

## OBITUARIES.

EDUARD DANIEL VAN OORT, Director of the Royal Museum of Natural History in Leiden, died at Leiden, September 21, 1933, at the age of 57. He was born at Barneveld, Holland, October 31, 1876 and at an early age became interested in nature and especially in birds. His interest in biology was stimulated by his instructors in the Secondary School at The Hague and later at the University of Leiden. From 1900 to 1904 he was assistant to the Director of the Royal Geological and Mineralogical Museum and aided in arranging the collection of fossil mollusca, a position which gave him valuable training in museum administration.

Dr. Van Oort received his Ph.D. degree at Bern in 1904 and shortly after was appointed Curator of the Royal Museum of Natural History. In 1915 he was made Director and continued in this position until his death. His efforts were directed not only toward building up the study collections—already among the most notable in Europe—but he was desirous also of developing an exhibit collection, an ambition which, however, he did not live to realize.

He was greatly interested in bird migration and when appointed Professor of Zoology in the University of Leiden, in 1920, his inaugural address was devoted to 'The Migration of Birds and the Present Position of its Experimental Research.' As early as 1911 he introduced bird banding in Holland and later assisted in establishing the banding stations at Wassenaar and Texel. Under his leadership, by 1930, more than 100,000 birds had been banded and the annual reports on banding published by the Museum contained a wealth of information on migration and distribution. He was the author of numerous systematic papers on birds but his great work 'Ornithologia Neerlandica,' in five volumes, was unfortunately still incomplete at the time of his death. It was his intention to prepare also a similar work on the mammals of Holland but this project was never carried out.

Van Oort was said to be somewhat cool and reserved, extremely modest and honest to a fault. His attainments received recognition at home and abroad in his appointment on several Royal commissions and his election as a Corresponding Member of the Zoological Society of London, Honorary Member of the British Ornithologists' Union, Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1913 and Honorary Fellow in 1919.—  
T. S. P.

PERCY EVANS FREKE, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, elected in 1883, whose death has only recently been reported, died at Folkstone, England, March 20, 1931, at the advanced age of nearly 87.

He was born in Dublin, Ireland, July 12, 1844, and when 21 years of age enlisted in the 44th Essex Regiment. Two years later, in 1887, he

exchanged into the 18th Royal Irish Regiment and after serving two years in New Zealand retired from the army and returned home. In 1871 he served in the Royal Queens County Rifles (Militia) until he left for America in the following year. Upon his return in 1879 he received an appointment on the Irish Land Commission, a position which he held for a number of years until ill health due to over work compelled his retirement. Leaving Ireland in 1899 he took up his residence in England, at Folkstone, in Kent, where he passed the remainder of his life.

For seven years, from 1872-1879, Freke operated a tobacco plantation in Amelia County, Virginia, about 30 miles southwest of Richmond. Here he made the observations which were later incorporated in a list of 112 species of the birds of the County (see review in B. N. O. C., 1882, p. 48). He was always a great lover of nature and his sojourn in Virginia apparently stimulated his interest in birds and resulted in the publication of several important papers, three in the 'Proceedings of the Royal Dublin Society' and one in the 'Zoologist.' All are reviewed in the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' for 1880 to 1883. In later years his interest seemed to have been in entomology rather than in ornithology. Beside the list of Amelia County birds, the other papers of special interest to American readers include a 'Comparative Catalogue of Birds found in Europe and North America' (1880), 'North American Birds Crossing the Atlantic,' and 'European Birds observed in North America' (1881). This last paper containing a list of 56 species, may be regarded as a counterpart of Dalglish's 'List of Occurrences of North American Birds in Europe' (B. N. O. C., 1880). Both of these lists are of permanent value and it is highly desirable that they should be brought down to date.—T. S. P.

WILLIAM DAVID KERR MACGILLIVRAY, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1922, and tenth President of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, died at Broken Hill, New South Wales, June 25, 1933. He was the third son of George and Janet (Haxton) MacGillivray and was born at Kallara Station, on the Darling River, New South Wales, November 27, 1867. About three years later the family moved to Eastern Creek, a tributary of the Flinders, in Queensland, where his early years were spent amid primitive conditions and where he early developed an interest in wild things and began a collection of natural history specimens.

At the age of ten he was sent to school at St. Kilda Scotch College near Melbourne, where he graduated in 1885. Five years later he received his degree in medicine. All through these years his spare time was devoted to observing and collecting birds. He began to practice in 1890 in various places in Victoria and after a few months at Launceston, Tasmania, returned to Melbourne. After his marriage, in 1895, MacGillivray resided in Coleraine and Hamilton, Victoria, but later on removed to Broken Hill, New South Wales, where he practiced during the rest of his life. During

the war he enlisted in the Australian Medical Corps and served as a Major in France.

Upon his return to Broken Hill he became interested in the Great Barrier Reef and made numerous excursions to many of the islands to study shore birds and other migrants.

Dr. MacGillivray was described as amiable, quiet and reserved in manner; he disliked publicity and was a stickler for facts and a hater of shams. He published about 20 papers on birds in 'The Emu,' several articles for the Barrier Reef Commission, and at the time of his death was preparing a book for use in the schools on Australian birds. Further details in regard to his activities may be found in the 'Austral Avian Record,' Vol. III, 1919, and 'The Emu,' for Oct., 1933, pp. 144-148.—T. S. P.

MRS. MABEL OSGOOD WRIGHT, who was elected an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1895 and a Member in 1901, died at her home in Fairfield, Conn., on July 16, 1934, in the seventy-sixth year of her age. For the past six years ill-health had curtailed Mrs. Wright's activities, but for the preceding third of a century she was a leading figure in educational and conservational ornithology. Her early election to Membership in the A. O. U. is an indication of the position she had reached in this field.

The daughter of Dr. Samuel Osgood, a prominent divine of his day, by inheritance, environment, and training, Mrs. Wright was exceptionally equipped for her life-work. A born nature lover she early made birds a part of her life. A gifted writer, prompted by an active, constructive mind to express herself, her familiarity with literature is reflected in both the form and content of her writing. Tradition, however, exercised no curb on her originality or prevented the development of her individuality. Open-hearted, broadminded, unswayed by personal motives, unquestionably genuine, she approached every problem with so obvious a desire to reach a solution that would serve the highest aims that she won the esteem and admiration even of those from whom she differed. It was, indeed, the courage with which she "spoke" her well-balanced mind that made Mrs. Wright one of the most effective and valued members of the numerous boards and committees on which she served. Deeply moved by sentiment she was even more strongly controlled by sense. Her judgment was based on practical, rather than poetical or personal considerations. Hence her success whether as gardener, bird-student, conserver, writer, organizer or administrator.

Mrs. Wright's attitude toward nature is well expressed in the titles of two of her books, 'The Friendship of Nature' (1894; her first book) and 'Citizen Bird' (1897). The first shows a loving intimacy with the world of birds and flowers

"And the round ocean and the living air,

And the blue sky and in the mind of man";

the second is an eloquent advocate of birds' rights.

This latter book was written in conjunction with Elliott Coues, and it has the honor of being the first work effectively to present Louis Fuertes to the world as an inspired painter of birds.

'Birdcraft,' Mrs. Wright's first bird book, issued two years before 'Citizen Bird,' was one of the successful popular manuals of its day. A later edition was also illustrated by Fuertes. In addition to other bird and nature books, largely addressed to young people, Mrs. Wright was the author of a number of novels and, from its birth in 1899 to the day of her death, she was on the editorial staff of 'Bird-Lore.'

As an organizer, councilor and administrator, Mrs. Wright played a part of the first importance in the history of bird protection. She was responsible for the formation, in 1898, of the Connecticut Audubon Society, one of the most active and successful of State Audubon Societies, and served as its president from that date until 1925. She was a director of the National Association of Audubon Societies from its organization in 1905 until 1928, when failing health forced her resignation.

But it is in Birdcraft Sanctuary, near her home at Fairfield, that one finds the most convincing demonstration of Mrs. Wright's sound judgment in catering to the wants of Citizen Bird and at the same time making him known to his human contemporaries.

In 'Bird-Lore' for August, 1915 and 1934, Mrs. Wright tells the story of Birdcraft. It should be read by everyone who would make birds and flowers a part of community life. From most unpromising beginnings, these ten acres have become a common meeting-ground for birds and man; a sanctuary for the former, a source of pleasure and information to the latter, and a monument to the mind that conceived and developed it.—F. M. C.

EDWARD JOHNSON BROWN, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Eustis, Florida, February 14, 1934, at the age of 67. He was the son of Samuel K. and Ann Watson Brown and was born in Philadelphia, Pa., October 4, 1866. Many years of his life were spent in Washington, D. C., where for some time he was engaged with his father in the furniture business.

In 1891 Brown was elected an Associate of the Union and in 1931, after 40 years membership, was designated an Honorary Life Associate. He collected regularly in the vicinity of the District of Columbia during the nineties, and from 1909 to 1917, adding several important records to the local list of birds. One of his earlier expeditions was made to Smith's Island, Va., in May, 1894, and a brief account of the trip, with a nominal list of 63 species observed, was published in 'The Nidologist' (I, p. 144, 1894). In February and March 1895, he accompanied Robert Ridgway and William Palmer to Florida and spent three weeks collecting a few miles above Fort Kissimmee. The following year he collected in Osceola County, Fla. These trips aroused an interest in Florida which resulted in his removal to the State in 1898 on account of his health, and for ten years

he resided at Lemon City engaged chiefly in the cultivation of semi-tropical fruit. He then returned to Washington, and, in 1917, moved to Los Angeles, Calif., where he continued to collect for several years. In 1923 he again returned to Florida and finally made his home at Eustis.

Brown was a keen, careful collector, well acquainted with the habits of the birds he had met in the field. He was especially interested in water birds and shorebirds and possessed an almost uncanny knowledge of the field marks and habits of shorebirds. Retiring and quiet in manner, he rarely spoke in public and unfortunately published only a few brief notes, but was always generous in placing his observations at the disposal of others. Most of his birds are now in the U. S. National Museum. He was a member of the Biological Society of Washington and a Life Member of the Cooper Ornithological Club. In recognition of his work the western form of the Least Tern was named in his honor by Dr. E. A. Mearns, and in January, 1917, he was made an Honorary Collaborator in Zoology of the National Museum. His ashes are interred in Glenwood Cemetery in Washington.—T. S. P.

ARTHUR PERCIVAL STUBBS, an Associate of the Union since 1922, died suddenly at his home in Lynn, Mass., July 19, 1932, in his 66th year.

He was born and brought up in Winterport, Maine, eventually graduated from Bucksport Seminary and then from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, in Boston. For the remaining forty odd years of his life he was a druggist, in Ware and Boston for a few years, but in Lynn, Mass. continuously since about 1900.

Stubbs acquired more than a smattering of botanical lore and he was interested too in geology, but for the last thirty years birds were foremost in his mind and nearly every available minute in-doors and out he used as best he could to further his knowledge of ornithology, handicapped, during his later years at least, by about the longest working hours of any man I ever knew. A Charter Member of the Essex County Ornithological Club, which was formed in 1916, he labored unceasingly for its welfare and performed a prodigious amount of painstaking and more or less tedious work in the time he had, as Recorder for the organization and as a member of the editorial committee. He was an Active Member also of the Nuttall Ornithological Club.

Stubbs wrote little for publication outside of the pages of our club Bulletin but did for a time contribute monthly articles for the Salem 'Evening News' and he also sent a few notes to 'Bird Lore' and to 'The Auk.' Mr. Forbush and Dr. Townsend esteemed him as a correspondent. His most pretentious effort, in which I had the honor and privilege of cooperating, was a 'List of the Birds of Essex County, (Mass.),' which was published in the Club's 'Bulletin' for 1931.

Afield, Stubbs was an ideal companion, always alert, never complaining. He was a most kindly, unassuming, gentle, man.

His wife, an unmarried daughter, a married daughter and a son survive him.—S. G. EMILIO.

RICHARD GILLESPIE, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1930, died at Bay City, Michigan, March 10, 1934, and was buried at Lansing. He died in the 65th year of his age having been born in the Province of Ontario, September 24, 1869. His education was received at Hamilton, Ontario, and much of his later life was devoted to teaching in commercial colleges. During recent years he had been connected with the Bay City Business College.

Gillespie was a lover of nature from early youth and was much interested in wild life and its conservation. He is described as "ever ready for a tramp in the fields or woods, and always with a sprightly step, a keen eye and a boyish enthusiasm that belied advancing years." Apparently he did not become affiliated with ornithological work until after the age of 50. About ten years ago he joined the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and later, at the Salem meeting, the American Ornithologists' Union. Unfortunately he was one of those who published little or nothing on birds and his observations were consequently not preserved except as they may have been communicated to his friends or those with whom he came in contact.

For the foregoing facts we are indebted to a brief sketch by F. J. Pierce in the June number of 'Iowa Bird Life.'—T. S. P.

ALFRED CROWELL WESTON, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, elected in 1931, died at Princeton, Massachusetts, November 11, 1933, from the accidental discharge of a shotgun in the hands of a hunting companion. He was born October 24, 1892, in West Roxbury, Boston, Massachusetts, and was educated in the West Roxbury High School and the Boston Latin School. In the World War he served at Camp Devens and in guarding interned enemy aliens at Lancaster, Massachusetts. He married Edith M. Savage, of Wellesley, Massachusetts, October 3, 1925, and after a little over a year at Wellesley made his home in the adjoining town of Needham. He became interested in birds when a small boy, and a visit to California in 1913 increased this interest. His carefully kept collection of birds' eggs, which numbered about two hundred and forty sets representing one hundred and fifteen species, has been presented to the Children's Museum in Boston. These eggs were all collected by Mr. Weston himself in New England and chiefly in Massachusetts. In 1932 and 1933 Weston spent a number of days in the field with Mr. A. C. Bent, who found him a keen and enthusiastic collector as well as an agreeable and helpful companion.—F. H. A.

*Erratum.* In the notice of Col. Franklin Brandreth, which appeared on pp. 432-3 of this volume of 'The Auk,' the following alterations should be made. The date of his birth should be March 25 instead of "May 25" while he was in his seventy-seventh year not "seventy-eighth."—A. K. FISHER.