

OBITUARIES

REVEREND FRANCIS CHARLES ROBERT JOURDAIN, an Honorary Fellow of the A.O.U. since 1921, died at his home in Southbourne, Bournemouth, England, on February 27, 1940, a week before his seventy-fifth birthday. He was born March 4, 1865, the eldest son of Reverend F. Jourdain, vicar of Ashbourne-cum-Mapleton. After graduation from Oxford in 1887, he was ordained in 1890, and four years later was appointed vicar of Clifton-by-Ashbourne where he remained for twenty years, until in 1914 he became rector of Appleton, in Berkshire. In 1925 he retired. Ornithology was a lifelong interest and he was known the world over as a high authority on the breeding and food habits particularly of western-palaeartic birds. He twice visited Spitsbergen and at various times made ornithological journeys to Corsica, Cyprus, Spain and northern Africa. His private collection of birds' eggs, a subject in which he took particular interest, was exceedingly fine. His active and enthusiastic work in ornithology was continued till the very end of his life, observing, gathering facts, lecturing, writing. An extended notice of his career and many activities with a portrait and a selected list of important writings appears in 'British Birds' (33: 286-293, 1940), from which the above particulars are drawn.—G. M. ALLEN.

JOHANNES THIENEMANN, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, elected in 1926, died at Rossitten, East Prussia, April 12, 1938, at the age of 74. He was born at Gangloffsommern, Thuringia, Germany, November 12, 1863, and was educated for the ministry. Later he became a teacher but found his life work in studying bird migration at the German Observation Station at Rossitten on the Kurische Nehrung.

On his first visit, July 18, 1896, he found in this region unusual opportunities for the study of migration. Four years later at the jubilee meeting of the Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft in Leipzig in 1900, he presented a paper 'Zwecke und Ziele, eine ornithologischen Beobachtungsstation in Rossitten an der Kurische Nehrung.' As a result of his recommendation a station was opened here January 1, 1901, as a cooperative project of the D.O.G. and the Prussian Government. Thienemann at once took up his residence there and proceeded to develop the station into an ornithological observatory with a worldwide reputation. Here he spent the rest of his life carrying on the observations which have made the place famous.

His publications are not numerous but among the most important may be mentioned 'Zwecke und Ziele,' two annual reports of progress following the establishment of the station and his principal work, 'Rossitten,' a book of 300 pages which appeared in 1926 and in a second edition in 1928, containing a summary of his observations extending over a period of thirty years on the Kurische Nehrung. This was followed by 'Im Laude des Vogelzuges,' a popular account for young people and 'Vom Vogelzuge in Rossitten.'

Thienemann was also greatly interested in falconry and did much to revive the art locally. In recognition of his work on migration he received the Goethe Medal and was made an Honorary Member of the Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft and a Corresponding Fellow of the A.O.U. A memorial giving a full account of his activities may be found in the 'Journal für Ornithologie' for July 1938, pp. 466-483.—T. S. PALMER.

DR. ZABDIEL BOYLSTON ADAMS, an Associate of the A.O.U. since 1908, died on March 16, 1940, in Brookline, Massachusetts, in his sixty-eighth year. He was born in Framingham, Massachusetts, on January 25, 1875. He was a member of the class of 1896 of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and was graduated from the Harvard Medical School in 1903. He was widely known for his early work on various types of scoliosis and congenital diseases of the hips and feet. As a specialist in orthopaedic surgery he was orthopaedic surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital and chief of that service. For many years he taught this subject at the Harvard Medical School where he later became associate in anatomy. During the World War he served as a major in the U. S. Medical Service with Base Hospital 6. Although his interest in ornithology was necessarily limited by his many duties, he was a member of many scientific and medical societies.—G. M. ALLEN.

DR. WALTER HARRINGTON MACCRACKEN, an Associate of the A.O.U., since 1931, died at his home in Detroit, Michigan, on March 3, 1940, following a cerebral hemorrhage. He was born in Albion, New York, January 29, 1870, and spent his early youth at Benton Harbor, Michigan, where his interest in natural history and especially in ornithology, took the form of collecting and taxidermy. After a medical education he was engaged in teaching and in the practice of his profession. He eventually became Dean of the College of Medicine, Wayne University, and in 1935 was made Dean Emeritus. In 1927 he bought a summer home of twelve acres at Harbor Beach, on the shore of Lake Huron in the 'Thumb' district of Michigan and there developed a small sanctuary for birds of both land and water, where during the last years of his life he devoted his leisure to painting birds and undertaking some minor collecting. His hobby was water colors, and he also gathered a select library of current and early literature on birds. He is survived by his wife, Harriet Jones MacCraken, and his daughter, Dr. Frances L. MacCraken, to whom we owe the above brief particulars.—G. M. ALLEN.

LOUISE MCGOWAN STEPHENSON belonged to the class of those whose literary efforts are directed toward popularizing ornithology, creating a love for birds and promoting conservation measures. She had two chief hobbies, birds and people, and it was her love for both that prompted her to tell people about birds. Over a long period of time Mrs. Stephenson contributed to the weekly 'Helena World' of Helena, Arkansas, of which she was 'bird editor.' A review of a little over three years of the 'World' shows that she published forty-four articles on birds during this period. These covered many phases of bird life: life histories, economic value, the crusade against the use of feathers in millinery, pleas for conservation, bird song, general notes and advocating Bird Day in the schools.

More than two years before popular demand evoked legislation against commerce in the feathers of birds Mrs. Stephenson was active in the campaign. Her first article on this subject appeared January 26, 1898. The Lacey Act prohibiting interstate shipment of birds, skins and plumage was passed by Congress May 25, 1900, and amended in 1909.

In 1897, Mrs. Stephenson was responsible for the enactment of Arkansas's first comprehensive law protecting non-game birds. This act of March 15, 1897, was one of the first of its kind in any of the southern States and while she may have had the advice of her judicial husband in framing the statute, hers was the sole credit for its enactment. It reads as follows:

It shall be unlawful for any person within the State of Arkansas to kill, wound, or injure any wild bird other than the game birds; or to destroy, disturb or rob

the nests of any such birds; or to sell or to expose for sale any of the eggs of any such birds; and it shall be unlawful for any railroad company, express company, steamboat company or other company or corporation or private person, their agents, employees or servants to have in possession or to receive for transportation or carriage, or for any other purpose whatever, any such birds or eggs; but this section shall not apply to English sparrows, crows, blackbirds, hawks, owls, eagles, and other birds of prey, nor shall it prohibit any person from killing any such birds on his own premises when in the act of destroying fruit or other crops (Sec. 3616, Kirby's Digest).

A movement to which Mrs. Stephenson contributed her full strength was toward the establishment of Bird Day in the schools. She started her campaign by an article published November 11, 1896. Early in 1897, Junius Jordon, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, issued directions for observance of a Bird Day in the public schools of Arkansas, giving Mrs. Stephenson full credit for the measure. Programs were suggested for four weeks in advance. Since it was not until 1910 that the Audubon Society developed plans for the organization of junior clubs in the schools, this must be considered one of the earliest efforts in this direction.

Mrs. Stephenson became an associate member of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1894 and continued her membership until 1907.

In 1882 W. W. Cooke, later of the Division of Economic Ornithology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating with the committee on bird migration of the American Ornithologists' Union, began a study of bird migration in the Mississippi valley using the system of reporters who sent observations on migration dates from various localities. Mrs. Stephenson acted as reporter for the Helena area from 1894 to 1916. In a personal communication from Mr. Arthur H. Howell of the U. S. Biological Survey he states that her migration schedules were very accurate and indicated much care in their preparation. Her first report indicates that she began to record observations on birds in 1886 at a time when the only help she had in identification of the species was what she obtained from 'Webster's Dictionary.' About 1890, she obtained a copy of Florence Merriam's 'Birds through an Opera Glass' and Studer's 'Birds of North America.' She was in correspondence with Otto Widmann of St. Louis and, at least on one occasion, accompanied him on a field trip. Mr. Howell further states that her records are quoted extensively in his 'Birds of Arkansas,' adding materially to the value of the report.

Mrs. Stephenson was the daughter of Edward McGowan and Elsie Duell McGowan. She was born in Orangeville, Michigan, in 1848. Her father later became a prominent miller in Battle Creek. She married Marshall Lovejoy Stephenson of Helena, Arkansas, November 27, 1872, who had risen to the rank of Colonel in the Federal forces during the Civil War and who served as associate justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court from 1872 to 1875.

In an appreciation of Mrs. Stephenson written by Mrs. Margaret Redford Ready, is recorded one of her characteristic habits. At their first meeting "she had a note book with her and then and there I became acquainted with that careful habit of hers of making notes whether listening to another's club paper, the transaction of business or the song of a bird. She was a constant marvel in her ability to spend hours at the typewriter." This habit was necessitated by her varied interests in the literary club, the library association, the church and ornithology. In all these she was not just a member but an active worker.

Two of her personal diaries were sent me by her niece, Mrs. John A. Stevens of Mount Vernon, New York. There is not a day in either volume on which there is not an entry. The first observation is uniformly on the state of the weather. The material consists largely of accounts of articles made for presents to friends, of library and church work and social activities. Her bird records are not included in these volumes. The last entry is dated July 27, 1916, "Clear and hot all day; a tiny shower," and toward the bottom of the page, "Telephoned S . . . for help." Death came August 1, 1916.—WILLIAM H. DEADERICK, M.D.

THE passing of JOHN WILLIAM SUGDEN (senior) on August 16, 1935, at his home in Salt Lake City, Utah, from coronary occlusion was a distinct loss to ornithology and naturalists of the Intermountain region. For nearly half a century Mr. Sugden was a collector of natural-history objects and particularly of birds' eggs. Specimens from his collection may now be found in many of the better public and private museums. While he was active during the period of the commercial hunter and had many opportunities to sell specimens, he regarded his collections as a public trust and never sold an egg although he freely exchanged specimens to build up and improve his and other collections. His time, energy, and collections were always at the service of others and he was repeatedly called upon to lecture to schools, boy scouts, and social groups, and for this he was affectionately known as 'the Pioneer Naturalist.' While his bibliography is rather small (four numbers), he helped and encouraged others to write and to study Nature.

He was born in Doncaster, Yorkshire, England, March 26, 1867, emigrated with his parents to America and arrived at Salt Lake City by ox-team in 1869. Mr. Sugden is not to be confused with his son, Dr. John William Sugden, of Salt Lake City, who also is an enthusiastic ornithologist and naturalist, carrying on much of the work of his father and who is an Associate of the A.O.U.—CLARENCE COTTAM.

WILFRED AUGUST WELTER, who became an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1930, was killed in an automobile accident on December 20, 1939, while en route from Kentucky to Minnesota for the holidays. He was born in Creighton, Nebraska, March 29, 1906, and five years later, moved with his parents to a farm north of Verndale, Minnesota, where he attended the local grammar and high schools, then entered the Teachers College at St. Cloud graduating in 1922. Entering the University of Minnesota, he obtained the bachelor of science degree in 1926, and the following year the master's degree from Iowa State College. He taught one year in the Teachers College at St. Cloud and one at the Teachers College in Dekalb, Illinois, as instructor in biology, then from 1930-32 undertook graduate work at Cornell University leading to the degree of Ph.D. Thereafter he taught at Teachers College, Morehead, Kentucky, where at the time of his death he was professor of biology and head of the science department. Here he built up a museum of wildlife and carried on field studies of plants and animals, particularly of fishes, amphibians, reptiles and birds. As head of the department of biology at Morehead, he had an unusually stimulating influence and was greatly beloved by his colleagues and students alike.—AMY IRENE MOORE.

COUNT JOSEF VON SEILERN-ASPANG died on August 18, 1939, at Lešna Castle, Lukov, Moravia, after a long and painful illness. Although he never belonged to our Union, his death should not pass unnoticed. Born on November 25, 1884, he attended school at Kalksburg (near Vienna) and Kremsier, and afterwards studied agriculture at the Academies of Hohenheim and Munich. From his earliest youth

he professed great interest in ornithology and, when a boy, began to collect nests and eggs of the birds found on the extensive family estates. One of his favorite collecting grounds was Lake Neusiedel on the confines of Hungary and Lower Austria, renowned for its rich and varied bird life, where his father had a shooting lodge. At first primarily devoted to oölogy, he soon became interested in the neotropical fauna, and in conjunction with the Munich Museum organized expeditions of professional collectors to various parts of South America. The results of these undertakings were published in a number of papers, partly in joint authorship with the writer of the present lines. Count Seilern travelled a good deal. Besides visiting Corsica and Spitsbergen, he went twice around the world, collecting and acquiring specimens whenever opportunity presented itself. Trips of his taxidermist to Mallorca, Albania, and Rhodos likewise added valuable material to his collection. At the time of his death, the study series numbered 25,000 bird skins, mostly from the nearctic, palaeartic, and neotropical regions, including several types while the egg collection amounted to 42,000 specimens in 3200 species. There was also an exhibition gallery in a separate building in Lešna Park, where, in addition to other natural-history specimens, the local fauna and a good many representatives of the bird world, together with their nests and eggs, were shown by well-mounted examples. This Museum, open to the public, was much frequented by school classes. In the park he kept various kinds of deer from both hemispheres, and there were extensive aviaries for the rearing of domestic and foreign pheasants under the supervision of a trained staff. During the last few years his health gradually gave way, but he kept on working in the bird-room, and never lost hope of recovering. His charming personality and his boundless enthusiasm for ornithology endeared him to all who had the privilege of knowing him intimately, and his passing away, at such an early age, is deeply mourned by his many friends.—C. E. HELLMAYR.