

OBITUARIES

WILL E. SNYDER, who was born in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, October 29, 1873, a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Theodore Snyder, was killed in an automobile accident on November 10, 1937. He was well known to all of the older ornithologists and oölogists in the 'nineties of the last century and for the first thirty years of this century. He was a natural-born collector, very accurate in his identifications and with wide knowledge of the habits of birds. Except for about fifteen years of his early life spent near Farina, Illinois, and one year spent at Point Barrow, Alaska, in the employ of E. A. McIlhenny, collecting specimens, he spent his entire life in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

During the latter half of his life he devoted much of his time to building up a collection of Coleoptera, and at the time of his death had one of the largest private collections of North American beetles in the country. He was well versed in bird life of the nation, of which he had made a lifelong study. He was a member of the A. O. U. for over forty years.

On November 18, 1903, he was united in marriage with Miss Erma Crane, of Beaver Dam, who survives him. He is also survived by one son, Wayne Snyder, one grandson and one granddaughter, all of Chicago, and by one sister, Miss Clara Snyder, of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.—MRS. W. E. SNYDER.

NATHANIEL THAYER KIDDER, a Life Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1906, died at Boston on July 13, 1938. He was the son of Henry P. Kidder (Boston banker and founder of the firm of Kidder, Peabody and Co.) and Caroline W. (Archbald) Kidder. Born in Boston, October 29, 1860, he early became interested in botany and horticulture and graduated with the degree of A.B. in agricultural science from Harvard in 1882 and from the Bussey Institution in 1886. As a business man, he was director in several railroads, and in the latter half of his life was prominent in philanthropic work, giving generously to the support of the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Milton Public Library, the Gray Herbarium, the Boston Society of Natural History, and was a trustee of the hospital and of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and for many years was a vice-president of the Boston Society of Natural History. While his interest in birds was largely incidental, as an amateur botanist he was much interested in the work of the New England Botanical Club. His home was at Milton, Massachusetts, where he showed himself a public-spirited citizen and did much to further its civic welfare, particularly in helping the work of the public library and of the historical society and in maintaining the beauty of its shade trees. He was unmarried but devoted himself to the furthering of charitable and educational organizations and delighted in art and literature.—G. M. A.

CHARLES ANDERSON URNER, a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1933, and an Associate for the twelve preceding years, died suddenly and unexpectedly near his home on the morning of June 22, 1938, as he was returning from a meeting of the Linnaean Society of New York. Through his death the ornithologists of New Jersey and New York lose one of their most influential and inspiring leaders. He is survived by a wife, son, daughter and grandson.

Charles Urner was born March 29, 1882, in Elizabeth, New Jersey, where he lived throughout most of his life. After attending the Pingry School he entered the University of Wisconsin and was graduated in 1904, a specialist in dairy bacteriology.

He thereupon entered the Urner-Barry Company, publishers of periodicals for the dairy, poultry, and egg trades, and at the time of his death was vice-president of the company. His great ability and the high respect in which he was held by members of the businesses he served made him an outstanding figure in the industry.

As a young man he was an active sportsman, but his vigorous curiosity and imagination could not be satisfied by hunting, and many years ago he abandoned the gun for the field-glass and notebook. Without exaggeration it may be said that he was richly endowed with the qualities that make a fine naturalist: highly developed powers of observation, an ability to interpret and correlate his observations, a disciplined mind; an inordinate capacity for hard work, and an unbroken enthusiasm for the out-of-doors. During the years 1921-36 he published, in 'The Auk', thirty-nine papers and notes, and during the same period 'The Birds of Union County, New Jersey', in the 'Proceedings' of the Linnaean Society of New York. This last paper was, perhaps, the most important, and few 'local lists' have equalled it. For two and a half years he was New York editor of 'Bird-Lore's' 'Season,' and he supplied much material for Ludlow Griscom's 'Birds of the New York City Region' and Dr. Witmer Stone's 'Bird Studies at Old Cape May.' An active conservationist, he made important numerical studies of shorebirds and waterfowl in New Jersey, was a trustee of the New Jersey Audubon Society, and chairman of the Waterfowl Committee of the National Association of Audubon Societies.

From 1921 to the time of his death he was a member of the Linnaean Society, Secretary 1924-26, President 1929-31, member of the Council more than ten years, and one of ten members to be elected a Fellow in the sixty years of the Society's history. He was a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, and a founder of the New Jersey Field Ornithologists Club. The high place he took in ornithological groups was the result both of scientific abilities and personal qualities. He possessed a high zest for life, a friendliness that invariably made him accessible to anyone interested in birds, such a rich sense of humor that it is still impossible to think of him without a feeling of pleasure, an honesty that was uncompromising, and a genius for conviviality. As I have sought for the word that best describes him, I have repeatedly come back to 'generosity.' Those who knew him well for many years never knew him to do or say or think an ungenerous thing.—WILLIAM VOGT.

THE FIFTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE A. O. U.

The Fifty-sixth Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held in Washington, D. C., October 17-22, 1938. The headquarters will be at the Raleigh Hotel, and the public meetings will be held in the United States National Museum. Monday will be devoted to business sessions, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday to presentation and discussion of papers, Friday to an excursion, and Saturday morning to a visit to the National Zoological Park. Eleven years have elapsed since the Union met in Washington, and it is hoped that a large membership may be present on this occasion. The city of Washington has been extensively altered by the erection of numerous imposing public buildings since the time of the last meeting, and members may be therefore reminded that there is much to be seen in the way of sights, aside from the features of the meeting.