

OBITUARIES.

DR. WILLIAM HARRY BERGTOLD, a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union died at his home in Denver, Colorado, March 19, 1936, aged seventy years. He was born in Buffalo, N. Y., on October 28, 1865, and was very active in ornithological study in that state before moving to Denver. There he continued his studies in spite of the constant pressure of his medical career and published a number of important papers as well as his notable volume on 'The Incubation Periods of Birds.' Dr. Bergtold attended the Philadelphia Meeting of the A. O. U. in 1916, and he will be remembered by those who were present on that occasion. Unfortunately the duties of his profession prevented his attending other meetings much to his regret but he kept in touch with many ornithologists by correspondence and few possessed a deeper love for birds and their study. The President of the Union will appoint a biographer to prepare a memorial to be read at the Pittsburgh meeting.

WILLIAM LOUIS ABBOTT, M.D., a Corresponding Fellow of the Union, died at his home near Northeast, Md., on April 2, 1936. He was born in Philadelphia on February 23, 1860, the son of Redman and Susan F. Abbott, and was educated at the University of Pennsylvania receiving the degree of A.B. in 1881 and M.D. in 1884. He continued his medical studies in London, England, working at Guy's Hospital and became a Licentiate of both the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons (L.R.C.P. and L.R.C.S.).

Being financially independent Dr. Abbott decided to engage in scientific exploration and field work rather than devote his life to the medical profession. He had already, during his college vacations, made collections of birds in Iowa and North Dakota (1880) as well as in Cuba and San Domingo (1883), being accompanied on the first expedition by Joseph Krider, son of the famous Philadelphia taxidermist. Dr. Abbott had also made a valuable collection of the birds of the vicinity of Philadelphia and of southern New Jersey and all of this early material he presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia where it became the basis of the great study collection since developed at that institution.

In December, 1887, he landed in East Africa where he spent two years exploring the Kilimanjaro region and making extensive collections of birds and large game animals. On his return in January, 1890, these were presented to the United States National Museum where all of his later collections have been given. He visited the Seychelle Archipelago and Madagascar in 1890, 1892, and again in 1894, but from 1891 to 1895 shifted his field of exploration largely to the Himalayas visiting Cashmere, Turkestan and Ladak, and obtaining invaluable material from regions hitherto unexplored by naturalists. In 1897 he explored Siam and for the next ten years visited Sumatra and Borneo and in his own vessel, manned by Malay sailors, cruised the coasts of Siam and the China Sea visiting many small islands the fauna of which had never before been studied. In these later explorations he devoted his attention mainly to small mammals a field which had been much neglected and offered interesting possibilities. His industry and intelligence in collecting brought together in Washington one of the finest series of birds and mammals from the regions that he covered that is to be found anywhere in the World.

Dr. Abbott was also interested in ethnology and gathered material illustrating

the habits and culture of the peoples of the remote countries that he visited all of which is likewise to be found in the National Museum.

Dr. Abbott offered his services as a surgeon to several of the allied countries during the World War but his age and physical condition prevented their acceptance and he returned to America spending the greater part of the years 1916 to 1923 in the exploration of San Domingo and Haiti, penetrating to the interior of the island and securing several birds hitherto quite unknown and unsuspected. Finally retiring from the field work which had so occupied his life, he purchased a farm in the wilder part of Elk Neck on the Elk River in Maryland where he was sufficiently removed from city life to satisfy his love of wild nature and here he spent his remaining years.

After his own field work was over he financed expeditions by others in the interests of the U. S. National Museum and in his will made provision for future work of similar character.

Dr. Abbott was one of the greatest field naturalists that America has produced and his services to natural history and geography cannot be overestimated. No single explorer, so far as we know, has ever brought together such valuable collections and observations from such a wide range of territory. He discovered a large number of new species both of birds and mammals not a few of which have been named in his honor and incidentally, with the interest of a true naturalist, secured material in several other fields as well.

His modesty and aversion to indoor work caused him to refrain from publishing any of the results of his explorations although his wealth of knowledge abundantly fitted him for such an undertaking. He took a deep interest in the Zoological Garden in Philadelphia and was for years a member of the Board of Directors of the Zoological Society as well as of the Council of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. He was in England at the time of the organization of the A. O. U. and did not become a member but in 1916 was elected a Corresponding Fellow in consideration of his services to ornithology. Dr. Abbott never married and is survived by a sister Miss Gertrude Abbott of Philadelphia.—W. S.

JOHN DAVID DIGUES LA TOUCHE, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1921, died May 6, 1935, in his 74th year, at sea, while returning home from the island of Majorca, Spain, where he had spent the winter. He was born at Tours, France, June 5, 1861 and received his education at Downside Abbey near Bath, England. He entered the Imperial Maritime Customs Service in China at the age of 21 and remained there nearly 40 years until his retirement in 1921.

Although since his election to the Union he lived in Ireland, either in Dublin or County Wicklow, his name is usually associated with China where he spent the greater part of his life and where he did most of his field work. His contributions to the ornithology of China were numerous and important, beginning with a paper in 'The Ibis' in 1887 and culminating in his 'Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China,' 1925-30, written after his return from the Orient. This manual covers the eight provinces of Chihli, Shantung, Kiangsu, Anhwei, Kiangsi, Chekiang, Fohkien and Kwangtung (see reviews in 'The Auk,' 1925, pp. 595-96 and subsequent volumes), and includes about half of the birds of China representing species of two Zoological regions—those of the Palaearctic, north of the Yangtse Valley and those of the Oriental, south of that valley.

La Touche's more important earlier papers appeared mostly in 'The Ibis' and naturally fall into two groups, those published before and after the war. In the first group should be mentioned his accounts of the birds of Foochow and Swatow

(1892), Fohkien (1905), Chinkeang (1906), and with Ogilvie-Grant, a report on the Goodfellow collection from Formosa (1907). Among the more recent ones are his 'Birds of N. E. Chihli' (1920), Hupeh (1922) and S. E. Yunnan (1923-24). He also published important observations on the migration of birds at Shawsishan Island off the mouth of the Yangtse Kiang (Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, XXIX, pp. 124-160) and at Chinwangtao, northeast of Tientsin (Ibis, 1914, pp. 560-586).

Among the important results of his field work was the rediscovery in Fohkien of *Junco siemsseni* previously known only from the type specimen. This species was subsequently made the type of a new genus by Bangs and named in his honor *La-toucheornis* (Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, XII, p. 91, 1931).

After La Touche completed his 'Handbook' he disposed of his unrivalled series of Chinese birds which were acquired by the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge and now form an important part of that great study collection.—T. S. P.

CHARLES EDWARD HOWARD AIKEN, a Life Associate of the A. O. U., who may well be termed Colorado's pioneer ornithologist died at Colorado Springs, Colo., on January 15, 1936, in his 87th year. He was born in Benson, Vermont, on September 7, 1850, the son of James E. and Ann (Howard) Aiken and in his early youth the family moved to Chicago where his father's business was wiped out by the great Chicago fire and they moved again, purchasing a ranch on Turkey Creek some eighteen miles west of Colorado Springs and settled there on October 25, 1871. Young Aiken had been collecting birds while in Chicago and probably learned the rudiments of skinning and mounting specimens from a taxidermist to whom he had sold Warblers that he had shot. As early as 1874 he opened a taxidermist shop at his home where he mounted big game heads and various other specimens, and maintained this shop even when engaged in other enterprises. For some time he had a piano and sewing machine business in Colorado Springs but throughout his life his main interest was ornithology and during his first winter in Colorado he travelled over a large area collecting skins of the many birds that were new to him while in 1876 he spent nearly a year in New Mexico and Arizona, driving a two horse wagon through the country then inhabited by the Apache Indians. All through his life he continued to collect and when in 1907 William L. Sclater, who had come to Colorado Springs to take charge of the Colorado College Museum, purchased Aiken's entire collection for the Museum he promptly began to form another.

As one of the few men in the West in those early days who were interested in birds, Aiken was known by correspondence to many of the leading ornithologists of the East. H. W. Henshaw visited him in 1873, and William Brewster, J. A. Allen and Elliott Coues called on him at his home in the years that followed, while Frank Stephens travelling to California with his wife by wagon, stopped at Aiken's home in 1874.

Aiken was a good taxidermist and not only knew how a bird should look but was able to make it look that way, while his skins were in demand among his many correspondents.

He was genial and courteous and beside his interest in birds derived pleasure from his flower garden and in breeding pointer dogs for which he won many prizes.

He published but little although he was an entertaining writer with fine powers of description. In 1873 he published "A Glimpse at Colorado and Its Birds" (American Naturalist, January, 1873) while in the same year appeared his description of *Centronyx ochrocephalus* which later proved to be Baird's Sparrow. Records of birds from Colorado appeared in 'The Auk' in 1900, 1927, 1928 and 1930,

and he collaborated with the writer in "The Birds of El Paso County" which appeared in the Colorado College Publications, Vol. 12, 1914.

Two of the birds that Aiken discovered have been named for him: *Junco aikeni* Ridgway and *Otus asio aikeni* Brewster.

I am indebted to Aiken's sisters Miss Jessie M. Aiken and Mrs. Fanny Aiken Tucker for notes and information which they kindly furnished me.—EDWARD R. WARREN.

ALBERT PITTS MORSE, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union for some years, died at Wellesley, Mass., April 29, 1936, at the age of 73. He was the son of Leonard Townsend and Addie K. Morse and a direct descendant of Samuel Morse of England who originally settled in Dedham, Mass. He was born at Sherborn, Mass., February 10, 1863, attended the local schools and graduated from the Sawin Academy in 1879.

At an early age young Morse began to collect specimens of natural history, learned taxidermy and became acquainted as far as possible with the wild life about his home. At the age of 23 he abandoned farming and took up draughting. Later he became an assistant in the Zoological Department of Wellesley College and in various capacities maintained his connection with the institution for 45 years. During this time he attended the summer school of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, took the summer course in entomology conducted by Prof. J. H. Comstock at Cornell University, and studied vertebrate zoology at Harvard College.

Morse was an all round naturalist but was primarily an entomologist, specializing in Orthoptera (grasshoppers) and Odonata (dragonflies). In 1897, at the suggestion of Samuel H. Scudder, he made a trip to the Pacific Coast to collect Orthoptera and brought back a large collection containing many new species most of which were described by Scudder. In 1903 and 1905 he was appointed a research assistant in the Carnegie Institution of Washington and awarded a fund for studying the locusts of the Southern States from Virginia to Texas. In 1901, at the request of Prof. Alpheus Hyatt, he reorganized the course of instruction in Zoology of the Teachers School of Science of the Boston Society of Natural History, and from 1909 to 1912 devoted a part of the summer vacations to teaching natural history to the young people of Woodstock, Vt., under the patronage of Miss Elizabeth Billings. With her backing he devoted his spare time for several seasons to the preparation of a monograph of the Orthoptera of New England which was published in 1920 as a 350 page volume of the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History. In 1911 he became associated with the Peabody Museum of Salem, at first in charge of insects and later as curator of natural history.

Morse's publications number more than 70 titles, mostly in entomology, but include three bird lists of Dover, Wellesley and Eastern Massachusetts. In addition to his Manual of Orthoptera, already mentioned, he prepared a report on the Orthoptera of Maine for the Experiment Station of that State, reports on his field work for the Carnegie Institution and several short notices of exhibits or activities of the Peabody Museum.

Mr. Morse was an Associate of the A. O. U. from 1922 to 1925 and was re-elected in 1930. He took an active part in entertaining the Union when it held its meeting at the Museum in Salem in 1930. He was a member of a number of other organizations including the Audubon Society of Massachusetts, Essex County Ornithological Club, Northeastern Bird Banding Association, Nuttall Ornithological Club, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Boston Society of Natural History,

Morse Science Club, and several botanical and entomological societies. These affiliations show the wide range of his scientific interests. Above all he was interested in the various phases of the world out of doors, had a large fund of general information on natural history, and was an able and inspiring teacher.

For the facts on which this notice is based, I am indebted to his associate, Mr. S. G. Emilio.—T. S. P.

MRS. ETTA S. WILSON.—Perhaps one of the most surprising features of ornithology is that it attracts persons in so many different walks of life with Mrs. Etta S. Wilson, an Associate member of the American Ornithologists' Union, for more than 18 years was an excellent example of this. She was born in Northport, Leelanau County, Michigan, on July 16, 1857, and died in Detroit, Michigan, on January 5, 1936. Her mother was Mary Jane Smith, eldest daughter of the pioneer missionary, Reverend George N. Smith, and her father was Payson Wolfe, son of an Ottawa Indian chief. Mrs. Wilson was originally christened Esther Eliza Wolfe, but from the fact that she lived with her grandfather Smith, although not regularly adopted, she became known as Etta Smith, which name from long usage became her legal signature. Under this name she was married on January 21, 1881, to Wesley T. Wilson, a descendent of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Mrs. Wilson began her career as a reporter on the Grand Rapids Herald. She was for many years connected with Detroit newspapers and wrote many stories and feature articles for these newspapers and also for magazines. She was also in demand as a lecturer. The breadth of her interest is shown by the number of societies to which she belonged. She resided for much of her life in Detroit, Michigan, and Indianapolis, Indiana.

Early in life she became interested in birds, and she took up the serious study of ornithology after recovering from a severe illness in 1906. In 1913 she became the Indiana lecturer for the National Association of Audubon Societies, which position she held for a number of years; and also in 1913 began the reports of her observations on the migratory movements of birds for the Biological Survey. Since that time she has been one of the most valuable cooperators of the Biological Survey in this capacity. She was an excellent observer, accurate and painstaking, and sent in some of the best reports that the Biological Survey has received. She was the first to report the return of the Whistling Swan to the Detroit region a number of years ago. She was also one of the best waterfowl observers that the Biological Survey had in the Great Lakes region.

Her publications are not numerous and consist chiefly of short notes and articles, the most outstanding of which is the one entitled "Personal Recollections of the Passenger Pigeon," which appeared in "The Auk" for April, 1934. In Mrs. Wilson the American Ornithologists' Union has lost a careful student, and the birds of North America a devoted friend. A partial list of her writings is added as of interest in this connection.

Bachman's Warbler and Solitary Sandpiper in Indiana. *The Auk*, XXXV, No. 2, April 5, 1918, pp. 228-229.

Late Nesting of the Red-eyed Vireo in Detroit, Michigan. *The Auk*, XXXVI, No. 1, Jan. 5, 1919, pp. 115-116.

Snowy Owl in Detroit, Michigan. *The Auk*, XXXVI, No. 4, October 31, 1919, p. 569.

Strange Conduct of a Robin. *The Auk*, XXXVI, No. 4, October 31, 1919, pp. 584-585.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) on Belle Isle, Detroit, Michigan. *The Auk*, XXXVIII, No. 2, April 15, 1921, p. 281.

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) in Michigan Waters. *The Auk*, XXXVIII, No. 3, October 5, 1921, pp. 454-455.

An Enormous Flock of Canvasbacks (*Marila valisineria*) Visit the Detroit River. *The Auk*, XXXIX, No. 2, April 17, 1922, pp. 250-251.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps urubu*) in Michigan. *The Auk*, XLII, No. 3, July 6, 1925, pp. 442-443.

Bird Lore's Twenty-Sixth Christmas Census, Detroit, Michigan. *Bird Lore*, XXVIII, No. 1, February 1, 1926, p. 38.

Bird Lore's Twenty-Ninth Christmas Census, Detroit, Michigan. *Bird Lore*, XXXI, No. 1, February 1, 1929, p. 46.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

Interesting Case of Albinism. *The Auk*, XLVII, No. 2, April 17, 1930, p. 419.

Tameness of the Saw-Whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica*). *The Auk*, XLVIII, No. 2, April 10, 1931, pp. 266-267.

Personal Recollections of the Passenger Pigeon. *The Auk*, LI, No. 2, April 4, 1934, pp. 157-168.

Additional Notes on the Passenger Pigeon. *The Auk*, LII, No. 4, October 11, 1935, pp. 412-413.

MRS. FREDERICK THOMPSON BICKNELL (Mrs. Carrie Elizabeth Fargo Bicknell), an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at the age of 79, in Los Angeles, Calif., June 17, 1934, after an illness of two years. She was the daughter of Lorenzo D. and Sarah Rich Fargo and was born at Lake Mills, Wis., May 17, 1855. From the time of her marriage to Dr. F. T. Bicknell, Dec. 6, 1882, she made her home in Los Angeles, where, in later years, she took an active part in the work of bird protection and nature study. In 1913 Mrs. Bicknell was elected an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union and a Member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, and during the decade from 1915 to 1924 she served as president of the Los Angeles Audubon Society. She also engaged actively in the work of the State Audubon Society and of the Federated Women's Clubs of California.

She was an occasional contributor to 'Bird Lore' and 'The Condor.' Among her notes in the latter journal were records of the occurrence of the Brown Pelican at Alert Bay, B. C., in July 1913; Sabine's Gull at Anaheim Landing, Calif., in August 1921; the Snowy Egret in Los Angeles County in 1922; and the Golden Plover at Playa del Rey, near Los Angeles, in October 1923.

Always alert, affable and a natural born leader, Mrs. Bicknell exerted a wide influence in her chosen circle and left a notable record of accomplishment in the fields in which she was interested.—T. S. P.