

OBITUARIES.

THE discovery of long-mislaid data permits me to pay a tribute to an early Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, and a valued friend of nearly half a century.

FREDERICK J. DIXON was born in New York City, of English parents, in 1859. At the age of five years his family moved to Schraalenburgh (now Dumont), New Jersey. There he resided until his marriage in 1885 to Miss Virginia Tunney, when he moved to Hackensack, New Jersey, where he lived until his death on December 16, 1927.

Dixon was elected an Associate Member of the Union in 1885, only two years, therefore, after its organization. He had a tender, reverent love of nature and of birds, and they remained for him a source of the greatest pleasure throughout his life. The day of his death he had been looking for birds in the Hackensack marshes.

With an inherent appreciation of the beauty of bird-life, an artistic sense and technical skill, Dixon mounted the comparatively few birds that he collected attractively and accurately. His collection, which, among other interesting specimens, contained a Passenger Pigeon, collected at Schraalenburgh, in the fall (?), 1877, was presented by his widow to the American Museum of Natural History.

Frederick Dixon and Clarence Riker, who was also elected an Associate Member of the A. O. U. in 1885, and is now among the veterans of this class, were the first persons I met who had more than a sportsman's knowledge of birds. As the owner of a copy of Coues' 'Key' (first edition), Dixon was my authority and from him I received not only help in the naming of birds but my first lesson in the art of making bird skins. Small wonder, then, that I valued his friendship and cherish his memory.—
FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

JOHN WYLEY ATKINS, a veteran ornithologist of southern Florida and a former Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union from 1887 to 1901, died at Homestead, Fla., Dec. 4, 1932. He was born in Waverly, Tenn., Dec. 16, 1857, and at the time of his death lacked only twelve days of attaining the age of 75. For many years he was a telegraph operator and cable engineer in the employ of the Western Union Telegraph Company, serving in Augusta, Ga., at Tunta Rassa, Fla., and since 1887 at Key West. He removed to Homestead about 1929.

Mr. Atkins was widely known as an authority on the birds of southern Florida and at one time had a fine collection of birds and fish. Although he observed and collected birds about Key West for more than 40 years and secured numerous records of West Indian birds, he seems to have published little. He contributed but a single note to 'The Auk,' in 1899, on the occurrence of *Columba corensis* at Key West, the first record of the

Sealed Pigeon taken in the United States. Interesting extracts from his letters relative to the occurrence of Bachman's Warbler at Key West were published by W. E. D. Scott ('Auk' 1888, pp. 429-430), who also recorded in 'The Auk' for 1888, 1889 and 1890, notes on many species of birds collected by him. According to A. H. Howell, Atkins collected a number of record specimens at Key West including an Eastern White-winged Dove, a Ruddy Quail Dove, two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, a number of Bachman's Warblers, and the type and only known specimen of the Key West Bob-white, now extinct. In recognition of his work the Florida Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis atkinsi*), was named in his honor by W. E. D. Scott.—T. S. P.

JOHN EDWARD HARRY KELSO, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1915, died at the age of 72 at his home, Braeside, Edgewood, B. C., August 5, 1932. He was born at Fort Bellary, Madras, India, May 21, 1860, the youngest son of Col. Andrew Kelso of the 3rd Madras Light Cavalry, a descendant of the Kelsos of Kelsoland, Scotland. On the retirement of his father the family returned to Scotland and John was educated at the Academy and University of Edinburgh, where he received his degree in medicine. He practiced in Scotland, England, India, and Morocco, and in 1913 located in British Columbia where he became District Medical Officer at Edgewood and during the war was physician for the Edgewood Internment Camp.

From early boyhood he was interested in ornithology and in 1904 was elected a member of the British Ornithologists' Union. In later years he was an ardent bird photographer and gave talks on birds in the local schools. Dr. Kelso was the author of a number of articles on birds and also of a book entitled 'Notes on Some of the Common and Rare British Birds,' 1912. He contributed to the 'Zoologist,' 'Country Life,' 'British Birds,' 'The Ibis,' and occasionally to 'The Auk' and 'Bird Lore.' The results of his observations on the birds of the Arrow Lakes region appeared in a series of articles in the Nelson (B. C.) 'Daily News,' and in a more extended paper containing notes on 191 species, in 'The Ibis' for October, 1926, under the title 'Birds of the Arrow Lakes, West Kootenay District, British Columbia.'—T. S. P.

OLON RODNEY TOWNE, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1919, died at Omaha, Jan. 27, 1932, in the 85th year of his age. He was born at Stowe, Vermont, Dec. 20, 1846, a descendant of William Towne, who came to America in 1625. He was educated at Dartmouth where he took his bachelor's degree in 1872 and his degree in medicine in 1875.

While living in Enfield, Mass., about 1880, Dr. Towne had a patient who was deeply interested in birds and through him acquired his interest in ornithology. Later, in 1887, he took up his residence in Omaha, Nebr. where he practiced medicine until the time of his death and took a promi-

nent part in sanctuary work and in securing legislation. He was the founder of the Nebraska Audubon Society and devoted much effort to bird protection. With the late Dr. Harold Gifford he developed the Fontenelle Forest Reserve near Omaha. For the decade 1909 to 1918 he contributed regularly, with the exception of one or two years, to the annual Christmas bird census and took an active part in migratory bird observations.—T. S. P.