

pressure pump mechanism of food and water uptake, expulsion of water, filtering of food, and the transport and swallowing of food. As with the previously described paper, this study will probably be of limited value to the nonspecialist. Both, however, should be required reading for anyone interested in vertebrate feeding mechanisms.

To my knowledge these two studies, taken as a whole, represent the finest and most complete analysis of the feeding mechanism of any vertebrate. This includes the most extensively studied species, you and me. It will, of course, be unrealistic to expect many future studies to come close to the level of detail presented in these papers; after all, it took years to produce these results. If such studies are repeated for other species, and they should be, workers will have to address more fundamental problems. What are the purposes of such studies, other than trying to understand how the feeding mechanism of a particular species works? What are the broader questions being investigated? How do these individual, detailed studies relate to answering these broader questions? The investigations of Zweers focus on the narrow and by design do not attempt to deal with broader questions: this was not their purpose. These papers, in a real sense, stand as a monument to experimental functional morphology, and they represent its strengths, but also its weaknesses. This is not to negate the importance of this work. Indeed, congratulations are insufficient: Zweers and his colleagues deserve our respect and admiration for one of the finest studies in all of avian biology.—JOEL CRACRAFT.

OBITUARIES

ELIZABETH SCHLING AUSTIN (23 January 1907–23 May 1977) began her ornithological career both early and late. "Sliver" (an alliterative nickname from her childhood) would give you an argument if you tried to call her an ornithologist; she insisted that she was an ornithologist's *wife*. So in one way, she began her career at the age of 7, when she first met young Oliver L. Austin, Jr. at dancing school. She and Oliver were married some years later—in 1930—while he was a graduate student at Harvard University. For many years after that she devoted her life to her family: making ends meet during the Depression; moving from place to place with Oliver as he began his professional career; bearing two sons, Anthony and Timothy; becoming a wartime Navy wife. After the Japanese surrender, she and the boys joined Oliver in Tokyo where he was serving on General MacArthur's personal staff as a wildlife consultant.

It was not until her children were raised, and particularly after she and Oliver settled in Florida in 1957, that Elizabeth became seriously interested in birds. She had shown early promise as a writer while a student at Saint Elizabeth Academy, Convent Station, New Jersey. Although she had no formal education in ornithology, informal training in the subject came from the many years with her husband. Her writings on birds were always thoroughly discussed with, and read by, Oliver before they were sent for publication, but Sliver did her own work. She was a tireless reader and a skilled library researcher—persistent until she was satisfied that she had ferreted out the last bit of information on a particular subject.

In 1960 she was appointed a Research Associate of the Florida State Museum, a post she held until 1973 when she and Oliver both retired. From 1960 to 1965 she wrote a weekly newspaper column, "Wild Adventure," for the Florida Times Union in Jacksonville. Her main contribution to scholarly ornithology, "Frank M. Chapman in Florida: His Letters and Journals," appeared in 1967. This was followed by several children's books, for which she had a special talent: "Penguins, the Birds with Flippers" (1968), "Birds that Stopped Flying" (1969), and "The Random House Book of Birds" (1970). The latter included Oliver as co-author, but Elizabeth did virtually all the writing. She also contributed the bird articles for "The Golden Book Encyclopedia of Natural Science" (1962).

Born in New York City, Elizabeth was a member of a socially prominent family and raised in an intellectually stimulating environment. Her father was the renowned horticulturist and florist Max Schling, a good friend of botanist Liberty Hyde Bailey. She also spent much time in Europe as a child and was fluent in German. Elizabeth was strongly instilled with an appreciation for excellence and a sense of what was right. She insisted on these in herself, and expected them in others—hence the penetrating and often rapier-like quality of her many reviews in *Bird-Banding* and *The Auk*, for which she was well known among ornithologists. Less known were her anonymous and pungent contributions to *The Auklet*.

Of the several awards and honors received in her lifetime, Sliver perhaps was proudest of her election to the class of Elective Member of the AOU in 1972. This was followed in 1973 by the joint award, with

Oliver, of the Arthur A. Allen Medal, which enormously pleased both members of the husband-and-wife team. Her "Birds that Stopped Flying" also won an award from the National League of American Pen Women, an organization in which Elizabeth was active for many years.

A regular attendant of AOU meetings, Sliver made many friends within ornithology. It was characteristic of her personality that she soon rebelled at being left alone on the first night of each AOU meeting, when the Fellows had their stag dinner. She found other Fellows' wives who had been similarly abandoned, and invited them to a dinner—just for the ladies—for whom Hoyes Lloyd resurrected the old name "Appleton Club," famous in the days of McAtee, Peters, and Batchelder. It became a tradition that lasted for years. Sliver also acted as a hostess when the AOU met in Gainesville in 1963, with such thoughtful touches as planning all the University cafeteria menus to include regional specialties, rather than letting the food service use their routine fare.

Above all, Elizabeth Austin was an interesting person—energetic, exacting, intellectually stimulating, enthusiastic. At the same time she was warm and humorous, a superb hostess, and a firm and loving friend. She greatly enjoyed sharing her life with her husband—first as a wife, and later as a colleague, but she never ceased to be a distinct person in her own right. Those of us who were enriched by knowing Sliver extend our sympathy to Oliver, and to Tony and Tim, in their loss.—MARY H. CLENCH.

LIDLAW WILLIAMS, an Elective Member of the Union, was killed in an automobile accident in Carmel, California on 12 October 1976. He was born in New York City on 9 June 1904 but spent his early years in Princeton, New Jersey. His father, Jesse Lynch Williams, founded the *Princeton Weekly* and in 1918 received the first Pulitzer Prize for drama. Laidlaw attended Princeton University and was ex-Class of 1928. He came to Carmel in the mid-1920's and in 1937 married Abbie Lou Bosworth, a prominent painter of the Carmel school.

Laidlaw's long-standing interest in ornithology is evidenced by his joining the AOU as a teenager in 1919. After coming to California he attended the University of California at Berkeley, where he took zoology courses with Joseph Grinnell. He joined the Cooper Ornithological Society in 1925.

Laidlaw soon became the leading authority on the birds of the Monterey Bay area. He was interested primarily in bird behavior and published a number of papers on that subject. Most notable were lengthy papers on display and sexual behavior of the Brandt's Cormorant (*Condor*, 1942), illustrated with drawings by his wife, and on the breeding behavior of the Brewer's Blackbird (*Condor*, 1952). Recently he and Michael MacRoberts collaborated on analysis of song variation in the Dark-eyed Junco. Two joint papers resulted, one appearing in the *Condor* in 1977 and the other currently in press in that journal.

In addition to his behavioral work, Laidlaw published on the distribution and seasonal occurrence of the birds of the Monterey Peninsula area. He spent much time in the field and kept careful records over the years. His files of notebooks contain a wealth of information that he shared freely with any interested ornithologist. Any question on local birds was always answered in depth, either from his extensive knowledge or from carefully recorded data. His library and notebook files have been given to the Hastings Natural History Reservation by Abbie Lou.

In 1943 he founded the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society and served as its first president. He also founded the Society's Check-list Committee and served as its chairman until his death, overseeing the publication of five editions of the "List of the Birds of the Monterey Peninsula Region" between 1946 and 1974.

Laidlaw and Abbie Lou moved from Carmel to Carmel Highlands in 1943 and their delightful home, situated on an extensive pine-forested hillside, soon became a mecca for local and visiting ornithologists. No visitor with a serious interest in birds failed to call on, or stay with, the Williamses when in the Peninsula area. In the late 1940's Laidlaw, and especially Abbie Lou, forwarded many packages of food, clothing, and other necessities to European ornithologists who had been hard hit by the war. This, together with Laidlaw's publications and related correspondence, made them acquainted with a host of European workers, many of whom they met personally when they attended the XIth International Ornithological Congress in Basel in 1954.

In addition to his interest in ornithology, Laidlaw was an ardent conservationist. He did much of the "behind the scenes" work that led to the establishment of the Carmel River State Beach. In later years he was prominent in the effort to preserve Elkhorn Slough, a locality in northern Monterey County famous for its estuarine and mudflat birds, and his will contained a substantial bequest to the Nature Conservancy toward that end.

Laidlaw was one of the least pretentious men I have ever known, in dress, speech, and manner, and a thoroughly comfortable man to be with. A few days after his death his family and friends gathered in the patio of the Williams home. Here, Laidlaw's friends shared their reminiscences of him, a young

flutist played some of his favorite music, and the whole occasion was completely in keeping with the spirit of this gentle and unassuming man.

Laidlaw Williams is survived by his wife, Abbie Lou, a daughter, Alice, and a son, Laidlaw Bosworth.—JOHN DAVIS.

CHARLES HENRY ROGERS died at Princeton, New Jersey on 26 February 1977. He was born 13 January 1888 in Philadelphia, the son of Charles R. and Emma Duer Rogers. Having become interested in birds at an early age, he took part in the first Christmas Bird Count, led by Frank M. Chapman in Central Park in 1900. From then until his death he missed only one of these counts. He was long active in the A.O.U.; he joined in 1904, was elected a Member (Elective Member) in 1921, and attended meetings regularly until the early 1940s and occasionally until 1963.

After graduating from Princeton in 1909 with a Litt.B. in Modern Languages, he worked briefly on Wall Street before going to the American Museum in 1913. There, he curated the exhibition collections and began a long association with the Linnaean Society of New York, serving as secretary from 1915 to 1920 and presenting many lectures to the group. In 1920 he accepted the curatorship of the bird collection at Princeton, a post he kept until his death. He was a meticulous curator and built the collection, which was previously based on material from the Princeton Patagonian Expedition and the collections of W. E. D. Scott (see unsigned obituary of Scott, 1910, *Auk*, 27: 486–488), into a collection containing a high percentage of the world genera and all the families except the scrub-birds. He led an expedition to Panama in 1923 and visited all the continents but Antarctica. His experiences and the collection formed the basis of an informal course in ornithology taken by interested students for many years. The class met in the museum where we sat around a table while Charles lectured on the families of birds and handed around study skins as he talked. There were also field trips, including two weekends on the coast, one in late winter for ducks and seabirds and one in May for shorebirds. On the first we walked the length of Island Beach (10 miles) and half-way back; the second was less strenuous but remembered for the breakfasts of dry shredded wheat and bananas. Alumni of the course and others whose interest in ornithology was aroused or strengthened included Herbert G. Deignan, Laidlaw O. Williams, Frederick W. Loetscher, Jr., Martin Moynihan, Robert S. Ridgely, and his father, Beverly S. Ridgely, one of many who went into other fields but maintained an active interest in birds.

Rogers' role in stimulating interest in birds was by no means limited to Princeton. He gave talks and led field trips for many local organizations. He was president of the New Jersey Audubon Society and the Trenton Naturalists' Club, and for 10 years was director of the Elk Lake Nature Study Camp in the Adirondacks. An informal group, the New Jersey Field Ornithologists' Club, met for dinner and a session in the museum once a month from the mid 1930s until recently. It brought together active birders from northern New Jersey and the Philadelphia area. Among the early active members were J. K. Potter, J. F. Street, Witmer Stone, and C. A. Urner. The purpose was to study the distribution of birds in the state. Charles, acting as secretary, sent out notices for the meetings. On these, the initials of the club varied; once after the members had ordered drinks before dinner, the title became NJFODC, and a portion of that meeting was spent discussing what the "D" stood for. It was decided, on a suggestion by J. L. Edwards, that it must have meant "deliquescent."

His publications consist primarily of a series of short, carefully prepared pieces in *The Auk* from 1905 to 1942. Four are on swifts, a group in which he had a long interest. Several longer projects, including a book on the family of birds, were evidently unfinished. He was both a perfectionist and putterer with his own brand of humor. Once, while skinning a ripe Great Horned Owl which he had started the day before, a cigar-smoking custodian came in to empty a wastebasket. After the man had gone, Charles turned to me and said, "Did you smell that janitor?"

His mind remained clear and active. The week before he died, Eugene Eisenmann received a letter containing two suggestions for the forthcoming checklist: that Europe is not a continent but "merely a much smaller, western prolongation of Asia" and that "Wigeon" should be spelled without a "d."

He is survived by his wife, the former Margaret Saville, whom he married in 1931, two sons, Charles R. and William S. Rogers, and three grandchildren. Both the bird collection that he curated and the Princeton Wildlife Refuge have been named in his honor.—ROBERT W. STORER.