

OBITUARIES

ELLIOTT BAIRD COUES, one of the youngest Associates ever elected in the American Ornithologists' Union, died January 2, 1913, at the age of 41. He was the son of Elliott and Jane Augusta McKenney Coues and was born January 19, 1872, at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland, while his father was surgeon at that post. He attended Columbian College (now George Washington University), in Washington, D. C., took special studies at the Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard and received the degree of M.D. from Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York, in 1895. After graduation from college he practiced medicine in New York and in Haiti.

Coues was elected an Associate of the Union, at the early age of fourteen, at the first Washington meeting, in 1886, and continued his membership until 1895 when, apparently, professional demands required his full time and attention. While a student at Harvard he was elected a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, Dec. 8, 1890, but left Cambridge, two years later.

His single contribution to 'The Auk' consists of an article in the volume for 1888 on the 'Nesting of the Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) in the Vicinity of Washington, D. C.' In this paper, unusually well-written for a boy of 16, he gave detailed descriptions of five nests which he had found on the Virginia side of the Potomac River in May, 1888, and showed that this warbler nested much more commonly near the Capitol than was generally supposed.—T. S. PALMER.

CHARLES KENNEDY KNICKERBOCKER, a Life Associate of the A. O. U. (elected 1922), died on January 7, 1940, of pneumonia after suffering from partial paralysis for several years. He was born in Chicago, September 28, 1874, the son of Henry M. and Rose Masters Knickerbocker. He never married and was survived by a sister, Mrs. Marion Wood, and two brothers, Harry R. and Guy R. Knickerbocker. He entered the employ of the Griffin Wheel Company in 1894 as a shipping clerk, was promoted to sales agent in 1895, general sales agent in 1909, and to first vice-president and director in 1914. He was a member of the Chicago Club, Chicago Athletic Association, Old Elm Club, Chicago Golf Club, and the Saddle and Cycle Club. Except for periods of travel, he was a lifelong resident of Chicago and was buried there.

His interest in ornithology was awakened through association, in visits to California, with O. W. Howard, G. Frean Morcom, and other members of the Cooper Club to which organization he belonged from 1905. In California, he began a collection of birds' eggs to which he added later especially by purchase. An important lot was that assembled by Gerard Alan Abbott, a well-known Chicago oologist. These accumulations were bequeathed to his nephew, Kenneth K. Knickerbocker, who donated them to Field Museum of Natural History.

Information incorporated in the preceding statement was obtained from Railway Age, 1940, p. 187, the Chicago Daily Tribune, January 8, 1940, and from Dr. W. H. Osgood of Field Museum and E. R. Ford of the Chicago Academy of Sciences.—W. L. McATEE.

MARCUS WARD LYON, JR., an Associate elected in 1922, died at South Bend, Ind., May 19, 1942, at the age of 67. He was the eldest son of Captain Marcus Ward Lyon, U.S.A., and Lydia Anne Lyon and was born at Rock Island Arsenal, Feb. 5, 1875. His early life was spent at various army posts where he developed an in-

terest in natural history and began to collect insects and specimens of various kinds. He graduated from the Rock Island High School in 1893, from Brown University in 1897, and the following year served as instructor in bacteriology in North Carolina Medical College. In 1898 he took up his residence in Washington, D. C., where he was appointed Aid, and later Assistant Curator, in the Division of Mammals of the U. S. National Museum. He also took postgraduate work in George Washington University and received the degrees of M.S. in 1900, M.D. in 1902, and Ph.D. in 1913. At the same time he taught physiology and bacteriology in the Medical School of Howard University and later, 1915-1918, bacteriology, pathology, veterinary zoology and parasitology in the Medical School of George Washington University.

In 1902 he married Dr. Martha Maria Brewer of Lanham, Md., and in 1919 they joined the staff of the South Bend Clinic and maintained their association with it for many years. During the World War he served as pathologist in Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington, D. C., and was appointed a Major in the Medical Reserve Corps in September, 1919.

In 1899 Lyon accompanied Lieut. Wirt Robinson, U.S.A., to Venezuela on an expedition to collect mammals for the U. S. National Museum, and a report on the collection was published in the Proceedings of the Museum for 1901. In 1904 he represented the Museum at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, in 1905 at the Lewis and Clark Exposition at Portland, Ore., and in 1911 he and his wife made a trip to Europe visiting museums and prominent zoologists.

Dr. Lyon was a member of a number of organizations and took an active part in the work of those to which he belonged. He was Corresponding Secretary of the Biological Society of Washington in 1904 and Recording Secretary 1915-1919, Treasurer, and later, President of the Indiana Academy of Science, and President of the American Society of Mammalogists from 1931 to 1933. He was primarily a mammalogist and pathologist and most of his papers, numbering about 160 in all, are devoted to mammals and pathology. A bibliography of his publications accompanying a biographical sketch of his activities, by Theodat Just, and a portrait may be found in 'The Midland Naturalist' for May 1942.

Dr. Lyon is survived by his daughter, Charlotte Lyon of Philadelphia, and two brothers, Henry S. Lyon of East Orange, N. J., and Col. James W. Lyon, U.S.A.—T. S. PALMER.

JAMES MOFFITT, well known and beloved by many ornithologists in this country and abroad, was killed in a plane crash at Dutch Harbor, Alaska, on July 2, 1943. At the time of his death he was a Lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve and on active duty in the Aleutian Island area. He had been an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1926 and a Member since 1937.

Born in San Francisco on March 21, 1900, James Moffitt was the eldest son of Dr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Moffitt and a descendant of a distinguished family that was prominent in the early history of California. As a 'teen-aged' youth he showed a strong inclination toward the study of natural history and regularly visited the California Academy of Sciences which was then under the directorship of the late Dr. Barton W. Evermann. Dr. Evermann and, somewhat later, Dr. Joseph Grinnell did much to nurture his growing interest in ornithology during these formative years. In 1917 he entered the University of California but, with our country engaged in World War I, he enlisted in the United States Navy as

soon as he was eighteen years of age. Upon his return to civilian life, after the signing of the Armistice, he actively engaged in the field of bird study and shortly thereafter began making his own collection of bird skins.

The possibilities for regional faunal studies in California, such as were then being undertaken by Grinnell and Storer in the Yosemite region, greatly impressed him. Possessing a keen personal interest in the Lake Tahoe area of the central Sierra Nevada of California, it was not surprising therefore that he drew up a plan for a detailed report on the birds of this basin. This resulted in the intensive collecting of specimens and the assembling of all available published matter pertaining to the birds of this region during the ensuing years, whenever opportunity was afforded. Observations were made during all seasons of the year, including, on one occasion, an entire winter when field studies were carried on continuously from the autumn of 1926 to the spring of 1927. In the meantime he developed a special interest in game birds, particularly waterfowl, and in later years commenced working on a monograph on the geese of North America. His workmanship in the preparation of large bird skins was superb as is evidenced by his private collection of geese which is probably unexcelled in western United States, both as regards the quality of the material represented as well as its scientific value to those interested in this avian group.

After some years spent with the paper firm of Blake, Moffitt, and Towne, James Moffitt left the business world, which was not entirely to his liking, and in 1931 was appointed a member of the staff of the California Division of Fish and Game. Here in the Department of Education and Research he had opportunity to work on some of the waterfowl problems that had long interested him. One of his first acts in his new capacity was to organize an annual census of the number of Black Brant wintering in the bays along the California coast. This proved valuable in later years and was continued up to 1942 in cooperation with the Division of Fish and Game. The results formed, in part, a basis for the joint report by James Moffitt and Dr. Clarence Cottam on 'Eelgrass depletion on the Pacific coast and its effect upon Black Brant,' published in 1941 as Wildlife Leaflet 204 by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In May, 1936, he was appointed Curator of the Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy at the California Academy of Sciences, a position left vacant by the death of Harry S. Swarth. Here he believed he would have at last the opportunity to complete his two major, pending research problems, the one on the birds of the Lake Tahoe region, the other a monograph on the geese of North America. Unfortunately, due to a number of circumstances, neither was finished.

The Academy bird collection at this time was arranged in accordance with Sharpe's 'Handlist' and was therefore considerably out of date systematically. With the opportunity present of obtaining Federal assistance, it was deemed advisable to rearrange the collection according to Wetmore's system of classification, following Peters's 'Birds of the World' as far as it went. This proved a large undertaking, especially with the assistance for the most part of unskilled personnel, as it necessitated the individual examination of nearly sixty thousand bird skins and the careful supervision of their arrangement. As would be expected, numerous problems in nomenclature, classification and indexing presented themselves. Much of the responsibility for the thoroughness and accuracy of this undertaking, which took nearly three years to complete, depended upon James Moffitt. During these years and succeeding ones he likewise made special effort to build up the osteo-

logical collection of birds and mammals, although personally but little interested in this subject. Meanwhile, numerous research problems of a less extensive nature than those primarily undertaken were completed.

With the outbreak of war between the United States and the Axis Nations, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, James Moffitt immediately made effort to join the armed forces. While awaiting acceptance, he actively engaged in the San Francisco Civilian Defense Program. He possessed a keen sense of patriotism and love for his country and it was with deep satisfaction that he received his commission as Lieutenant in the U. S. Naval Reserve in March, 1942. After several months of training he was assigned to active duty in the treacherous, fog-bound Aleutian theatre of operations where he made the supreme sacrifice. He is survived by a widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Schmiedell Moffitt, and a daughter, Mrs. Richard Gatterdam.

James Moffitt was author of approximately eighty scientific papers, about three-fourths of which solely concerned birds. The remainder dealt primarily with mammalian problems. In addition to being a member of the American Ornithologists' Union he was affiliated with a large number of other scientific organizations among which may be mentioned the British Ornithologists' Union, the Cooper Ornithological Club, the Wilson Ornithological Club, the American Society of Mammalogists, the Wildlife Society, the National Audubon Society, the Audubon Association of the Pacific, and the Grinnell Naturalists Society. His passing is deeply felt by his many friends and associates in ornithology and the cause of conservation has lost one of its most ardent and active supporters.—ROBERT T. ORR.

MISS MARY O'BRIEN, an Associate of The American Ornithologists' Union since 1936, died while on a visit to her sister, in New York City, March 25, 1943, at the age of 53. She was a daughter of Edward and Ellen (Foley) O'Brien and was born at Glen of Aherlow, County Tipperary, Ireland, Dec. 16, 1889. She came to the United States above thirty years ago and spent nearly half of her life in Government service. She was educated in business and technical high schools and then took special courses at the Franklin Academy, the Research Union, the Spanish School in Washington and three semesters in the Graduate School of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. At the age of 22 she began work and spent six years, from 1912 to 1918, in several department stores, making and altering ladies' gowns. In the latter year she entered Government service as a clerk in the office of the Chief of Staff of the War Department and later was transferred to the office of the Quartermaster General of the Army. On March 16, 1922, she was transferred to the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture, where she was engaged in conservation work in connection with the importation of birds and mammals from foreign countries. Here she was entrusted with the work of preparing permits for the entry of foreign species and the accompanying correspondence, in checking reports of inspectors and in keeping the records of the entry of species from abroad. She was thoroughly familiar with the details of the laws and regulations governing such importations, handled much of the correspondence and prepared the statistics of importations for the annual reports issued by the Department.

Quiet, unassuming, but nevertheless ambitious, Miss O'Brien was a faithful and efficient worker, an accurate and rapid stenographer and typist and able to read and translate Spanish. In later years she occupied a unique position in conservation work and fully appreciated her responsibility in detecting and preventing the introduction of birds and mammals likely to prove injurious. She is survived by

two sisters, Mrs. Sarah Connally and Mrs. Nora Woods of New York, and a brother, Timothy F. O'Brien of Passaic, New Jersey.—T. S. PALMER.

ANTHONY WAYNE ROBINSON, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, elected in 1903, died on November 29, 1939. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 12, 1861, on Race Street, four doors west of the Academy of Natural Sciences. Here he spent much of his time in his early years. Following his scholastic work at the University of Pennsylvania, he entered the service of the Provident Life and Trust Company of Philadelphia in September, 1885, where he remained active until his physical condition became such that he resigned June 10, 1911. In the 'Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club' there is an entry showing his election to that club as an Associate Member on May 19, 1898. In November, 1899, the A. O. U. met in Philadelphia for the first time and Robinson was initiated into the atmosphere of that body, though his election as an Associate did not come until 1903.

His activities in the local D. V. O. C. were mainly in the field trips of the Club and its interesting meetings. He was always fond of walking and seldom missed the field trips, usually with one or more of his friends whom he would interest in the study of birds. On these trips and on his many longer ones he carried a camera and brought back to the Club in colored slides the artistic pictures of the scenes along the way. He kept a diary faithfully and was therefore in a position to give an interesting account of what was noted in bird life along his route of travel. He once described a trip he made across the continent, stopping at Yellowstone Park and landing in San Francisco. This was probably in 1915, when the A. O. U. met in that city. In 1920, at Washington, D. C., he started to attend these meetings regularly and missed few from that date until his death. His spirit of good fellowship and lovable disposition are very much missed by his many friends in the A. O. U. and the D. V. O. C.—HENRY T. UNDERDOWN.

GEORGE HERBERT ROSS, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, elected in 1904, died May 31, 1942, after a long illness at the Peryer Convalescent Home in Rutland, Vermont, at the age of nearly seventy-four. He was the son of Zigon and Eleanor Brown Ross and was born in Rutland, June 24, 1868. While he was still a child the family moved to Washington, D. C., where he attended school and graduated from the High School in 1886. He recalled that he missed the graduating exercises at which President Grover Cleveland presided, because he was absent on a long 'hike.'

As a young man he spent two years in Cuba as a chemist in a sugar refinery and two years in the Surgeon General's office in Washington indexing the records of war veterans, but most of his life he worked as a mail clerk in the post office in Rutland until his retirement ten years before his death. He was also a volunteer coöperative weather observer for 25 years.

During his youth, in order to regain his health after a long illness, Ross spent a large part of several years camping and hunting and developed an interest in birds and plants which continued throughout his life. For many years he was president of the Vermont Bird Club and secretatry of the Vermont Botanical Club. He never married but lived with his cousin, Aimee F. Brown, who kept house for him in the old home at 23 West St. He is survived by his brother, William E. Ross of Rutland.—T. S. PALMER.

DR. ELLISON ADGER SMYTH, JR., an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1892 and an Honorary Life Associate since 1933, died at his home near Salem, Virginia, on August 19, 1941. The son of James Adger and Annie Briggs Smyth, he was born at Summerton, Clarendon County, South Carolina. He grew up in Charleston where he received his early education at Dr. Tarrant's classical school for boys. The influence of his scholarly grandfather, Dr. Thomas Smyth, for forty years minister of the Second Presbyterian Church of Charleston, awoke in him, when he was still a small boy, the interest in science that became a life-long devotion.

Young Smyth entered Princeton before his seventeenth birthday, graduating with the A.B. degree in 1884, and receiving his Master's degree there later. Obedient to his father's wishes, he studied law at Columbia University and at the University of Virginia, and became a junior partner with an uncle in the firm of Smyth and Lee in Charleston. But law could not long hold him away from nature. When the chair of biology at the University of South Carolina became vacant, he applied, and was elected adjunct professor. After two years, when the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College at Blacksburg, Virginia (re-named Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1895) was reorganized in 1891, he was made the head of its Department of Biology.

Smyth was always a strenuous worker, interested in many activities outside the classroom. Living in barracks with the cadets, organizing and coaching the first football team for the college, developing a gymnasium and a 'gym' team, he attained a wide influence among the students. Throughout his years at Blacksburg he carried a heavy teaching load, with very little assistance, and from 1902 to 1906 served as Dean. This burden of teaching and administration not only hampered the research work which he wanted to do but also prevented the publication of much of the work which, in spite of these handicaps, he was able to accomplish.

In the early years at Blacksburg, most of his attention was given to insects. He built up a large collection of Lepidoptera, exchanging with collectors all over the world. The Sphingidae were his special interest; and in this field he became an authority. He was a founder of the Entomological Society of America, and for years a regular contributor to 'Entomological News.' In later years ornithology, which had attracted him from childhood, became his major scientific interest. An extensive collection of eggs which he built up was unfortunately destroyed by fire. He left a small but choice collection of some 1,500 skins. His ornithological publications were few but carefully prepared. The most important was a model annotated local list, 'Birds Observed in Montgomery County, Virginia,' published in 'The Auk,' October, 1912, and supplemented by a further article in January, 1927. He also wrote a history of V. P. I., a biography and estimate of the work of John Bennett for the 'Library of Southern Literature,' and popular science articles for 'St. Nicholas.'

For fifty years Dr. Smyth was an elder in the Presbyterian Church, teaching a men's Bible Class for an even longer period, and playing the organ in the church at Blacksburg for twenty-five years. He was made a Doctor of Laws by the University of Alabama in 1906. After his marriage in 1897 to Miss Grace Allan of Charleston, his life centered about his wife, his home, and his children.

Dr. Smyth was modest, shy, very retiring, but always friendly and democratic. He cared little for appearances and nothing for prominence, asking only to be

allowed to follow quietly the activities in which he was interested. In 1925 his health had become so impaired by his labors that he retired to Little Orchard, the farm which he had purchased near Salem. Here, still working hard, he spent sixteen pleasant years. His wife, a daughter, and three sons survive him, one daughter having died earlier. He is buried in Sherwood Cemetery, at Salem, Virginia. A more complete sketch of his life is to be found in the March-April, 1943, issue of 'The Raven.'—J. J. MURRAY.

GARDNER PERRY STICKNEY, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union from 1923 to 1935, was born at Groveland, Mass., November 9, 1862, and died at his home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, February 25, 1935. His profession was that of investment counsellor and his side interests were education, regional history, and ornithology. He was a trustee of Milwaukee-Downer College and one of the founders of the Parkman Club. He brought to Wisconsin an interest in birds acquired in his native state, but did not become an Associate of the A. O. U. until 1923. Some of the notices that appeared at the time of his death state that his chief interest was in bird photography. This is entirely incorrect as he never even owned a camera. He belonged to that large group of bird students who seldom publish their studies. A note in 'The Auk,' 43: 380, 1926, on a check-list of Wisconsin birds appears to be his sole publication.—A. W. SCHORGER.

HARVEY ADAM SURFACE, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union from 1897 to 1917, died July 18, 1941, at the age of seventy-four, in the Geisinger Memorial Hospital, Danville, Pa., after an illness of about a year. He was the son of Daniel and Maria Josephine (Thomas) Surface and was born on a farm in Warren County near Waynesville, Ohio, July 25, 1867. His education was received at the Sugar Grove Seminary in Waynesville, the National Normal University at Lebanon, and the Ohio State University. He received the degrees of B.S. and M.S. from the University in 1891 and 1893, and D.Sc. from Franklin and Marshall College in 1907. He took postgraduate work at the University of Illinois in 1893-1894, and was associated with the Hopkins Seaside Laboratory of Stanford University from 1894 to 1895. During the succeeding years he taught various subjects of natural science in New York, Illinois, California, and Pennsylvania. At the University of the Pacific, San Jose, Calif., he served as professor of natural sciences from 1894 to 1896. At Cornell University he taught zoology from 1896 to 1898, and about the same time was director of nature study in the public schools of Ithaca, N. Y. From 1899 to 1900 he was field director of the Biological Station of the Illinois Natural History Survey, from 1900 to 1907 Professor of Zoology at Pennsylvania State College, from 1920 to 1930 Professor of Biology in Susquehanna University, and for a time Professor of Religious Interpretation in the Maine Theological School at Bangor.

In 1901, Dr. Surface entered the service of the State of Pennsylvania as Ornithologist, and in 1906 as Entomologist of the State Board of Agriculture. For fifteen years, beginning in 1903, he served as Economic Zoologist in the State Department of Agriculture and in 1930 was elected to the Legislature as a Representative from Snyder County.

Dr. Surface wrote extensively on the fauna, flora and horticulture of Pennsylvania. He was ornithological editor of 'American Gardening,' nature study editor of 'Popular Educator,' and editor of the monthly 'Zoological Bulletin' and the 'Zoological Quarterly.' In addition to holding membership in the A. O. U., he was a member of various organizations including the American Society of Natu-

ralists, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Pennsylvania Audubon Society, and Pennsylvania Academy of Science, and for eighteen years was president of the Pennsylvania Beekeepers' Association.

He is survived by his wife, Ida May Bleasdale of Cleveland, Ohio, whom he married May 30, 1894, and by two daughters, Mrs. L. A. Clark of Columbus, Ohio, and Mrs. Robert E. Gray of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.—J. S. WADE AND T. S. PALMER.

HERBERT LANDO THOWLESS, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, elected in 1919, died at his home, 255 Fourth Street, Newark, N. J., May 13, 1940, in his 69th year. He was survived by a brother, Arthur J. Thowless, with whom he had made his home. He was born in Stratford, now Bridgeport, Conn., July 12, 1871, and removed with his parents to Newark in 1878. He was admitted to the New Jersey Bar in 1899 and served on the legal staff of the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company for twenty years, maintaining also a personal law office. He retired about 1935, due to ill health, at the same time giving up his independent practice. He was a member of the Newark Board of Education during 1905-1907.

Mr. Thowless was a member of the New Jersey Audubon Society from April, 1913, a sustaining member from April, 1928, and a trustee from 1915. He was also president of the Newark Bird Club for 20 years and furnished in great part the inspiration which maintained the organization in thriving activity. He was a member of twenty-two organizations. The faithfulness of Mr. Thowless to the organizations to which he lent his aid and the congenial character of his personality were outstanding and endeared him to those with whom he was associated. The Newark Bird Club did not long survive his loss and his death left a gap in the working ranks of the New Jersey Audubon Society which continues to be felt deeply.—B. S. BOWDISH.

WILLIAM HENRY TROTTER, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union for 34 years, died at Chestnut Hill, near Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 7, 1933. He was born in Philadelphia, March 6, 1869, and throughout his life made Chestnut Hill his home. He was an intimate friend of mine from boyhood days and many of my early experiences in nesting were in company with him. He was a thorough and enthusiastic ornithologist and oologist and assembled quite a complete local collection of nests, eggs, and also of birds which he mounted in cases in lifelike habitat groups. Although a member of The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and a favorite with a host of friends, Trotter was retiring by nature and rarely attended the meetings but would revel in an evening with intimate friends poring over their latest acquisitions or showing them his prizes.

He spent most of his summer holidays at Kennebunkport, Maine, where many species of birds were studied, but most of his collecting was done in the Wissahickon and White Marsh Valley area. Along the Wissahickon, within the boundaries of Philadelphia County, he made several notable nest-collecting records such as those of the Louisiana Water Thrush, Broad-winged Hawk and Turkey Buzzard.

Trotter was elected, in 1899, an Associate Member of both the A. O. U. and the D. V. O. C. He is survived by his widow and by his only daughter, Elizabeth Trotter, who has long served as secretary to Booth Tarkington, the well-known author.—GEORGE H. STUART 3d.