

**IN MEMORIAM: CHARLES DEB. GREEN****WITH ONE ILLUSTRATION****By ALLAN BROOKS**

The sudden death of Charles deBlois Green which occurred on August 12, 1929, at Penticton, British Columbia, has removed one more of the little band of sportsmen, naturalists and travelers of the last century, of whom the late Warburton Pike was probably the best known to the world at large.



**Fig. 9. CHARLES DEBLOIS GREEN, 1863-1929.**

Few men could have made such an impression on their friends as did Green. Added to the charm of a delightful personality, his ways were full of such originality and forcefulness that even his casual acquaintances were apt to remember him forever.

Born in 1863, the younger son of the late Rev. James Wastie Green, first Rector of March, Cambridgeshire, England, Green was educated in England and adopted the profession of land surveyor. Leaving England with his wife and infant daughter in 1888, his first experience in British Columbia was in the West Kootenay district. Some years later he came to Okanagan and established his home at the southern extremity of that valley, close to the northern end of Osoyoos Lake.

Here for many years he lived the life he loved. His profession took him into the mountains east and west, surveying the mining claims for the host of prospectors that in those days peopled that region. His employees were all soon to recognize that if any strange bird or butterfly came into view all work must cease for the time, and many a new bird did he identify through the lenses of his transit. At his home he was monarch of all he surveyed, eight miles from his nearest white neighbor, surrounded by a diversified country full of an extraordinary variety of bird and mammal life.

Cranes, geese and ducks nested in the river flats in front of his home, white-tailed deer waved their flags as he threaded through the willow brakes, Ruffed, Dusky and Sharp-tailed grouse were found in quantities on the benches and slopes that rose from the floor of the valley, while Mule Deer and Mountain Sheep were on the near-by hills.

A wonderful shot and a keen sportsman he then delighted in a heavy bag, yet he maintained a good stock of game by Old-World methods of conservation. Out of his own pocket he paid a bounty on the worst enemies of game to the Indians of the near-by reserve of In-ka-neep. For all coyotes brought in he paid a dollar each, for Horned Owls half a dollar, for skunks twenty-five cents, and for crows and magpies ten cents; these bounties together with his own work as a game-keeper in his spare time kept down the vermin, and while in some seasons his bag of grouse would run into the hundreds, in others he would not shoot at all if he considered that some cause, like a bad hatching season, had depleted his stock of game.

Through it all he took a keen interest in zoology and left an impress on it which warrants the record of the present memoir although he was not a member of the Cooper Club. At first his chief attention was given to Lepidoptera, of which he published the first list for the interior of British Columbia; later he commenced to collect birds' eggs. This became his absorbing hobby, and to ensure the identification of these as well as to establish new records he collected a few birds.

In 1910, Green made the first of many trips to the Queen Charlotte Islands and other islands of the northwestern coast. Later he lived for over a year at Massett, in the northern portion of this group. With Mr. Walter Burton and Warburton Pike in 1913 he undertook an adventurous voyage in a small sloop to that storm-beaten rock, Triangle Island, far out in the Pacific off the northern end of Vancouver Island, in the hopes of finding the nesting ground of the Marbled Murrelet.

In 1914, at the outbreak of the World War he found that being over age he could not get overseas as an enlisted man. While awaiting some other opportunity he undertook an expedition in April of the following year to Langara Island, the most northerly of the Queen Charlotte group. The voyage was made from Massett in a row-boat with one companion; the object to secure as many sets of eggs as possible of the Peale Falcon. Day after day around that rugged isle, exposed to the full strength of the huge Pacific swells, they cruised with their frail craft, making precarious landings wherever the presence of a pair of falcons betokened

a nest. In all, some sixteen sets and a number of birds were taken, the whole collection being disposed of for the benefit of the Red Cross Society.

Shortly after his return from this trip, Green joyfully accepted an enrollment with a Red Cross section giving voluntary service under the French command. Here he served at various sectors until the close of the war, gaining the Croix de Guerre for conspicuous service under fire.

Returning to British Columbia in 1919, he went into sheep farming, as he owned a large range of suitable land in the Keremeos district, but he did not give up his interest in the islands of the northwest coast. Twice he made trips to the islands south of the Alaskan boundary, with the nesting-riddle of the Marbled Murrelet as his principal quest. He practically solved this, although the final achievement was left to one of his friends to accomplish.

Of late years arthritis aggravated by years of exposure in his pursuits crippled him; but his indomitable spirit kept him going. Neither his family nor his friends knew that any other serious affection was troubling him. Only the day before his death he wrote to the writer that lame as he was he was going up to the timberline-zone to collect a bird that he had been unable to identify on a recent trip; and then came the news of his death.

Green added a number of species of birds to the British Columbia list, among them being the Cañon Wren, Sage Thrasher, White-throated Swift and Alexander Ptarmigan; also such northern breeding birds as Red-throated Loon and Semipalmated Plover were put by him on the breeding list of the Province. His published notes were few, mostly random jottings in "The Murrelet", the organ of the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society; but to his many friends the memory of his vivid and lovable personality will endure longer than anything he might have written.

*Okanagan Landing, B. C., October 3, 1929.*