

## NOTES AND NEWS.

SIR JOHN FRANCIS JULIUS VON HAAST, a Corresponding Member of the American Ornithologists' Union elected in 1884, died at Christchurch, New Zealand, August 16, 1887. His death was the second reported in the list of Corresponding Members, but no account of his work has ever appeared in the pages of 'The Auk.'

Julius von Haast was born at Bonn, Germany, May 1, 1882.<sup>1</sup> He was the son of a wealthy merchant and received his early education in the grammar schools at Bonn and Cologne. After graduation from the University of Bonn, where he specialized in geology and mineralogy, he spent some time in scientific exploration in Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, and Russia. Having translated a German book for emigrants for an English firm interested in developing emigration to New Zealand, he was invited by the firm to represent them in that colony. On December 2, 1858, he arrived in Auckland, N. Z., and the following day the Austrian man'o war 'Novara' carrying a scientific expedition on its voyage around the world anchored in the Bay. At the request of the government authorities, the geologist of the expedition, Ferdinand von Hochstetter, was invited to investigate some coal seams which had recently been reported in the vicinity, and leaving the 'Novara' for that purpose took with him von Haast, whom he had met shortly after his arrival. For nine months the two geologists explored various parts of the island before Hochstetter returned home. Von Haast was then engaged by the Government of Nelson Province to undertake an investigation of that Province. In 1860 he was employed by the Province of Canterbury to survey a line for a tunnel through the hills between Christchurch and the port of Lyttelton. In the following year he became the first Government Geologist in the Colony and during the next few years vigorously prosecuted investigations in the South Island, especially in the Mt. Cook district and the region of the southern Alps, where he discovered, named and mapped many of the great glaciers. The results of these investigations appear in his chief work 'The Geology of the Provinces of Canterbury and Westland,' published at Christchurch in 1879. In 1886 he was appointed New Zealand Commissioner at the Indian and Colonial Exposition in London, and received the honor of K.C.M.G. Upon completion of his work at the Exposition he made a trip to the principal museums on the continent in the interests of the museum at Christchurch. He returned to New Zea-

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<sup>1</sup> Several discrepancies in the date of birth and place of death appear in various published biographies. The date of birth is given as 1822 by German authorities and 1824 by English authorities, as in 'Nature,' 1887, p. 87, and in Proc. Royal Soc. of London, 46, p. XXIV, 1889. The place of death is erroneously given as Wellington, N. Z., in Myer's 'Konversationlexikon,' and as Bonn, Germany, in 'The Auk,' 1889, p. 96.

land in the summer of the following year and within a month died suddenly at his home on August 16, 1887.

While primarily a geologist, Dr. von Haast had broad interests and published many papers on various subjects of natural history. In recognition of his geological work he received the honorary degree of Ph.D. from the University of Tubingen. He was a founder of the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury, of which he was President in 1862, and of the Canterbury Museum, of which he was Director for several years. He was also Professor of Geology in the Canterbury College at Christchurch and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London. He was particularly interested in the Moas of which he described several new genera and species, including *Euryapteryx*, *Meinornis* (*Anomalopteryx*) and *Megalapteryx hectori*. His contributions on the subject number about 25 titles most of which may be found in Hamilton's bibliography of the Dinornithidae (*Trans. & Proc. N. Z. Inst.*, 36, p. 236, 1893, and 37, p. 238, 1894). His last two papers on the Moas published a year before his death in the *Transactions of the Zoological Society of London*, are devoted to *Megalapteryx* and *Dinornithidae*. In recognition of his work his name is preserved in the designations of several of the birds of New Zealand, viz. *Apteryx haasti*, *Emeus haasti* and *Palaeocasuarius haasti*.

Several biographical sketches of von Haast have been published, among the more important of which are those in 'Nature,' vol. XXXVII, p. 87, Nov. 24, 1887; in the 'Sitzungsber. Akad. Wiss.,' Munich, 1888, pp. 176-181; and in the 'Verhandl. Naturhist. Ver. Rheinlande Westfalens,' Bonn, 1887, pp. 219-232.—T. S. P.

FRANK MORLEY WOODRUFF. The many friends of Frank M. Woodruff will be shocked to hear of his death which occurred in Chicago, July 21, 1926. Mr. Woodruff, an Associate of the A. O. U. since 1894, was a well known bird student and photographer, and as Curator of the Chicago Academy of Sciences had made an enviable reputation for his life-like reproductions of the environs of Chicago.

He was born in Leavenworth, Kansas, July 16, 1867. As a boy and young man he was quite frail, and kept to the out-of-doors as much as possible. In 1884 he traveled to Deer Park, Maryland, where he collected birds and animals, and developed the powers of observation which stood him in good stead in preparing the material which he was later to publish as a bulletin of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, 'The Birds of the Chicago Area.' In 1888 he was associated with Colonel Francis W. Parker at the Cook County Normal School. In 1892-93 he assisted in collecting and mounting the Illinois State Ornithological Exhibit at the World's Fair in Chicago. From that time on he was connected with the Chicago Academy of Sciences, first as Taxidermist, then as Assistant Curator, and finally as Curator.

His 'Birds of the Chicago Area' was published in 1907 as Bulletin Number VI of the Natural History Survey of the Chicago Academy of

Sciences. Before and since that time he contributed occasional articles to various scientific journals, among which were the 'Wilson Bulletin,' and 'The Auk.'

As a photographer of flowers, trees, birds and captive wild animals, he was rated very highly, and as an informal lecturer on these subjects he was much in demand. His chief work, however, was the construction of the Chicago Environs Groups which have made the Chicago Academy of Sciences famous throughout the world. These large groups are masterpieces of photography and scientific skill. He was the originator of the method of using great photographic enlargements as backgrounds for his groups. So successfully has this been done that the principal scenic and scientific features of the Chicago Region have been telescoped into the comparatively small space of 260 feet.

Mr. Ruthven Deane says "It is needless to say how we all regret that he could not have been spared until the completion of the great groups on which he had worked so long."—W. F. WORTHLEY.

JOHN BURNHAM, an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1920, was stricken with heart failure and died in his office at San Diego, California, on the morning of March 27, 1926. He was born in London, England, on December 9, 1867 and came to America at the age of fourteen. For twenty-six years he resided in Minnesota, where in 1892 he married Carrie M. Crothwer. From Minnesota he moved to San Diego in 1907.

For over thirty years he was an earnest student of bird life, devoting his particular attention to building up a collection of birds' eggs. Of his Minnesota days his widow writes: "He would leave his home at daylight on Sunday morning with his knapsack on his back, his note book, field glasses and collecting box, and tramp the fields and woods all day. Specimens had to be prepared after his business house closed at night. Then stores were open from 7 A.M. to 9 P.M. continuously six days a week, so often twelve o'clock at night would find him working industriously over specimens he had taken."

When he went to California he took with him a well-started collection of eggs, but during the first ten years of his residence in San Diego, he was able to find little opportunity to add to it. From about 1918, however, until the time of his death, his spare time was devoted to his hobby with renewed devotion. During these years he collected chiefly in San Diego County, but he made trips into other parts of California and also Mexico. On the very day of his death he had planned a trip afield with Albert M. Ingersoll, his close friend and co-worker.

The egg collection he has left, and the data accompanying it, are models of their kind. Representing for the most part personal work, rather than purchase or exchange, the collection is admirably catalogued and accompanied by extensive and valuable notes written at the close of each day's field trip. The orderly arrangement of the trays, the clever devices

for holding nests and the neatness of all hand-written documents reflect the accurate and methodical mind of the collector.

At the time of his death, Burnham, in addition to being an Associate of the A. O. U., was Secretary-Treasurer and Honorary Curator of Ornithology of the San Diego Society of Natural History, a Patron and Honorary Curator of Birds of the Zoological Society of San Diego, Treasurer of the San Diego Scientific Library Association, Treasurer of the San Diego Floral Association, Member of the San Diego Museum Association, Member of the Cooper Ornithological Club and Member of the Wilson Ornithological Club. He is survived by his widow, and three children, Hazel, Donald and Gordon. His egg collection was maintained as "The Oological Collection of John and Gordon Burnham," and for the present it will be continued by Gordon and Mrs. Burnham—herself an enthusiastic collector. Much of Burnham's ornithological library and all his bird specimens have been donated by his widow to the San Diego Society of Natural History, whose oological collection has been augmented many times by gifts from Burnham during his life-time.—C. G. A.

MARSTON ABBOTT FRAZAR, well known taxidermist and president of the M. Abbott Frazar Co., of Boston, Mass., died Oct. 1, 1925, after an illness of nearly two years. He was born at Watertown, Mass., July 1, 1860, and was the son of George A. Frazar, a shipbuilder and Chinese importer, and Caroline Marston Sampson Frazar, a descendant of prominent Colonial ancestry.

At an early age he developed an interest in natural history and after attending the Chauncey Hall School for seven years began his work in natural science. At the age of 16 he was elected a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club and retained his membership until 1892. In 1881 he made a collecting trip to San Domingo for Charles B. Cory and late in 1886 left for Lower California to collect for William Brewster. Reaching La Paz Jan. 24, 1887, he spent practically all of that year in the southern part of the peninsula and secured a collection of 4400 well prepared birds which formed the basis of Brewster's 'Birds of the Cape Region of Lower California,' published in 1902.

In 1889 he purchased the taxidermist establishment at 93 Sudbury St., Boston, which had been in operation 20 years and organized the M. Abbott Frazar Co., taxidermists and dealers in natural history specimens and supplies. Later on he purchased raw furs and developed the fur side of the business. He was a prominent citizen of Brookline, an officer in the Boston Association of Fur Manufacturers and a member of the Boston Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Frazar published comparatively little on birds, chiefly in the form of brief notes in the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' and a single note in 'The Auk.' From 1876 to 1881 he changed his name to Abbott M. Frazar and most of these notes appear under that form of his name. Many of his local records of Massachusetts birds were published

in Brewster's 'Birds of the Cambridge Region' and thus are generally accessible. His ornithological work is commemorated in the names of four of the birds which he collected: a Flycatcher from San Domingo (*Contopus frazari* = *Blacicus hispaniolensis*), and three species from Lower California, a Green Heron (*Butorides virescens frazari*) from La Paz; an Oystercatcher (*Haematopus frazari*) from Carmen Island; and a Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus frazari*) from San Jose del Cabo.—T. S. P.

THE Baird Ornithological Club of Washington, D. C. held its Fourth Annual Meeting on March 2, 1926, at which officers for the year were elected as follows: President, Leonhard Stejneger; Vice President, Alexander Wetmore; Secretary, B. H. Swales; Members of the Council, Charles W. Richmond, T. S. Palmer. O. J. Murie was elected an Active Member on February 4, 1926. During the year papers were given before the organization by Doctors Sushkin, Palmer, Wetmore, Stejneger, and Fisher, and Messrs. Kalmach, Goldman and Lincoln.—B. H. SWALES, Secretary.

M. CHARLES AIKEN the veteran ornithologist of Colorado Springs, Colo., celebrated his seventy-sixth birthday on September 7, 1926.

MR. GEORGE E. OSTERHOUT of Windsor, Colo., has presented his entire collection of birds numbering about 600 specimens to the Colorado Agricultural College. It is, especially rich in Ducks, Shorebirds and Birds of Prey.

THE Federation of Bird Clubs of New England working in conjunction with the Massachusetts Fish and Game Association has done much to stimulate interest in the attempt to save the Heath Hen from extinction. Destructive birds and animals have been kept in check on Martha's Vineyard where the remnant of this species still persists and rabbit hunters in the autumn have been watched. The result is that on a visit to the island March 27–April 3, 1926, Prof. A. O. Gross found that there were apparently 35 birds present, a few more than estimated a year ago. The birds range over an area of 12,000 acres, mainly covered with low oak scrub which makes an actual count impossible.

THE Tenth International Congress of Zoological will be held in Budapest, Hungary, September 4–9, 1927, under the presidency of Dr. G. Horváth of the Hungarian National Museum.