

- koliensis* is a good species and that a new race, *Serinus citrinelloides brittoni* subsp. nov., should be distinguished in northwestern Kenya.—F.B.G.
- WALDMAN, M. 1970. A third specimen of a Lower Cretaceous feather from Victoria, Australia. *Condor*, 72: 377.
- WETMORE, A. 1967. Pleistocene Aves from Ladds, Georgia. *Bull. Georgia Acad. Sci.*, 25: 151-153.—These bird bones represent the first bird species recorded from the Pleistocene between northern Virginia and northern Florida. Included are *Canachites canadensis* (the most southern record for this grouse species), *Anas rubripes*, *Meleagris gallopavo*, *Ectopistes migratorius*, and three unidentified passerine species.—C.F.S.
- WETMORE, A. 1970. Descriptions of additional forms of birds from Panama and Colombia. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, 82: 767-776.—New subspecies described are *Metallura primolinus recisa* and *Sittasomus griseicapillus enochrus* from Colombia and *Glyphorhynchus spirurus pallidulus*, *Xenops rutilans incomptus*, *Thamnophilus doliatus nesiotus*, and *Oryzoborus crassirostris loftini* from Panamá. The Racquet-tailed Hummingbird *Ocreatus underwoodi discifer* and the Striped-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis cinnamomea aveldoi* are added to Meyer de Schauensee's 1964 list of the birds of Colombia.—C.F.S.

OBITUARIES

ALFRED BRAZIER HOWELL.—A remarkable case of a man of limited formal education not only rising to a pinnacle of success in three fields, namely ornithology, mammalogy, and comparative anatomy of vertebrates, but also coming to hold a high academic position in a leading university, is seen in the career of the late A. Brazier Howell. Born on 28 July 1886 in Catonsville, Maryland, he attended the Sheffield Scientific School in 1905-06 and Yale University in 1908. This apparently was the extent of his formal higher education. He manifested an interest in birds during boyhood when he started a collection of eggs. He affiliated with the Cooper Ornithological Club in 1908 and the A.O.U. in 1909, becoming an Elective Member of the latter organization in 1916. A family move to Pasadena in 1910 brought him in contact with several active members of the Cooper Ornithological Club in southern California. This accentuated his ornithological interests and he started studying for his personal pleasure the birds occurring on the Channel Islands along the coast of southern California. At the urging of Joseph Grinnell he prepared a formal report on his findings which the Cooper Ornithological Club published in 1917 as Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 12. This was his principal work on birds.

For several years he assisted the business manager of the Cooper Ornithological Club and eventually assumed charge of the endowment fund. He formally served as Secretary in 1913 and Vice-President in 1921. From funds that he personally donated to the club comes the annual A. Brazier Howell award of \$150.00 made each year to the student presenting the best paper at the annual meeting. In 1955 he was made an honorary member of the Cooper Ornithological Society.

During his years in southern California he accumulated a private collection of birds and mammals, doing much field work himself, but also employing from time to time as collectors and field assistants such persons as A. J. van Rossem, Chester Lamb, and Laurence Huey. He interested van Rossem in the birds of El Salvador, which became one of the latter's major contributions. The Howell collection was

ultimately sold to his friend, Donald R. Dickey. In 1914 he married Margaret Gray Shark of Pasadena; they had four children.

In 1932 Brazier Howell moved to Washington, D. C., which brought him into contact with another outstanding group of vertebrate zoologists, mostly professional mammalogists employed by the federal government. In his research interests Howell had been moving gradually from birds to mammals, judging by his published papers, and in Washington the mammalian aspect seemingly was accentuated. From 1923 to 1927 he worked as a "dollar-a-year" man with the title of Scientific Assistant in the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey. In 1926 he became a Collaborator of the U. S. National Museum, an affiliation which continued for many years.

From studies on distribution and geographic variation in mammals he turned more and more to the morphology of vertebrate animals, especially comparative anatomy. A monumental work on the anatomy of the wood rat appeared in 1926. A third move came in 1928 when he went to Baltimore, Maryland, to assume a position as Lecturer in Comparative Anatomy in the School of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University. In addition to his research he taught gross human anatomy. In 1932 he was made an Associate Professor, continuing in this capacity until his retirement in 1944. Other monumental works were his book on aquatic mammals, published in 1930, one on gross anatomy in 1938, and during the year of his retirement yet another book appeared—a treatise on speed in animals.

An accompaniment of his interest in mammals was his activity in the American Society of Mammalogists of which he was a charter member. He served as Corresponding Secretary 1925–1930, Editor of the *Journal of Mammalogy* 1936–1938, Vice-President 1938–1940, and President 1940–1942. For his distinction in mammalogy he was made an Honorary Member of the society. He also established a Howell award for this society for student papers similar to that for the Cooper Ornithological Club.

The life-span of A. Brazier Howell came to a close at Bangor, Maine, on 23 December 1961. A memorial by Luther Little accompanied by his picture and a complete bibliography of his published works appeared in the *Journal of Mammalogy*, 49, 1968.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE.

HAROLD HARRIS BAILEY was an avid naturalist-collector and the son of Harry Balch Bailey, a founder of the American Ornithologists' Union. Harold Bailey joined the A.O.U. in 1903 and, although he resigned his associate membership in 1915, he remained a subscriber to *The Auk* until his death on 24 July 1962. He was born in East Orange, New Jersey, on 13 October 1878, but he lived most of his life in Virginia and Florida. A naval architect by profession, he devoted considerable time to natural history, and in later years it was his main avocation. He published widely in scientific journals and in his own bulletin, and he wrote books on the birds of Virginia (1913) and of Florida (1925). Mr. Bailey's extensive collection of natural history specimens was perhaps his major interest, and in the period 1942–1962 he and his wife, Laura, established a museum at a defunct, historical mineral water spa in western Virginia, Rockbridge Alum Springs. This endeavor, the renovated site and buildings, and the preserved natural area stand as a monument to his industry and dedication.—JOHN P. HUBBARD.

ALBERT ELLIS ALLIN, Member of the A.O.U. since 1939 and Life Elective Member since 1955, died suddenly on November 6, 1966. He was born at Hampton, Ontario,

on May 13, 1906. From 1937 on, he was Director and Pathologist at the Regional Laboratory, Ontario Department of Health, Fort William, Ontario.

As a boy in Darlington Township, Ontario, he acquired an early mature interest in the natural sciences. At the age of nine he published his first article—on the black swallowtail butterfly—in a Toronto newspaper. All aspects of biology intrigued him then, and this viewpoint never changed. Many times in the course of his life he was heard to assert that he would rather know a little about all of the various aspects of nature than a lot about a single phase. He brought together good collections of fishes, bird eggs and nests, and plants, and over the years he forwarded many specimens of various kinds to the Royal Ontario Museum and to the National Museums of Canada.

He did extensive field work and his scientific training assured the accuracy of his records. He recorded notes on birds, mammals, amphibians, butterflies, and plants. The food of owls, moose parasites, albino mud puppies, and lampreys are examples of some of the unusual subjects he investigated. He published in *The Auk*, *The Wilson Bulletin*, *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, *Transactions of the Royal Ontario Institute*, *Journal of Mammalogy*, *Copeia*, and *News Letter of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists Club*. A bird column, "The Canadian Lakehead," first appeared in 1951 in *The Flicker* and was continued in *The Loon* until the time of his death.

Dr. Allin was a founder-member of the Toronto Ornithological Club. He served as a Director and Regional Vice-President of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and for five terms as President of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists Club.

Ever an enthusiastic conservationist, he worked especially for scientifically-oriented fish and game regulations, more efficient administration of our parklands, and the reduction of pollution. He served on the Advisory Board to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority and was a Trustee of the Ontario Waterfowl Research Foundation. A Past-President of the Thunder Bay Fish and Game Association, that club awarded him the Windsor trophy for outstanding service in 1958 and, in the same year, a poll conducted by the West Fort Kiwanis Club named him "Sportsman of the year." He did much to increase knowledge of the natural history of the Lakehead region, not only directly through his own accurate observations but indirectly as well through the work of the numerous amateurs he encouraged and guided.—W. EARL GODFREY.

BERTRAM WILLIAM CARTWRIGHT, a Member of the A.O.U. since 1924 and an Elective Member since 1952, died at Richmond, British Columbia, Canada, on July 16, 1967. Born in Malvern, England in 1890, he early developed an interest in birds. He was a Junior Member of the Bolton Field Naturalists Club and used to recall, with boyish enthusiasm, how, at the age of twelve, he found the nest of the Ring Ouzel, a rare find in those days. In 1911 the family left England for Canada, settling in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Here Bert found new and vast horizons for his bird studies and actively continued them as a hobby.

Together with A. G. Lawrence and Dr. H. M. Speechly, he helped found the Natural History Society of Manitoba in 1921. He held successive positions in the ornithological section, and in 1936 was elected President of the society. The paper he coauthored with C. G. Harrold, "An outline of the principles of the natural selective absorption of radiant energy," (*Auk*, 42: 233, 1925) earned for him the society's bronze medal. He was one of the founders of the Manitoba Museum in 1933.

In 1928 he began writing a weekly newspaper column, "Wild Wings," for the

Winnipeg Tribune. Through this column he built up a large following of interested bird watchers from all walks of life. As a result, the migration, nesting, and other information gleaned over the 17 years in which he wrote the column today represents a valuable contribution to the ornithological records of the province of Manitoba.

With the formation in 1937 of the waterfowl conservation organization, Ducks Unlimited (Canada), he was appointed to the post of Chief Naturalist, a position he held until his retirement in 1960. During his tenure with Ducks Unlimited, he traveled widely across the Canadian prairies, where he made a host of friends, to whom he was "B. W." or "Bert—the duck man." He organized and developed the aerial survey of the waterfowl breeding grounds that annually estimated waterfowl populations from the air at the end of each nesting season.

It was my good fortune to have known Bert ever since the depression years of the '30s and to have worked with him in Ducks Unlimited from 1939 until he retired. Our association through the years reached a high point when we collaborated, he as author, I as illustrator, in producing through Sports Afield magazine "Know your ducks and geese" published in 1948. His articles on waterfowl reached a wide audience through newspapers and magazines. He popularized his writing by the use of easily understood words and would often drop in a succinct phrase, as when describing the male Mallard "Daddy of them all" and the drake Pintail "Beau Brummel among ducks." He championed protection for the birds of prey and together we collaborated on an illustrated booklet, "Hawks of Western Canada," published by Ducks Unlimited in 1949. This ran through four printings and had a wide distribution among rural schools.

He had a most retentive memory, which, combined with a keen sense of humor and wide knowledge of his subject, made him an engaging speaker. In the course of his work he lectured before many gatherings of sportsmen and nature lovers, giving unstintingly of his time for this purpose.

In the field he was a genial companion, ready to share success or disappointment amid all the trials and tribulations that so frequently accompany birding expeditions. —ANGUS H. SHORTT.

WILLIAM J. SHEFFLER, a Los Angeles business man with strong interests in birds and a Life Member of the A.O.U., died on August 25, 1967 at the age of 74. One of his significant ornithological activities was the accumulation of a large collection of birds' eggs and skins, partly through his personal field activity, but mostly through sponsorship of field collectors and professional ornithologists. Mexican birds were particularly well represented in his collection for he was part owner of Rancho Guirocoba, Sonora, a well-known study area in Mexico. Two races of birds were named in his honor, *Ava militaris sheffleri* van Rossem and Hachisuka, 1939, and *Dendrocolaptes certhia sheffleri* Binford, 1965. Another of his avian interests was aviculture, and he maintained a fine assemblage of caged birds in aviaries at his home. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Avicultural Society of America from 1931 to 1946 and served as Vice President of the Board in 1949 and 1950.

Mr. Sheffler became a member of the A.O.U. in 1928, but was far more active in affairs of the California-based Cooper Ornithological Society, which he joined in 1930. He became a Life Member of the latter society in 1937, served as President of the Southern Division in 1949, was elected a Member of the Board of Directors in 1953, and became President of the Board in 1960, continuing in this capacity for three years. The present strong financial standing of the C.O.S. was due in large part

to his sagacity in business affairs and investment policy. In 1960 Honorary Membership was bestowed upon him by the C.O.S. For many years Mr. Sheffler was a member of the Board of Governors of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. He also was Vice President and a Fellow of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology of Los Angeles, California.

His oological specimens are now incorporated in the vast holdings of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology while his collection of study skins was donated to the Museum of Zoology of Louisiana State University.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE.

JOHN G. TYLER, well-known California ornithologist of the Fresno district, died on April 3, 1969 in his 86th year. He was born in Lawrence, Kansas, on December 12, 1883, the son of George Jay and Mary Teresa (Gripper) Tyler. The family moved to California when John was six months old. He was reared in the southern San Joaquin Valley and lived in the central part for the rest of his life. He became interested in birds at an early age, learned the different kinds from Coues' "Key," and kept an almost daily record of birds seen and their habits, particularly their nesting. He started to collect specimens of birds and eggs and corresponded with many of the prominent naturalists of the times, particularly A. C. Bent, who directed many questions to him during the interval of 1915 to 1930 in connection with his life histories.

Mr. Tyler joined the Cooper Ornithological Society in 1905, served as President of the Northern Division in 1929 and remained a member of the Board of Governors until his death. It was not until 1939 that he joined the A.O.U. The fruits of his observations on birds appeared as short articles in *The Condor* and *The Oologist*. His major contribution to ornithology was a 114-page paper entitled "Some birds of the Fresno district," which appeared in 1913 as *Pacific Coast Avifauna* No. 9. A supplement to this work appeared in *The Condor*, 18: 194-198, 1916.

His skill in field work was due in large part to the circumstance that most of his life was spent as an agricultural advisor, either to orchardists or their cooperatives. He was thus outdoors almost daily traveling from one end of the Central Valley to the other. In addition he had a good memory, an encyclopedic knowledge of ornithological literature, and the talent to integrate his observations with the perspectives provided by broader studies.

His close ties to agriculture led to conservation efforts. He supported the campaign against the sale of wild game, prohibited by California law in 1914. He made constant attempts to convince farmers of the value of birds to their crops and orchards. He was willing to go almost anywhere, anytime, to talk on the value of birds. That meant long buggy trips on winter nights when the tule fog was thick. He was the first to alert scientists to the effects of Thallium-poisoned grain that was being spread through much of California, a practice the Bureau of Biological Survey began about 1926 with disastrous results on bird life. On other matters he had very cordial relations with that bureau, often collecting specimens of birds or mammals at their request.

The only collecting expedition he made outside of California was as a member of a party led by J. R. Pemberton in 1930, which surveyed the islands off the coast of Baja, California. Between 1900 and 1930 he built up an extensive private collection of both skins and eggs from central California. Before his death most of these were given to the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, of which he was a Patron. His voluminous field notes and correspondence will probably be placed with the same institution.

Age never dimmed his interest in the observation of birds, but when it became difficult to spend long hours in the field he pursued a companion interest—Western Americana. His knowledge of the history of mining camps and ephemeral towns in California and Nevada was vast, but he never mentioned these interests to ornithologists, nor did he discuss birds with historians.

He treated anyone in search of any kind of knowledge as an equal. He was as willing to listen as to tell, and in fact he always listened to everything the other fellow had to say first. If he disagreed he would nod his head in a neutral sort of way, but if he knew the answer, the information would be presented in a round-about fashion. Because of these traits he remained the friend of almost everyone he met, and it didn't matter whether they were museum directors, boy scouts, farmers, or just the person who happened to be sitting next to him. The titles in his bibliography number 32, all but 3 devoted to birds.—HAMILTON A. TYLER and JOHN R. ARNOLD.

NOTES AND NEWS

For his contributions in ornithology, ecology, and international conservation, S. Dillon Ripley, Life Fellow, received the seldom-given Gold Medal of the Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp, Belgium on September 1, 1970.

The sum of \$650.00 is available in the Josselyn Van Tyne Memorial Fund for research grants in 1971. All students of birds, especially young men and women just starting their careers or others not eligible for government grants, are invited to apply for them. Applicants should prepare a brief but comprehensive description of their research projects specifying the objectives and proposed plans of procedure. Particulars of the type and amount of financial assistance needed must be included, also a brief statement of the applicant's ornithological background. Letters of recommendation from one or more recognized ornithologists are helpful. Please submit six copies to facilitate review by the committee. Applications should be submitted not later than **15 March 1971** to ALAN H. BRUSH, *Chairman of the A.O.U. Research Committee, Biological Sciences Group, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut 06268.*

To stimulate research in the field of ornithology through the use of bird-banding techniques or available banding date, the EASTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION makes a grant of \$250 to a student, undergraduate or graduate, who uses bird banding in an ornithological study in a college or university within the United States. Undergraduates must be either juniors or seniors, major in zoology or biology, and earn at least a B average. Graduate students must be majoring in ornithology. Although the Eastern Bird Banding Association would like to publish in its journal a paper written by the award recipient on his project, this is not a requisite.

To apply for the award, a student should submit a description of his project, signed by the head of his department, explaining how he uses bird banding. Applications will be judged on the quality of the presentation as well as content. Preference will be shown for projects already in progress. Applications must be submitted prior to **25 February 1971** to MRS. ROGER W. FOY, *Secretary, Eastern Bird Banding Association, Box 164, Ship Bottom, New Jersey 08008.*