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OBITUARIES

ALBERT HAZEN WRIGHT, a Member of the A.O.U. since 1906 and an Elective Member since 1919, died on July 5, 1970. Born in Hamlin, New York on August 15, 1879, his interest in natural history was evident early in his life. He took his A.B. (1904), M.A. (1905) and Ph.D. (1908) all at Cornell University, and from that time until his retirement, Professor Wright taught vertebrate and systematic zoology at his alma mater. In 1910 he married Anna Allen, sister of the late Arthur A. Allen, who was to be his companion in field and study for the next 46 years.

While best known as a herpetologist, Wright had a truly remarkable grasp of all the vertebrates. Not content with the primary topic of any given field excursion, he would discourse on all living things to his students. On late May trips to Lake Ontario for ichthyological studies, Wright would detour many miles to point out the Upland Plover on its nesting grounds.

In 1909 the American Philosophical Society published "Vertebrates of the Cayuga Lake Basin, New York." Co-authored with H. D. Reed, the annotated list contains 254

species of birds. His historical accounts of several birds appeared in various journals. Bird-Lore carried a lengthy account of early records of the Passenger Pigeon in its March-April 1913 issue. Early records of the Carolina Paroquet appeared in the July 1912 Auk. Wright made extensive explorations of the great Okefenokee Swamp, publishing many papers on its natural history. One of these was a report on the birds, co-authored with Francis Harper, which appeared in the October 1913 Auk. A series of six papers on early records of the Wild Turkey appeared in the Auk for 1914-15.

Wright and Arthur Allen published several notes on Ithaca birds from 1910 to 1913. In the latter year, their "Field note book of birds" including outlines for the recording of observations and sheets for preserving a checklist of the birds seen, was privately published. Of this paper, Witmer Stone wrote, "This is an admirable notebook for the beginner who has yet to learn his birds, and is studying the bird in the bush rather than in the hand."

Professor Wright was a Fellow of several of the many biological, historical, and geographical societies to which he belonged. He was a distinguished Fellow of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists and an Honorary Member of the Herpetologists League and the Academy of Zoology in India. He pioneered in ecological studies and was awarded the title of Eminent Ecologist by the Ecological Society of America in 1955. He was named Emeritus Professor of Zoology at Cornell in 1947.

Dr. Wright's entire life was committed to the spirit and values embodied by Cornell. His unsurpassed knowledge of both plants and animals and his ability to pass it on to his students is reflected in the many important posts they hold throughout the world. Few men are left of his breed.—W. J. HAMILTON, JR.

SETH HASKELL LOW, an Elective Member of the A.O.U., was born in Quincy, Massachusetts, May 31, 1911, and died at Sandy Spring, Maryland, March 30, 1962. A notice of ornithology's loss by his premature death is long overdue in these pages. Seth joined the Union in 1930 and in 1931, while a Harvard undergraduate, spent the first of many summers working at the Austin Ornithological Research Station on Cape Cod where he became my first student and firm friend. In 1936 he accepted a position with the Bureau of Biological Survey and served as refuge manager in the Dakotas and Oklahoma. In 1948 the Fish and Wildlife Service assigned him to the Bird Banding Office in Patuxent, which he managed until 1954. Birdbanding was Seth's prime ornithological interest and delight, and he will be remembered chiefly for his efforts in furthering its techniques and for his use and analyses of banding data. His life and accomplishments are covered in detail in a fine biographical account by Chandler Robbins in *Maryland Birdlife* (18: 55-61, 1962), which also lists Seth's bibliography of 47 titles.—O. L. AUSTIN, JR.