

OBITUARIES

LOKE WAN THO, of Singapore, a Life Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, and his wife Mavis, died with all other occupants of an airliner in a crash on Taiwan, June 20, 1964.

Oriental ornithologists, outside Japan, are not numerous. The death of the still youthful Loke, who was a purposeful observer and extraordinarily skilled photographer of birds, a power in undertakings toward the conservation of natural resources, and a man of memorably winning personality, will be widely and deeply felt.

Many American and other Western naturalists will recall his presence at the International Ornithological Congress at Ithaca in 1962. Previously he had attended the congresses at Basel, 1954, and Helsinki, 1958. In 1962 he was also Malaysian delegate at Seattle to the Conference of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the First World Conference on National Parks. His kindred affiliations included the British Ornithologists' Union, the International Council for Bird Preservation, the British Wildfowl Trust, and organizations of similar aims in the Far East.

Dato (*Dato*, a conferred honorific title in Malaya, stems from the word for "grandfather.") Loke, scion of a notable Chinese family that had resided for generations in Malaya, was educated at Victoria Institution in Kuala Lumpur, Chillon College in Switzerland, and King's College, Cambridge University. At the last he received the degree of M.A., with honors in English literature and history, in 1936. He subsequently studied at the School of Economics, London University. His predilection for competitive sport is attested by a long-jump championship won in Switzerland and membership on the London University badminton team.

Escaping from Singapore with nearly fatal bombing injuries early in World War II, Loke arrived at Bombay and entered into close and productive association with the distinguished Indian ornithologist, Salim Ali. Their friendship and cooperation in field work continued until Loke's death.

Dato Loke has published in the venerable *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* and in Malayan scientific media. His principal ornithological work, however, is *A company of birds* (London, Michael Joseph, Ltd., 1957). This book is partly autobiographical. It recounts his expeditions in India, New Guinea, and Malaysia, describes his eminently successful photographic techniques, and makes use of more than 70 of his superb bird portraits. One series of these, picturing the White-bellied Sea Eagle, involved the formidable engineering feat of erecting a bamboo tower 130 feet high! These illustrations by no means exhaust his file of the best, many appearing elsewhere. An example that seems to us to attain the very pinnacle of bird photography is an Anhinga reproduced on page 61 of E. T. Gilliard's *Living birds of the world* (New York, Doubleday, 1958). This bird, an Indian darter on its nest, was photographed in the beautiful sanctuary of the Maharaja of Bharatpur, not far from Agra. Loke had also made a considerable beginning in recording the songs of Malayan birds on tape, and had assembled in his home an extensive ornithological library.

Dato Loke inherited and expanded very large business responsibilities. He was also active in virtually every aspect of educational and cultural life in his country. He was Pro-Chancellor of the University of Malaya and Chairman of the Singapore National Library Board. As old friends who have lived in his home (as he has in ours) we want, however, to restrict our concluding paragraph to his character and temperament.

Loke Wan Tho fulfilled all the requirements of a truly civilized human being. He was the negation of Kipling's dictum which begins, "East is East and West is West." To Wan Tho all men were brothers. At the funeral service in Kuala Lumpur, the presiding Methodist bishop stated that ostentation had been unknown to him and that he had never made any man feel inferior. That he delighted to assist and honor all who shared his interests is less noteworthy than that his household servants and business employees obviously held him in affection. A refreshing esteem was exhibited even by his rivals in industry. He was modest, courteous, charmingly whimsical, generous, and unabashed in the warmth and constancy of his friendships. The young Nation of Malaya is sadly poorer for losing him.—ROBERT C. MURPHY AND GRACE E. B. MURPHY.

LAURENCE MARKHAM HUEY, member of the A.O.U. since 1920 and elective member since 1932, died in San Diego, California, June 11, 1963. Mr. Huey was a native son of California, born in the Tia Juana Valley of San Diego County, September 6, 1892. He was proud of the fact that he was self-educated, never having gone to school beyond the eighth grade. At the age of 15 he was supporting himself and his adopted aunt by working in a planing mill while carrying on his already well developed interest in natural history. At the age of 16 he became a Junior Member of the San Diego Society of Natural History, and in 1923, a charter member of the Fellows of the Society, the group which he served later as President and as Secretary. He was Curator of Birds and Mammals at the San Diego Natural History Museum for 38 years, retiring in 1962; from January 1946 to February 1947 he was Acting Director of the Museum.

Mr. Huey was an authority on the birds and mammals of Baja California, Mexico, having made many trips to the area. He also collected and studied the fauna of California, Utah, and Arizona, and contributed a major report on the birds and mammals of Organ Pipe National Monument of the last state. His bibliography contains 164 titles, several published in *The Auk*, and includes descriptions of 84 species and subspecies of birds and mammals.

In addition to the A.O.U., he was a member of the Cooper and Wilson Ornithological societies, American Society of Mammalogists, Society of Systematic Zoology, and Biological Society of Washington.—H. HOWARD.

PAUL HAHN, a member of the A.O.U. since 1960, died at his summer cottage at Balsam Lake, near Toronto, Ontario, on July 20, 1962, at the age of 87.

A member of a public-spirited family, distinguished in the fields of art and music, Paul himself was a professional cello soloist in his younger days. He had his own piano business in Toronto, was Canadian agent for Steinway's from 1927 to 1943, and retired in 1955. His father, Dr. Otto Hahn, was a lawyer and an expert on fossils and meteorites.

At the New York meeting of the A.O.U. in 1958, Paul presented a paper on his experiences collecting specimens of Passenger Pigeons from old cases of birds, and over a 44-year period (1918–1960), he presented no fewer than 70 of these, salvaged from attics, cellars, and garages, to the Royal Ontario Museum. At the R.O.M., a habitat group of this species, constructed in 1935, and a book, *The Passenger Pigeon in Ontario* (1935), by Margaret H. Mitchell, were inscribed in his honor.

With his brother, Emanuel, the sculptor, he amassed what was probably the largest private collection of Lepidoptera in Canada. For these and other benefactions, he was made a patron of the museum in 1955.

In 1960, at the Ann Arbor meeting, Paul told the convention of circulating from the R.O.M. in 1957 a questionnaire to the museums and private collectors of the world to ascertain the whereabouts of and data for the extant specimens of this and six other extinct or near-extinct North American birds. The results of this inquiry, published by the R.O.M. under the title *Where is that vanished bird?* (Toronto, Royal Ontario Museum, 1963, 347 pp.), list the specimens and the label data for Passenger Pigeons (1,532 + 16 skeletons), Eskimo Curlews (365 + 2), Great Auks (78 + 4), Ivory-billed Woodpeckers (413 + 5), Whooping Cranes (309 + 9), Carolina Parakeets (720 + 15), and Labrador Ducks (54) known to be preserved in collections. A significant addition to ornithological literature, this book will not only be a lasting monument to Paul's zeal but also will be a boon to curators everywhere.

Born in Wurttemberg, Germany, May 11, 1875, Paul came to Toronto, Canada, in 1898. He is survived by his widow, formerly Grace Bickford Delamare; a daughter, Mrs. Donald D. Hogarth; a son, Paul D.; and four grandchildren.—J. L. BAILLIE.

JULIAN KENT POTTER died suddenly at his home in Goshen, Cape May County, New Jersey, on January 11, 1963, a few weeks short of his eightieth birthday. His wife, Elizabeth Taylor Potter, survives. He was born in South Vineland, New Jersey, on March 27, 1883, and was a lifelong resident of southern New Jersey, in which area he was the recognized premier field ornithologist. Upon retirement from business in 1953, he was manager of the Philadelphia office of the First Camden National Bank and Trust Company, with which institution he spent his entire business career.

Potter joined the A.O.U. in 1912 and was made an Elective Member in 1943. He contributed many "general notes" to *The Auk* on ornithological events in New Jersey and coauthored a paper (1925) on Barn Owl behavior. He was also a frequent contributor to *Cassinia*, the journal of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, which he served as Secretary from 1919 to 1930, as Vice President, and as President from 1933 to 1935. He was elected an Honorary Member in 1954.

From 1917 to 1960, Potter served as regional editor of *Bird-Lore* and its successor, *Audubon Field Notes*, and the records published therein reflected his insistence on accuracy. He knew most of the observers well and screened their reports with great, yet tactful, proficiency.

Perhaps Julian's greatest contribution to ornithology was the interest he instilled in others. I know at least two dozen Delaware Valley ornithologists who owe much of their interest and knowledge today to the association they were privileged to share in the field with "Pot."—PHILLIPS B. STREET.

DONALD JOHN NICHOLSON.—I first met Don Nicholson, a Life Member of the A.O.U., in Orlando, Florida, in the mid-1930's. From that time until the Gainesville, Florida, meeting of the A.O.U. in 1963, I have had intermittent contact with him in the field, his home, and at various ornithological meetings. It is not often that one forms a friendship with a man like him, for there are few indeed of his particular caliber. He was, in the vernacular, a "character," but withal a most engaging and interesting one.

Nicholson's parents were Canadians but moved to central Florida and Don was born near Orlando on July 10, 1892. Originally engaged in the bakery business, as was his father, he became much interested in citrus fruits and went into their cultivation full time, with continual success. Birds interested him early in his life and occupied his spare time throughout the remainder of it. By 1910 he had become familiar with the species of north-central Florida to an extent that few others had. He then began

to extend his field work to more southern regions, such as the Kissimmee Prairie and Lake Okeechobee areas. Later, he often visited the Everglades and the Keys for species he could not find elsewhere, such as the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow and Great White Heron.

Samuel A. Grimes, of Jacksonville, Florida, long his friend and field companion, has said that "he knew more about the breeding birds of peninsular Florida than any other man," an opinion with which I completely concur.

During the years when Arthur Howell was doing field work preparatory to publishing his *Florida bird life* in 1932, Don often accompanied him and proved an invaluable source of information and guidance. Copious references were made by Howell to this help. My revision of that book, published in 1954, carries further information furnished by Nicholson.

Rather slight and spare of build, he possessed indefatigable energy and determination. His contribution to ornithology is one that time will not dim and it will always be his monument. Its real basis lay in his passion for oology, which consumed every hour he could find to put into it. Never was there a more avid egg collector, and his records of incubation, nesting behavior, and distribution were carefully kept. He published his findings often in *The Auk* and *The Florida Naturalist*. His letters to friends were voluminous; he seldom used a typewriter, and sheet after sheet were covered with his readily legible handwriting.

One of his friends wrote me just recently that: "If he wrote to many people such lengthy and enthusiastic letters, as he did to me during the latter years of his life, he must have had little sleep." Many could say "amen" to that!

His ability at nest finding was phenomenal. Elusive species such as the Black Rail and Dusky Seaside Sparrow did not elude Don Nicholson, and Merritt's Island was one of his favored stamping grounds. His great collection of eggs, carefully kept and documented, is a great asset to Florida ornithology but I regret to say that I am unaware of its final disposition. Some years ago he made a sort of half-hearted effort to sell it, much to the surprise of many of us who knew what great store he set by it, but nothing came of it.

During the Gainesville meeting of the A.O.U., in 1963, he seemed to be everywhere at once, alert, vigorous, declaiming on this or that subject, but always punctuating it with some reference to birds. The passing of Don Nicholson on May 19, 1964, marked the end of an era in Florida ornithology. He was truly a remarkable figure.—
ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR.

ROSALIE BARROW EDGE died in New York City on November 30, 1962, at the age of 85, terminating a 35-year career of militant, dramatic, and effective dedication to America's wildlife and national parks. She was born on Stuyvesant Square on November 3, 1877, and lived most of her life in New York. After her marriage to an English engineer, Charles Noel Edge, in Japan in 1909, she applied her vigorous mind and interest in social reform to the women's suffrage movement in America. After passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, she became interested in birds, and Dr. Willard Van Name stimulated her concern about America's natural resources, especially wildlife and the need for more national parks. She was a member of the American Ornithologists' Union from 1938 until her death.

In 1929, she and Dr. Van Name founded the Emergency Conservation Committee to alert public opinion to causes they believed were not receiving adequate attention by other organizations. Armed with trenchant pamphlets, written by Mrs. Edge or

by leading authorities—more than 1,000,000 copies of over 100 pamphlets were issued between 1929 and the 1950's—she soon became one of the most effective and influential conservationists in the country. Forceful, sincere, and fearless, she gained national recognition, overcame early resentments, and was honored for her dedication and integrity.

Early efforts of the Committee led to changes in the administrative structure of the National Association of Audubon Societies and to greater vigor in its programs in behalf of birds and mammals. At the same time, Mrs. Edge began to campaign for endangered wildlife, particularly raptors, and published some of the earliest educational material about them.

This interest led to her most famous exploit, the establishment of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania to halt the slaughter of hawks at this key point on their autumn flyway. Much of her attention in her later years was devoted to finding funds to ensure permanence of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association and to increase its educational program and influence in encouraging many states (Pennsylvania is not one of them) to adopt model hawk laws. Her son Peter succeeded her as president after her death.

She pleaded for Federal legislation to protect Bald and Golden eagles, successfully stopped the killing of White Pelicans in Yellowstone National Park, was largely responsible, with William T. Hornaday, for the prohibition of waterfowl shooting over baited waters, fought for sound game laws, campaigned against the steel trap, and stimulated action on many other fronts.

Her campaigns in behalf of national parks were as notable, if less widely known. She started long, complex, and apparently hopeless appeals to the public and its officials, never accepted discouragement, and saw every one of her campaigns meet with success to some degree. With the help of President Roosevelt and Mr. John D. Rockefeller, the 10,000-acre Carls Inn Tract of sugar pines was added to Yosemite National Park. Olympic National Park was established in 1938, largely because of her efforts. Kings Canyon National Park was one of John Muir's dreams, long in abeyance, until Mrs. Edge led in securing the necessary legislation. She successfully revived interest in adding the South Calaveras grove of *Sequoia gigantea* to the California state park system.

Apart from the contributions Rosalie Edge made to practical conservation during a period when relatively few forces were marshalled in its behalf, her career is an example of a force vitally needed in the American democracy. She represented the individual citizen conscience, the determination that it is everyone's responsibility to serve the cause he believes in personally, vigorously, honestly, independently, and modestly, not for acclaim, but simply because there is a job to be done.—FRED M. PACKARD.