

OBITUARIES

THOMAS GILBERT PEARSON, a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died suddenly in New York, New York, September 3, 1943, in his seventieth year. He was born in Tuscola, Illinois, November 10, 1873, the son of Thomas Barnard and Mary (Elliott) Pearson. He graduated from Guilford College, North Carolina, in 1897, from the University of North Carolina in 1899, and later, in 1921, received the degree of LL.D. from his alma mater. The first five years after graduation were spent in teaching as Professor of Biology in Guilford College, 1897-1899, and in the State Normal and Industrial College for Women 1899-1904. In 1902 he married Elsie Weatherly who, with a daughter, Mrs. C. T. Jackson, and two sons, T. Gilbert and William, survive him.

In 1903, the legislature of North Carolina enacted a law for the protection of birds and placed the enforcement of the act in the hands of the Audubon Society of North Carolina whose secretary was given the powers of a State Game Commissioner. Pearson was appointed Secretary and entered upon his life work as a wildlife conservationist. For the next forty years his career reads like a romance. In 1910, he became Secretary and Executive Officer of the National Association of Audubon Societies and served as its President from 1920 to 1935. In 1922, he founded the International Committee for Bird Preservation which, prior to World War II, extended its activities to 30 countries. As Chairman of the Pan American section of the Committee, he visited most of the countries of Latin America, from México to Argentina.

Pearson was elected an Associate of the Union in 1891 and a Member in 1902. He attended the annual meetings regularly and usually contributed to the programs. He was an effective speaker and, with his wealth of experience in the field and his fund of anecdotes, he had unusual ability to hold the close attention of his audience. His first book, 'Stories of Bird Life,' appeared in 1901, 'Bird Studies' in 1917, and his autobiography, 'Adventures in Bird Protection,' in 1937. He was senior author of 'The Birds of North Carolina,' 1919 and 1942, co-editor of the 'Book of Birds,' 1937, and Editor-in-Chief of 'Birds of America' in three volumes, 1907. He prepared the Memorial of Edward Howe Forbush which appeared in 'The Auk' in 1930 and contributed notes, comments, and editorials to 'Bird Lore' over a period of years. These contributions, not the least important of his publications, form a record of an outstanding chapter in the history of wildlife protection in America.—T. S. PALMER.

SAMUEL FREDERICK RATHBUN, a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died in Seattle, Washington, July 6, 1946, at the advanced age of 88. He was born in 1858, near Newburgh-on-the-Hudson, New York. Six or seven years later, the family moved to Auburn where Rathbun spent the next twenty years and where he did his early collecting. In his early twenties, he joined the Society of American Taxidermists, sponsored by Henry L. Ward's Natural History Establishment in Rochester, where he met W. T. Hornaday, F. A. Lucas, and other zoologists. In 1890, he moved to Seattle where he obtained employment in a bank and "settled down to grow up with the country." The next year, he made a trip east where he married Sue Wilkinson. The couple had just celebrated their Golden Wedding when Mrs. Rathbun died, and he moved to the Arctic Club where he later resided. By profession a banker, he served from 1900 to 1906 as City Treasurer and later became associated with the Seattle First National Bank.

For eight years he was a member of the Advisory Committee, appointed under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. and in 1925 was appointed State Supervisor of

Game and Game Fish, an office which he administered with much success. In 1917, he was made Honorary Curator of Ornithology of the Washington State Museum at the University of Washington, a position which he continued to fill until his death. Rathbun was elected an Associate of the A. O. U. in 1893 and a Member in 1902, and contributed occasionally to the pages of 'The Auk.' He organized the Caurinus Club which later became the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society, of which he was made an Honorary Life Member in 1944.

His collection of birds has been given to the Washington State Museum, and his notebooks and journals have been deposited in the Northwest Collection of the University of Washington Library. Rathbun was not a voluminous writer. His bibliography of 22 titles comprises chiefly contributions to 'The Auk' and 'The Murrelet.' A more complete biographical sketch by Martha Reekie Flahaut, on which this notice is chiefly based, accompanied by a bibliography and portrait, was published in 'The Murrelet,' vol. 27, no. 3, pp. 41-46, December 27, 1946.—T. S. PALMER.

ERNEST EVAN THOMPSON SETON, a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Santa Fe, New Mexico, October 23, 1946, at the age of 86. He was the son of Joseph L. and Alice (Snowden) Thompson and was born at South Shields, England, August 14, 1860. Much of his early life was spent in the backwoods of Canada or on the western plains. His education was received at the Toronto Collegiate Institute, the Royal Academy in London, and Julian's Academy in Paris.

Seton was devoted to the wilds of Canada. He spent the years from 1866 to 1870 in the backwoods of eastern Canada, the period from 1882 to 1887 on the plains of Manitoba, and in later years made an extended trip to the barren grounds of northern Canada. While in Manitoba he served as Provincial Naturalist and published his 'Birds of Manitoba' in 1891 under the authorship of E. E. Thompson. Later he adopted the surname Seton and became generally known as Ernest Thompson Seton. He was elected an Associate of the Union at the first meeting in 1883 and a Member in 1901, thus maintaining a continuous membership extending over 63 years.

As an ornithologist, Seton was best known by his 'Birds of Manitoba,' 1891, and his illustrations in the 'Century Dictionary' and in Chapman's 'Bird Life,' 1897; as a mammalogist by 'Wild Animals I have known,' 1898, 'Trail of the Sandhill Stag,' 1899, 'Life-histories of Northern Animals,' (2 vols.) 1909, 'Wild Animals at Home,' 1913, and 'Lives of Game Animals,' (4 vols.) 1925-1928; and as a lecturer by his ability to attract and hold the attention of an audience under any conditions. He was deeply interested in the Boy Scout movement and served as Chief Scout from 1910 to 1915, organized the Woodcraft Indians, and was an authority on Indian customs and Indian lore. He was an enthusiastic and effective conservationist, and through his books and magazine articles was able to reach an unusually large audience. He married twice, Grace Gallatin in 1896, from whom he was divorced, and Julia M. Battree Moss in 1935.—T. S. PALMER.

ALTHEA ROSINA SHERMAN, a Life Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died in her ninetieth year at her home in National, near McGregor, Iowa, April 16, 1943, a week after she had suffered a stroke. She was born in Farmersburg Township, Clayton County, Iowa, October 10, 1853, and was the last member of the pioneer family of Mark Bachelor and Sibyl Melissa Clark Sherman; her sister, Dr. Amelia Sherman, died in 1940. She graduated from Fayette Seminary and then attended Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, where she received the degrees of A.B. in 1875 and A.M. in 1882. After graduation, she studied art in Chicago and New York, and

served as instructor in drawing and painting at Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, from 1882 to 1887, and as supervoisr in drawing in the public schools of Tacoma, Washington, from 1892 to 1895.

Miss Sherman was elected an Associate of the A. O. U. in 1907, a Life Associate in 1909, and a Life Member in 1912. She attended the annual meetings whenever possible and frequently contributed to the programs. She was particularly interested in life histories and territorialism, and in 1910 published in the 'Wilson Bulletin' an important contribution to the latter subject under the title 'At the Sign of the Northern Flicker.' Her papers were based on the most painstaking observations and were models in clear and accurate statement. In addition to her membership in the Union, she was elected an Honorary Member of the Wilson Ornithological Club in 1902, a Member of the Cooper Ornithological Club in 1911 and a Life Member of the latter club in 1916.

Just before World War I, Miss Sherman made an extended trip to Europe, northern Africa and parts of southern Asia, an account of which she published in a series of four articles in the 'Wilson Bulletin' in 1915 and 1916. Sailing from New York, November 7, 1913, she went through the Mediterranean and Red Seas to Bombay, India, stopping en route at Madeira, Gibraltar, Morocco, Algiers, Naples, and Cairo, crossed India to Calcutta, and returned by a different route. While in Egypt, she went up the Nile to southern Egypt, then returning, went north through Palestine to Turkey, Greece, and as far north as Sweden. She returned through western Europe to New York in August, 1914, after an absence of 10 months during which she had visited about 20 countries. Her observations on birds as well as foreign lands were published under the title 'Birds by the Wayside' in a series of four articles in the 'Wilson Bulletin' on India, Egypt, Palestine, and Greece. Much of the trip was made in winter, and the journey from Cairo to Athens was made just before the spring migration so that birds were much fewer than they would have been a little later.—T. S. PALMER.

CHARLES HASKINS TOWNSEND, elected an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1883 and a Member in 1901, died at Coral Gables, near Miami, Florida, January 28, 1944, at the age of 84. He was the son of Reverend D. W. and Elizabeth (Kier) Townsend, and was born at Parnassus, Pennsylvania, September 29, 1859. His parents had intended to prepare him for the ministry, but at an early age he became interested in natural history. He was educated in the public schools and in 1909 received the honorary degree of Sc.D. from Washington and Jefferson College. In his autobiographical sketch in *The Condor* for 1927 (pp. 224-232), he mentions the fact that his first zoological books were J. G. Wood's 'Bible Animals,' an Agricultural Report for 1856 containing Ezekiel Holmes's 'Birds Injurious to Agriculture' and Robert Kennicott's 'Quadrupeds of Illinois.' He also had access later on to the 'American Encyclopaedia.'

At the age of twenty, he joined Ward's Natural History Establishment in Rochester New York, where he met W. T. Hornaday, F. A. Lucas, W. B. Barrows, H. E. Crampton, and W. M. Wheeler. Three years later he spent some time at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, where among others he met Edwin Sheppard, the wood engraver, and Titian R. Peale, the explorer. He recalled that "Mr. Peale kindly allowed me the use of his 'Audubon,' a volume at a time, my first acquaintance with this work." At the Academy he also met W. L. Baily, W. E. Saunders, and Spencer Trotter.

In 1883, he first met Professor S. F. Baird who offered him a position in the U. S. Fish Commission, and within a month shipped him off to the salmon hatchery on the

McCloud River, in northern California, where he began his career in fishery work which was destined to occupy his attention for the remaining sixty years of his life. In 1885, he was detailed to the Revenue Cutter 'Corwin' on a voyage to Kotzebue Sound, Alaska, and accompanied Lieutenant John Cassin Cantwell, a nephew of John Cassin, the ornithologist, to the headwaters of the Kowak River. The following year he made a cruise on the 'Albatross' to the Bahamas. In 1887, he collected on the Segovia River in Honduras, and in the autumn of that year accompanied the Fish Commission Steamer 'Albatross' through the Straits of Magellan to the Pacific and stopped 11 days at the Galapagos Islands. During the decade from 1886 to 1896, while he was serving as Naturalist on the 'Albatross,' most of the time was spent in the North Pacific, surveying the fishery grounds along the northwest coast and in the Bering Sea and mapping the fur-seal rookeries on the Pribilof Islands. He also took part in the Bering Sea patrol, charted part of the Aleutian region, and sounded the route for the Hawaiian cable. He was a member of the Fur Seal Commission in 1896-1897 and, after serving five years as Chief of the Division of Fisheries of the Fish Commission, in 1902 was detailed as Fishery Expert to the Russo-American Arbitration Commission at The Hague.

From 1902 to 1937, he was Director of the New York Aquarium where he maintained the exhibits in a high degree of efficiency. During this period, he served as Acting Director of Investigations of the 'Albatross' in the Gulf of California in 1911. At the close of the Semicentennial Meeting of the Union in 1933, he entertained the members at an evening reception at the Aquarium, an occasion long remembered by those who were fortunate enough to be present.

Townsend's publications, about 100 titles in all, were mainly devoted to fisheries, fur seals, whaling and oceanography, but he also published several papers on birds. Chief among these were his contribution to the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum for 1887 entitled 'Field Notes on the Mammals, Birds and Reptiles of Northern California,' and his descriptions of several new species of birds from the California coast and islands in the 'Proceedings' for 1880.—T. S. PALMER.

WALTER CLEVELAND HENDERSON, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1917, died suddenly at the age of 70 at his home in Saint Petersburg, Florida, January 1, 1947. He was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts, July 6, 1876. His education was received in the public schools of Chelsea and Somerville, Massachusetts, and in 1903 he graduated from the Boston University Law School. In 1926 he received the degree of A. B. from George Washington University, Washington, D. C.

In 1897 he entered the Customs Service in Boston and ten years later was transferred to the Forest Service in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. When Dr. E. W. Nelson became Chief of the Biological Survey in 1916, he invited Henderson to become Associate Chief, in which capacity he took an active part in the administrative and legal work and represented the Survey at many conferences and meetings in various parts of the country. In 1940, with the consolidation of the Biological Survey and the Bureau of Fisheries as the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Department of the Interior, Henderson became Assistant Director of the Service under Dr. I. N. Gabrielson, a position which he retained until his retirement in 1942 on account of ill health. In addition to his membership in the A. O. U., he was a member of the American Society of Mammalogists, the Baird Ornithological Club, the Biological Society of Washington, and the National Geographic Society. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Margaret Henderson, and a son, Fletcher Henderson.—T. S. PALMER.