

## OBITUARIES.

WARREN FRANCIS EATON, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1921, died at Mountainside Hospital, Montclair, New Jersey, February 16, 1936, in his thirty-sixth year. He had been in robust health until two weeks before his death when he suffered an attack of appendicitis. Complications followed which proved fatal. His passing from the ranks of those fighting to preserve American bird life, and especially those striving to prevent the extermination of our native Hawks and Owls, is a cruel blow to the cause to which he had but recently dedicated his entire time and effort.

Born in Weston, Massachusetts, on July 8, 1900, Mr. Eaton found in the natural environs of his home much to develop and hold his interest. An inborn love of nature, manifest at an early age, was recognized and encouraged by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Eaton. From the first he found keen delight in the study of birds and his pursuit of the hobby of field identification and the recording of his observations held through his school and college years and his later business life. While at Harvard he was active afield, his interest extending to all forms of outdoor sports. He developed no mean ability as an athlete but his love for natural science transcended all his other interests and much of his spare time was spent in a study of New England bird life, particularly birds seen from the trails of the Green Mountains. He joined the Nuttall Ornithological Club, serving eventually as its Secretary, and through this association he felt the stimulating contact with a group of prominent naturalists, thus adding anew to his enthusiasm.

After graduating from Harvard in 1922, he took a position with Wellington, Sears and Company, cotton goods factors, being located, first at Boston but transferring a year later to New York. He joined the Linnaean Society of New York in 1924 where his enthusiasm, his abilities and his willingness to work in the interest of ornithology were promptly appreciated. He served for several years on the Council of the Society, also consecutively as its Secretary, Vice-President and President and up to the time of his death he was one of its most active field workers, adding substantially to the known facts of bird occurrence and bird distribution in the New York City region.

While circumstances had always limited the field of his activities Mr. Eaton had the instinct of an explorer. He had lived in New York City only a short time before he had visited all the well or little known "birding spots," nooks and corners within its borders. He was a born geographer and statistician of bird life. One of his early efforts in New York was the compilation of a list of birds recorded from Manhattan Island. A few years later a short vacation spent in Bermuda started him on the task of compiling a list of birds recorded from that island, his up to date compilation finally being included in the bulletin entitled 'Bermuda Birds,' by Reid and Bradlee, published by the Boston Society of Natural History.

In 1927 he married Miss Kethryn Vesey and eight years ago they moved to Upper Montclair, New Jersey, where he applied himself with great diligence to a study of bird distribution in northeastern New Jersey. He was a wide and rapid reader and a careful searcher of the literature of the past. His latest work 'A List of the Birds of Essex County and of Hudson County, New Jersey, with Especial Reference to City Growth and Bird Population,' now being published by the Linnaean Society of New York, shows the thoroughness and intensity of his efforts to assemble all the known data. He had more recently started a similar survey of the bird life of Passaic County.

Mr. Eaton had an especial passion for the birds of prey and his concern over their future led him to organize a few years ago the Hawk and Owl Society. In 1936 he was appointed to the staff of the National Association of Audubon Societies, taking over the Hawk and Owl protection work of that organization. In his new position his remarkable capacity for sustained and effective effort in behalf of conservation, and his natural and becoming aggressiveness were soon emphasized and were winning for him a national reputation. His services for the cause of bird protection were conspicuously outstanding, for he was a doer of deeds rather than a philosopher.

Mr. Eaton last year organized the New Jersey Ornithological Society. He was President of the Montclair Bird Club; also a member of the New Jersey Field Ornithologists' Club, the Green Mountain Club and various other societies of naturalists. He was identified with the Unitarian Church of Weston, Mass.

His widow, a daughter, Carol, and his parents survive him.—C. A. U.

GEORGE MELENDEZ WRIGHT, elected a Life Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1927, died as a result of an automobile accident near Deming, N. M., February 25, 1936. The International Wild Life Refuge Commission of which he was a member was traveling from El Paso, Texas to Tucson, Arizona and Wright and Roger Toll, Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, were riding in the first of two automobiles. As a Connecticut car going in the opposite direction appeared in sight, a tire blowout threw it in the path of the Commission car, causing the death of Toll, Wright and one of the occupants of the Connecticut machine.

George Wright was born in San Francisco, California, June 20, 1904, a son of John Tennant and Mercedes Melendez Wright. He received his early education in the public and high schools of San Francisco and in 1927 graduated from the University of California in the College of Forestry.

From an early age he had shown a deep interest in natural history, particularly in birds, and soon after graduation was appointed a ranger in Yosemite National Park. Later he became junior park naturalist contributing a great deal to the naturalist program. Possessed of ample means and finding the facilities inadequate for the work in hand, he organized, at his own expense, the first wild life survey of the National Parks and carried it on during the next three years. In 1934 he was appointed Chief of the Wild life Division of the National Park Service and succeeded in bringing that branch of the work to a high degree of efficiency. Recently he took an active part in the preparations for the North American Wild-life Conference and contributed to the program.

In spite of the fact that Wright had not attained the age of 32, his contributions to ornithology are important. In 1926, with Joseph S. Dixon, he made a trip to the Mount McKinley region in Alaska, where on May 28 of that year, he discovered the long sought nest and eggs of the Surf Bird (Condor, 1927, p. 9). While stationed in Yosemite and while working in other National Parks as well as during a visit to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, he enjoyed unusual opportunities which he utilized to the utmost for studying the habits of the various species which came under his observation. His publications on birds appeared chiefly in 'The Condor,' 'The Gull,' 'Yosemite Nature Notes' and the 'Fauna Series' of the National Park Service. With Joseph S. Dixon and Benjamin H. Thompson he published in 1932 'A Preliminary Survey of Faunal Relations in National Parks' and recently in co-operation with Thompson, 'Wild Life Management in the National Parks.'

George Wright was a man of unusual attainments and had before him the prospect of a brilliant career. His energy, enthusiasm and broad vision were tempered with patience and a keen perception of the practical side of the problem in hand. His

knowledge of the habits of birds and mammals gained during active work in the field was unusually detailed and accurate. He had a deep appreciation of the importance of conservation and a faculty for devising practical methods of work. His premature death is an irreparable loss to ornithology and conservation.—T. S. P.

WALTER BURGESS SAVARY. On January 7, 1936, there passed away one of the most remarkable men I have ever known, Walter Burgess Savary, of Wareham, Massachusetts, an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union. He was born in New York City, the son of Adolphus and Adeline (Burgess) Savary, on January 28, 1855. His father was a civil engineer, which caused many changes in residence; the family moved to Wareham in 1855, and afterwards lived at times in Boston, Lowell, Plymouth and New Bedford in Massachusetts, and in Concord and Laconia in New Hampshire. He was educated, as a child, in a tiny country school in Wareham, which he attended for only eight years, or until he was between fourteen and sixteen years old. The remarkable fund of general knowledge that he acquired in later years was gained by self-education and exhaustive reading, assisted by an unusually retentive memory. As a youth, he assisted his father in surveying and laying out the railroad when it first reached Provincetown on Cape Cod. In 1878, he went with his father and his brother, Philip, to Norfolk, Va., in a sail boat; on that trip he visited Washington, and says of the Smithsonian Institution, in his diary, that the collections of birds and eggs did not come up to his expectations, though he was impressed with the Indian implements. He was married in 1884 to Ellen Frances Bourne, and shortly after that went to Tacoma, Washington, where he engaged in business for several years, maintaining a shop for repairing bicycles. In 1897, his wife died and he returned to Wareham, where he built up a successful shellfish business, sold sand and did some business in truck gardening.

When a mere lad of fourteen years, he began collecting birds' eggs, but it was not until the latter part of his life that he found time to travel extensively and build up a really fine, scientific collection of eggs. He visited at my home occasionally to see my collection, and was always glad to accept such damaged and badly broken eggs as I had discarded, as hopeless, which he repaired, or pieced together with plaster of Paris, with such consummate skill that they made very presentable specimens.

About 1914, he built with his own hands a sail boat 36 feet long and began taking trips up and down the coast as far south as Virginia; it was then that he began in earnest to build up his collection of birds' eggs. In the fall of 1920, he rode up to my house on a new motorcycle, which he had just bought, and started on it the next day for California; there he spent the winter and spring with his brother, Philip, and collected extensively. His shellfish business occupied his time in the summer and early fall, leaving him free to travel during the winter and spring. He discarded the motorcycle for an automobile, which he fitted up so that he could sleep in it and carry his outfit, and with this he made some long collecting trips. He drove to Jacksonville in the fall of 1925, bought a small boat, about twelve feet long, and fitted it with a sail and a tent for shelter; in this he cruised around the peninsula of Florida, camping on shore, sleeping on the boat, and collecting.

In December, 1926, he motored to Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, as far south as Brownsville, spending the winter and spring in Texas, where he made extensive collections and celebrated his 72d birthday. Other collecting trips took him to the Carolinas, Georgia and the interior of Florida.

During the winter of 1929 and 1930, when he was 75 years old, he built with his own hands, an addition to his house about 40 feet long, which he fitted up as a

museum to hold his treasures. The walls are decorated with his own water color paintings, photographs, snakes' skins and other curios, and lined with cabinets, book-cases, tables and work benches. The museum is full of interesting things, illustrating his zeal and energy as a collector and his skill as an artisan. Conspicuous among these is a large globe, some 30 inches in diameter, in the making of which he used several thousand pieces of wood, glued together, covered with gauze and smoothly coated with plaster; on the surface of it is accurately drawn and colored a map of the world, showing all the details down to the principal cities; it revolves in two directions with perfect alignment of longitude and latitude. There are models of a full-rigged ship, a schooner 5½ feet long, a sloop six feet overall and canoes, all perfect in detail. His egg collection consists of over 2300 sets, including a collection of Hummingbirds' and other nests mounted on stands.

There is a large collection of shells, Indian implements and arrowheads, old coins and many curios, relics and souvenirs of historic interest. His collection of butterflies and moths is not large, but he made a fine collection of water color drawings of these insects, showing excellent technique and accuracy in detail even in the smallest species, all of which were neatly bound by him in a single volume. He also showed his skill as a bookbinder by binding a complete file of 'Forest and Stream,' from 1874 to 1929 inclusive; the art of bookbinding he had taught himself. During his last years he amused himself by writing a fanciful story, entitled "Voyages to Other Worlds," in which he showed an ingenious imagination; the first volume contains over 400 pages, with every letter printed by hand and illustrated with his own colored drawings of imaginary animals, plants and scenery; for a man nearly 80 years old, the finely drawn details in these pictures show marvellous execution.

From the foregoing it will be seen that Walter B. Savary was a remarkable example of a self-made man; with only a brief schooling and always with limited means, he accomplished much and made himself proficient in many lines. He often visited at my home and the members of my family all agreed that he was one of the most interesting guests that we ever entertained, for he could talk most fluently and entertainingly on a wide range of subjects, due to his thirst for general knowledge and his retentive memory. He enjoyed vigorous health nearly up to the end, coupled with untiring energy; he climbed to Eagles' nests in Florida when he was past 70, and his strong hands were steady as a rock, yet equal to the most delicate work to the very last.

Only two of his four children are living, Warren H. Savary, at whose home he died in North Plainfield, N. J., and Mrs. Edith S. Hall, of East Wareham, Massachusetts, to whom I am indebted for much of the above information.—A. C. BENT.