

OBITUARIES

Our Corresponding Fellow, GUSTAV KRAMER, lost his life in Calabria on April 19, 1959, at the age of 49 years, while attempting to secure wild young Rock Doves from their nest on a cliff. An unusually brilliant research career thus came to a premature end. The loss to ornithological science is evident when we review Kramer's fundamental discoveries, among which sun orientation and the existence of an internal clock are best known. The role of allometry in phyletic evolution was another of his research interests, and again he revitalized the field by novel methods and findings. Whoever met Kramer was at once impressed by the enormous clarity of his thinking and by his ability to free himself from time-honored assumptions. He was revered by his friends for his complete integrity, reliability, and warm humor. Unselfish and sensitive, brilliant and modest, an intellectual and yet a romantic, he was an unforgettable personality. Ornithology has lost one of its leaders.

For a detailed biography (with bibliography) by E. Stresemann see *Zeitschr. Tierpsych.*, 16: 257-266 (1959).—ERNST MAYR.

LOGAN JOHNSON BENNETT, an Elective Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died suddenly on 12 September 1957, in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the age of 50, while attending the annual meeting of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners. He was Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, a position he had held since 1953. He was born in Festus, Missouri, on 29 August 1907, received his B.S. from Central College, Fayette, Missouri, in 1930, and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Iowa State in 1932 and 1937. His doctoral thesis, "The Blue-winged Teal, its ecology and management," published in 1938, is an authoritative treatise on the life history and ecological problems of the species in the prairie states.

Dr. Bennett joined the A.O.U. in 1934 and was elected an Elective Member in 1946. His positions in the wildlife management field before his Pennsylvania appointment included those of Game Technician, Iowa State Conservation Commission, 1934-1935; Leader, Iowa Cooperative Research Unit, Iowa State College, 1935-1938; Leader, Pennsylvania Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, 1938-1943; senior biologist in charge of cooperative wildlife research program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1947-1948; and Chief, Branch of Wildlife Research, 1948-1953. During the war years he served in the South Pacific as a naval lieutenant (senior grade) on malaria-control work.

He was a charter member and past president of the Wildlife Society and a member of numerous other professional societies. Game management was his profession, and outdoor life was his hobby, a combination which fitted him admirably for his position with the Pennsylvania Game Commission. He could see both the conservationist's and sportsman's side of a controversy with understanding, yet make a decision with the respect of both. His testimony before a Pennsylvania Senate committee on the impracticability of the previous hawk statute contributed greatly to the passage of the present law, which effectively stopped the slaughter along the ridges of the northeastern portion of the state.

He wrote a book, "The Training of Grouse and Woodcock Dogs," and contributed many papers in the field of wildlife management and on sporting dogs and hunting. He published twice in "The Auk," a short note (1937) on the first recorded breeding of the Canvasback in Iowa, and, as co-author, a paper (1939) on the adaptability of birds to changed environment.—PHILLIPS B. STREET.

PRINCE NOBUSUKE TAKA-TSUKASA, a Corresponding Fellow, was born on April 29, 1889, and died in Tokyo on February 1, 1959. The head of one of the oldest noble families of the Japanese Court, he was a lover of birds and nature, and he made a serious study of Natural History, particularly ornithology and aviculture, graduating at the Zoological Institute, Faculty of Science, Imperial University of Tokyo in 1914, obtaining a doctor's degree in 1943. He became president of the Ornithological Society of Japan in 1922 and held that position until 1946. He was a special member of the Hunting Committee of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry since 1923, and a member of the Study of Natural Sciences Committee since 1940.

Prince Taka-Tsukasa traveled widely through Europe and the United States in 1924 and 1925 to pursue his bird studies. I met him then in London and in Paris and we soon became close friends. He was a most kind host to me during my visits to Japan in 1926 and 1927, showing me many interesting native birds, and helping me in gathering collections.

He took an active part in the promotion of bird studies in his country, keeping himself large collections of both live birds and skins. Besides various papers in the ornithological magazines of Japan and of other different countries, he published the following books:

- 1917 Kaidori [Cage birds]; 1928, 6th ed., 700 pages, col. pls. and text-figs.
- 1930 Kaidori Shusei [Coloured Plates of Cage Birds in Japan]. 320 pp., 61 col. pls.
- 1932-38 The Birds of Nippon. Vol. I (In English).
- 1941 Japanese Birds (In English) 132 pp. 1 col. pl. (front), and many photos. Tourist Library: 35.
- 1944 Studies on the Galli of Nippon.

If it had been completed, his "Birds of Nippon" would have been a magnificent work. The only part published, Game Birds, is detailed, well conceived, and indeed excellent.

A cordial, genuine man, Prince Taka-Tsukasa was hard hit by the last war, losing his home and his collections. From his letters which reached me regularly through the years, one could realize that he never became bitter nor discouraged. As the High Priest of the Meiji Shrine, he lived his last years in a beautiful park where wild birds abound despite its location in Tokyo and he enjoyed them greatly.

A number of birds have been named after him and he described with Dr. Yamashina a very interesting new White-eye from Ponapé, *Cynnirochyncha longirostra* (1931).

Prince Taka-Tsukasa, beside being a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, was a member of most of the ornithological societies of the world.—J. DELACOUR.