

are rather poor. The author discusses very thoroughly the value of marshes as conservators of many forms of wild life, and concludes that marsh birds are on the decrease because of extensive drainage of marshes—a fact which is not new, but which is here confirmed after careful study.—T. C. S.

THE AUDUBON BULLETIN. SPRING AND SUMMER, 1927. No 18. Illinois Audubon Society. Pp. 1-56.

As usual this bulletin is full of interesting reading matter. Mr. Schantz writes an entertaining account of a trip to the home of Robert Ridgway. Mr. Ridgway himself contributes a paper on the relations of birds to the farmer and fruit grower. An intimate sketch of Bewick's Wren reports it breeding in the sand Dunes of Indiana. Miss Sherman's article entitled "Down with the House Wren Boxes" is reprinted in full, from the WILSON BULLETIN of March, 1925. Announcement is made that a new and revised edition of the check-list of birds of Illinois is to appear early this fall.—T. C. S.

NECROLOGY

LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES. Born February 7, 1874, at Ithaca, N. Y. Died August 22, 1927, at Unadilla, N. Y., aged fifty-three years. Mr. and Mrs. Fuertes were returning from a week-end visit with Dr. Frank Chapman, at Oneonta Park, N. Y., when their car was struck on a dangerous railroad crossing. Mr. Fuertes was almost instantly killed, possibly the burning of the car contributing to the fatality. It is a fact to arrest our attention that Mr. Fuertes, after having made extensive travels through the wildernesses of South America and Africa, should meet a tragic death within the confines of civilization.

Mr. Fuertes won unusual distinction in two different roles. He was a great artist; as a painter of birds the world has produced no superior, and among American bird artists he was, by common consent, regarded as the leader. Then, as a man Mr. Fuertes was an unusual success. This is shown by the words of esteem universally expressed by those who came in contact with him. He was comrade and companion to those with whom he camped in the wilderness; he was counsellor and friend to the ambitious youth; and he was the wit and life at many professional gatherings, such as the meetings of the American Ornithologists' Union. So, in all these circles his absence will be mourned with genuine sorrow.

We cannot attempt here to give a complete biography, nor to enumerate the many bird books illustrated by his pencil and brush. It may not be generally known that Mr. Fuertes painted the backgrounds for many of the habitat groups in the American Museum of Natural History. On the recent Chicago scientific expedition into Abyssinia Mr. Fuertes was the official ornithologist. As such, his report, which consisted of paintings of Abyssinian birds and an uncompleted manuscript, was recovered from the ruined car. Mr. Forbush has stated that Mr. Fuertes had completed all of the colored plates for the second volume of the "Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States," and also some of the plates for the third and final volume.

Mr. Fuertes became an active member of the Wilson Ornithological Club in 1905, and maintained his membership continuously to the time of his death. Whatever may be the misfortune in this sudden and tragic death, few men have the privilege of erecting for themselves the lasting fame that will live with the name of Fuertes.—Wm. I. Lyon.