

OBITUARIES.

DR. EDWARD WILLIAM NELSON, President of the A. O. U. from 1908 to 1911, died at the Garfield Hospital, Washington, D. C., after a brief illness, on May 19, 1934, in the eightieth year of his age.

While not a founder of the Union Dr. Nelson was a contemporary of the men who established our Society and one of the last of those who engaged in active exploration of the West following the time of the Pacific Railway Surveys. Indeed there have been few if any who exceeded him

COSMOS CLUB
WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 12, 1933

To the Fellows and members of the
American Ornithologists Union;
Greetings, and the most friendly
good wishes to you all. I regret
exceedingly that I cannot be with
you on this historic occasion.
May the Union go on for the
coming period of fifty years accomplishing another great record for
good work done.

Cordially yours

E. W. Nelson

in this field of activity. To Alaska, to various parts of the then little known Southwest, and to every state of Mexico his field work took him and he brought back notable collections which have proved the basis of our systematic research in these regions. His career has been an inspiration to the younger men who followed, while his delightful personality endeared him to all who came in contact with him.

Failing health and other duties have prevented him from taking an active part in the activities of the Union in the past few years but his

interest never flagged as shown by the appended letter, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary meeting.

In accordance with the established custom a memorial prepared by one of the members of the Union will be presented at the next meeting.—W. S.

DR. CHARLES WENDELL TOWNSEND, a Fellow of the Union died on April 3, 1934. Dr. Townsend was leader among the group of field ornithologists which has developed in recent years. Always a lover of live birds rather than museum specimens, he spent every available moment in acquiring knowledge of their activities and added greatly to our stock of life-history information.

His enthusiasm was contagious and those who visited with him his favorite home grounds on the Ipswich beaches and dunes will never forget the experience. His delightful writings have brought pleasure to a host of persons who never enjoyed the privilege of his acquaintance.

A memorial upon his life and work will be read at the meeting in Chicago and later appear in 'The Auk.'—W. S.

COLONEL FRANKLIN BRANDRETH, an Associate of the American Ornithologists Union since 1886 and life Associate since 1918, died at his home in Ossining, N. Y., May 25, 1926 in his seventy-eighth year. He was born in Ossining July 2, 1849, the son of Benjamin and Virginia (Graham) Brandreth.

His early education was acquired at Churchill's Military School located in Ossining, and later he attended the Charlier Academy of New York. When seventeen years old he entered into business with his father and continued in the same establishment until his death.

His father purchased a large area in the Adirondacks surrounding a lake, now known as Brandreth Lake, where Franklin went when he was twelve years old. It is not improbable that at this impressionable age being thus brought in close contact with Nature, there was bred within him a love for her varied forms which became more pronounced as he advanced in life. Be that as it may, the great out-of-doors held his keenest interest and delight, with hunting, fishing, or yachting as attractive pastimes. He was wonderfully expert with rifle and shot gun in the field, and equally so with the fly-rod at the lake or stream. His life-long interest in natural history more than equalled his enthusiasm for field sports. His acquaintance with birds was so good, that he was able to detect an unknown stranger at sight, and if secured it often came to the writer for identification. He made special effort to encourage and protect song and other birds about his home, and up to the time of his death he fed the winter birds which came to a shelf outside his bedroom window. He taught

his children to identify the different species of birds that came to their notice.

His love of nature was not confined solely to birds and mammals, for he delighted in the beauty of everything that grew. He always was opposed to lumbering in the Adirondacks, and believed that the way to preserve the forest in that region was to leave it alone, and not by modern theories of scientific cutting.

Franklin Brandreth was of sterling quality, upright, lovable, and as a friend remarked: "one of God's noblemen." His influence in the community was great, he was generous almost to a fault, and with quiet charity helped the poor and distressed. Fortunate was he who had him for a friend.

He was Colonel in the New York State Militia under General Husted. He was a life member of the Shattemuc Yacht and Canoe Club; oldest member of the New York Yacht Club; member of Westminster Kennel Club, Long Island; and Monroe Marsh Club (Mich.). Where for fifty-three consecutive years he and his friend William Sterling shot together.

April 17, 1872, Colonel Brandreth married Miss Pauline Burgess of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., who survived him only two months.

He is survived by four children: Mrs. Beatrice Hahn, Mrs. Fox Conner, Miss Pauline Brandreth, and Mr. Courtenay Brandreth.—A. K. F.