

OBITUARY

LORD LIONEL WALTER ROTHSCHILD, since 1913 an Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died on August 27, 1937. When but twenty-one years of age he definitely began his career as a naturalist by founding in 1889 his own zoological Museum in a corner of his ancestral estate at Tring, England. To this from time to time he added other buildings to accommodate the great study collections of birds, mammals, and insects which he rapidly amassed. With keen foresight he purchased many large or historic collections of birds and sent out collectors to various parts of the world to secure rare or nearly extinct species and to explore areas little known ornithologically. In this way he built up an unrivalled collection of birds, the major part of which, amounting to nearly 280,000 specimens he sold in 1931 to the American Museum of Natural History. The museum at Tring had become a Mecca for naturalists and its sumptuous publications were known and admired throughout the world. American ornithologists will regret that he could not have lived to carry out his intention of making his first visit to this country to attend the dedication of the Whitney wing at the American Museum, where now the collection on which for so many years he lavished his time and treasure, is adequately housed. Dr. R. C. Murphy writes: "His portly, white-bearded figure . . . will be sadly missed in the Tring countryside, as the loss of his generous and forceful personality will be mourned everywhere by men who study and preserve records of the infinite life on earth."