until the Boston fire in 1872, caused his uncle's failure, when he started in business for himself. Later he combined with Mr. Chase of Haverhill, Mass., forming the firm of Chase, Chamberlain & Company, which continued to do business until its affairs were wound up in 1922.

Mr. Chamberlain retired, however, from active participation in its affairs when he was 50 years old, although keeping his financial interest there; and spent, thereafter, a great deal of his time in travel, both on this continent and abroad,—winters in Florida or the West Indies, with summer trips to California, the Hawaiian Islands or Alaska, with frequent trips to Europe and the countries bordering the Mediterranean, Morocco, Egypt and the Holy Land.

From the days of his early youth, when, as a small boy he collected eggs, Mr. Chamberlain was always interested in the great out-of-doors, hunting, fishing, camping, bicycling, etc., and maintained a camp at Scituate, Mass., where he spent a good deal of his time.

Becoming more and more interested in Ornithology, as he grew older, he kept up his egg collection and, in addition, gathered together a collection of several thousand skins, mostly of North American birds, in which he was interested up to the time of his death, and which has been presented by his widow, according to Mr. Chamberlain's suggestion, to the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge.

Mr. Chamberlain joined the American Ornithologists' Union in 1885; became an active member of the Cooper Ornithological Club in 1912; joined the Nuttall Ornithological Club in 1918; and had been an Associate Member of the Wilson Ornithological Club since 1922.

He was twice married, his first wife, Miss Flora McKenzie, of Malden, Mass., whom he married on October 15, 1904 and who died on April 14, 1907, and, his second wife, Miss Blanche Jewett, of Lowell, Mass., whom he married on April 28, 1915, and who survives him.—FRED. H. KENNARD.

JAMES FRANK L'HOMMEDIU, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1924, died after a brief illness and attack of heart trouble at Indian Springs, Georgia, on September 14, 1930 in his fifty-second year, being born in Norwalk, Conn. in 1878. He was on annual vacation at the time and was accompanied by his wife and daughter, Miss Marjorie L'Hommedieu, who survive him.

Mr. L'Hommedieu entered statistical work early in life and came South to accept a position with the Central of Georgia Railroad, with which Company he was an auditor for thirteen years. During the period of the World War he obtained leave of absence and enlisted in war work, being stationed at Camp McLellan for two years.

He was, however, a natural leader of boys and due to an intense interest in boys' work finally became affiliated with the Y. M. C. A. His first assignment was at Ashland, Wisconsin, where he spent one year, after which he moved to Thomasville, Georgia, where he was Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. up to the time of his death, a period of eleven years.

He was greatly interested in ornithology and communicated his enthusiasm to many growing boys of the community, and was assisted by a selected group of them in his bird banding activities in the Thomasville region, where he was doing especially valuable work on the plantation

where thousands of birds had been previously banded by Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin and his assistants. Valuable results were being secured through the recapture of birds banded in some cases many years before. The group led by Mr. L'Hommedieu were also very active in banding Chimney Swifts as part of the country-wide campaign to learn through banding more of the life and movements of these interesting birds.

His sudden death at the height of his career was a serious blow to the community and the youth of Thomasville as well as to southern ornithology. There is no one to take his place there as leader to develop the boys so ably started in bird study, nor to carry on the work they were so energetically pursuing over ground where there is especial need for continued work by the banding method.—H. L. STODDARD.