

## OBITUARIES

FRANK STEPHENS, a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died in San Diego, on October 5, 1937, as the result of being struck by a street-car ten days previously. Although he was in his eighty-ninth year, the vitality he displayed after the accident was amazing and reflected the energetic spirit which motivated his entire life as a field naturalist and collector.

Born on April 2, 1849, in a log house on a farm in Livingston County, New York, Stephens followed an ever-western trail, first with his parents and then with his bride, that brought him into the Southwest in pioneer days. To the late Charles E. Aiken, whom Stephens met at the age of twenty-four, while wintering in Colorado Springs, he gave credit for teaching him to prepare bird skins and encouraging his interest in natural history. Driving a yoke of oxen, he reached California in 1876, and settled first at Campo, in San Diego County, where the oak timber "looked very good" to him after the heat and barrenness of the Colorado Desert. From then on, he made his home most of the time in southern California, and in 1897 came to live permanently in San Diego. Shortly thereafter his first wife died, and in 1898 he married Miss Kate Brown, who has since been his close collaborator in his scientific work, and who survives him. No children were the offspring of either marriage.

Apart from his continuous interest in the securing of natural-history specimens wherever he might be, most of which are now in well-known collections, Stephens participated in several notable scientific expeditions. In 1891, he was a member of the Federal Government's Death Valley Expedition; in 1907, both he and Mrs. Stephens were collectors on the Alexander Expedition to southeastern Alaska; and in 1910 he accompanied Dr. Joseph Grinnell on the Colorado River Expedition of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. Intermittent field trips, particularly into the desert regions which appealed so strongly to him were continued almost up to the day he was stricken. The scientific names of animals and plants which bear his name offer evidence of the honor thus accorded him for his discoveries.

To Frank Stephens belongs the main credit for the development of the San Diego Society of Natural History from an obscure group of amateur naturalists to its present prominent position among the scientific organizations of the country. As member of the board of directors, secretary, field collector, taxidermist, author, man of all work—sometimes all of these together—he bore the chief burden of responsibility. In 1910, he donated to the Society his private collection of some two thousand birds and mammals, thereby laying the foundation for the subsequent continuous activity in these departments. He started the Society's scientific publications, and he was the first Director of the young and struggling museum, which, under the Society's auspices, has grown until today it occupies an imposing building in San Diego's Balboa Park. On the staff of this museum he bore the title of Curator Emeritus at the time of his death.

His versatility as a naturalist was astonishing. Ornithology, mammalogy, herpetology and even invertebrate paleontology all claimed his attention, but it is for his pioneer work with birds that he will probably be best remembered. Among the various scientific societies in which he was enrolled, he was advanced to the class of Members in the American Ornithologists' Union in 1901, to Honorary Membership in the Cooper Ornithological Club in 1912, and to Fellowship in the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1926.

His writings consisted mainly of notes and new descriptions in 'The Auk' (beginning as long ago as 1878), 'The Condor,' and similar journals; the following contribu-

tions to the 'Transactions' of the San Diego Society of Natural History: 'Life areas of California' (1905), 'An annotated list of the birds of San Diego County, California' (1919), 'An annotated list of the mammals of San Diego County, California' (1921), 'An annotated list of the amphibians and reptiles of San Diego County, California' (1921), 'Notes on the marine Pleistocene deposits of San Diego County, California,' (1929); and his largest published work, a 350-page illustrated book on 'California Mammals,' privately printed in 1906.

At the request of the editor of 'The Condor,' he prepared a short autobiography in 1918, stating at the outset, "I do not like the task." These words provide an index to a marked characteristic in Stephens—his extreme modesty. He would never talk about himself, always minimizing his accomplishments as mere routine. He was asked, when advanced in years, whether he would not be willing to relate some of his experiences of bygone days—memories of Passenger Pigeons and buffaloes, adventures with hostile Indians, and the like—and allow them to be taken down in shorthand. But he never consented. It is his life's achievements, without any verbal embellishments, that will stand indefinitely as a tribute to his memory.—C. G. ABBOTT.

MAY ROGERS (Mrs. Laurence J.) WEBSTER, who was elected an Associate of the A. O. U. in 1936, died in Boston on January 7, 1938. Born in Scituate, Massachusetts, the eldest daughter of Thomas L. and Ella S. (Nickerson) Rogers, she spent most of her life since her marriage in 1901, at Holderness, New Hampshire, where her intense interest in Nature found expression in many ways, especially in the attracting of birds about her home and in gardening. Ten years ago she began experiments in taming wild Hummingbirds, and with such success that friends and others came from far and near to see the numbers of these birds that haunted her gardens and sipped from the tubes of sweets that she prepared for them. In 1932, she founded the New Hampshire Nature Camp at Lost River, having obtained for that use the State reservation. Here each summer she personally supervised the conduct of the camp which provided a course under competent instructors to prepare teachers, camp counsellors and others for giving work in nature study. Through her wide interest in this and other undertakings, she became a member of various natural-history organizations, and was national vice-chairman of education in the Garden Club of America, vice-president of the New England Wildflower Preservation Society, as well as a member of the Massachusetts Society of Colonial Dames.—G. M. A.

JAMES J. CARROLL, a Life Associate of the Union, died at Houston, Texas, his home, February 17, 1938. This sterling gentleman, a lumberman by profession and an ornithologist by life-long interest, was born near Caldwell, Burleson County, Texas, in 1876. His father died when young James was four years old, and he was brought up by an uncle and aunt, Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Carroll. From early days he was interested in birds, and carried this interest through to the day of his death. He was married in 1903 to Miss Lena Carter, a daughter of Mr. W. T. Carter of Houston, and became attached to the great Carter interests in lumber and building materials. At the time of his death he was president of the Carter Lumber Co., vice-president of the Carter Lumber and Building Co., and sales manager of W. T. Carter & Bros. He was a director in the Union National Bank of Houston, and a member of numerous sportsman's clubs.

Mr. Carroll was an invaluable aid to Texas bird students. His wide knowledge of birds resulted in but few publications, but when these did appear they were recognized as the work of an authority. His outstanding contribution was 'The birds of

Refugio County,' which appeared in 'The Auk.' As a collaborator with the National Association of Audubon Societies, Mr. Carroll stood supreme in Texas. The saving of the Roseate Spoonbill in that State stands as a monument to him, and the increase of the Reddish Egret is largely due to his never-failing efforts. Personnel of the Association were entertained at his home, taken on inspections on his beautiful cruiser, and given every possible aid. He selected wardens for the Association, and saw to it that they were on the job.

His work in bird photography stands as a peerless accomplishment. The life studies he made of Texas coastal birds are superb in their finish, wonderful in composition and masterly in every detail. His intense modesty was such that some of his best friends hardly knew that he was one of the country's outstanding wild-life photographers. Handicapped in his later years by a stroke of paralysis, it did not stop his photographic work, and he operated his graflex with one hand. Some of his pictures were on exhibition at the Charleston meeting of the A. O. U. in 1937, and he himself attended this meeting. Two of the pictures won a gold medal in England at an International Exhibition, the subjects being a Roseate Spoonbill and a Snowy Heron.

It was Mr. Carroll's expressed wish that his body be cremated and his ashes scattered over the bird islands of the Gulf of Mexico that he loved so well. He has gone from the world but he lives in the hearts of many as a true, staunch, ever-helpful friend. He is survived by his wife, three daughters and several grandchildren. We salute his memory.—A. SPRUNT, JR.

MARY AGNES TILLISCH, an Associate Member of the A. O. U. for ten years, 1922-1932, died October 6, 1934, at the age of sixty-five. At the time of her death she had been for several years an instructor in nature study in Miss Wood's Kindergarten and Primary Training School, at Minneapolis, Minnesota. For forty years of her life she was a teacher, chiefly in kindergarten training schools and primary school departments. At one time she taught at the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Poplar, Montana. Later in life she was connected with the extension division of the University of Minnesota, and also rendered voluntary assistance in lectures to children at the University Museum of Natural History and for a time assisted with the field work of the ornithology classes. Miss Tillisch loved her work, was well prepared in the subjects she taught, had a pleasing, direct personality and, though modest as to her abilities, left a wholesome and lasting impression on the children and young people with whom she came in contact.—T. S. ROBERTS.