

OBITUARIES

DR. PETER PETROVICH SUSHKIN, elected as a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1903 and an Honorary Fellow in 1918, died of pneumonia at Kislovodsk, Caucasus, Russia, Sept. 17, 1928. He was born at Tula, Russia, Feb. 8 (Jan. 27), 1868, was a student under Professor Michael Menzbier in Moscow, and in 1899 became an assistant in the Museum of Comparative Anatomy of the Imperial Russian University in Moscow, where he received the degree of Doctor in 1903. He was appointed on the staff of the Zoological Museum in Leningrad in 1898, a position which he filled until his death, when he had completed 30 years' service.

He made several field trips to southeastern Russia and southwestern Siberia, including two expeditions in 1894 and 1898 to observe birds during spring and autumn migration on the Kirghiz Steppes immediately north of the Caspian and Aral Seas, a desert region previously explored by Severtzow and Zarudny. Later he made an extended trip to the Altai Mountains in Central Asia and had planned to return to that region when the outbreak of the Great War suspended exploration for several years. At the time of his death he was on a field trip in northern Caucasus.

While not a voluminous writer, Doctor Sushkin published a number of papers in English, German, and Russian. He was one of the best authorities on Palaearctic birds and had the unique advantage of being personally familiar with large areas in Russia and Siberia and also with conditions in the United States, gained through an extended trip in this country in 1925. In addition to being an ornithologist, he was an all-round zoologist and was deeply interested in Permian reptiles.

During his visit to America he spent much time in making drawings which he executed with great skill, illustrating skulls and other osteological details of birds. Among the results of these studies was a recent paper showing that the English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) is more nearly related to the Weaver Birds than to the Finches.

Doctor Sushkin was one of the leading Russian zoologists. He was a careful observer with wide field experience, a curator with thorough knowledge of museum material, and a student with wide acquaintance with the literature of the subjects in which he was interested. Besides holding the position of head of the Department of Ornithology in the Museum of the Academy of Sciences in Leningrad, he was President of the Commission for the study of the Mongol, Tannu-Tuva and Buriat-Mongol Republics, and Vice-President of the Commission for the study of the Quaternary.

His death is a serious loss to ornithology since, through his familiarity with Palaearctic and Nearctic birds and their ecological conditions, he was peculiarly well qualified to correlate some of the closely related forms which are represented both in Europe and in North America.—T. S. P.

CHARLES SHELDON, an Associate of the Union since 1911, died suddenly at Kedgemakooge, Nova Scotia, Sept. 21, 1928. He was born at Rutland, Vt., Oct. 17, 1867, and was the son of John A. and Caroline A. Sheldon. His early education was received at Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., and he was a graduate of Yale University in the class of 1890. From 1893 to 1902 he was engaged in railroad work with the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway Co., the Consolidated Car Heating Co., and the Chihuahua and Pacific Railway Co. in Mexico. A large part of the time during the next few years was spent in exploration and hunting game in the Yukon Territory and Alaska, the results of which appeared in his two books: 'The Wilderness of the Upper Yukon,' 1911, and 'The Wilderness of the North Pacific Coast Islands,' 1912.

After his removal to Washington about 1911 he devoted his attention largely to conservation and to building up his great library on hunting and game protection. He was greatly interested in conservation legislation to which he devoted much time and in which he exercised a potent influence. He took a prominent part in the negotiations relative to the Federal Migratory Bird Law, the Migratory Bird Treaty, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, headed the movement to establish the Mt. McKinley National Park, and was chiefly responsible for the National Outdoor Conference on Recreation in 1924.

Sheldon, while quiet and somewhat retiring, was a man of broad views, sound judgment, and deep convictions. Although he took an active part in conservation matters he preferred to let others occupy the center of the stage. His work was important and far-reaching and will be better appreciated when more generally known.—T. S. P.