

NOTES AND NEWS.

HENRY A. PURDIE, a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died in Boston, Mass., March 30, 1911.

Mr. Purdie was not only one of the Founders of the American Ornithologists' Union, but one of the original members of the Nuttall Ornithological Club of Cambridge, which was organized in 1873, to which for many years he rendered devoted service as its secretary, and was for many years a frequent contributor to its 'Bulletin,' and later to its successor 'The Auk.'

By those who knew Mr. Purdie intimately he will ever be most affectionately remembered, for few men were so sincere, conscientious and self-sacrificing in their friendships. His contributions to ornithology had reference mainly to the birds of New England, respecting which he was long recognized as a competent authority. His relations with the members of the Nuttall Club were intimate and sustained until the end. It is hence exceedingly fitting that the President of the American Ornithologists' Union has selected his intimate and life-long friend, Mr. William Brewster, to prepare the memorial of his life and work, to be read at the next Stated Meeting of the Union and published later in 'The Auk.'

GEORGE ERNEST SHELLEY, a Corresponding Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died in London, November 29, 1910, after a long illness, at the age of 70 years. He was born in 1840, the son of John Shelley of Hants, and a nephew of the famous English poet, P. B. Shelley. He was privately educated in England and at the Lycée de Versailles in France. In 1863 he joined the Grenadier Guards, retiring a few years later with the rank of Captain. Shortly after he was sent by the Government to South Africa as a member of a geological commission to make a survey of that region, but his interests were soon diverted to ornithology, to which he became enthusiastically devoted during the remainder of his life. His first ornithological papers appeared in 'The Ibis' in 1870, and, like most of his numerous subsequent ornithological writings, related to African birds. His principal works are a 'Handbook to the Birds of Egypt' (1872), 'Monograph of the Nectarinidæ, or Family of the Sun-birds' (1876-1880), Catalogues of the Families Indicatoridæ, Capitonidæ, Cuculidæ, and Musophagidæ, in Volume XIX of the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds' (1891), and 'Birds of Africa,' the first volume of which appeared in 1896, followed by Volumes II (1900), III (1902), IV (1905), and Part I of Volume V (1906).¹ In 1906, a stroke of paralysis brought

¹ Notices of his 'Birds of South Africa' appeared in this journal as follows: Vol. XVIII, 1901, pp. 122, 123; XIX, 1902, p. 414; XXII, 1905, pp. 228, 332; XXIII, 1906, p. 353.

his labors to a close, leaving this great work unfinished. Arrangements have been made for its completion by our Corresponding Member, Mr. William L. Sclater, formerly Director of the South African Museum, and author of the 'Fauna of South Africa.'

From Mr. R. Edgcombe's biographical notice of Captain Shelley (*Ibis*, April, 1911, pp. 369-376) we take the following tribute to his memory: "Captain Shelley was for many years an active member of the British Ornithologists' Union, and from 1870 to 1894 [1901] made numerous contributions, chiefly on African birds, to the pages of 'The Ibis' [and to the 'Proceedings' of the London Zoological Society], as will be seen by our List of his principal publications. He possessed great natural abilities, with something of that genius which has made the family-name famous. Gifted as he was by nature, he might have turned his mind to anything, and would have made his mark in almost any direction. He possessed a wonderful memory, an infinite capacity for taking pains, and a facility for literary expression, attributes in which he resembled his celebrated uncle, the Poet. In youth he strongly resembled the Poet in personal appearance. . . . To the last hour of life Captain Shelley was distinguished by that inborn gentleness, modesty, and courteous bearing which constitute, in the highest sense, the well-born gentleman. . . ."

"In 1889, Captain Shelley married Janet, daughter of the late Mr. E. Andrewes, who, with two sons and a daughter, survives him."

DR. GUSTAV EDLER VON HAYEK, a Corresponding Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Vienna on January 9, 1911, in the 76th year of his age. He was born at Brünn in 1836, and on completing his studies at Vienna entered the navy, serving for a time as ensign. On leaving the navy in 1863, he took up the study of natural history under Hyrtl, Brühl, Hochstetter and Kornhüher, later becoming Kornhüher's assistant, and, in 1869, Professor in the then newly established Realgymnasium, which position he continued to fill till the year 1900, when he retired and was pensioned.

In 1880 he took charge of the Ornithologische Verein in Vienna, of which Crown Prince Rudolf was patron. At the International Ornithological Congress held in Vienna in 1884, the International Ornithological Committee was organized with Dr. von Hayek as chairman, which office he filled for many years.

Dr. von Hayek was also active as an author. Among his best known works are 'Der illustrierte Handatlass aller drei Reiche' and 'Handbuch der Zoologie,' in four volumes. He was honored with the Kriegsmedaille für Kunst und Wissenschaft, and received many foreign decorations, among them French and Russian. His sons are Dr. August Edler von Hayek and Dr. Paul Edler von Hayek.—A. v. H.

DR. CARL PARROT, late president of the Ornithologische Verein in Bayern, and editor of its publications, died at his home in Munich, January

28, 1911, at the age of 44 years. He was born in Castell, Unter-franken, February 1, 1867, the son of a physician. In 1884 he moved with his parents to Munich, where, and in Berlin and Vienna, he studied medicine and became a practising physician. From an early age he was strongly interested in ornithology, to which in his later years he devoted much of his time and energy. He was one of the founders of the Ornithologische Verein München, in 1897, which in 1904 became the present Ornithologische Verein in Bayern, of which he was the first president, filling this office till his death, and also conducting its publications. He was especially interested in bird migration and distribution, and a strenuous supporter of bird protection; he was also an excellent systematic ornithologist, and the author of many important papers on Bavarian ornithology, and on collections of birds from various parts of Asia and elsewhere. The April Heft of the 'Journal für Ornithologie' (LIX Jahrg., pp. 345-350) contains an appreciative sketch of his life and ornithological work by Dr. E. Schnorr V. Carolsfeld, with a portrait and a list of his ornithological writings.

A PROSPECTUS of a work on 'Eggs of Birds breeding in the Netherlands,' by A. A. Van Pelt Lechner, has been issued by the publisher, Martinus Nijhoff, The Hague. The work (also called 'Oologia Neerlandica') will be issued in seven parts of from 30 to 35 plates each, making a total of 191 plates, with 608 colored and 59 uncolored figures. The edition will be limited to 250 copies, of which 100 are in English. A page of text will face each plate. The subscription price is seven guineas. The sample plate (eggs of the Raven) indicates that the illustrations will be well executed.

DR. FREDERIC A. LUCAS, recently Curator of the Museum of the Brooklyn Institute, and formerly in charge of Osteology in the U. S. National Museum, has been made Director of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, to succeed Professor Hermon C. Bumpus, who recently resigned to accept the position of Business Director at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Lucas entered upon his duties at the American Museum on June 15.

MR. A. C. BENT, of Taunton, Mass., whose contemplated expedition to the Aleutian Islands has already been announced (*antea*, p. 292), sailed from Seattle, Wash., with several assistants, in the U. S. Revenue Cutter 'Tacoma,' on May 19 for Attu Island. The expedition is well equipped and its summer's work can not fail to make important additions to our knowledge of the fauna and flora of the Aleutian chain.

IN 'The Auk' for April, 1911 (p. 292) mention was made of Dr. Charles H. Townsend's expedition in the 'Albatross' to Lower California, in the

interest of the American Museum of Natural History and other scientific institutions. The work of the expedition was completed about the end of April, and we are greatly indebted to Director Townsend for the following summary of its operations and results.

"During the months of March and April, 1911, the U. S. Steamship 'Albatross' was engaged under my direction, in fishery and hydrographic work in waters adjacent to Lower California. By a fortunate arrangement with the Bureau of Fisheries, a zoological and botanical reconnaissance of the coastal region of the Peninsula was made in connection with the usual marine investigations of the vessel.

"The ship carried a scientific staff of eight persons, representing the American Museum of Natural History, the New York Zoological Society, the New York Botanic Museum, and the U. S. National Museum. The Naval staff of the Albatross, under Commander Burrage, took an active interest in the shore work and assisted in making the expedition a success in every way.

"In addition to the deep-sea work, which yielded highly satisfactory results, thirty-six anchorages were made along the east and west coasts of Lower California, and the shore collections constitute an important part of the material brought back by the ship.

"The collection of birds alone numbered 655 specimens, representing 127 species and subspecies. Some of these were from Tiburon and other islands in the Gulf of California hitherto unexplored, and coming from new and isolated localities may prove to be undescribed forms. On Tiburon Island 12 species of land birds were secured. Other outlying islands visited were Guadalupe, San Benito, Cedros, and San Roque in the Pacific, and Cerralbo, Espiritu Santo, Santa Cruz, Santa Catalina, San Josef, Carmen, Angel Guardia, and San Esteban in the Gulf.

"The bird collection is large considering the fact that the duration of the cruise was limited to two months, and only a portion of the time could be devoted to shore work. The time at each anchorage was limited to one or two days. The list of birds will soon be augmented by collections expected from one of the party, Mr. Pingree Osborn, who was left at San José del Cabo, to make a trip into the Sierra Laguna Mountains after forms restricted to the Cape Region.

"Among the species of birds obtained, there is a good representation of those peculiar to Lower California and the outlying islands. The electric lights of the ship sometimes aided the bird collectors — eleven specimens of Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma kœdingi*) attracted by the electric lights, were captured on board during the night the ship anchored off Guadalupe Island. Our naturalists did not by any means devote their entire time to birds. The collection of mammals numbered 195 specimens, and of lizards and snakes there were nearly 1000.

The botanical gatherings alone occupied nearly half of the special freight car to which the ship's load was transferred at San Francisco.

"A large collection of fishes and invertebrates was obtained along shore,

while the deep-sea dredgings, carried out to depths of 1760 fathoms (2 miles), were rich in new and interesting forms. Among the more striking products of the cruise for museum purposes, were the numerous plaster casts made of deep-sea fishes. The most picturesque feature was the re-discovery at Guadelupe Island of the supposed extinct elephant seal. Three males, each 16 feet long, were killed, and six yearlings were shipped alive to the New York Aquarium. Moving rapidly from point to point as we did, the ornithological and other shore work could not be carried very far inland, nor could the work of collecting be made as thorough as was desirable. The naturalists however made the best possible use of each day ashore, and slept comfortably on board at night while the ship was under way to the next anchorage."

MR. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, Curator of Birds in the American Museum of Natural History, who, with Mr. Louis Agassiz Fuertes and Mr. Leo Miller, sailed from New York City for Colombia on March 13 (see *antea*, p. 291), returned on June 15. He landed at Buenaventura, on the west coast of Colombia, on March 24, where he connected with Mr. W. B. Richardson, who had for some months been collecting for the Museum on the west slope of the coast range. The first camp was established on the summit of the coast range, and here material was collected for a Habitat Group, illustrating the bird life of the humid forests, and showing, in the background, the Cauca Valley and the central range of the Andes. The second camp was made in the Cauca valley near Palmira. From this point the expedition ascended the main chain of the Andes, returning thence to other points in the Cauca Valley, and finally to Cali, which formed the base of operations. On May 13, Mr. Richardson, with Mr. Leo Miller, as assistant, was despatched southward to the vicinity of Popayan, while Mr. Chapman and Mr. Fuertes went down the Cauca River to Cartago, thence across the central range of the Andes to Giradot on the Magdalena. The Magdalena was then descended to Barranquilla, and from Barranquilla a short trip was made through the marshes to Santa Marta, from which port a steamer was taken for New York. In addition to collecting material for a Habitat Group, Mr. Chapman's work was designed primarily to be a reconnaissance to secure information which would enable the Museum more effectively to prosecute the biological work it has in view in Western Colombia.

AS PREVIOUSLY announced (*antea*, p. 150), on December 26, 1909, Mr. and Mrs. C. William Beebe left New York for Europe for the purpose of studying the pheasants, pea-fowl and jungle fowl in Asia and the East Indies. This undertaking, known as the Kuser Asiatic Pheasant Expedition under the auspices of the New York Zoölogical Society, was initiated and financed by Col. Anthony R. Kuser. The work has now been successfully completed after seventeen months spent in the field. The itinerary covered Ceylon, the Eastern and the Western Himalayas, the

plains of India, Burma, Yunnan, the Malay States, Java, Borneo, Eastern and central China, and Japan.

The results of the expedition will be published by the Zoölogical Society in a comprehensive monograph. The success attained may be judged by the fact that of twenty-two genera previously chosen for investigation, every genus was found and studied in the field. Over twenty-five hundred photographs, many eggs and young birds, and large series of adult pheasants were brought back.

Two important generalizations are, first, the rapidity with which many species are being reduced in numbers or actually exterminated, and, second, the many instances of remarkable variation in color and pattern of individual pheasants from a single locality.

THE BILL introduced by Senator Bayne at the present session of the Legislature of the State of New York, absolutely prohibiting the sale of game birds in this State, has passed both houses by very large majorities and has become a law by the signature of the Governor. It had the support of sportsmen's and game protective associations throughout the State, as well of the National Association of Audubon Societies and of the New York State Audubon Society. It will thus not only protect the game birds of this State, but prohibit the sale here of game birds killed in other States, for which New York City has heretofore afforded such a tempting market.

Efforts to repeal the law prohibiting spring shooting of wild fowl on Long Island were fortunately defeated, as was the attempt to repeal the 'Plumage Bill' enacted in 1910.