

## OBITUARIES

GEORGE FINLAY SIMMONS, a Life Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died in Chicago, Illinois, July 20, 1955. He was born in Sherman, Texas, October 25, 1895. In 1910, at the age of fifteen, he became an Associate of the Union, and in 1923, a Member. After beginning the study of law in Houston, Texas (1913-14), he eventually specialized in zoology. The degree of B.A. (1921) and that of M.A. (1922) were received from the University of Texas. The University of Chicago granted him the degree of Ph.D. in 1934.

Among his early and varied activities were: stenographer, secretary, and law clerk (1913-14); feature writer for the Houston Post (1912-15); reporter on the Houston Chronicle (1916); secretary of police in Houston (1916-17); assistant editor and editor of the Longhorn Magazine (1919-22); assistant, and instructor in zoology, and assistant in comparative anatomy, University of Texas (1919-22); and chief deputy commissioner, Texas Game, Fish, and Oyster Commission (1923).

He was leader of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History Expedition to the South Atlantic (1923-26), and simultaneously captain of the three-masted exploring ship 'Blossom.' In a period of two and one-half years, and after a voyage of 20,000 miles, 13,000 specimens in natural history were collected. From 1926-29, he was Curator of Ornithology at the Cleveland Museum. In the period 1927-31, he lectured on the biological sciences at Western Reserve University, and also lectured under the Alber and affiliated bureaus. He taught at Montana State University from 1936-41, during part of which time he was President of this institution. In 1942, he became associated with the University of Chicago, and at the time of his death was Associate Professor of anatomy at Loyola University School of Medicine.

A long, illustrated article, 'Sinbads of Science' (National Geographic Magazine, 1927, 52: 1-75), was written by him, describing the voyage of the 'Blossom.' His formal ornithological writings were quite limited. Two short papers were printed in the Auk (1914; 1915) and one on bird migration at Houston in the Wilson Bulletin (1914). His book, 'Birds of the Austin Region' (1925), is a well-known reference work.—A. W. SCHORGER.

DR. T. S. PALMER, secretary of the A.O.U. from 1917 to 1937 and long an active member of the Committee on Biography, died on July 23, 1955, at the age of 87.