

NOTES AND NEWS

THE DELAY of three months in the appearance of the July 'Auk' is solely due to the printers' strike, which began on May 1 and prevented the resumption of work until about August 1. Work on the October issue will proceed at once and it is hoped that it may appear before the end of that month.

When we consider the reduction in size of many scientific journals and the irregularity of their appearance during the period affected by the war, 'The Auk' feels that its readers may congratulate themselves upon having suffered no inconveniences except the delay in the appearance of this issue.

The financial burden during the past year has been a heavy one but the sale of several sets of the journal, and a most liberal contribution from the National Association of Audubon Societies, together with the generosity of Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin, who paid for the publishing of the papers on bird banding, and of Miss Mary Wright, who bore the expense of the paper by her late brother, on the Mockingbird in New England, have enabled us to tide over what we feel has been a most critical period.

The main portion of this present issue is printed exactly as it was prepared for the press on June 1, but under 'Notes and News' we have added notes on happenings between that date and September 1.

IN THE PERIOD that has elapsed since the appearance of the April 'Auk', the Union has been severely stricken by the death of three of its Fellows, two of whom were founders and ex-presidents—a greater bereavement than has ever befallen it in any previous year of its history.

DR. J. A. ALLEN, dean of the scientific staff of the American Museum of Natural History, died at Cornwall on Hudson, New York, on August 29, 1921, after a brief illness, aged 83.

To such an extent is the present prosperity of the American Ornithologists' Union and the high standard of its official organ 'The Auk', due to the tireless energy and continued interest of Dr. Allen for almost forty years that he might justly be termed the father of our society. As a founder of the Union, its president for the first seven years of its existence, editor of 'The Auk' for twenty-eight years and of the eight volumes of its predecessor the 'Bulletin' of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, as well as of the three editions of the 'A. O. U. Check-List,' he has been active in every phase of the work of the society. Ever solicitous for the welfare of the organization he unselfishly gave to it the best that was in him. To the American Ornithologists' Union the death of Dr. Allen is a calamity.

We realize to the utmost the loss that we have sustained of a guide and counsellor, and of a kindly, sympathetic colleague in the science to which we are devoted, but in addition the death of Dr. Allen brings forcibly to our attention the passing of the older generation of American ornithologists and the shifting of the burdens of the Union upon new shoulders and ere long those of us who are now active in its affairs will have gained a measure of distinction from having had the privilege of knowing, collaborating with and loving those men to whom American Ornithology owes so much.

Joel Asaph Allen was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, July 19, 1838, the eldest son of Joel and Harriet (Trumbull) Allen, both of early New England stock. His father was a farmer and his early life was spent on the farm under rigid puritanical discipline. He attended the local district school and later spent five years at the Wilbraham Academy. At the age of thirteen he had developed an interest in nature and soon began the accumulation of specimens in such spare moments as he had, his main attention being given to birds.

In 1862 he became a special student under Louis Agassiz and accompanied him on his famous expedition to Brazil in 1865. At about the same time he was placed in charge of the department of mammals and birds in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, and in 1871 was designated assistant in Ornithology, a position which he retained until called to the Curatorship of Birds and Mammals at the American Museum of Natural History, in 1885, where the remainder of his life was spent. For some years he was in charge of all the vertebrates in the latter institution, and temporarily of the invertebrates as well, but he was eventually relieved of all responsibility except the curatorship of Mammals, to the study of which his last years were devoted.

In 1867 Dr. Allen made a collecting trip to the Middle West and in the following year to East Florida, while in 1871-2 he visited the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains and in 1877 was a member of the U. S. Government expedition to the Yellowstone. His experiences in the then wild countries of the West and South, are set forth in his 'Autobiographical Notes' published by the Museum in 1916, and are replete with interesting description and adventure.

Dr. Allen was not only the editor of the 'Nuttall Bulletin' and 'The Auk', but also of 22 volumes of the 'Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History' and several of the Memoirs of the same institution, and all bear evidence of his exceptional qualifications as an editor. While some of his early papers in the 'American Naturalist', descriptive of his travels in the West were of a popular character, Dr. Allen was distinctly a technical writer and all of his later publications were of a technical character. He never appeared on the lecture platform and a natural diffidence made the delivery of communications before even scientific societies difficult and distasteful.

His writings were voluminous and number upwards of 1450 titles, dealing mainly with birds and mammals, but covering reptiles; evolution, nomenclature and biography as well.

One of his earliest papers on the 'Mammals and Winter Birds of East Florida' won the Humboldt scholarship and has become a classic, setting forth as it does the general principles of the geographic distribution of birds in Eastern North America. His monographs of the North American Rodentia in association with the late Dr. Coues form another notable series of papers, while his report on the Brazilian birds brought back by the H. H. Smith Expedition ranks among the most important contributions to neotropical ornithology. Of his more important later works are his monograph of the Musk Oxen and his Mammals of the Princeton Patagonian Expedition.

Dr. Allen was always deeply interested in the problems of nomenclature and the efforts to stabilize our scientific names and the admirable style and character of our A. O. U. 'Check List' and the system of supplements are to a large extent due to him, while his interest in the general subject won him a place on the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

Dr. Allen was a member of the National Academy of Science and an honorary member of a number of societies both at home and abroad.

A memorial biographical address on Dr. Allen will be delivered at the coming meeting of the A. O. U. by his former assistant and associate, Dr. Frank M. Chapman.—W. S.

CHARLES BARNEY CORY, a founder and seventh president of the American Ornithologists' Union, and Curator of Birds in the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, died on July 29, 1921, in the 65th year of his age.

He was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on January 31, 1857, son of Barney and Eliza A. B. Cory and was educated in Boston Schools and the Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard University. He became active in financial and business affairs in Boston, and was a director in many corporations, etc.

Later he removed to Chicago where he became curator of birds in the Field Museum of Natural History, a position which he continued to hold until the time of his death.

Mr. Cory early developed a deep interest in ornithology and formed important collections. He specialized in the birds of the West Indies and published several catalogues of this avifauna as a whole, as well as works on 'The Birds of Haiti and San Domingo' and 'The Birds of the Bahamas.' He also spent much time in Florida when the country was wilder than it is today and a little volume on 'Hunting and Fishing in Florida' describes his experiences and the fauna as he found it at that time. He established a museum at Miami, which was unfortunately

destroyed by fire. In 1894 Mr. Cory's collection was purchased by the Field Museum where he later became curator. Here he prepared a work on the 'Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin' and a new edition of his 'Key to the Birds of Eastern North America,' both intended to aid the beginner in identifying birds and to this end abundantly supplied with text illustrations.

Following the accession of considerable South American material at the museum Mr. Cory became deeply interested in the Neotropical avifauna and began the preparation of a list of the 'Birds of the Americas' supposed to contain all the species of the New World. Only two parts of this most valuable work have appeared, but we understand that Mr. Cory has left much manuscript for the succeeding volumes.

Mr. Cory was interested in other things besides ornithology—music, and various games, notably golf. In everything that he undertook he made every endeavor to excel and all of his publications are marked by sincere effort and painstaking care. His knowledge of the West Indian and South American avifauna was notable and in the course of his studies he described a large number of new species.

Mr. Cory was, before he went to Chicago, a regular attendant at the meetings of the Union and always interested in its prosperity. He was one of the Founders and served as Councillor, Treasurer, Vice President, and President.

A memorial to be presented at the next meeting of the Union will be prepared by his associate, Dr. W. H. Osgood.—W. S.

WILLIAM PALMER, a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Bellevue Hospital, New York, after a brief illness on April 8, 1921. He was born in Penge, a civil parish of London, England, Aug. 1, 1856, and was the son of Joseph Palmer, who later was employed or many years in the department of taxidermy in the U. S. National Museum. He came to America at an early age with his parents and received his education in the public schools. In 1874, when 18 years old, he was appointed to a position in the Museum and after some years became Chief Taxidermist and Zoological Modeler. In 1888 he was elected an Associate of the Union and ten years later a Fellow.

Palmer was a good field naturalist, a keen and careful observer, and probably more intimately acquainted with the local distribution of birds and ferns of the District of Columbia than any other naturalist of the National Capital. His early papers comprised chiefly notes on the occurrence of some of the rarer species about the district. During his connection with the Museum he made several extended field trips among the more important of which were those to the Gulf of St. Lawrence in 1887, to the Pribilof Islands in Bering Sea in 1900, and to Java about ten years ago. The trip in 1887 was made on the U. S. Fish Commission Schooner 'Grampus' for the purpose of collecting specimens and notes on

the various fish-eating birds. During the cruise he visited the Magdalen Islands and Bird Rock in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Funk Island, and several points in Newfoundland and southern Labrador. A paper on the birds which he observed appeared in the 'Proceedings' of the U. S. National Museum for 1890, pp. 249-265. His most important ornithological publication was probably his report on the 'Avifauna of the Pribilof Islands' issued in 1899 as a chapter in part 3 of the Jordan Commission Report on 'The Fur Seals and Fur Seal Islands of the North Pacific Ocean.' In this report he summarized all the information then available regarding the birds of the islands and incorporated some valuable notes on the development of plumage based on his own observations. Unfortunately he never published any general report on his work in Java.

He was greatly interested in feather development and at the Washington meeting of the Union in 1898 he presented an original and important paper on 'Some Characteristics of Neossoptiles.' Part of his conclusions were included in his Pribilof report but the details of this work were never published in full. He was always loath to publish before he had exhausted his subject and because of the high standard of completeness which he set for himself much of his material never appeared in print and consequently the public has been deprived of the benefit of many of his valuable observations.

In addition to birds he devoted much attention to ferns and was an authority on the ferns of Virginia and the District of Columbia. In recent years he had become much interested in the vertebrate fossils of the miocene beds of the Calvert Cliffs, Maryland, and collected much material representing the whales, dolphins, sharks, and other marine forms found in this deposit. In short, William Palmer was an all round naturalist, a careful and accurate observer, a skillful taxidermist, and possessed an excellent knowledge of the groups in which he was interested. Beside his affiliation with the A. O. U. he was a member of the American Fern Society, serving as president in 1917 and 1918, and was an officer of the Biological Society of Washington, and for several years filled the position of chairman of the Committee on Communications.

In accordance with the custom of the Union, after the death of a Fellow a formal memorial address on his work is presented at the next meeting. This address will be prepared by Dr. Charles W. Richmond and will be published in 'The Auk'.—T. S. P.

JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, an Associate of the Union from 1900 to 1906, died Mar. 5, 1921, en route from Albany to New York City while returning from California to his home in Floral Park, N. Y. He was born in Jay, Maine, May 13, 1856, and received his education in the public schools of that town. At the age of 18 he began his life work in floriculture at East Hinsdale, Long Island, and a few years later he purchased a tract of land nearby which is now in the village of Floral Park. Within 15 years

from the time he started in business his name became widely known in this country and abroad through his horticultural publication the 'May-flower', which had a circulation of half a million copies, and through his catalogues which were circulated in enormous editions.

Mr. Childs was active in public affairs both local and state. He served as the first president of the village of Floral Park, was a member of the State Senate of New York in 1894 and 1895, and was twice defeated for Congress on the Republican ticket. He served for many years as president of the Board of Control of the State Normal and Training School at Jamaica, 20 years as president of the Board of Education of Floral Park, and at the time of his death was a member of the Advisory Board of the Orphan Asylum Society of Brooklyn, N. Y.

About 1895 he became interested in ornithology and especially oölogy and brought together what was said to be one of the finest private collections of birds' eggs in this country, containing representatives of nearly all the species in the A. O. U. 'Check List'. A catalogue of his collection of birds, nests, and eggs was published in 1906 and a few years later a catalogue of his ornithological library. Mr. Childs contributed a few notes on birds to 'The Auk' during the years 1900 and 1908, but his principal articles appeared in 'The Warbler'. This periodical he published in two series, the first comprising two volumes issued in 1903 and 1904, and the second seven volumes 1905-1913 (vol. VI, 1910, and VII, 1913). It is much to be desired that ultimately his collection of eggs may be acquired by some public museum where its treasures will be generally accessible to oölogists. Biographical sketches of Mr. Childs may be found in 'The Condor', vol. IX, for Sept., 1907, and in 'The Oologist', vol. XXXVIII, for April and August, 1921, the first and last illustrated by portraits.—T. S. P.

SERGIUS NIKOLAEVICH ALPHERAKY, 1850-1918, of Petrograd, Russia, a Corresponding Fellow of the Union since 1913, died in 1918 at the age of 68, but news of his death has only recently reached the United States. Alpheraky was primarily an entomologist and beginning in 1884 published a number of papers on insects chiefly on Lepidoptera. His principal ornithological works are those on the waterfowl of Russia, comprising a monograph on the ducks, 'Utki Rossii', and a companion work on Geese, 'Guai Rossii'. The latter containing descriptions of practically all the Palaearctic species appeared in 1904. In the following year it was translated into English by John Marschall of Trinity College, Cambridge, England, under the title of 'The Geese of Europe and Asia' and was illustrated by a frontispiece by Suschkin and 24 colored plates by Frohawk. This important monograph (which was reviewed in 'The Auk' for April 1907, pp. 229-230,) is the work by which its author is chiefly known to English readers. Alpheraky was a corresponding member of the Imperial Academy of Sciences at Petrograd, a member of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society, and an honorary member of the Russian Entomological Society.—T. S. P.

COL. HENRY WEMYSS FEILDEN, a Corresponding Fellow of the Union since 1884, died at his home in Burwash, Sussex, England, on June 18, 1921. He was the second son of Sir William Feilden, second baronet of Fernisowles, Lancashire, and was born in October, 1838. His early education was received at Cheltenham and Sandhurst, and at the age of 19 he began his army career in India. For his service in the Indian Mutiny in 1857-58 he received a medal and clasp and similar recognition for service in China in 1860. In 1862 he joined the Confederate Army with the rank of Asst. Adjutant General and at the close of the war in 1865 he surrendered with the army of Tennessee under Gen. J. E. Johnston. Later he was called to South Africa during the Boer trouble in 1881 and in the summer of 1888 he was stationed in Barbadoes.

While serving in the Confederate Army in 1864 he married the daughter of David MacCord of South Carolina and after the close of the Civil War returned to England to recuperate and enjoy a much needed rest. In 1872 he made a six weeks' trip to the Faroe Islands and in 1875-76 served as naturalist on H. M. S. 'Alert' on the Nares Expedition to the Arctic. During this expedition which left Upernavik, Greenland, in July, 1875, and remained in the north until October of the following year, he was able to obtain much valuable information and to secure among other things the young of the Knot (*Tringa canutus*)¹ and eggs and young of the Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*). The results of this work appeared in a report in the 'Narrative of the Voyage' of the Alert and also in special papers. His interest in the Arctic aroused by his service on the Alert never abated and subsequently at various times he visited Spitzbergen, Voigach, Russian Lapland, Kolgnev, and Nova Zembla. An account of his trip to Spitzbergen appeared in the 'Zoologist' for 1895 and the details of a trip to Arctic Russia may be found in Henry J. Pearson's 'Beyond Petebora Eastward', 1899.

Col. Feilden was a warm friend of Harvie Brown and between them they brought together a notable collection of birds and eggs most of which unfortunately were lost in the fire which destroyed Harvie Brown's mansion at Dumfries, Scotland, in January, 1897.

Col. Feilden published a number of papers but no complete list of them has yet been issued. After the death of his wife, which occurred in 1914, he became much depressed and was ailing for some time prior to his death. An interesting sketch of his life from which the above facts have been gleaned, appeared in the London 'Field' for July 2, 1921, p. 33.—T. S. P.

FREDERICK HERSCHEL WATERHOUSE, a Corresponding Fellow of the Union since 1889, died in London, England, Mar. 12, 1919. He was

¹ For a note on the later discovery of egg of this species by Lieut. A. W. Greely, see Merriam 'Auk' II p. 312, 1885.

born Oct. 4, 1845, and at the time of his death was in his 74th year. He was best known as Librarian of the Zoological Society of London, a position which he filled from Feb. 1, 1872, until his retirement on Jan. 1, 1913. During this time he brought out the fourth and fifth editions of the 'Catalogue of the Library of the Zoological Society' in 1887 and 1902 and published several other valuable works of reference. Among the most important of these were his 'Dates of the Works of John Gould', 1885, and his 'Index Generum Avium', 1889—the latter a most useful list containing references to the place of publication of about 7000 generic names of birds. This Index has been critically examined by Richmond, who has published from time to time three lists of additional names including those omitted as well as those proposed from 1889 to 1915 and has added a useful list of corrections (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 53, pp. 565-573, 1917), which should be consulted by those who have occasion to look up avian generic names. A companion index of generic names of mammals was projected by Waterhouse and was well under way when upon learning that a similar work was being prepared by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture he generously consented to the acquisition of his manuscript by the Department and the additional material was incorporated in Palmer's 'Index Generum Mammalium' issued in 1904. In his earlier years Waterhouse was interested in insects and published in the Journal of the Linnaean Society of London (Zool.) for 1878, a paper containing 'Descriptions of New Coleoptera of geographical interest collected by Charles Darwin.' As librarian he was able to contribute in various ways to scientific work and it is much to be desired that others in such positions would utilize their opportunities in making similar contributions. A brief account of his work may be found in 'The Entomologists' Monthly Magazine', vol. LVI, p. 17, 1920.—T. S. P.

DR. VALENTIN LVOVICH BIANCHI of Petrograd, Russia, a corresponding Fellow of the Union since 1916, died on Jan. 10, 1920. He was born in 1857. For a number of years prior to his death he had been connected with the Zoological Staff of the Museum of the Imperial Academy of Sciences at Petrograd, where he was curator of the ornithological department. He was also active in entomology and many of his earlier papers were devoted to this subject. Among others was an 'Enumeration of the Works on Hemiptera-Heteroptera of the Russian Empire' during the century from 1798 to 1897 which appeared in 1898. He published a number of papers on ornithology, one of the earliest of which appeared in 1886 under the title 'Zur Ornithologie der westlichen Ausläufer des Pamir und des Altai' and contained notes on 136 species of birds from the region east of Bokhara. This was followed in 1890 by 'Notes on the Birds observed in the summer of 1894 near Uschaki in the government of Novgorod.' Among his papers containing revisions of groups may be mentioned his review of the palaeartic species of *Carpodacus*, 1897, and *Tetraogallus*, 1899.

He kept up his activities as far as possible to the end but was unable to publish anything during the last three years of his life. He left a number of valuable ornithological manuscripts which together with his publications are in the possession of his son Leo Bianchi, librarian of the Zoological Museum of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Petrograd.—T. S. P.

The announcement that the Brewster Memorial Medal will be awarded for the first time in 1921 recalls the fact that several medals have been provided in recognition of special work in ornithology. The Daniel Giraud Elliot medal of the National Academy of Sciences has been awarded three times for ornithological work—in 1918 to Frank M. Chapman for his report on the 'Birds of Colombia', in 1919 to C. William Beebe for his 'Monographe of the Pheasants', and in 1920 to Robert Ridgway for his 'Birds of North and Middle America.' This medal will be awarded again this year and possibly also the Salvin Godman Medal of the B. O. U. which has not thus far been awarded.

DR. ALEXANDER WETMORE, of the Biological Survey, returned in May after an absence of twelve months from a successful trip to Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Chile. One of the main objects of his trip was to secure data on the occurrence of North American migrants in the southern part of South America.

R. N. DAVIS, Director of the Everhart Museum in Scranton, Pa. has recently returned from a successful trip to Panama where he secured an interesting series of specimens representing many species of birds.

H. S. SWARTH, with his assistant W. D. Strong, has recently resumed field work in British Columbia begun two years ago. The work this year will be done in the Skeena River district and will continue five months.

PROF. WILLIAM ALANSON BRYAN, formerly connected with the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, has been appointed Director of the Los Angeles Museum of History, Arts and Sciences.

ARETAS A. SAUNDERS has spent the summer studying the bird-life of the Alleghany (N. Y.) State Park, in Cattaraugus Co., N. Y., close to the Pennsylvania line. The study was made under the direction of Dr. C. C. Adams of the Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station, N. Y. State College of Forestry.

DR. CLARA BARRUS, literary executor and authoritative biographer of the late John Burroughs, asks that all persons owning interesting letters

from Mr. Burroughs will communicate with her at Woodchuck Lodge, Roxbury, N. Y. All letters sent will be promptly copied, or extracted from, and returned to the owners.

DR. ANTON REICHENOW, for many years curator of birds in the Berlin Museum, has retired and has been succeeded by Dr. Erwin Stresemann.

THE POLISH NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY has been formed by a union of the Branicki Zoological Museum and the Zoological Museum of the University of Warsaw. The keeper of the ornithological section, T. Chrostowski, whose address is Kraskowskie-Przedmiescie 26-28, Warsaw, is particularly interested in Neotropical ornithology and is author of a paper on the types of Neotropical birds in the Zoological Museum at Petrograd.

NEWS has recently been received from Petrograd that Prof. Sergius A Buturlin is reported to be living in Alaty, near Kazan in Eastern Russia, and Prof. Michael A. Menzbier is still in Moscow.

PREPARATIONS for the Ten Years' Index of 'The Auk' for 1911 to 1920 are now under way. The committee was organized at a meeting held on May 20 and the work distributed among the members. The plan of this Index will be the same as that of the last and it is hoped to have the work well advanced before the next annual meeting of the Union.

A NEW JOURNAL, 'The Maine Naturalist', appeared on April 25, 1921, with the sub-title of 'Journal of the Knox Academy of Arts and Sciences,' at Thomaston, Maine. Norman W Lermond is the Managing Editor and with Arthur H. Norton and Alfred O. Gross in charge of the department of Ornithology, bird notes are assured a prominent place and Maine ornithologists will once more have a medium for the publication of local records. The first issue is a very creditable one. It will appear as a semi-annual in April and October.

OWING to an oversight the date of the annual stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was wrongly given in the April 'Auk'. The meeting will convene for its business session at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia on Monday, November 7, followed by the general meeting for the presentation of papers on November 8, 9, and 10. On Friday, November 11, a visit will be paid to the gardens of the Zoological Society, where the bird collection is particularly fine, and on Saturday a trip is planned to an attractive camp in the New Jersey pine barrens. We would again urge all members to plan to be present on this occasion and to send to the Secretary as soon as possible the titles

of their papers, so that a program may be prepared in advance. This has long been a desideratum and can only be accomplished by the co-operation of the speakers. Any additional information desired will be furnished by addressing the local committee at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Logan Circle, Philadelphia.