

OBITUARIES.

CHARLES JOHN PENNOCK a member of the A. O. U. died on August 20, 1935, at his home in Kennett Square, Chester Co., Pa., where he was born on November 18, 1857, and where he had spent the greater part of his life. His parents were Samuel and Deborah Pennock, the former an inventor and manufacturer of agricultural machinery and president of the American Road Machine Co. of Kennett Square. For a few years the family lived at Ithaca, N. Y., to enable the three sons to attend Cornell University but later returned to Kennett where Charles entered his father's business. He later engaged in various other enterprises, the growing of carnations, the conduct of a lumber and coal business, and of a fiber manufacturing company, and finally established a real estate investment and insurance office. With it all he became active in local politics and served the borough as Chief Burgess and as Justice of the Peace. He was a member of the Society of Friends.

Through all his busy life his chief interest was ornithology. From boyhood he had collected eggs and birds and conducted a wide correspondence with kindred spirits in all parts of the country. Immediately after leaving Ithaca he occupied for a short time a position in the museum at Princeton where he made the acquaintance of W. E. D. Scott and soon after he became acquainted with B. Harry Warren of West Chester, Pa., then active in preparing his work on the 'Birds of Pennsylvania.' These were the first real ornithologists that he knew. In 1895 he joined the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club and immediately became a very active member of the little coterie which met at the Academy of Natural Sciences, including S. N. Rhoades, Spencer Trotter, W. L. Baily, Witmer Stone etc. Pennock was a regular attendant at the meetings and journeyed the thirty miles from Kennett Square even though it was early morning before his train brought him home. He was President of the Club, 1901-1903, and published a number of papers in its publication 'Cassinia.'

Other of his contributions will be found in 'The Auk,' the 'Wilson Bulletin,' 'Reports of the Delaware State Board of Agriculture,' etc., the earliest being his list of the 'Birds of Chester Co., Pa.' in the 'Report of the Pennsylvania Board of Agriculture' for 1886.

Living not far from the Delaware state line, and having acquired property in the state, he became intensely interested in its bird life, which up to this time had been almost entirely neglected, and made many collecting trips into the more remote regions. As a result of this interest he was appointed state ornithologist.

Pennock was elected an Associate of the A. O. U. in 1888 and became a Member in 1901 when that class was established.

At this time too, he had become interested in gathering together an ornithological library and by purchase and exchange endeavored to secure as many as possible of the works on North American birds listed in Coues's bibliography which was appended to his 'Birds of the Colorado Valley.'

In 1913 after attending a meeting of the Delaware Valley Club Pennock disappeared and for six years he was completely lost sight of. It appeared that suffering from a form of amnesia he had gone to St. Marks, Florida, where under the name of John Williams, he managed the business of a local fisheries firm and later became County Commissioner, Notary Public, etc. His interest in birds however, could not be suppressed and he began to publish notes in various ornithological journals and to supply data for the Biological Survey under the name which he had assumed. Under this name too, he was again elected an Associate of the Union! Certain char-

acteristics of his papers as well as his handwriting eventually led the present writer to identify him and he returned home.

Previous to this experience he had spent some time at Thomasville, Ga., and at Pinehurst, N. C., and now he and his wife spent part of several winters at Punta Gorda, Florida, where he did considerable collecting for several museums. Finding the long journey to Philadelphia too much of a strain Pennock transferred his interests from the Delaware Valley Club to the West Chester Bird Club in which he became an active member until failing health compelled him to remain at home. His collections of birds and eggs were presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Only those who were associated with Pennock in the field or in the study of his collections can realize the tireless energy of the man and the extent of his knowledge or appreciate the pleasure of association with him in his ornithological pursuits.

Pennock was twice married and the present Mrs. Pennock, and three children, two sons and a daughter, survive him, another daughter died some years ago.—W. S.

JOHN HOOPER BOWLES, a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died suddenly at Tacoma, Wash., February 2, 1934, at the age of 59. He was born in Boston, Mass., March 15, 1875, and during his early years enjoyed the acquaintance of William Brewster, E. A. Capen, and C. J. Maynard, under whose guidance he undoubtedly profited in his study of birds.

In 1896 his parents moved to Tacoma, where for nearly 40 years, with the exception of a sojourn at Santa Barbara, Calif., in 1909–1912, he assiduously prosecuted his studies until he came to be regarded as an authority on the birds of the Northwest. His collection of nests and eggs, comprising about 970 North American species and subspecies, was built up with the greatest care, and particular attention was given to the important matter of identification, no set being admitted concerning which there was the slightest doubt of authenticity. This collection is now in the Ferry Museum at Tacoma.

Bowles was elected an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1891 and in 1910 was made a Member. He was also a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, the Caurinus Club, and the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society. In the last organization he served as vice president for fourteen years and became Associate Editor of 'The Murrelet.'

In later years he devoted his attention to collecting birds and concentrated his energies chiefly on nests and eggs. Probably no field ornithologist in the Northwest had a more intimate knowledge of this subject than did J. Hooper Bowles. Fortunately he had the happy faculty not only of sharing his experiences with friends but of recording them for others so that the results of his careful and systematic field studies of birds and eggs are now generally available. His first note on the 'Nesting of the Whip-poor-will' at Ponkapog, Mass., appeared in the 'Ornithologist and Oologist' when he was 16 years of age, and from that time on he contributed regularly to certain ornithological journals, chiefly 'The Auk,' 'Condor,' 'Nidologist,' 'Osprey' and 'Murrelet.' He was co-author with William Leon Dawson of the 'Birds of Washington,' published in two volumes in 1909. This was undoubtedly his most important work and one in which many of his early observations may be found. A useful bibliography of his publications numbering 142 titles, prepared by F. S. Hall, appeared in 'The Murrelet' for May, 1934, pp. 35–43. According to this list, a little more than 10 per cent of his articles, including several of his longer contributions, were published in 'The Auk.' In the same number of 'The Murrelet' may be

found a portrait and biographical sketch by E. A. Kitchin, which contains many interesting details regarding his activities and his work in the field.—T. S. P.

FRANK HARRIS HITCHCOCK, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, and a life-long student of our birds, died in Tucson, Arizona, August 5, 1935. He was born in Amherst, Ohio, October 5, 1867. His father was Henry Chapman Hitchcock; his mother's maiden name was Mary Laurette Harris.

Hitchcock was fortunate in his birth and in his home life, for both of his parents were possessed of exceptional character, refinement and education. His father was a clergyman, but was also deeply interested in civic and social enterprises.

The family lived for a time in Wisconsin, but removed in 1880 to Somerville, Massachusetts, and here he finished his grammar and high school courses. He was graduated from Harvard University in June, 1891. Though mainly notable as a student, he was also a good athlete, being especially proficient in baseball, football and boxing.

I first met Hitchcock in early September, 1891, through a cousin who had attended school with him many years in Somerville. We had a bird-hunt or two together in the woods in Wilmington, but further association at that time was prevented by his appointment to a position in Washington, D. C., in November of that year. He had not been long in Washington when he called at the offices of the Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy at the Department of Agriculture, and soon joined the staff under C. Hart Merriam. The next spring, Hitchcock's brief acquaintance with me led to my own appointment in the Bureau where so many years have been spent.

Hitchcock's genius for organization was early reflected in his official work. As an example, he was the prime mover in retiring the cumbersome system of giving the skull of a mammal specimen a number different from that of the skin. It is impossible to estimate the saving in time and the gains in accuracy that have resulted since mammal skull No. 50,000 could be instantly recognized as the one that belonged to the skin of the same number. Had he accomplished nothing else while in the Survey, this reform alone would have paid many times over for his services.

However, Hitchcock's ambition to study law led to his determination to relinquish natural history as a life work, and he was soon transferred to the Division of Statistics in the same Department. He served here in various capacities until 1903. In the meantime he had pursued his law studies, had received the degrees of L.L.B. (1894), and L.L.M. (1895) and had been admitted to the District of Columbia bar in 1894, and the United States Supreme Court in 1897. His services in the Department of Commerce and Labor and as Post Master General, 1909-1913, as well as on important Government Commissions, and as manager of several presidential campaigns, are matters of public record that need not be detailed here. He practiced law in New York for several years following his Government service, and at the time of his death had resided for several years in the Southwest, where he was interested in several enterprises including at least two important newspapers.

During his college days, and his first year in Washington, Hitchcock was a keen bird student. His early life in Cambridge gave him the rich opportunity of association with William Brewster and other famous ornithologists and, as was habitual with him, he made good use of the experience. He published a few papers in 'The Auk' between 1889 and 1892, but as far as I know published nothing on birds during the later years of his life, although he always retained his interest in outdoor pursuits.

Hitchcock never married. His parents died many years ago, and his only known

surviving close relatives are two sisters. His remains were interred in Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Mass.—EDWARD A. PREBLE.

WALTER ADAMS JOHNSON, an Associate of the Union from 1895 to 1915, a resident of Pleasantville, N. Y. for the past twenty-five years, died suddenly of a heart attack on June 29, 1935, at Chestertown, Md., while on a visit to friends. He was born at Galesburg, Illinois, on September 2, 1878; attended Lombard College at Galesburg and later did graduate work at Columbia University. He came to New York to be secretary to F. N. Doubleday of the firm of Doubleday, Page and Co., but he had already established a reputation as a publisher and editor having founded the ornithological journal, 'The Osprey,' while still at Galesburg, in September 1896, continuing it for two years when it passed into the hands of Dr. Theodore Gill and Dr. Elliot Coues, the latter having been associated with Johnson, during the second year. By the extensive use of half-tone illustrations and excellent taste in the details of printing and the selection of articles, Johnson set a new mark in the quality of popular ornithological journals and paved the way for 'Bird Lore,' 'The Condor,' and many others, though only a few have reached his standard of excellence.

While connected with the Doubleday firm Johnson started their well known 'Travel' and 'Garden' Magazines. Then branching out for himself he became American representative of the John Lane Company, publishers of 'Studio' which he developed into 'International Studio.' After this he founded 'Arts and Decorations,' the leading journal in its field today. Then he acquired 'The Field Illustrated' which he converted into a country gentleman's magazine and later began 'The Agricultural Digest' which was printed in English, Spanish and Portuguese and had a large circulation in South America. He was responsible for building up 'American Forests' and in 1931 launched 'Garden Digest' for which he is perhaps best known today.

He was a great lover of natural history and the outdoors and for years his hobby had been landscape gardening and the beautification of small home grounds. He is survived by his wife, the former Dorothy Biddle of Philadelphia, a son and two daughters.—CHIEFLY FROM 'THE TOWNSMAN' *Pleasantville, N. Y.*

JOHN KERN STRECKER, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, elected in 1925, died at the age of 57, at Waco, Texas, Jan. 9, 1933. He was the son of John Kern and Felicia (Agnew) Strecker and was born at Waterloo, Ill., July 10, 1875. His education was acquired in public schools and in 1925 he received the honorary degree of B.S. from Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

His interest in natural history evidently began in early life. For many years he carried on active field work in Texas and visited many parts of the state in quest of specimens for the museum of Baylor University of which he was curator for 30 years. He also served as head librarian of the University from 1919 until his death. He was active in local politics and in fraternal circles and from 1911 to 1930 was head of the poultry department of the Texas Cotton Palace Exposition. His affiliation with scientific societies included, in addition to the A. O. U., the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Society of Mammalogists, the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, the Biological Society of Washington, the Scientific Society of San Antonio, Texas, and the Texas Academy of Science. He served as president of the Academy and also of the Texas Folk Lore Society and the Texas Fish and Game Protective Association.

Strecker was particularly interested in herpetology and was an authority on the

reptiles and batrachians of Texas. He published numerous papers not only on the reptiles but also on the mammals, birds, insects and mollusks of the state. He emphasized the importance of collecting specimens and especially of recording observations made in the field. In a paper on 'Moths from the vicinity of Waco, Texas,' he says: "Hundreds of persons engaged in natural history pursuits have left nothing in the way of records or written observations for the benefit of posterity. Unless collections formed by such persons are, at their deaths, either bequeathed or sold to public institutions where provision is made for the further preservation of such objects, the life work of these men has also been in vain."

Strecker's publications on natural history number more than 100 titles, of which about 60 were devoted to reptiles and 23 to birds. His most important paper in 'The Auk,' 'On the Use by Birds of Snakes' Sloughs as Nesting Material,' appeared in 1926. This subject was further elaborated in a paper on 'Birds and Snake Skins' published a year later as No. 11 of 'Contributions from Baylor University Museum.' Recently his unpublished manuscripts have been collected and edited by his successor Walter J. Williams, now Curator of the Baylor University Museum, and issued as a Baylor Bulletin under the title 'Notes on the Zoology of Texas.' This excellent publication contains a portrait of John K. Strecker and 19 brief articles, including his personal 'Reminiscences of a Field Naturalist' and a bibliography of his scientific papers.—T. S. P.

DAVID GALBRAITH BAIRD an Associate of the Union died at his home in Beverly, New Jersey, on July 24, 1935, in his eighty-third year, having been stricken with heart disease some weeks before. Mr. Baird was born at Hopewell, Cecil Co., Maryland, on July 19, 1853, the son of Joseph and Jane Braden Baird and spent part of his boyhood in western Illinois coming later to Philadelphia where his education was completed. At the age of twenty he became a clerk in the office of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company in that city where he remained for the rest of his life, being elected Secretary about 1900 and later assuming the duties of Treasurer as well. He served under every president of the Company and was better informed on the details of the railroad than any one else. Some years ago at the request of the directors he published a history of the Road. So faithful and conscientious was he that he went regularly to his office up until a few weeks of his death.

He was much interested in the history of both Maryland and New Jersey; was a member of the standing Committee of the Trenton Diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church and a vestryman of St. Mary's Church of Burlington, N. J., as well as a member of the Masonic Order.

His hobby for the past twenty-five years was field ornithology and he became thoroughly familiar with the birds of his state both about Beverly and at Cape May where he had a summer home. He took great delight in compiling lists of the species seen on every walk, and on later trips to Florida and other points the unfamiliar birds were a source of great pleasure to him. He joined the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club in 1913 and was a regular attendant at the meetings contributing many observations of interest. He became an Associate of the A. O. U. in 1924 and attended the meetings in New York and Philadelphia as well as that at Salem, Mass. Cape May was his great delight and he took every opportunity to cover the beaches and salt meadows in search of rarities and to check the arrival of the migrants. He was a delightful companion on the many walks that the writer took in his company during the summer months at the shore.

His wife with two sons and two daughters survive him.—W. S.

CHARLES WILLIAM HENRY ELLIS, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1927, died suddenly, on June 11, 1935, at his home in Washington, D. C., at the age of 84. He was born in Boston, Mass., February 8, 1851, the son of John Sardine and Lucinda Ann (Teele) Ellis and spent his early years in that city. For some time he was connected with the Waltham Watch Company at Waltham, Mass., where he gained skill and precision in handling delicate instruments which played an important part in his later work. About 1886 he took up his residence in Washington, D. C., where he served for some years in the U. S. Fish Commission and afterwards was associated with Prof. A. Graham Bell in his laboratory there and at Baddeck, Nova Scotia. During his later years he was associated with the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution from its organization until his retirement in 1926.

From early youth Mr. Ellis was deeply interested in natural History particularly in birds and was familiar with many of the commoner species. He was a regular attendant at the annual meetings of the Union where, as the father of Mrs. T. S. Palmer, he was known to a large number of the members. At an age when many lose their interest in the affairs of the Union he was active in assisting the Secretary in preparations for the meetings and in compiling information concerning the membership. For several years he spent his summer vacation with Dr. and Mrs. Palmer at Cape May, N. J., and those who had the privilege of being with him could not but be impressed with his keen interest in everything he saw. The ocean, the bird life of the shore and the marshes, the historical buildings and their associations all aroused his enthusiasm and made his companionship a delight to all who shared it.—W. S.

GEORGE DUPONT PRATT, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1917, died at his home in Glen Cove, Long Island, N. Y., January 20, 1935, at the age of 65. He was the son of Charles and Mary Helen (Richardson) Pratt and was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., August 16, 1869. After graduating from Amherst College in 1893 he was connected with the Long Island Railroad for several years, serving as shop hand and later as assistant to the president and superintendent of ferries. Notwithstanding varied business interests and many exacting demands on his energy he always found time for civic and public activities. As an early member of the Camp Fire Club he became interested in conservation and for 25 years served on its committee on conservation. His outstanding contribution to public service was his term as Conservation Commissioner of New York from 1915 to 1921, when he instituted many important reforms and gained the reputation of being the best Conservation Commissioner New York ever had. As a trustee of Amherst College, the American Museum of Natural History, the Metropolitan Museum, as vice president of Pratt Institute, and as president of the American Forestry Association, he performed notable service. He was particularly interested in forestry, conservation, art, and museum work and in later years withdrew from active business in order to devote more time to conservation.

George D. Pratt was 'preeminently a lover of nature's out-of-doors' and was referred to as a 'man of the trees' on account of his devotion to forestry. Quiet, unassuming, persistent and energetic, he was successful in achievement, and, possessed of ample means, was a patron of conservation, art, and science in the broadest and best sense.—T. S. P.

WILLIAM HENRY FOX, one of the Associates elected at the first meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1883, died at Washington, D. C., November 3,

1921, and was buried at Nashville, Tenn. Although associated with the Union for 38 years, no notice of his activities has thus far appeared in 'The Auk.'

He was the son of John L. Fox, Surgeon U. S. N., and Elizabeth Amory Morris Fox, and was born in Washington, D. C., Nov. 18, 1857. Had he lived a fortnight longer he would have reached the age of 64. His early education was received at St. Mark's School, at Southboro, Mass., and later he attended Sheffield Scientific School at Yale. He received the degree of M.D. in 1884 at Columbian, now George Washington University, Washington, D. C., and later spent two years at the New York Post Graduate School and at the Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital. He was an eye specialist and was in active practice in Washington for many years, where he was one of the founders of the Episcopal Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital and from 1907 to 1920 its executive officer.

Dr. Fox was deeply interested in natural history and particularly in ornithology and entomology. While still in New Haven he was elected president of the Yale Society of Natural History. His collection of birds passed into the hands of Dr. Jonathan Dwight and is now in the American Museum of Natural History in New York, and his collection of spiders was acquired by Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. In the decade from 1878 to 1887, during his college days, he contributed several notes to the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' and 'The Auk,' chiefly on birds observed on his summer trips to New Hampshire and Tennessee. His principal ornithological contribution, a 'List of Birds found in Roane County, Tennessee,' appeared in 'The Auk' for 1886. This paper included notes on 114 species observed during the spring in 1884 and 1885, and the specimens collected on these trips were deposited in the U. S. National Museum.—T. S. P.