

## OBITUARIES.

THE American Ornithologists' Union has again suffered a severe loss in the death of one of its best known and respected Fellows.

Otto Widmann, elected at the second meeting, in 1884, died at his home in St. Louis, Missouri, on November 26, 1933, aged ninety-two. His long and eventful life had covered a greater span than that of any other American ornithologist.

Born in Germany he came to St. Louis in 1867 where he engaged in pharmacy until retiring from business in 1899. Every spare moment, however, was devoted to the study of ornithology and he published a number of contributions to bird life and a standard work on the birds of Missouri.

Many members of the Union will recall his attendance at one of the Washington meetings and at the San Francisco meeting of 1915. He was a delightful companion and possessed a charming personality which endeared him to all with whom he came in contact.

The President of the Union will appoint a biographer to prepare a memorial address to be read at the next meeting which will later be published in 'The Auk,'—W. S.

JUST as we go to press we learn with sincere regret of the death of Dr. Ernst Hartert an Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union and recently elected Honorary President of the Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft. A biographical notice will appear in the April issue of 'The Auk,'—W. S.

HERBERT KEIGHTLEY JOB, elected an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1896 and a Member in 1901, died after a protracted illness, at Delmar, N. Y., June 17, 1933, in the 69th year of his age. He was born in Boston, Mass., Nov. 29, 1864, the son of Daniel Ward and Susan Grey (Adams) Job. He graduated from Harvard in 1888, from the Hartford Theological Seminary in 1891, and on September 10 of the same year married Miss Elsie Ann Curtiss, of Mayville, N. Dak. From 1891 to 1898 he was pastor of the Congregational Church at North Middleboro, Mass., and for the next ten years at Kent, Conn., when he retired from theological work.

In 1908 Job became State Ornithologist of Connecticut and a member of the faculty of the Connecticut Agricultural College, a position which he retained for six years. He then became Economic Ornithologist in charge of applied ornithology, and in 1918 director of the Summer School and Ornithological Experiment Station of the National Association of Audubon Societies at Amston, Conn. In 1926 Job transferred his activities to the

South, where he became field agent of the Association for South Carolina and carried on educational work for four or five years, arousing much popular interest in birds and bird protection. At the conclusion of this work he became associated with the Game Commission of Virginia, and, until his health failed, edited the publications and directed the educational work of the Commission.

At the time of his election to the Union, Job contributed frequent notes to 'The Auk' and whenever possible made an extended trip each summer to some point of interest. With the advent of bird photography he became an ardent devotee of the camera, and was successful in securing excellent photographs and moving pictures in many interesting regions. He visited the Magdalen Islands, the prairie Provinces of Canada, the bird colonies of North Dakota, the South Atlantic Coast, and the delta of the Mississippi in Louisiana. Among his notable pictures were those of various species of water-fowl and particularly of the Blue Goose.

In 1902 he published 'Among the Water Fowl,' in 1905 'Wild Wings,' and in 1908 'The Sport of Bird Study.' These books were followed by 'How to Study Birds,' 1910, the 'Blue Goose Chase,' 1911, and 'Propagation of Wild Birds,' in 1915. A letter from President Theodore Roosevelt, commending his first book was published in the introductory pages of 'Wild Wings.'

Job was much interested in the propagation of game birds and during his work at Amston devised a plan of collecting eggs of water-fowl on the breeding grounds in Canada, hatching the eggs in incubators, and transporting the young birds when only a few weeks old. In this way he succeeded in raising Canvas-backs, Redheads and other species which do not ordinarily breed in captivity.—T. S. P.

LEMUEL FOX WOODWARD, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1917, died at Worcester, Mass., Nov. 12, 1931, in the 75th year of his age. He was born in Worcester, April 26, 1857, the son of Dr. Rufus and Jane (Fox) Woodward, and was educated in the local schools. After graduation from the high school he took a course at the Lawrence Scientific School and later graduated from the Harvard Medical School, from which he received his degree in 1881. During college days he conducted classes in swimming for boys at Lake Quinsigamond, was a member of the Quinsigamond boat club and at Harvard stroked his varsity crew.

From his father, Dr. Woodward inherited a love of nature, and from childhood was interested in several branches of natural history. He knew the wild flowers, put up bird boxes on the grounds of the Quinsigamond boat club and kept a 'nature calendar' and records of bird migration. It was his ambition to be the first to report the arrival of the Mourning Dove in the spring. He was particularly interested in the migration of the Red-winged Blackbird and the Swallows and kept a careful record of the arrival and departure of the Nighthawks which nested on the roofs in the vicinity of his home.

Dr. Woodward was one of the early members of the Nuttall Ornithological Club. He was elected a Resident Member in 1876 but resigned three years later and in 1880 was elected a Corresponding Member. He was an active member of the Worcester Natural History Society, served as its president for several years, and at the time of his death was one of the trustees of the Society.—T. S. P.

FRANK WARREN LANGDON, an Active Member of the American Ornithologists' Union from 1887 to 1897, died after a long illness, at Cincinnati, O., June 9, 1933, at the advanced age of eighty years. He was born in that city December 16, 1852, the son of Oliver Cromwell and Jane Dorsey Langdon and was a grandson of Elland Potter Langdon, one of the early settlers of Cincinnati. After attending the local public schools he graduated from Miami Medical College in 1881 and entered on the general practice of medicine. Later he studied neurology and psychiatry in Paris and London and upon his return from Europe specialized in mental and nervous diseases, a field in which he gained national prominence. In later years he limited his practice to consultations in medical and nervous diseases.

At the age of twenty-five Langdon began to publish on birds and his contributions appeared chiefly in the 'Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History' and the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club.' His contributions to 'The Auk' were limited to two short papers in the early volumes. He was one of the first Active Members to resign from the Union and gave up his membership in 1897, when the exigencies of his medical work demanded his full attention. As an ornithologist he is best known as the author of several papers on the birds of Cincinnati and as the describer of the Cincinnati Warbler (*Vermivora cincinnatiensis*). This form based on a specimen which he collected at Madisonville, Hamilton Co., Ohio, May 1, 1880, is now regarded as a hybrid between *Vermivora pinus* and *Oporornis formosa*.

Dr. Langdon took an active part in the work of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History and for a time was a member of its publishing committee. He was also a member of the Linnean Society of New York, the Nuttall Ornithological Club, the Boston Zoological Society, and several medical societies. In addition to his medical contributions he published occasional articles on archaeology.

He was married in 1884 and outlived both his wife, Rhoda Fletcher, of Richmond, Ind., and his two children, Fletcher and Rowena.—T. S. P.

FREDERICK GILMER BONFILS, a Life Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1918, died after a brief illness at Denver, Colo., February 2, 1933, at the age of seventy-two. He was born at Troy, Mo., December 31, 1860, and was the son of Eugene Napoleon Bonfils. He traced his family back to Napoleon Bonaparte's mother but the name Bonfils was assumed by his grandfather who had escaped from slavery in Tunis and made his way to Salem, Mass.

Young Bonfils was educated at West Point, worked for a time in the Chemical National Bank in New York, and in 1889 joined the land rush to Oklahoma when the Indian Territory was opened to settlement. He took part in developing the city of Guthrie and, after accumulating a fortune in real estate, moved to Kansas City and later to Denver. Here he met H. H. Tammen and together they purchased the Denver 'Post,' introduced a new type of journalism and dedicated the paper to the service of the people. At the head of every crime story appeared a line in parenthesis 'crime never pays.' The journal greatly increased its circulation and reputation especially after its sensational uncovering of the Teapot Dome oil scandal.

Bonfils loved animals and birds and prided himself on the number of children he had aided in recovering lost pets. With his partner he purchased the Gentry Dog and Pony Show and a small circus owned by William Sells, which they renamed the Sells-Floto Circus and operated from 1904 until 1921. Tammen undertook the active management and toured the country with the show until they disposed of their interests. After Tammen's death in 1924, Bonfils became sole owner of the 'Post' which he continued to direct under a militant and aggressive policy. He was a dynamic, independent publisher and declared that he had no political ambitions and no favors to ask of any public officer. He was well known to men in public life and was characterized by the Governor of Colorado, E. C. Johnson, as a hard fighter for the right as he saw it.—T. S. P.

NORMAN CRIDDLE, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1918, died as the result of an operation, at the Brandon Hospital in Brandon, Manitoba, May 4, 1933, at the age of fifty-eight. He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Percy Criddle and was born at Addlestone, Surrey, England, May 14, 1875. At an early age he accompanied his parents to Manitoba where from 1882 to 1905 he engaged in farming. He then began work as a technical artist and his drawings were used to illustrate the 'Dominion Department Weed Book' and also 'Fodder and Pasture Plants.' In 1910 he went to Ottawa to join the Seed Branch of the Department of Agriculture and the following year was transferred to Calgary, Alberta, where he remained until 1913. He then entered the Division of Entomology in Manitoba and soon became prominently associated with entomological activities in that Province. He was one of the best known senior officers of the Entomological Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, and took a prominent part in the grasshopper control campaign in 1932.

Mr. Criddle's interest in birds evidently began quite early. In 1895 at the age of twenty he began sending observations on bird migration to the U. S. Biological Survey and from that time until his death maintained an almost uninterrupted series of migration reports. His published papers numbered about 125, half of them on entomology, 32 on birds, and a few on other subjects. Most of the ornithological contributions appeared as

notes and short papers in the 'Ottawa Naturalist' and the 'Canadian Naturalist.' In 1907 he published a short note in 'Bird Lore,' and in 1922 contributed to 'The Auk,' 'A Calendar of Bird Migration' based on observations of more than 130 species made at Aweme, Manitoba. Mr. Criddle was a member of a number of scientific societies, including the Entomological Society of Ontario, the Entomological Society of America, the Ottawa Field Naturalist's Club (President in 1926 and 1927), the Natural History Society of Manitoba (honorary president, 1925 to 1928), and Chairman of the International Great Plains Crop Pest Committee from 1921 until his death.

Criddle, while primarily an entomologist, was a good ornithologist, a technical artist, and an all-round naturalist regarded as an authority on the species native to the Prairie Provinces. He was unmarried and is survived by three brothers and three sisters. He is buried at Treesebank, Manitoba.—T. S. P.

EDWARD BRUCE WILLIAMSON, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1900, died at his home in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on February 18, 1933.

He was born in Marion, Indiana, July 10, 1877. He graduated from Ohio State University in 1898, and became Assistant Curator of Insects at the Carnegie Museum, from which he resigned after a year to teach science in the High School of Salem, Ohio. During the year 1900-1901 he was a Fellow at Vanderbilt University. Then in 1903 he went into the banking business, becoming cashier and later president of the Wells County Bank at Bluffton, Indiana, a position which he retained until 1928.

Although most of his later work was in other fields, the first concrete evidence of his tremendous enthusiasm for natural history was a collection of birds begun when he was but fourteen years of age. The several ornithological titles included in his extensive scientific writings cannot be cited here but will be found in his complete bibliography to be published in the annual report of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoölogy for 1932-33.

Dragon-flies were his chosen field and their study not only occupied his evenings and spare moments for thirty-five years but led him to undertake extended expeditions to Guatemala, Trinidad, British Guiana, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, and many parts of North America. In 1916 the University of Michigan gave official recognition of his world eminence in this field by appointing him Honorary Curator of Odonata, and in 1928 he was called to Ann Arbor as a resident member of the University faculty.

His other major interest was iris breeding, at which he was very successful, originating many well-known varieties at his famous iris farm at Bluffton. For many years he served as Vice President of the American Iris Society.

He is survived by his widow, Anna Tribolet Williamson, and three daughters.—JOSSELYN VAN TYNE.

JOHN CHRISTOPHER O'CONNOR, a life associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1921, and one of the finer types of sportsmen, died on March 4, 1933, at his home in New York City. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, on August 20, 1847, and twenty-three years later graduated from the Law School of Columbia University. In the Eighties he was a member of the Board of Aldermen of New York. He was a member of the Society of Colonial Wars, of the Union League Club, and of the New York Yacht Club. His interest in game and its proper protection led him to join the New York Association for the Protection of Game, one of the oldest, if not the oldest organization in this country which worked for game protection. It was organized May 20, 1844, and was incorporated in 1884. O'Connor was Secretary of the Association for a long period. As one of its delegates he often went to Albany to appear before Legislative Committees to speak in behalf of game and other birds. He and five or six other sportsmen purchased in severalty a large area of land, just north of Back Bay, Virginia, known as Sand Bridge, which became an ideal shooting box, under his careful and well planned management. He believed in moderation in shooting, and that sportsmen should rear game to liberate so that there always would be a supply. From 1906 and for nearly twenty-five years following, he had at least 500 Mallards reared, and later liberated. He believed also in feeding the birds after the close of the shooting season, especially in inclement weather when the natural food was difficult for the birds to secure.

It certainly was a novel and interesting sight to see flock after flock of Ducks, as sunset approached, come hastening to the two-acre barn yard where corn was being shelled. When all was ready the keeper sounded a horn, a signal to the Ducks that dinner was being served. They had learned the call, for the sound barely had died before it was replaced by that of the rush of wings, and the ground soon was covered by a noisy multitude at the moment fearless of man. This gave O'Connor a great thrill, for although he did not have a wide acquaintance with the different birds he was fond of them.

He was a high type of sportsman, a man of fine attainment, and a wonderful host. To those who knew him well, it was a pleasure to visit with him and an event to look forward to.—A. K. FISHER.

NORMAN JEFCOATE ATKINSON, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1931, died—the result of an unfortunate accident—at the Ottawa Civic Hospital on November 1, 1932, in the 31st year of his age. He was a native of North Wales, being born near the little town of Rhayader on April 11, 1902, and had been a resident of Canada for the past ten years. He was very well educated, being a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, at which institution he had obtained two gold medals, one for his work on his M.A. degree, and the other for his final year in biology. At the time of his death Mr. Atkinson was in charge of all biological work in the area surrounding Lucerne-in-Quebec, and had

recently been put in charge of stream improvement as well. He was proficient in his chosen profession, his services often being secured as consultant ichthyologist by various fishing clubs, a member of one of which writes me as follows: "His report was most interesting and valuable and all the club members who came in contact with him were of one accord in saying that 'he was one of Nature's noblemen.' He was reserved and unassuming but efficient and systematic to the highest degree." In a letter from his brother he informs me that after they left Rhayader in 1905 the family always resided near large towns but within reach of the country. As far as he remembers, his brother Jefcoate started keeping caterpillars when he was about eight years of age, and his interests—as soon as he had any—always ran more or less in that direction, the study of birds evidently being of quite a recent date. He was a frequent contributor, I understand, to the "Seigneur," the official organ of Lucerne-in-Quebec which is published monthly.—H. MOUSLEY.

EDGAR CRANE STILES, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1907, died at New Haven, Conn., August 29, 1933. He was born at Hartford, Conn., October 7, 1863, graduated from Yale University in 1886, and took up teaching and school administration as his profession. After some time in the schools of Litchfield, Norfolk, and Seymour, Conn., he became Superintendent of Schools at West Haven, Conn., a position he held for thirty-six years, until his death.

Mr. Stiles was always interested in natural history and a firm believer in the value of this subject in the education of young people. His more active interest in birds began in 1907 with the formation of the New Haven Bird Club, of which he was a charter member and its first president, serving, with the exception of one year, from 1907 to 1925. Whenever possible he attended the annual meetings of the American Ornithologists' Union, and thoroughly enjoyed them.

Rather late in life Mr. Stiles married Miss Edna Morgan, who shared with him his love of birds and nature, and accompanied him on most of his field trips. Her death preceded his by about a year. He was a man of strong personality. While he dominated in school affairs, he did so with high idealism, a strong sense of duty, and the welfare of the schools closest to his heart.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS.