

OBITUARIES

STUART TAYLOR DANFORTH, who was elected an Associate of the A.O.U. in 1916, and a Member in 1933, died on November 25, 1938. He was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, the son of Ralph E. and Bertha T. Danforth. He very early showed an absorbing interest in birds, and when a mere boy of seven, at Ann Arbor, Michigan, began keeping notes of his observations, which later ran to voluminous journals. Most of his boyhood years were spent at East Jaffrey, New Hampshire. He graduated from Rutgers College in 1921 and shortly after, went to Puerto Rico to visit his father, then professor of biology at the College of Agriculture at Mayagüez. Here he became much interested in the local bird life at Cartagena Lagoon where in succeeding years he carried on intensive observations which he embodied in a thesis for the doctorate at Cornell University in 1925. After teaching a year at Temple University, he succeeded his father at Mayagüez and continued there, teaching zoology and entomology while at the same time carrying on active field work, particularly in ornithology, and extending his investigations to other islands of the West Indies.

In 1937, after an expedition to some of the Lesser Antilles, he contracted pneumonia which later developed into tuberculosis, forcing him to return in June 1938, to his mother's home in West Boylston, Massachusetts, where the disease soon ran its fatal course. Aware of his precarious health, he never married. In high courage and faith he continued till the end writing and putting in order the notes of his last expedition, that the results might be available to others. In addition to his first important paper on the bird life of the Cartagena Lagoon, he published many briefer articles and notes on West Indian birds. His book, 'Los Pájaros de Puerto Rico,' written in Spanish, provides the only popular work on Puerto Rican birds for the use of residents of that island, among whom it was designed to arouse a greater interest in the study and protection of the native avifauna. In his work at the College of Agriculture he was tireless in his efforts to maintain high standards and was a constant source of inspiration to his colleagues and students. As a final act of devotion he generously provided in his will that his excellent scientific library should be sold at his death and the proceeds donated to the American Ornithologists' Union. It is a matter of deep regret that a life so full of promise should thus early close.—G. M. ALLEN.

HERBERT PARKER, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1920, died at his home in Lancaster, Massachusetts, on February 11, 1939. He was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts, on March 2, 1856, the son of George A. Parker, a civil engineer of national reputation, and Harriet Newell Felton, whose brother Cornelius was a former president of Harvard. While still a boy he moved to Lancaster, where he lived thereafter. He was a member of the Harvard class of 1878, but on account of illness he left college before graduation. However, he was later awarded his A.B. degree. He then began the study of law in the offices of a Worcester firm and in 1883 was admitted to the bar. His brilliant success as a trial lawyer led eventually to his appointment as Attorney-General of Massachusetts from 1901-05. Throughout a long and honorable career his devotion to the interests of the Commonwealth won for him the confidence and approval of his fellow citizens. In 1886 he was married to Mary C. Vose of Lowell.

Although he made no pretense of being an ornithologist, he was genuinely interested in birds and took much delight in their observation. For many years he maintained on his estate an outdoor aviary of various native species, especially of finches.

He was a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, though seldom attending its meetings, and belonged to several other organizations of natural-history interest, including the National Association of Audubon Societies. In his professional as well as in his private life he was beloved by a wide circle of friends.—G. M. ALLEN.

IN THE PASSING OF JAMES COLUMBUS NEELY, on March 1st, at Brookline, Massachusetts, the American Ornithologists' Union has lost a most respected and valuable member. Although he may not have had a wide knowledge of ornithology, his deep interest as a keen and conservative sportsman brought him in close intimacy with the groups known as gamebirds and waterfowl. In many of our talks when he was telling me of interesting experiences, his keenness of observation, so self-evident, gave added assurance to all his statements. On sundry occasions he was asked to write and publish a series of his experiences relating not only to birds, but also to salmon, at the capture of which he was past grand-master. It is too bad that the spirit did not move him to leave his gleanings from Nature to us. When a movement was in progress to place migratory species of game under federal control, he came to the Biological Survey, in Washington, strongly backing the scheme with words of encouragement and with pertinent suggestions. He and other conservative sportsmen helped leaven the loaf of endeavor which brought these birds under federal control, and later, with added protection, under the Treaty Act with Great Britain. He always was opposed to those who killed game unlawfully or in excess and on occasion gave aid in apprehending the violators.

Neely was born in Memphis, Tennessee, on March 12, 1867. His grandfather and grandmother moved from North Carolina to Tennessee in 1833, were of Scotch-Irish descent, and Presbyterian in faith. He leaves a wife, who formerly was Eleanor McGhee, of Knoxville, Tennessee; a sister, Daisy N. Mallory; and a brother, S. M. Neely, an attorney in Memphis. He was educated at the Southwestern Presbyterian College at Clarksville, Tennessee, and for several years was associated with his father in cotton business in Memphis. He always retained his citizenship in Memphis, although he spent most of his time in Massachusetts, in Florida, or in travel.

He was a member of the Wapanoca Club in Arkansas, the famous Bear River Club in Utah, a hunting club in South Carolina, a salmon club on the Restigouche, the Myopia Club near Boston, and Paddock Club in Sussex Downs, Massachusetts. He also was a member of the Somerset Club and the Tennis and Racquet Club in Boston and the Tennessee Club and Memphis Country Club in Memphis. Neely with his sterling virtues of veracity, stability, tolerance, and proper understanding will be sorely missed by many friends.—A. K. FISHER.

DR. WITMER STONE died on May 23, and DR. JOSEPH GRINNELL on May 29, both Fellows of the American Ornithologists' Union and for many years leaders in the active study of birds. Dr. Stone as editor of 'The Auk' for twenty-five years and a former President of the Union has long endeared himself to a widening circle of ornithologists the world over; Dr. Grinnell as editor of 'The Condor' and also a former President of the Union, has for over a generation been a foremost figure in the development of science on the West Coast. Suitable memorials will later appear.—G. M. ALLEN.