

## OBITUARIES

HUBERT LYNES, Rear Admiral, R.N., and an Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at a naval hospital in England, November 10, 1942, at the age of nearly 68. He was born November 27, 1874, and entered the Navy when 13 years old. Here he began a distinguished career which included thirty-two years in the service. From 1905 to 1908 he was in command of H.M.S. 'Venus' on the Mediterranean station and from 1910 to 1912 of H.M.S. 'Cadmus' on the China station. During the First World War he commanded H.M.S. 'Penelope,' 1914-1917, was in command of the Allied Naval and Marine forces, 1917-1918, commanded the Ostend forces under Admiral Keyes in blocking the canal at Zeebrugge in April, 1918, commanded H.M.S. 'Warspite,' 1918, and was present at the surrender of the High Seas Fleet, November 21, 1918. For his services he was awarded the Croix de Guerre, and was made Commander of the Legion of Honor and of the Order of Leopold in 1918. The following year he retired at his own request and was promoted to Rear Admiral, retiring in 1922.

Lynes's interest in birds and especially birds' nests developed at an early age and he never lost his interest in birds' eggs. In 1910 he accompanied Abel Chapman and Walter Buck to the Andalusian Sierras in Spain. He made twelve expeditions to Africa, covering most parts of the continent, and it was said that he probably knew more about the birds of Africa in the field than any of his contemporaries.

While working up the results of the Dafur Expedition of 1920-1922, he became interested in the Fantailed Warblers of the genus *Cisticola*. This study appeared as a special volume of 'The Ibis' in 1930 under the title 'Review of the Genus *Cisticola*' and brought him the award of the Godman-Salvin gold medal of the British Ornithologists' Union. After the publication of this volume he made four more expeditions to Africa to clear up various points for an Appendix on which he was working at the time of his death. On his last expedition in 1938, he contracted shingles which affected the sight of one eye and he arrived home in 1939 in poor health. On the outbreak of the present war he was appointed Royal Naval Officer in north Wales.

While on the Mediterranean station he made many interesting observations on the birds of the region, particularly on migration, at Malta, Crete, and Port Said, which were published in 'British Birds.' Later, with F. C. Jourdain, in 1936, he renewed his acquaintance with Egyptian birds. He was elected a member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1904 and served as Vice President in 1929. He was elected a Corresponding Fellow of the A.O.U. in 1930 and advanced to Honorary Fellow in 1941. He contributed frequently to 'The Ibis' and 'British Birds.' Most of his field notes and particularly his notes on the birds collected in China, together with his 'bird log' containing notes, sketches, and maps, were lost during the First World War when his cabin on the 'Penelope' was blown up by a torpedo from a submarine.

Admiral Lynes never married and when not on sea duty was under the watchful care of his devoted sister, Miss Lynes. He was described as an "outstanding character who had ideas of his own and carried them through, devoted to duty, a man of great generosity and the best of companions. He was handicapped by gun deafness but this was offset by an extremely quick eye. He was often impetuous but prepared for action or an expedition in a most methodical way." A more extended account of his activities, by H. F. Witherby, from which this

sketch is condensed, may be found in 'British Birds' for January, 1943, pp. 156-158.  
—T. S. PALMER.

HUGH McCORMICK SMITH, an Honorary Life Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, elected in 1886, died in Washington, D. C., Sept. 28, 1941, in his 76th year. He was the son of Thomas Croggon and Cornelia Frances (Hazard) Smith and was born in Washington, Nov. 21, 1865. His education was acquired in the public and high schools of the Capital and the Medical School of Georgetown University, from which he received the degree of M.D. in 1888. After graduation he did some postgraduate medical work in New York and later was awarded the degree of LL.D. by Dickinson College in 1908.

His life work in fisheries began in 1886 with his appointment by Prof. S. F. Baird as assistant in the U. S. Fish Commission. Here his promotion was steady from the lowest to the highest grades. He held successively the positions of Assistant in charge of the Division of Fisheries, 1892-1897, Assistant in charge of Scientific Inquiry, 1897-1903, Director of the Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., 1901-1902, Special Agent in charge of Fisheries in the 10th Census, and when the Fish Commission was made a bureau of the Department of Commerce, Deputy Commissioner, 1903-1913, and Commissioner of Fisheries, 1913-1922. During this time he traveled extensively and visited 22 foreign countries, represented the United States at various International Fisheries Congresses and served as Secretary General of the International Fisheries Congress of 1908. After his retirement as Commissioner of Fisheries, he visited Uruguay to investigate the fur seal rookeries on the Lobos Islands. In 1923 he became adviser in Fisheries to the Siamese Government and in 1926 Director of the Department of Fisheries of Siam. His work in fisheries was recognized abroad by the award of seven medals, including two from the Government of Siam.

During his student days, Smith was active in collecting birds with William Palmer and C. W. Richmond in the vicinity of Washington and obtained the data for the series of notes published in 'The Auk' from 1885 to 1902. Later, during a residence of twelve years, between 1923 and 1934, in Siam, he collected a series of nearly 6500 birds which formed, in part, the basis of J. H. Riley's comprehensive report on 'The Birds from Siam and the Malay Peninsula, in the U. S. National Museum collected by Dr. Hugh M. Smith and William L. Abbott,' 1938. One of his principal contributions to Ichthyology was a volume on 'The Fishes of North Carolina' published by the state Geological and Economic Survey in 1907.

Dr. Smith took an active part in scientific work and was a member of a number of organizations. He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of the American Society of Naturalists, American Fisheries Society (president, 1907-1908), National Geographic Society, Biological Society of Washington (president, 1919), Washington Academy of Sciences and the Medical Society of the District of Columbia. He is survived by his widow and two daughters, Mrs. Carl H. Clanky, Jr., of Washington, and Mrs. E. V. Cowdry of St. Louis, Missouri.—T. S. PALMER.

LUCY HUNTER BAIRD, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union for nearly 14 years, died in Philadelphia, Pa., June 19, 1913, at the age of 65. Thirty years have passed since her death but no account of her activities has thus far appeared in 'The Auk.' She was born in Carlisle, Pa., Feb. 8, 1848, the only child of Spencer Fullerton and Mary Helen Churchill Baird. Her father in later years

was Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and her grandfather on her mother's side was Quartermaster General of the Army. During the greater part of her life she lived in Washington, but in later years, after the death of her parents, she resided in Philadelphia.

In the last decade of her father's life she assisted him in a secretarial capacity in connection with his work in the Smithsonian Institution and the U. S. Fish Commission. When only 13 years of age she had the distinction of having a bird, now known as *Vermivora luciae*, named in her honor. This lovely little warbler, characteristic of Arizona, New Mexico, and the valley of the Colorado River in California, was discovered by Dr. J. G. Cooper, near Fort Mojave on the Colorado River, and described by him. In this connection it is interesting to recall that Dr. Cooper, while in Washington preparing for his field work, was a member of the 'Megatherium Club,' a Smithsonian dining club over which Lucy Baird exercised a motherly supervision.

At the first Philadelphia meeting of the A.O.U., in 1899, Miss Baird was elected an Associate of the Union. Her chief contribution to ornithology was her collection of material for a life of her father. For years it was her ambition to prepare his biography, and for this purpose she assembled a wealth of letters, notes, reminiscences, photographs, and other memorabilia, but failing health prevented her from completing this project. At her death she bequeathed the collection to her executor with instructions to have it worked up by a competent biographer. The task was entrusted to her father's friend and associate, Dr. W. H. Dall, who in 1915, two years after her death, published a comprehensive work entitled 'Spencer Fullerton Baird, a Biography.' The volume of 462 pages was dedicated "to the memory of a devoted daughter, Lucy Hunter Baird," and included a reproduction of her portrait opposite p. 416. Miss Baird is interred with her parents in Washington, D. C., in the Churchill vault in Oak Hill Cemetery.—T.S. PALMER.

SARAH LUCY (COLLIER) BLOOMFIELD (MRS. CHARLES CUNNINGHAM BLOOMFIELD), an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, elected in 1901, died at her home in Jackson, Mich., Feb. 18, 1941, as the result of a stroke of apoplexy which she had suffered ten days earlier. At the time of her death, Mrs. Bloomfield was the oldest American member of the Union, having attained the advanced age of ninety and one-half years. She was born Aug. 9, 1850, on a farm eleven miles west of Jackson, about midway between Concord and Parma, Mich., and at the age of fourteen went to Jackson to attend school. Four years later, in 1868, she graduated from the Normal College in Ypsilanti after specializing in music.

In 1870 she married Charles Cunningham Bloomfield, a prominent business man of Jackson, who died in 1923. Twenty years after her marriage she was elected a member of the Jackson School Board and in 1893 became president of the Board. It was said that she was then the first woman in the country to become head of a school board. Mrs. Bloomfield was active in social and cultural affairs almost up to the time of her death. In later years as her sight began to fail she allowed her membership in the Union to lapse but at the Boston meeting, in 1940, she was reelected as an Associate only four months prior to her death. She is survived by two sons, Arthur C. and Leigh C. Bloomfield, and three grandsons.—T. S. PALMER.

GEORGE JOHN CLOUT, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died on May 11, 1941, in St. Catharines, Ontario, the Canadian city in which he had made his home ever since the end of the last great war. He was born in the

village of Pembury, near Tunbridge Wells, in the county of Kent, England, on May 5, 1885, and came to Canada when a young man. In England, he would appear to have had just a normal country boy's interest in the local bird life around his home, and it was not until he had been in Canada for a number of years that his latent love of nature found expression in more serious field studies of the very different and much more varied avifauna of his adopted homeland.

George Clout was very interested in boys' work; on many occasions he gave lectures on birds to school children, and was an enthusiastic leader among local Scouts and Rovers. It was this work among boys of eager and inquiring mind that helped so much to foster and increase his own knowledge of birds in the field, and shortly before his untimely death at the age of only 56, he had acquired a reputation as one of the most active nest-finders in southern Ontario, a circumstance which is amply evidenced by the repeated references to his Lincoln County nesting records in 'The Distribution of Breeding Birds in Ontario' by J. L. Baillie, Jr., and Paul Harrington (Trans. Roy. Can. Inst., Vol. 21, parts 1 and 2, 1936 and 1937).

Beyond an occasional letter, or short article, on bird-life appearing in the local St. Catharines newspapers, Clout did not publish anything; but he did generously contribute some excellent notes and observations, in addition to those mentioned above, to several articles published by others, in particular to 'A Preliminary List of the Birds of Lincoln and Welland Counties, Ontario' by Sheppard, Hurlburt, and Dickson (Can. Field-Nat., Sept.-Dec., 1936), and to an addendum to that list by Sheppard (Can. Field-Nat., March, 1939).

In addition to being an Associate of the Union, Clout was a member of the Wilson Club and a subscriber to the 'Canadian Field-Naturalist,' as well as an active member, and one time District Chairman, of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. Many of George Clout's notes and records, especially on the breeding birds of the St. Catharines area, are preserved in the files of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology in Toronto, while a fairly complete set of his general records covering four years, 1936 to 1939 inclusive, are filed in the writer's private library at Niagara Falls. His fine philosophy of life in general, his almost boyish enthusiasms, and constant thirst for additional knowledge of the local bird-life, as well as his ever-generous nature in sharing his findings with others, will long be remembered by all who enjoyed his friendship or had the privilege of talking with him upon his favorite subject of Natural History.—R. W. SHEPPARD, *Niagara Falls, Ontario*.

FRED LEROY HOMER, an Associate of The American Ornithologists' Union, was the son of Jacob and Sarah Homer, born October 13, 1870, in Delaware Township, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, near the village of New Hamburg, and died September 26, 1930, in Pittsburgh. He was, inferentially, a descendant of that Jacob Hommer, a native of Germany, who in 1809 settled in West Salem Township, Mercer County, upon a tract of land that lies partly within the limits of the present borough of Greenville. He was graduated from Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania, with the class of 1895 and with the degree of A.B. Subsequently he received a master's degree in English from Harvard.

He became a teacher, and in 1909 he came from Warren, Pennsylvania, to McKeesport. Two years later he went to the Central High School, Pittsburgh, and thence in 1916 to the newly completed Schenley High School, Pittsburgh. There

he continued to the end of his life. His subject was English Literature. He made effective many departmental improvements in the school system of the city; and he promoted in his own school extra-curricular activity.

Mr. Homer never married. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1928 he became a trustee of Allegheny College. In 1924 he became an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, and he continued in the associate membership through the remaining six years of his life.

His chief interests were in English literature and in natural history. He published an annotated edition of Milton's poems; and, in 1923, a small pamphlet for use by school children, entitled 'Some Common Birds and Wild Flowers.' He furnished for the preparation of Todd's 'Birds of Western Pennsylvania' a list of the birds of New Hamburg. His notebooks and journals are in the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh.—BAYARD H. CHRISTY.

WILLIAM JAMES RUSLING, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, elected in 1941, was killed in an automobile accident in Piscataway Township, near New Brunswick, New Jersey, August 16, 1942. At the time of his death he was on his way to the northern part of New Jersey for a field trip. He was the son of Frederick E. and the late Charlotte (Taylor) Rusling and was born in West Caldwell, New Jersey, May 12, 1912. He attended Montclair (N. J.) Academy and Hobart College. At the time of his death he was employed by the Atlantic Diesel Corporation, New Brunswick.

Rusling's main interest was ornithology, especially hawks and owls, but he was well versed in the entire field of vertebrate zoology, as well as botany. During the fall of 1935 he was Audubon Warden at the Witmer Stone Wildlife Sanctuary, Cape May, New Jersey, and the following fall was sent to the southern part of Cape Charles, Virginia, to study the hawk migration. A great deal of his time was spent studying the ridge flight of hawks in New Jersey. At the time of his death he had just finished a three-year-study of the feeding habits of owls.

Beside holding membership in the Union, Rusling was a charter member of the Urner Ornithological Club, of which he had been president (1940-41), and a member of the Montclair Bird Club, the New Jersey Field Ornithologists' Society, and Theta Delta Chi.—WILLIAM F. RAPP, JR.