

OBITUARIES

STEPHEN S. GREGORY, JR., born in Chicago May 20, 1888, attended the Chicago Latin School, received his A.B. from Yale University in 1911, and M.E. from the University of Wisconsin in 1913. He was the organizer and later president of the firm of Gregory, De Long, and Holt, Inc., professional investment advisers. Stephen Gregory's loyalty to the A.O.U. was lifelong. He became an Associate Member in 1906, was made an Elective Member in 1934, and because of his knowledge of financial matters served on the Endowment Committee of the A.O.U. 1943-49, on the Finance Committee 1951-54, and was Chairman of the Investing Trustees from 1956-60. He was a president of the Chicago Ornithological Society, a director of the Illinois Audubon Society for some years, and with his brother Tappan Gregory, a noted mammalogist and photographer, was a charter member of the Kennicott Club, founded April 28, 1930, in the Chicago Academy of Sciences (after Robert Kennicott, first director of the Academy). Mr. Gregory served this organization as counsellor 1930-32 and 1933-34, as vice-president 1932-33, and as president 1933-34. In addition, Stephen Gregory was a member of the Wilson Ornithological Society, the Cooper Ornithological Society, and the American Society of Mammalogists. He was one of three Investing Trustees of the last for six years, and attended annual meetings regularly to present the Trustees' report.

As an ardent young naturalist, Steve observed the coming and going of birds in the Chicago area, kept good records, and reported his data to the U. S. Biological Survey. A letter from W. W. Cooke on file in the Chicago Academy of Sciences, dated June 25, 1907, reads: "Thank you most heartily for your extra good notes on the arrival of birds this spring. We are glad to enroll you on the list of our observers."

Steve began building a collection of birds on January 19, 1919, when he shot a Clapper Rail in Gulf Coast marshes near Gulfport, Mississippi, an area he visited often through the years. A federal collecting permit was secured that he might keep the specimen and in the ensuing years he held state licenses from Mississippi, Michigan, and Illinois. He purchased the noteworthy Ruthven Deane collection, mainly birds of New England, and the Benjamin T. Gault series from Illinois as well as numerous warblers from the Klotz collection, and many selected skins from other naturalists. The 4,000 specimens accumulated by Stephen Gregory, beautifully preserved in the Gregory home at Northbrook, Illinois, were bequeathed to his wife Jean. Included were four Passenger Pigeons, five Ivory-billed Woodpeckers, and six Carolina Parakeets. Except for 240 Michigan skins, all were given by Mrs. Gregory to the Chicago Academy of Sciences where, according to Director Dr. William J. Beecher, they are permanently installed in new steel cabinets given by friends in memory of Stephen Gregory. The Michigan birds, chiefly from the Huron Mountain region of the Northern Peninsula, contained many valuable specimens including breeding records of Pigeon Hawks and the Sitka race of Red Crossbills. They were placed in the collection of the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan.

Stephen Gregory's passing will be mourned by hundreds of his associates, among them the undersigned, who was privileged to be a friend over 40 years. Many of the younger generation of ornithologists will recall his friendly thoughtfulness in boosting their morale at A.O.U. meetings when phone calls from Steve often advised them of gatherings of the "inner circle" of professional ornithologists in smoke-filled rooms, where, as a result, the young men were privileged to meet some of the elite of the ornithological world.

Stephen Gregory died December 20, 1964, after several years of illness; he is sur-

vived by his wife, the former Jean W. Stirling, whom he married April 19, 1917, and their three married daughters.—ALFRED M. BAILEY.

JOHN JACKSON ELLIOTT was born in Babylon, Long Island, New York, on June 17, 1896, and died a few miles away at his home in Seaford on June 28, 1963. A Member of the A.O.U. since 1940, he was, at the time of his death, President of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. Mr. Elliott was an expert on the birds of Long Island and for 17 years (1941–58) wrote a weekly newspaper column on Long Island ornithology. He was also an authority on the Ipswich Sparrow and European Goldfinch and his studies of these two species will appear in a forthcoming volume of Bent's "Life histories of North American birds." He also published many communications, mostly short articles, in journals such as *Bird Lore*, *Audubon Magazine*, *Audubon Field Notes*, *The Kingbird*, *Long Island Naturalist*, Proc. Linnaean Soc. New York, and *The Auk*. He filled a busy life with service to ornithology and conservation, to community, and to home.—R. S. ARBIB, JR.

WINTHROP SPRAGUE BROOKS was born on August 6, 1887, and died at Eastham, Massachusetts, on February 16, 1965.

This was a talented man, diffident yet delightfully companionable. He was always called "Nick," a name which fitted his quick wit, alert movements, and whimsical humor. He grew up in Milton, Massachusetts, when that suburb of Boston was still country, with game in the bush and fish in the streams. By the age of ten, he was interested in natural history and was making collections. In college, he studied the arts and biology, graduating from Harvard in 1909.

In his fiftieth anniversary class report, he says: "Having learned as a youth the gentle art of catching things, I averaged seven or eight months a year doing zoological collecting for the Museum of Comparative Zoology, being able to handle the job of curator of birds at the Boston Society of Natural History between excursions. I collected birds, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, land and fresh water shells, and insects, bringing back a lot of species, of one sort or another, new to science."

He was curator of birds at the Boston Society of Natural History for 15 years and became curator of oölogy at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard (1928–34). He published many magazine and newspaper stories of excellent literary quality on places he visited and adventures he had. His later years were spent in quiet retirement on Cape Cod with his beloved wife Johanna Stroobant.

He was a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and the American Geographic Society, an honorary life member of the Boston Society of Natural History and the Maria Mitchell Association of Nantucket, and a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, the Nuttall Ornithological Club, and the Tavern Club of Boston.

His first paper was "Notes from eastern Alberta," (with S. Cobb) (*Auk*, 27: 465, 1911) followed by a report of a two years' trip to the arctic entitled "Notes on birds from east Siberia and arctic Alaska" (*Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, 59 (5): 362–415, 1915). In 1915–16, Dr. John C. Phillips sent Brooks to the Falkland Islands; the expedition is reported in a *Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology* (vol. 61, 1917). A new species of pipit was described and dedicated to Dr. Phillips (*Anthus phillipsi*). In the following years, he made many collecting trips to the West Indies and Central America with Dr. Thomas Barbour. With Barbour, Brooks made a biological reconnaissance in the southeastern jungle of Panama, which they reported in the *Geographical Review* (13: 211, 1923). In 1924, he was in Africa, and in 1926–27 in Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon, and Egypt. The specimens brought back from these

trips were not only birds, but mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and snails, so his short papers are widely distributed in various journals. His reprints, manuscripts, and travel journals are available in the archives of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard.—STANLEY COBB.

MAY THACHER COOKE, Member of the A.O.U. since 1915 and Elective Member since 1926, died in Washington, D.C., on June 13, 1963. She was the daughter of Wells W. Cooke and followed in his footsteps as a leader in the bird distribution and migration recording program of the U.S. Biological Survey and its successor agency the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This program of carding and filing data on occurrence of North American birds from the literature and a corps of volunteer observers pioneered by her father and now numbering about three million entries was supervised by Miss Cooke during much of her government service from 1916 until her retirement in 1947. She also was very active in the administration of the bird banding program for many years after it became a function by the Biological Survey in 1920.

May Cooke published many notes on long-distance movements and longevity of birds based on the recovery of banded individuals. She compiled information on distribution and migration for a number of volumes of the "Life histories of North American birds" by A. C. Bent. She also did a substantial amount of work in compiling distributional data for the 1957 edition of the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American birds*. Her most important publication was the "Birds of the Washington, D.C. region" (*Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, 42: 1-80, 1929).—JOHN W. ALDRICH.

CHRISTIAN J. GOETZ, Member of the A.O.U. since 1929, died in Cincinnati on February 3, 1964, aged 81. He was born in Cincinnati on October 20, 1882, and was a lifelong resident of that city. An uncle encouraged his early interest in hunting and fishing, which in due time led to a serious interest in Natural History. His position first as president of the Moerlein Brewing Company, and later as an investment broker, gave him ample time to engage in various outdoor interests, which included, since the late 20's, banding birds at his suburban home in Clifton.

His banding activities eventually expanded to operations in four states: Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. In the approximately 20 years since 1929, he banded 31,181 birds, including more than 5,000 ducks, a remarkable total inasmuch as he used no mist nets.

Mr. Goetz was an ardent and expert bass and trout fisherman and travelled extensively on fishing excursions. But wherever he went, to Florida, Montana, Ontario, or Alabama, he always took along binoculars and collecting vials. In the latter he brought back insects for the entomological collection of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History. He also became a proficient still and motion picture photographer, and filmed a most remarkable sequence of a King Rail capturing, subduing, and eating a small catfish in a Louisiana marsh.

His fine ornithological library and meticulous banding files are housed in the aforementioned museum and will provide material for research. It is to be regretted that Mr. Goetz himself did not publish more. His few papers appeared in *The Auk*.

He was extremely active in and a generous supporter of many civic and charitable institutions and conservation organizations, including various hospitals, Cincinnati Association for the Blind, the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, and the National Audubon Society.—KARL H. MASLOWSKI.

EGMONT Z(ACHARY) RETT, Life Member of the A.O.U. and Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, died in Santa Barbara on June 15, 1963.

Articles on his field observations of birds and mammals have appeared in several scientific journals.

Mr. Rett was born in Denver, Colorado, in 1897. From his artist-sculptor father he inherited a talent which, combined with a study of nature, he put to use throughout his life in the creation of museum exhibits that stimulated in others his own interest in natural history. The museum was his school, and he gave up formal education to spend most of his youth in museum activities. He was on the staff of the Denver Museum of Natural History for several years. In 1923 he went to the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History as taxidermist and preparator, and received his curatorial position in 1935. In addition to the Sarah Hamilton Fleischman Bird Hall and the Fleischman Mammal Hall in Santa Barbara, which are almost entirely Mr. Rett's work, both in taxidermy and design, many of the other exhibits show the mark of his talent. The Museum's bulletin of summer 1963 remarks, "There are no departments within the Museum that have not had his gracious help and expert touch." He was often called upon as advisor in exhibits for new museums, and was several times granted leave of absence from Santa Barbara to assist in installations. But his work was not confined within the walls of museums.

His memberships in scientific societies also include the American Society of Mammalogists and the Cooper Ornithological Society.—H. HOWARD.

CORRIGENDA

In *The Auk* for January, 1965 (vol. 82, no. 1), on p. 100, line 3, for "*maclipennis*" (with reference to *Larus* [? *ridibundus*]) read *maculipennis*.

In *The Auk* for July, 1965 (vol. 82, no. 3), on p. 352, line 16: for "formerly restricted here" (with reference to the type locality of *Fulmarus glacialis auduboni* Bonaparte) read formally restricted here.

We have been appraised that the words "[Miss Dorothy E. Snyder] agreed that the small curlew was indeed an Eskimo [Curlew]" as given by Francis M. Weston and Ellison A. Williams ("Recent records of the Eskimo Curlew." *The Auk*, 82: 493-496, July 1965; see p. 494) do not represent Miss Snyder's opinion. Reflection and examination of specimens have subsequently convinced her (letter to the editor dated 19 August 1965) that the bird in question was actually an immature Whimbrel. Through an unfortunate error of some kind Mr. Weston and Mr. Williams failed to learn in time of Miss Snyder's dissenting opinion. If this bird were a Whimbrel, then of course the numbers of records mentioned on p. 496, line 21, should be adjusted downward to read ". . . recorded ten times—five times on the coast of Texas . . ." —Ed.