

NOTES FROM ILLINOIS.—The first Bluebird call was heard March 4th, inaugurating spring, as it seems, and a most pleasing sound to hear after our long, cold winter, the hardest for nearly thirty years, so it is said, barring possibly, the season of 1892-'93.

Mr. Isaac E. Hess, of Philo, Champaign county, reports the first Robin February 14th.

Miss Elizabeth Eldridge writes of seeing a Flicker about their place, near Plainfield, Will county, 'till the very last of December, notwithstanding the arctic spell of weather which reigned throughout the month.

We naturally would expect some far northern visitors this winter, and, for the first time in many years, the Snowy Owl has been reported as spending a portion of the season here in DuPage county, one having been seen in Addison township, December 29th, by Mr. G. A. Abbott, of Chicago, and later, for the first two weeks of February another appeared quite frequently on the outskirts of this village. Unfortunately it was not the writer's privilege, owing to illness, to witness this visitation.

In some portions of the state Quail are said to have suffered.

*Glen Ellyn, Ill.*

BENJ. T. GAULT.

#### PERSONAL.

##### OUR MEMBERS HERE AND THERE.

Our president, Frank L. Burns, is very busy with his monograph of the Broad-winged Hawk, which promises to eclipse his former monographs of the Crow and the Flicker.

Mr. Isaac E. Hess of Philo, Ill., whose recent article in the "Auk," "Breeding Birds of Central Illinois," has caused so much favorable comment, has joined our ranks. We bid him a hearty welcome in our midst.

Send your Field Notes to the Wilson Bulletin!

The Farmers' Bulletin 383 of the U. S. Dept. of Agricult. entitled "How to destroy English Sparrows," was prepared by our fellow-member, Dr. Ned Dearborn. It is a good piece of work, practical and useful to the farmers. The only fault—not Mr. Dearborn's to be sure—is the poor picture, but we have never seen a good picture in any of the Government's publications to the farmers.

Rev. Gustave Eifrig has moved to Addison, Ill., where he now holds a professorship. We hope to have an article on birds from his pen ere long.

Don't hide your Field Notes in the pigeon holes of your desk; send them to the Wilson Bulletin!

Our member, the Hon. R. M. Barnes, of Lacon county, Ill., the able editor of the "Oologist," enjoyed a California vacation trip to

a family reunion. We hope he has rested sufficiently from his editorial duties to take them up again with renewed vigor.

Mr. George L. Fordyce of Youngstown, O., reports the White-winged Scoter and Whistling Swan, quite rare as Ohio Birds among his list of 1909 spring migrants. Mr. Fordyce always finds a few hours away from business to look up the *rara avis*.

Any records of new winter birds in your region? Send them to the Wilson Bulletin.

Our Treasurer, Rev. W. F. Henninger, together with Professor James S. Hine of the Ohio State University, is working up the "Mammals of Ohio" under the auspices of the Ohio Academy of Natural Science, to be published similar to Jones' Catalogue of the Birds of Ohio. We hope our treasurer will not forget the birds altogether.

Norman A. Wood, our distinguished member, the discoverer of the breeding haunts of Kirtland's Warbler, reports a splendid ornithological time in the fall of 1909 at Point Pelee, together with some of our Michigan and Ontario men. The congenial taxidermist of the U. of M. museum is always very much alive, careful and painstaking in all his work.

How is THIS spring's migration of birds in your field of work? Publish the results in the Wilson Bulletin!

After the recent death of Mr. Chas. K. Worthen, of Warsaw, Ill., the well known ornithologist and dealer in mammal and bird skins and eggs, the bird-skins, 7,000 in number, were bought up by two members of our club, Dr. Jonathan L. Dwight, Jr., and James A. Fleming. No doubt but that science will profit by this purchase.

Did you know that of the nine General Articles in the January, 1910, "Auk" six were written by members of the Wilson Club? And that of the thirty-four General Notes, ten were sent in by our members? This shows the standing and work of our Club.

Did you get any good photos of birds, nests and eggs in 1909? If so, why not publish them in the Wilson Bulletin? W. F. H.

#### NOTES AND NEWS.

Of his experiences among the coast islands of the lower Alaskan Peninsula, during the spring, summer and early fall of 1909, in the expedition so successfully conducted by himself, with the help of one camp assistant, in the interests of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California, Harry S. Swarth has this to say, in part: Leaving Juneau on the morning of April 10, in a 28-foot launch of 7-foot beam, a long list of islands was visited in addition to several points of interest on the mainland. And, although working under the most unfavorable conditions, the net results were counted good, both in the number and quality of

specimens taken, several new species of mammals, in all probability, being represented in the lot, as well as the addition of several species of birds new to the Alaskan fauna.

In speaking of the weather conditions encountered on this trip, the following is taken from his letter of October 17th :

"It's a nasty country to work in, and if you are looking for a pleasure trip I would recommend almost any other place in the country. In the last three months there were, I believe, just six days in which it did not rain. In May and June we had a few stretches of nice weather, a week or so at a time, which was fortunate, else we would not have been able to reach many of the outlying islands. It was cold and raw about all the time, and I had to have a fire in the tent whenever I skinned specimens, partly for warmth and partly to keep things dry. Personally, I infinitely prefer the desert! I would not have missed the experience for a good deal; but I am not sorry that it is over, and have no desire to go back. They say the summer was unusually cold and rainy, which may or may not be the fact, but at any rate it had one advantage, in that we were not bothered at all by mosquitoes and flies, except in one or two places."

B. T. G.

#### NAMEs PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP.

The following nominations for membership in the Wilson Ornithological Club have been approved by the Executive Committee. Members will therefore confer a favor in notifying the Secretary at once if objections to any of these are offered. In the absence of objection candidates are considered duly elected according to our constitution.

#### FOR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP.

Edward E. Armstrong, 2148 North Sawyer Ave., Chicago, Ill.  
 Miss Elizabeth Eldridge, Plainfield, Will County, Ill.  
 W. Elmer Ekblaw, 505 E. Green Street, Champaign, Ill.  
 Miss Laura Gano, Earlham Place, Richmond, Ind.  
 Isaac E. Hess, Philo, Ill.  
 J. Watts Marcus, Jr., Wallingford, Penn.  
 Harry S. Swarth, Museum Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, Calif.

#### FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP.

Arthur W. Moline, 7622 Ingleside Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

#### JOHN FARWELL FERRY.

The sudden and untimely death at St. Luke's Hospital, Chicago, February 11, 1910, from acute pneumonia, of our fellow member, John Farwell Ferry, came as a great surprise and shock to his many friends in and about the city and throughout the country at large.