

OBITUARIES

MYRON HARMON SWENK, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1904, and a Member from 1920, was born at Polo, Illinois, August 8, 1883, and died at Lincoln, Nebraska, July 17, 1941. The Nebraska Bird Review, Volume 10, No. 1, January-June (July 7) 1942, designated on the title page as the 'Myron Harmon Swenk Memorial Issue,' contains a portrait, a biography by Harry C. Oberholser (pp. 1-6), a bibliography by H. Douglas Tate (pp. 6-15), and an article by Myron H. Swenk and Edson Fichter on the 'Distribution and Migration of the Solitary Sandpiper in Nebraska' (pp. 15-22). Obituaries prepared by Dr. Tate have been published also in The Journal of Wildlife Management, 6 (1): 95-96, Jan., 1942, and in The Journal of Economic Entomology, 34 (6): 863-864, Dec., 1941, with portrait.—W. L. McATEE.

EDWIN ASHBY, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1918, died at his home, Wittunga, Blackwood, about eight miles from Adelaide, South Australia, January 8, 1941. He had recently passed his 79th birthday, having been born November 2, 1861, at Plaistow near Capel, Sussex, England. At the age of 23 he went to South Australia where he engaged in business as a land and estate agent but retired while still a comparatively young man. When he took up his residence in Australia he was in rather delicate health but his interest in natural history, his activities in an outdoor life and travel in various parts of the country in search of specimens, did much to improve his health. In 1918 while on a world tour he visited Washington and spent some time working in the U. S. National Museum where he met several American ornithologists. It was at this time that he was elected a Corresponding Fellow of the A.O.U. He was also a Life Member of the British Ornithologists' Union, a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London and a Foundation Member of the South Australian Ornithological Association.

Ashby's publications on birds, according to a list which appeared in 'The Emu,' numbered 81 titles, about two-thirds of which were contributed to 'The Emu' and one-third to 'The South Australian Ornithologist.' He published 'Notes on the Mound-building Birds of Australia' in 'The Ibis' for 1922 and an interesting article on the same subject in 'The Auk' for 1929. He described several new species of Australian birds including the Desert Chat or Gibber-bird (*Ephthianura lovensis*) which was later made the type of a new genus *Ashbyia* by A. J. North. In the summer of 1935 about two-thirds of his collection of birds was burned in a fire which destroyed his home.

Ashby was an all-round naturalist and made notable contributions to conchology and horticulture as well as ornithology. He published about 40 papers on shells and was an authority on the Chitons, a peculiar group of mollusks. In later years he became much interested in botany and horticulture. At his home he brought together a unique collection of native and exotic shrubs and did everything possible to encourage the cultivation of native Australian species.

He had a genial and charming personality and an enthusiasm that was contagious. He made friends readily and all through life encouraged younger men in the study of birds and nature. A more extended notice of his activities, accompanied by a portrait and a bibliography of his ornithological publications, may be found in 'The Emu' for July, 1941, pp. 409-413.—T. S. PALMER.

GEORGE LATIMER BATES, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1919, died in Chelmsford, England, January 31, 1940, in his 77th year. During the previous autumn he had undergone a serious operation from which he never fully recovered. He was the eldest son in a large family and was born in Abingdon, Illinois, March 21, 1883, but spent most of his life abroad. He graduated from Knox College in Galesburg in 1895 and the Theological College in Chicago in 1891. Later his alma mater conferred on him the degree of LL.D. His father wished him to enter the ministry but the son, actuated by a deep interest in natural history which he inherited from his mother, and a strong desire to travel, persuaded his father to send him abroad. In 1895 he went to West Africa, working at first in Gabon and the French Congo and in later years in the Cameroon. In 1905, after a visit to his home in America, he settled at Biteye (native name for Bates), on the Ja River in Cameroon, where he engaged in agriculture, raising cacao, coffee, rubber and potatoes. After 1923 he made expeditions to various parts of West Africa and in 1934 a trip to Jidda, Arabia. In 1896 he began making natural history collections which he sent to the British Museum at intervals during a period of about thirty years. He was an excellent field collector and made many interesting discoveries in mammals, birds and reptiles, his collections in reptiles alone including 62 new species. His fishes and plants were considered "models of careful collecting." About 1929 he returned to England and settled at Little Waltham, near Chelmsford, which became his home for the remainder of his life.

Bates's publications on birds numbered about 30 and appeared mainly in 'The Ibis' from 1904 to 1938. The most important were: 'The Birds of the Efulen District in Cameroon,' 'Birds collected in Northwestern Cameroon,' 'Birds of Cameroon and Lake Chad Region,' 'Birds of the southern Sahara and adjoining countries in French West Africa,' 'On Geographical Variation within the Limits of West Africa' and the 'Birds of Jidda and central Arabia.' In 1914 he published 'Some Facts bearing on the affinities of *Smithornis*' showing that it did not belong in the Passeres, a fact later confirmed by P. R. Lowe who proved that it belonged to the *Eurylaemidae*. In 1918 he published an important paper on 'The Reversed Under Wing-coverts of Birds and their Modifications,' a subject in which he was much interested. In 1930 appeared his 'Handbook on the Birds of West Africa' and at his death he left an unpublished manuscript on the 'Birds of Arabia.'

As a boy, Bates was naturally shy and retiring, and these traits were increased by long years of residence abroad, but he was always willing to help others. Though well informed on many subjects, he rarely spoke at meetings of the British Ornithologists' Club. A more extended account of his work and a bibliography of his publications, by N. B. Kinnear, may be found in 'The Ibis' for April 1940, pp. 343-346.—T. S. PALMER.

MRS. HAROLD HULME BRINDLEY of Cambridge, England, better known to ornithologists under her maiden name of Maud Doria Haviland, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1920, died April 3, 1941. She was born at Tamworth, Warwickshire, England, February 10, 1889, and was the great-granddaughter of Dr. John Haviland, Lord of the Manor of Fen Ditton, Cambridge, and Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. It is recorded that her school days "were passed mainly on the estate of her stepfather in southeast Ireland, where she became a good game-shot and had wide opportunities for observing birds, the dominating passion of her life." In 1913 she published 'Wild Life on the Wing,' and about the same time two other books of animal stories for children.

In the spring of 1914 she accompanied Miss Czaplicka, the Polish anthropologist, Miss Dora Curtis and Mr. H. V. Hall on a trip down the Yenesei River in Siberia. The members of the expedition traveled overland to Krasnoyarsk, on the Trans-Siberian Railway, at the crossing of the Yenesei River. There they took a steamer down the river about 1500 miles to Golchika, near the mouth, thus following part of the route traversed by Henry Seebohm in 1877 as described in his 'Siberia in Asia.' After spending the summer at Golchika, they returned through the Kara Sea and around the North Cape, reaching England about the time of the outbreak of the World War. Miss Haviland's account of her experiences, entitled 'A Summer on the Yenesei' (1915), should be read in connection with Seebohm's earlier work. In the following years she was elected an Honorary Lady Member of the British Ornithologists' Union.

In 1917, Miss Haviland, as a member of the Scottish Women's Hospital, served as chauffeur to Dr. Elsie Inglis, in Roumania, and the next year as a chauffeur under the French Red Cross in the Soissons-Paris region. Soon after the war she took up residence at Cambridge, attended the Tripos courses in Zoology and began her studies of the Hemiptera-Heteroptera, a group of insects in which she was especially interested. In the early part of 1922, under a grant from the Royal Society and the Cambridge Zoological Laboratory, she made investigations on the Mazaruni and Demerara rivers in British Guiana on the Hemiptera-Heteroptera injurious to vegetation. The results of these investigations were published by the Royal Society.

Toward the close of the same year, on December 11, 1922, she married Harold Hulme Brindley, Fellow of St. John's College. Two years later she gave a course of lectures to the Tripos class on 'Forest, Steppe and Tundra,' a course which was subsequently published by the Cambridge Press. Mrs. Brindley was an active member of the Cambridge Bird Club, a founder and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Cambridge Sanctuary Club, and Vice-President and Honorary Treasurer of the Cambridge branch of the Society for the Preservation of Rural England.—T. S. PALMER.

DR. FRIEDRICH STEINBACHER, elected a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1934, died February 15, 1938, in the 61st year of his age. Born in Berlin, Germany, June 4, 1877, he was primarily a mathematician and by profession a teacher of mathematics and biology. Not until middle life did he develop an active interest in ornithology when, in 1920, he joined the Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft. Six years later he became Vice-President, and in 1936 President of the D.O.G., a position which he held at the time of his death. He was especially interested in the broader problems of the ornithology of the Palaearctic region. Dr. Steinbacher took an active part in the International Ornithological Congresses held at Copenhagen, Amsterdam and Oxford, and assisted the late Dr. Ernst Hartert in the preparation of the 'Proceedings of the Sixth International Congress' at Copenhagen in 1926. He will be remembered by ornithologists chiefly for his work as assistant to Dr. Hartert and later as editor of the Supplement to Hartert's great work 'Die Vögel der Palæarktischen Fauna.'—T. S. PALMER.

EMMA LOUISA TURNER, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1920, died in Cambridge, England, August 14, 1940, at the age of 74.

She was a pioneer in bird photography and for the high quality of her work was awarded the gold medal of the Royal Photographic Society. Among other pictures, she secured in 1911 photographs of the first young bitterns known to have been hatched in Norfolk since the return of the species to that region. Her pictures were largely made in Norfolk where she had a house boat on Hickling Broad. Here she made the observations as well as photographs which formed the basis of her book on 'Broadland Birds.' In 1923 she was appointed a watcher of the National Trust on Scolt Head Island, where she remained eighteen months, and from her lonely hut secured the material for her book on 'Bird Watching on Scolt Head.'

Miss Turner was a member of the Cambridge Bird Club, one of the first women to be elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society and one of the first Honorary Lady Members of the British Ornithologists' Union. Her interests were by no means confined to her chief hobby 'bird watching.' She possessed a keen sense of humor, indomitable energy and pluck and a broad appreciation of beauty, and cultivated beautiful gardens at her houses in Girton and Cambridge. She was a keen reader and was described as a woman of kindness and sympathy, much interested in the welfare of her friends. In the last two years of her life she suffered the loss of her sight, but even this affliction failed to diminish her courage or lessen her interest in birds and other things about her.—T. S. PALMER.

CHARLES KETCHAM AVERILL, a former Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Bridgeport, Connecticut, February 18, 1942, in his eighty-fifth year. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, August 21, 1857. During his boyhood his family moved to Bridgeport, and he resided there for the remainder of his life. He was educated at the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University and followed the profession of civil engineering.

During the late nineteenth century the Bridgeport Scientific Society was a flourishing organization and Mr. Averill one of its active members, particularly in the fields of ornithology and botany. The society amassed collections of natural history objects and sponsored a series of lectures open to the public and well attended by them. Mr. Averill obtained many of the bird skins in the collection, and delivered a number of the lectures on ornithology.

His publications on ornithology came in two distinct periods. Between 1884 and 1892 he published a number of short articles, first in 'The Ornithologist and Oölogist' and later in 'The Auk.' Each of these was a distinct contribution to our knowledge of the occurrence or behavior of Connecticut birds. These papers terminated in a 'List of Birds found in the vicinity of Bridgeport, Conn.,' which was published by the Bridgeport Scientific Society.

In the period from 1920 to 1927 Mr. Averill published a series of papers in 'The Auk' and 'The Condor,' showing relationship between certain physical characters or measurements of birds, and their migrations, distribution and nesting habits. In addition to his ornithological work he made many contributions to botanical science. A state publication on the ferns and flowering plants of Connecticut contains many references to his finds.

He was a friendly man with a pleasant personality and was always scrupulously careful as to the accuracy of his scientific work. He possessed that which, according to popular belief, a scientist is not supposed to have,—a great love and appreciation for all the beauties of nature.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS.

In the sudden death of HENRY CORBIN FULLER, on August 26, 1942, at New Haven, Conn., as he was returning to his home in Washington, the Union has lost a worthy Associate and the nature lovers in the Capital a devoted companion. He was born November 13, 1879, at Worcester, Mass., where he also obtained his basic education in chemistry at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute. After graduating in 1901, he was engaged in chemical work with commercial houses, analyzing drugs and chemicals used in the production of medicine. Later he entered the U. S. Department of Agriculture as chemist under Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, to whom he lovingly referred as his mentor, working on the problems incident to the Food and Drug Act of 1906. He assisted Doctor Wiley on his pure-food research for 'Good House-keeping' published in 1914, by doing much of the analytical work.

During the period covered by the World War, he was with the Institute of Industrial Research, at the same time supervising drug propagation on a commercial scale, and managing a drug farm in Virginia, where *digitalis* and other important medicinal plants were grown.

He published three books on chemistry and a number of shorter papers on the subject. His most notable work, 'The Chemistry and Analysis of Drugs and Medicine,' containing 1,072 pages, appeared in 1920.

He was an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, member of the Washington Biologists' Field Club, Baird Ornithological Club, Washington Academy of Sciences, Cosmos Club, and a number of chemical societies. In an avocational way, he was a philatelist of note and had a collection of 27,000 stamps, representing about one-fourth of all varieties of stamps ever issued. Although interested in all wildlife, his pet avocation was ornithology, and he lost no opportunity to watch and study birds in their natural haunts. Nothing gave him a greater thrill than when he ran upon a bird new to him in life. The writer recalls one trip, especially, that Fuller made with him through the West to the Pacific States and British Columbia, and every possible opportunity was taken to broaden his view of the wilder country and its animal and plant life. It proved to be one of the most memorable and enjoyable of Fuller's experiences.

As a well-known chemist and nature lover, with his easy and cordial manner of approach, Fuller had a wide and varied acquaintance, especially among kindred spirits whose interests were similar to his. He was a man of good breeding, with a fine sense of honor and had strict regard for his obligations and high consideration for the rights and feelings of others. He was, in short, a gentleman, whom we all shall sorely miss.

He is survived by his widow; a son, Henry Shepard Fuller, M.D.; and two daughters, Mrs. Thomas Watson and Miss Josepha Fuller.—A. K. FISHER.

ALVAH HENRY BEDELL JORDAN, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1888 and an Honorary Life Associate since 1928, died in his 77th year at Everett, Washington, May 31, 1942. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts, September 23, 1865, and was descended from a Colonial family which came to America in 1639. He became an apprentice in a wood-pulp company at the age of 16, and in 1895 went out to the Pacific Northwest, settled at Everett, Washington, and became one of the founders of the Everett Pulp and Paper Company.

Jordan had a broad interest in birds, especially game birds, but apparently published little. He served on the Board of Game Commissioners of Snohomish County for a number of years and as President of the Board of Regents of the University of Washington for six or seven years. In addition to his membership in the

American Ornithologists' Union, he had been a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club since 1911 and was a prominent member of the Pacific Bird and Mammal Society of which he was made a Life Member in 1930.—T. S. PALMER.

FRTZ SARASIN, the well-known Swiss explorer and naturalist, died in March, 1942, at the age of 82 years. Together with his cousin, Paul Sarasin, he undertook a number of important explorations to Ceylon, Celebes and New Caledonia, and published extensive monographs on his results. Among many discoveries were *Myza sarasinorum*, *Zosterops chlorates sarasinorum*, and *Phylloscopus trivirgatus sarasinorum*. Sarasin is the author of the only comprehensive account of the bird fauna of New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands. A fuller biographical account will be found in the 32nd Jahrb. Schweiz. Ges. Urgeschichte, pp. 14-16.—ERNST MAYR.

NOTES AND NEWS

THE COUNCIL of the American Ornithologists' Union has directed that a list be prepared and published in an early issue of 'The Auk' of all members of the A. O. U. in War Service. It is requested that you forward at once to the Secretary the name, address, rank, and division of service of every A. O. U. member whom you know to be serving in the cause of the United Nations.