

OBITUARIES.

ELIZABETH BRAXTON DAVENPORT, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1898, died at Brattleboro, Vt., Aug. 28, 1934, shortly after her 89th birthday. Mrs. Davenport was the daughter of John and Amelia (Ewing) Simpson and was born in Philadelphia, Pa., Aug. 25, 1845. Her father, who was one of the earliest manufacturers of woolen fabrics in Pennsylvania, came from England in 1820, and on her mother's side her ancestors were among the early Quakers who settled in the same State. At the age of 17, on May 25, 1862, she married Alonzo Cook Davenport, of Sunderland, Vt., who became one of the prominent business men of Brattleboro and who died in 1899. Mrs. Davenport and her husband took a prominent part in the establishment of the Brattleboro Home for the Aged and long after his death, when her own health began to fail, she took up her residence in this Home. During the last three years of her life her sight failed almost completely, but she maintained her interest in her friends and in her former activities practically up to the time of her death.

Mrs. Davenport was one of the outstanding early members of the Union and of the Vermont Botanical and Bird Club. She was the author of a brief list of the 'Birds of Windham and Bennington Counties,' 1907, but for the most part she relied on precept rather than the pen in accomplishing her objectives. Although she published comparatively little on birds, through force of example she exerted an inspiring influence on those with whom she came in contact, in behalf of sound bird study, botany, and wild life conservation. From early childhood she had developed a deep interest in birds and flowers. In addition to her membership in the Union and the Vermont Botanical Club she was a member of the National Association of Audubon Societies, the American Museum of Natural History, the Biological Society of Washington, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Fern Society, the Torrey Botanical Club and the Green Mountain Club. In philanthropic work her interests were equally broad and were manifested in the Red Cross, the Vermont Children's Aid Society and the Women's Educational and Industrial Union of Brattleboro.

Mrs. Davenport was a keen observer, an energetic field worker and a deep believer in the importance of studying birds and flowers in life. She was one of the most active members of the American Ornithologists' Union Expedition to California in 1903 and took part in all of the field trips including those to Los Banos, Yosemite Valley, and the Farallon Islands. In later years when failing health curtailed arduous outdoor exercise, instead of resigning from the several organizations in which she formerly took an active part, as so many are inclined to do, she still maintained her membership and her interest in various activities. Surely such an example should be an inspiration to those who take a real delight in nature study and do what they can to share their interest with others and help to make the world a better place in which to live.—T. S. P.