

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM PLANE PYCRAFT, an Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died May 1, 1942, at the age of 74. He was born in Great Yarmouth, England, on the east coast of the County of Norfolk in 1868, and at an early age became interested in the wild life of the Norfolk Broads. His work in natural history began as a pupil of the curator of the Leicester Museum. In 1892 he met Prof. E. Ray Lankester, then connected with the University of Oxford, who invited him to assist in making preparations for the museum. He attended Lankester's lectures and became more and more interested in zoology. When Lankester became Director of the British Museum of Natural History in 1898, Pycraft was made a temporary assistant and later received an appointment as an Assistant in the Zoological Department, a position which he retained until he retired in 1933.

Apparently his first paper, published at the age of 20, was a contribution entitled 'Ornithological Notes from the Neighborhood of Yarmouth,' which appeared in 1888 in the 'Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Natural History Society.' His early researches were devoted chiefly to the anatomy of birds. A paper contributed to 'The Ibis' in 1895 contained a discussion of the arrangement of the feathers in the tinamous, a memoir on the feathering of owls appeared in the 'Transactions of the Linnean Society' in 1898, and another on the 'Morphology of Palaeognathae and Neognathae' was published in the 'Memoirs of the Zoological Society' in 1900. Later he became interested in the variations of the human skull and published accounts of the Boskop skull from South Africa, a skull from Rhodesia, and the skull of the Piltdown man from Sussex, England.

According to A. S. Woodward, Pycraft "had a versatile mind and was always interesting." He was a prolific author of popular articles and books on natural history and for many years he contributed a weekly article to the 'Illustrated London News.' Most of his papers on birds appeared in 'British Birds,' 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' 'Ibis,' and 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London.' His books included 'Stories of Bird Life,' 'Fish Life' and 'Reptile Life' (1900-1905), 'History of Birds' (1910), and 'Birds of Great Britain' (1934). His presidential address before the Norfolk and Norwich Natural History Society in 1935, on 'Some New Aspects of Evolution,' was reprinted in the Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1936, pp. 217-241.

Pycraft was elected a member of the B. O. U. in 1893 and was also an Associate of the Linnean Society, a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London, and for 40 years a member of the A. O. U. He was elected a Corresponding Fellow in 1902 and, following the appearance of his 'History of Birds' in 1910, was made an Honorary Fellow in 1911.—T. S. PALMER.

MONTAGU AUSTIN PHILLIPS, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died in London, Jan. 11, 1939, at the age of 59. He was born in Hampstead, England, in 1879, and was educated at Kings College, London. For many years he was an assistant of J. H. Leonard, first guide lecturer of the British Museum of Natural History. On Leonard's death he succeeded to the position of guide lecturer. According to a notice in 'The Ibis' for 1939, p. 362, he was "a well known and popular lecturer to schools and societies all over the country. He had a charming descriptive manner in dealing with any subject, no matter how uninteresting it might appear. In addition to his knowledge of natural history, Phillips was a great lover of music and an accomplished performer on the organ."

He was elected a Corresponding Fellow of the A. O. U. in 1919 and a Member of the B. O. U. in 1920.—T. S. PALMER.

BARON RENÉ CHARLES EDUARD GEORGES JEAN SNOUCKAERT VAN SCHAUBURG, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, elected in 1930, died at the age of 79, in Territet, Switzerland, August 20, 1936. He was born at The Hague, Holland, May 10, 1857, and attended school in that city from 1866 to 1869. In 1874 he became a student at the Academy in Leiden and in 1882 received his doctorate degree. At the time of his election to the Union he was living at Doorn, Holland, but two years later he moved to Brussels, Belgium, in 1924 back to Holland, and in the following year to Territet, Switzerland, which became his home during his remaining years.

He was the Founder of the Nederlandsche Ornith. Vereenigen in 1904 and the Club van Nederlandsche Vogelkundigen in 1911 and, for several years prior to his death, was Honorary President of the latter organization. In 1923 he was elected a Corresponding Member of the Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft.

Part of his collection of birds, including about 400 of the rarer specimens, was given to the Museum van Artis in Amsterdam and 750 others were acquired by the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh. His collection of 1500 eggs of native birds was placed in the hands of A. A. van Pelt Lechner.

Baron Snouckaert was the author of a number of publications on birds, the more important of which were his 'Avifauna Neerlandica (1908),' and 'De Geog. Verbreiding der Pycnonotidae van Azie en den Indischen Archipel (1934-36).' A more extended account of his activities, accompanied by a portrait, may be found in the 'Orgaan Club Nederl. Vogelk.', 9: 97-102, Nov. 1936.—T. S. PALMER.

WHARTON HUBER, a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 9, 1877, and died March 13, 1942, at his home in Chester County, in the same state. After early schooling at Penn Charter School he graduated from Lafayette College in 1901. From 1901 until 1906 Huber was on the staff of the Wistar Institute of Anatomy, and various business interests then occupied his years until 1920, when he became associated with the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, first as Assistant, and later Associate Curator of Birds and Mammals, under his old friend Dr. Witmer Stone, and from 1934 until his death as Curator of Mammals. A serious illness, which eventually proved fatal, caused him to withdraw from active curatorial work during the last few years.

From early life he was interested in birds and bird life, in mammals and wild flowers, and these continued dominant and absorbing fields through his years. In addition to being an excellent field ornithologist and mammalogist, he was a preparator *par excellence*, and a private collection of some thousands of skins of North American birds of exceptional preparation, largely assembled more than thirty years ago, attested his ability as an exponent of the ornithology of Elliott Coues. However, his interest in the protection of birds and other wild life was sincere and militant, and his courageous and outspoken condemnation of the blanket poisoning of small mammals and similar types of destruction of interesting forms of wild life was a personal characteristic. Unless a bird or mammal was to be preserved for scientific study he had no desire to take its life, and the broad acres of woods and fields of the home estate where he passed his last years, in the hills of northern Chester County, was in all truth a haven for the wild life of that neighborhood.

During his years at the Academy, Huber was the leader of its Nicaraguan Ex-

pedition of 1922, and he also made or took part in numerous other expeditions or surveys for the Academy to the Queen Charlotte Islands of British Columbia, Utah, Louisiana, New Mexico, Arizona, California and North Carolina. He was particularly interested in the southwestern United States, where he had spent many months both before and after his connection with the Academy.

While the list of Huber's publication is not great, and these were largely based on his own field studies, his store of knowledge of both birds and mammals was very extensive, and with it was combined all those attributes so greatly desired—and often sadly lacking—in a curator, *i. e.* preparatorial technique of high quality and capable of being readily imparted to another, a natural orderliness of detail and a deep regard for the preservation of full historical and vital data. One of his discoveries was the New Mexican Duck (*Anas diazi novimexicana*), also described by him.

In addition to being a member of the A. O. U., Huber was a member of the American Society of Mammalogists (which he had also served as a member of its Board of Directors), of the Cooper Ornithological Club, of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club (which he also served as Vice-President and President), of the Zoological Society of Philadelphia, and of the Wilderness Club. He was active in the work of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia, long serving as a member of its Board of Directors, then as Vice-President and President. He was frequently a speaker before other organizations interested in the protection of wild life. The photography of wild animals and of native plants was a sustained interest through his life, and many of his pictures were of outstanding character.

In Huber's contacts with younger ornithologists he helped build a sustained interest, passing on an enthusiasm beyond the power of most other museum men. He gave to many of these beginners objectives and inspirations with an unpatronizing kindness they will always remember.—JAMES A. G. REHN.

GEORGE HENRY MACKAY, a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union for many years, died in Boston, Massachusetts, January 16, 1937, at the advanced age of 93. He was born in Boston, October 20, 1843, the son of Robert Caldwell and Charlotte Langdon (Lodge) Mackay. He was educated in private schools and later was engaged in the East Indian importing business. Early in 1890 he joined the Nuttall Ornithological Club and later in the same year, at the meeting in Washington, he was elected an Associate of the Union. With the establishment of the class of Members in 1901, he was one of the first Associates advanced to that rank. In Batchelder's 'Account of the Nuttall Ornithological Club,' Mackay is described as "an ardent sportsman, who always had studied seriously the game he pursued, he had at that time [1890], in his early middle age, a remarkably full and intimate acquaintance with all the New England birds that frequent salt water. He brought a fund of knowledge none of the rest of us possessed. Deliberate and careful in his statements, yet a most genial companion, he was a great addition to our ranks."

Mackay was accustomed to do much of his shooting on the islands of Muskeget and Nantucket and, beginning about 1885, kept accurate records of his hunting. His election to the Nuttall Club and the Union seems to have stimulated his interest in putting his notes in shape for publication. Beginning in 1890, he published, during succeeding years, a series of about 75 articles and short notes on the sea and shore birds of the Massachusetts coast. In 1929 his shooting record was published privately by Dr. John C. Phillips under the title 'Shooting Journal of George Henry Mackay, 1865-1922,' with his portrait as a frontispiece. Unfortunately this

important record was issued in an edition of only 300 copies for private distribution and has become one of the rare books dealing with sport in America.

Mackay was always interested and active in bird protection. About 1897 he induced the people of Nantucket to continue the services of an officer to protect the terns on Muskeget Island and he also opposed efforts to change the existing law protecting the birds so as to allow taking their eggs for food. Certain species, such as the Arctic and Roseate Terns, were almost extirpated by hunters collecting skins for the millinery trade and, had it not been for this public spirited action, the colonies on this island might have been exterminated.—T. S. PALMER.

ARTHUR HERBERT NORTON, of the Portland Society of Natural History and Maine's outstanding naturalist, geographer and bibliographer, joined the American Ornithologists' Union in 1890 and was a Member from 1902 until his death on January 5, 1943. Born in the small coastal town of Saint George, Maine, on April 19, 1870, Mr. Norton was the son of Horace F. Norton, first captain of the White Head Island life-saving station, and Cynthia Elwell Norton, both of English ancestry.

As a small lad living on a coastal island, he had few playmates or diversions. It was his good fortune, however, to have a studious father interested in the local natural history and tolerant of his son's interests. The other men at the station knew the seafowl fairly well. This combination of circumstances was undoubtedly reflected in Mr. Norton's lifelong interest in sea birds and changing ecological conditions along the coast.

Writing about the early period of his life, Mr. Norton told of being fascinated, at the age of three or four years, by a collection of a dozen or less "stuffed" birds which his father, a "pioneer in bird stuffing in that locality," possessed. He recalled that no arsenic was used on the birds, so that when they were banished beyond the garden fence, he "swam them in a convenient puddle." An early treasure, presented him by his father, was a copy of Rev. J. G. Wood's 'Homes Without Hands.' Mr. Norton also recalled a neighbor, Mr. Fred Rackliff, who began to collect and mount birds in the late 1870's, and wrote that about 1880, "with one or two demonstrations from Fred Rackliff, I began to "stuff" birds, depending on the cat for victims." He was then ten years old.

Mr. Norton attended the public schools at Saint George and, while circumstances prevented him from getting a higher education in the academic sense, he developed, during his lifetime, the breadth and disciplines of a true scholar by such tasks as learning Latin by himself to aid him in his scientific studies.

In 1885, the family moved to Westbrook, near Portland, and Mr. Norton took up the trade of silk weaver. By 1888 he was actively engaged in building up an ornithological library and collection. Undoubtedly he was much encouraged in this by the active group of bird students in the Portland region at that time. Close friends included Everett Smith, whose list of birds of Maine appeared in 'Forest and Stream' in the early 1880's; Nathan Clifford Brown, a Founder of the Union, whose biography Mr. Norton prepared for 'The Auk' (1942: 471-476); Professor Leslie A. Lee of the Biology Department at Bowdoin College; Major John M. Gould and Mr. Jed F. Fanning of Portland. His botanical interests were encouraged by Miss Kate Furbish of Brunswick.

At about the time of the Spanish-American war and in the year before his marriage in 1899, Mr. Norton made a trip to South Carolina to collect Linnaean topotypes. Landing at Port Royal, he shortly had to prove that he was not a spy, having taken photographs on a government reservation. While the trip was suc-

cessful, it was later learned that Outram Bangs was working along the same lines and the latter's results were made ready for the press first. Other trips outside of Maine were usually brief and never for purely scientific study.

In 1905, Mr. Norton succeeded Dr. Charles B. Fuller at the Portland Society of Natural History, as Curator. At this time he was already well established as an authority on the flora and fauna of Maine and had been publishing papers for a decade.

During the thirteen years of the existence of the 'Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society' (Jan. 1899-Dec. 1911), Mr. Norton contributed 40 short articles, beginning in April, 1899. He not only actively supported and contributed to the 'Maine Naturalist' while it was published (1921-1930), but also edited it and supervised the printing from 1927 to 1930. He published a number of bird papers in the 'Proceedings of the Portland Society of Natural History,' of which perhaps the most outstanding was that on 'Birds of the Bowdoin College Expedition to Labrador in 1891' (Vol. 2, art. 8: 139-158, 1901), in which he described the Large-billed Puffin. Between July, 1893, and October, 1942, there appeared 51 titles by him in 'The Auk,' mostly short papers and notes. He contributed reports and papers to 'Bird-Lore,' 'Proceedings of the Essex Institute,' and elsewhere. His botanical writings consist chiefly of 12 titles in 'Rhodora' (1902-1939, inclusive), papers in the 'Maine Naturalist' and publications of the Josselyn Botanical Society. During his curatorship, the Society's herbarium came to number over 40,000 specimens, much of it collected by himself. His 'Mammals of Portland, Maine, and Vicinity,' published in the Society's 'Proceedings' in 1930, is undoubtedly the best local list of mammals for the state. He wrote two papers on Maine herpetology. With reviews, editing of bibliographies, and miscellaneous writings, his total contributions numbered over 200 titles. It is to be regretted that he was unable to finish his manuscript, comprising over 40-years' research and compilation of data on the birds of Maine.

A study of the literature of Maine ornithology of the present century lends strong support to the conclusion that Mr. Norton was reticent about publishing his own findings, since for every title in print by him one can find an average of over five by others in which the authors acknowledge indebtedness to him for assistance rendered. His files were always kept up to date, he was in the field a great deal, and he knew of everyone who ever had even a passing interest in Maine natural history. His file of biographical material was of special value to younger students who wished to learn about early authors. The result of his labors was that almost every serious naturalist who worked in Maine would seek him out and profit by the association. As was to be expected, many came to depend upon him for advice and corroborative material when preparing a paper for publication—be the subject on meteorology, shell-heaps, botany, history, biography, or any branch of zoology. As an example, in a letter to the memorialist about a decade ago, he expressed regrets that the season had been so dry and unfavorable that he could not carry out a contemplated study of land snails. He was the all-around field naturalist of a type now nearly non-existent.

A revealing example of the discerning and investigative nature of his mind is found in the fact that he realized a need for keeping careful weather records, especially in connection with his migration studies. He purchased a Taylor thermometer and kept records over a period of years. When the Portland weather station was moved from its former unsuitable site to the present one, Mr. Norton's

careful temperature records for the preceding period were accepted as official for the Portland region.

Mr. Norton was a corresponding member of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences and the New England Botanical Club, secretary of the Maine Ornithological Society, at various times president and secretary of the Josselyn Botanical Society, member of the Wilson Ornithological Club, and charter member of the American Society of Mammalogists. He was very active in the Audubon Society of Maine (founded in 1902), his first report as secretary appearing in the November-December issue of 'Bird-Lore' for 1906, and was field agent for Maine from 1914 to 1934, and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Audubon Societies for the years 1905-1908.

Public recognition for "significant scientific studies which have added to our knowledge of Maine's natural history," came in June, 1940, when the University of Maine conferred upon him an honorary degree of Master of Science. Later, after a serious illness in May, 1942, forty-five friends presented him with a token of appreciation on Thanksgiving Day, accompanied by a testimonial of admiration and esteem which pointed out, in part, that he not only had "acquired the difficult art of observation to a degree attained by few" but had also recorded these observations "in brief and plain language for all posterity."—RALPH S. PALMER.

EMMA GERTRUDE CUMMINGS, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1903, died at Westfield, Massachusetts, October 12, 1940, at the age of nearly 84. A month before, she had attended the closing session of the Union in Cambridge and at the time of her death she suffered a heart attack while on a botanizing trip. She was born in Cambridge, December 2, 1856, and most of the later years of her life were spent in Brookline. Her education was received in Boston private schools and in the Boston Art School.

With Miss Harriet E. Freeman she joined the A. O. U. excursion to California in 1903 and both were elected Associates at the meeting in San Francisco. Later, about 1915, they visited the Orient together and made a trip around the world. She was a good botanist, keenly interested in dendrology, birds and bird protection and took an active part in local civic affairs. For forty years she was a member of the 'Committee on Planting Trees' and was the first woman elected to the office under a special amendment enacted by the legislature, in 1900, to a law which previously prohibited women from holding any elective office in Brookline except that of a member of the school committee. She was the last surviving member of the original Copley Society of Boston and one of the first members of the Tuesday Club of Brookline.

Miss Cummings was author of a 'Baby Pathfinder to the Birds,' 'Brookline Trees,' and a map of the more important trees of Brookline. While she published nothing in 'The Auk' and took no active part in the discussion of papers on the program, she and Miss Freeman attended the meetings of the Union whenever possible and in a quiet way participated in the entertainment of visiting members. As long as Miss Freeman lived they were traveling companions and visited many places together. Both were representatives of the highest type of lady members who form one of the mainstays of the Union by holding their membership over a long period of years, attending the meetings, extending its influence by securing new members and aiding in every possible way in the work of the organization. Miss Cummings was survived by two sisters, Miss Mabel H. Cummings, principal of the Brimmer

and May School, and Miss Harriet Alma Cummings who died in November, 1941.
—T. S. PALMER.

EDWARD GRUET KENT, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union for nearly twenty-one years, died at Madison, New Jersey, March 24, 1940, in his 65th year. He was the son of Stephen Baldwin and Anna G. (Gruet) Kent and was born at Newark, New Jersey. He received the degree of B.S. from Princeton University in 1897. From the time of his graduation until September 1, 1939, when he retired, he was connected with the Public Service Electric and Gas Company.

Kent's scientific interests were in two fields—ornithology and archaeology. He was the owner of an extensive ornithological library. In 1925 he published a pamphlet on the birds of Madison (N. J.) and vicinity. He had a large archaeological collection gained in the study of the Southwest and the American Indian.

In addition to holding membership in the Union, Kent was a member of the Archaeological Society of New Jersey, of which he was a vice-president, the American Archaeological Society, the New Mexican Archaeological Society, the Arizona Society of Science and Art, and the Museum of Northern Mexico.—WILLIAM F. RAPP, JR.

JOHN SMITH MAIN, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, elected in 1926, died in Madison, Wisconsin, November 13, 1940. He was born in that city November 23, 1875, graduated from the law school of the University of Wisconsin in 1900, and subsequently entered the real estate and insurance business. A mutual friend informed me that following graduation he and Main frequently read poetry together. This taste left its impress on some of his writings, particularly that on the dance of the Prairie Chicken.

A sustained interest in ornithology was not acquired until rather late in life. As is sometimes the case, this lapse was distanced by intensive study and field work. Every bird in a marsh was subjected to scrutiny and due to meticulous survey, more unusual discoveries were made than fall to the lot of the average student. One of the prominent traits of his pleasing personality was enthusiasm, and on the day that a Cinnamon Teal was taken, he drove forty miles to show the specimen to friends.

Mr. Main was one of the founders of the Kumlien Club and served as its president. After The Wisconsin Society of Ornithology was established, he gave it active support as a member of the executive committee. He entered the field at a time when interest in ornithology in Wisconsin was at a low ebb, and one of his most important contributions was the effort made to place the study of birds in the state on a lasting foundation.—A. W. SCHORGER.

EDWARD NORRIS, an Associate for 25 years and an active Trustee of The American Ornithologists' Union, died January 14, 1941. Born at Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, on July 27, 1868, Mr. Norris, throughout his life, was an ardent amateur naturalist with ornithology as his primary interest. Residing, as he did, near the banks of the Wissahickon Creek, he was a keen observer of the areas surrounding that stream and the adjacent White Marsh valley. It was while hunting grouse in Monroe County, Pennsylvania, on October 23, 1895, in company with his brother, that the latter shot the last recorded Passenger Pigeon in this state—a male in perfect plumage. A member of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club and a close friend of Witmer Stone, he accompanied the latter on many rambles in and about Cape May where Norris also spent many of his summers in late years.—GEORGE H. STUART, 3RD.