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OBITUARIES

CHARLES DEAN BUNKER, elected a member of the A. O. U. in 1923, died at his home in Lawrence, Kansas, on September 5, 1948. Bunker, the youngest of seven children, was born in Mendota, Illinois, on December 12, 1870. His childhood was largely spent in the out-of-doors rather than in the school room, owing to the advice of the family physician. This may have had much to do with developing in Bunker an interest in natural history, for a great deal of his time was spent in collecting and

observing animals. Those which he collected he gave to the local taxidermist, possibly in return for instruction in taxidermy. One of the birds collected by the boy was the last Passenger Pigeon to be shot in Mendota.

At the age of 25, Charley Bunker went to work as taxidermist for Dr. L. L. Dyche, at the University of Kansas, with a salary of \$15 per month. In 1901 he left Kansas for the University of Oklahoma, remaining there until 1904. Then, after about a year in the field with Charles Sternberg, collecting vertebrate fossils, he returned to Kansas, to remain until his retirement in 1942. Even following his retirement he continued to pay regular visits to the University until his failing health prevented them early in 1948.

Bunker's work, after his return to K. U., was concerned with the care of scientific collections of Recent vertebrates in the Museum of Natural History which had been completed in 1901. Until 1909 he worked under the curatorship of Dr. Dyche. But when Dyche left the University, Bunker, under the title of Assistant Curator, was placed in charge of the Recent vertebrate collections.

Having a keen sense of responsibility regarding scientific collections, Bunker instituted a careful system of cataloging which has won for the Kansas museum a high reputation for scientific accuracy.

An even greater monument to Charley Bunker, however, is to be found in the large number of able scientists who, as college students, came under his influence at the museum. Although he held no teaching assignment at the University, owing to his lack of formal education beyond the grammar school, many students received the most valuable part of their training as naturalists by contact with him at the museum. Capitalizing, we might say, on his lack of scientific education, he assigned the students tasks in the museum with the understanding that he depended upon them for scientific accuracy. Furthermore, he gave them to understand that he relied on them to build up the scientific collections and keep the museum alive. This system for developing responsibility, together with his great generosity in putting his own and museum equipment at the students' disposal, endeared him to these young people who gained so much from his influence.

Although he trained students in a knowledge of all vertebrates, Bunker's great interest was in birds. He published very little himself, however, preferring to have any new observation go to the credit of one of the students.

A living memorial to Charles Dean Bunker was erected shortly before his death by the Kansas University Endowment Association—a loan fund bearing his name, for needy students of natural history at the University.—HILDEGARDE HOWARD.

GEORGE CLYDE FISHER, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union for 35 years (1908-38 and 1943-48), died in New York, N. Y., Jan. 8, 1949, at the age of 70. He was born near Sidney, Ohio, May 22, 1878, graduated from Miami University in 1905 with the degree of A.B., from Johns Hopkins University in 1913 with the degree of Ph.D. and in 1926 received the degree of LL.D. from his alma mater.

In 1913 he joined the American Museum of Natural History in New York and for 11 years served as assistant curator and associate curator in the department of public education. He was then made curator of visual instruction in 1924, a post which he filled for 10 years. In 1923, he was placed in charge of the department of astronomy, made curator in 1928, and head of the Hayden Planetarium in 1935.

Dr. Fisher's publications on birds were apparently limited to a few brief notes in 'The Auk' for 1910 and 1919, chiefly on the occurrence of uncommon birds. He was a member of the Wilson Ornithological Club and the American Society of Mammalogists, a fellow of the Linnean Society of New York and a member of the Ex-

plorer's Club, of which he was president at the time of his death. He was also a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Nature Study Society and the Torrey Botanical Club. His deep interest in astronomy in later years resulted in membership in the Astronomical Society, the Association of Variable Star Observers, the Society for Research in Meteorites, fellowship in the Royal Astronomical Society and the presidency of the Amateur Astronomical Association.—T. S. PALMER.

ROBERT HALL, an Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1923, died at Hobart, Tasmania, on September 19, 1949, in his eighty-second year. Born in Australia, he had been a curator of the Tasmanian Museum since 1908. In his younger years he undertook expeditions to Northern Siberia (Lena River), the Kerguelen Islands, and northern India. Later he concentrated on the study of birds of Australia and Tasmania, of which he was one of the outstanding authorities. He published numerous papers in ornithological journals, as well as four or five books. A more detailed obituary can be found in 'THE EMU' (49: 194-195, 1949).—E. MAYR.

SADIA HASKELL, a Life Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Riversdale, Md., October 5, 1947, at the age of 78. She was born in Rock Island County, Illinois, June 26, 1869, and was a trained and experienced accountant and auditor. In 1902 she received an appointment in the U. S. Department of Agriculture where she served for 37 years in the Bureaus of Chemistry, Entomology and Agricultural Economics. She retired in 1939. Miss Haskell was elected an Associate of the Union in 1916 and was known to many of the members through her regular attendance at the annual meetings prior to World War II.—T. S. PALMER.

SUSIE FAIRFIELD DRYDEN KUSER (Mrs. Anthony Rudolph Kuser), an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union beginning in 1910, was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., on March 27, 1870, the daughter of John Fairfield and Cynthia Fairchild Dryden. On December 1, 1896, she was married to Anthony R. Kuser, financier and philanthropist, who died in 1929 (Auk, 46: 579-580, 1929). They had two children—a daughter, now Mrs. Cynthia Kuser Herbst, and a son, John Dryden Kuser.

Both Colonel and Mrs. Kuser were lovers of wildlife, especially birds, and were active in Audubon Society promotion. Their estate at Bernardsville, N. J., was a bird sanctuary and aviary and included areas for pheasant rearing. In 1922 they donated to the State of New Jersey a tract of 10,500 acres (including the highest point in the State) near Sussex, N. J., as a public park and wildlife sanctuary. Perhaps their principal benefaction for the science of ornithology was the financing of the Kuser Expedition of 1909-11, organized under the auspices of the New York Zoological Society and conducted under the leadership of Dr. William Beebe. This expedition undertook a journey of nearly 52,000 miles through more than 20 countries of the Orient, making intimate studies and collecting specimens of all known species of pheasants. The result was Beebe's sumptuous four-volume 'Monograph of the Pheasants,' published in 1918-22 with the financial assistance of the Kusers, and the subsequent two-volume edition, 'Pheasants: Their Lives and Homes' (1926).

Mrs. Kuser was a life member of the New Jersey Historical Society. In January, 1932, she sailed for Europe with her daughter, hoping that the trip would benefit her health, but she died suddenly at Rome, Italy, on March 10, 1932. Burial was at Bernardsville, N. J.—PAUL H. OEHSE.

THOMAS TONKIN McCABE, an Associate of the A. O. U. since 1920, and elected a Member in 1938, died of heart failure in Berkeley, California, on January 28, 1948. He was born April 4, 1890, in Bloomington, Indiana, where his father was professor

of Romance Languages at the University. He attended the Middlesex School in Concord, Massachusetts, from 1900 to 1908, and then entered Harvard. From Harvard he received the degrees of B.A. and M.A.

In 1915 his bride of only a month was drowned in an accident in which he, too, was badly injured, and his heart severely strained. While recuperating, he lived in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Here he became interested in natural history, and particularly in botany, through the friendship of Mrs. Frank Bolles, whose daughter later became his wife.

In the first World War, McCabe served in the British Royal Field Artillery, attaining the rank of captain. Following the war, he was instructor in English, first at Yale and then at the Naval Academy at Annapolis, but had to resign in 1921, owing to ill health. In 1923 he married Elinor Bolles of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and moved to British Columbia where he had previously bought a tract of land. Here, he and his wife spent several years living in the woods and studying the flora and fauna, gradually widening their sphere of interest to include much of the southern half of the province. In 1929 they moved to Berkeley, California, where Mr. McCabe could have access to museums and libraries during the winters, while continuing their field trips every summer. When the war curtailed extensive field work, he undertook a special study of mice in the Berkeley region.

Mr. McCabe became affiliated with the University of California as Research Associate in Botany and turned over his collections of mammals and plants to the University during his lifetime. His bird collection, however, he sent to his alma mater, Harvard, for the Museum of Comparative Zoology, where he held the title of Associate in Ornithology at the time of his death.

In addition to a number of short papers on birds published in the ornithological magazines in America, Mr. McCabe wrote, or co-authored, several works on rodents, two of which appeared in Canadian publications.—HILDEGARDE HOWARD.

HAROLD MITCHENER, Associate of A. O. U. in 1926, Member in 1938, died at his home in Pasadena on October 14, 1949. Born at Boulder Creek, California, May 31, 1882, son of a fruit grower, he grew up in the Santa Cruz mountains, his interest in nature encouraged by his parents. He graduated in engineering at the University of California and was associated with the Southern California Edison Company from 1912 until his retirement in 1942.

He married his schoolmate, Josephine Rigden, and together they banded birds in their garden in Pasadena. Their sons are natural scientists, David a plant physiologist with the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Berkeley, and Charles an entomologist at the University of Kansas. Mr. Michener was one of the founders of the Western Bird Banding Association and was the guiding spirit of the Los Angeles Chapter.

The Mitcheners banded over 45,000 birds of 85 species. They kept meticulous notes on their subjects, particularly on molts and plumages. The scope of their work is shown by the titles of their major papers published in 'The Condor': Banding Purple Finches in Pasadena, 1925; What Color is the Eye of a Bush-Tit? 1928; Some Inferences from Seven Years' Banding Records, 1932; Abnormalities in Birds, 1936; Bars in Flight Feathers, 1938; The Spring Molt of the Gambel Sparrow, 1943. Five detailed articles were published on House Finches: Studies on 1170 Banded House Finches, 1926; Variation in Color of Male House Finches, 1931; Colors Induced in Male House Finches by Repeated Feather Removals, 1932; Ages of House Finches Trapped During February, 1933, at Pasadena, California, 1933; The Molt of House Finches of the Pasadena Region, California, 1940. A remarkable study carried out

with the help of colored bands was made on Mockingbirds, Their Territories and Individualities, 1935. Finally, after banding was no longer possible due to severe arthritis, Mr. Michener published with Dr. D. S. Farner 'A Proposed System of Age Terminology in Bird Banding,' *Bird-Banding*, 1948.

For many years I knew the Micheners through their papers and their delightful letters. When in 1948 I was privileged to visit then I was deeply impressed with the serenity and cheerfulness of Mr. Michener, with his courageous acceptance of his terrible handicap and with the selfless devotion of his wife. Harold Michener was a true friend and an inspiration; his work was of the highest quality, both his own contributions and his encouragement of other students.—MARGARET M. NICE.

ELIZABETH DAY PALMER, a Life Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at her home in Los Angeles, Calif., Dec. 4, 1945, at the age of 73. She was the daughter of Henry Austin and Jane Day Palmer and was born in Oakland, California, Nov. 30, 1872. She graduated from the University of California in the class of 1894. Shortly after her graduation she began teaching in the public school at Claremont and later taught in the Los Angeles High School until her retirement in 1937.

Miss Palmer was a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club and was elected an Associate of the A. O. U. in 1918.

She was fond of travel and visited a dozen countries in western Europe, China, Korea, and Japan and made a trip around South America. Her voyages extended from the arctic circle off the coast of Norway to the Fiji Islands in the South Pacific. Among the institutions which she visited was the La Plata Museum in Argentina, the Natural History Museum in Stockholm, Sweden, and the museums in Tokyo, Japan.—T. S. PALMER.

ARTHUR LINCOLN REAGH, an Honorary Life Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at West Roxbury, Mass., June 15, 1949, in his 78th year. He was the son of Abraham Lincoln and Clara Isabel (Goodwin) Reagh and was born at West Roxbury, August 21, 1871. His education was at Harvard University, from which he graduated with the degree of S.B. in 1894 and M.D. in 1898. After graduation he received an appointment as Bacteriologist in the Massachusetts State Department of Health.

Reagh was elected a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club in 1891, an Associate of the A. O. U. in 1896, and became an Honorary Life Associate in 1936. Apparently his only contribution to 'The Auk' was a brief note on the occurrence of the King Rail in Plymouth Co., Mass., in 1903.—T. S. PALMER.

JOHN BONNER SEMPLE, who became an Associate of the A. O. U. in 1924, and who was a Life Associate at the time of his death in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, on November 13, 1947, was born in Pittsburgh on August 20, 1869.

He attended John Way Jr.'s Sewickley Academy, the Pennsylvania Military Academy at Chester, and graduated from Lehigh University in 1892 with a degree in chemistry.

During World War I, he served as Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Naval Reserve, invented a tracer shell, and organized a company for its manufacture. Retiring from business after the war, he served as a trustee of both Carnegie Institute of Technology and the Carnegie Institute. During the years he served on the Institute's Museum Committee, his generosity and active participation in expeditions added thousands of birds to the collection. He took part personally in the Blue Goose expeditions to Hudson Bay in 1923 and 1926 and sponsored the work on

Southampton Island in 1929–1930, at which time the second known nesting grounds of this species were found. In 1931 he sponsored and took part in an expedition to Churchill, Manitoba, which resulted in the discovery of the eggs of the Harris's Sparrow. He made several collecting trips to the southwestern United States from 1932 to 1937 and collected birds in Mexico in 1938 and 1939.

A Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata semplei*, a Screech Owl, *Otus asio semplei*, and an arctic weasel, *Mustela erminea semplei*, have been named for him. The Semple Islands, in northern Hudson Bay, bear his name.

Among the friends who miss him most are those who learned to enjoy, through years of close association, his great enthusiasm for field work, his hearty enjoyment of good food, and his youthful spirit and ever-ready wit.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SURTON.

JOHN VAN SCHAICK, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union (1926), died in Washington, D. C., May 16, 1949, at the age of 75. He was born in Cobleskill, N. Y., Nov. 18, 1873, and graduated from Union College with the degree of B.A. Later he received the degrees of D.D. from St. Lawrence University and M.D. from the University of Liege, Belgium. He served as pastor of the Universalist Church in Washington, D. C., from 1900 to 1918. Prior to World War I, he took an active part in the civic and social work of the National Capital, serving as President of the District Board of Education and chairman of the Board of Charities, which later became the Department of Public Welfare.

For some years Dr. Van Schaick was associated with the American Red Cross, and at the beginning of World War I was detailed as Director of Relief in Belgium. As a result of this work he received decorations from several European governments and medals and recognition from American societies and organizations. He was an easy and prolific writer and for several years was editor of the 'Christian Leader' of Boston. While associated with that paper, he contributed from time to time a series of delightful essays on birds and nature which were later published in book form in 1928 under the title 'Nature Cruisings.'

He was an enthusiastic member of the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, took an active part in the field trips of the society and was familiar with most of the birds which occur in the region of the national capital.—T. S. PALMER.