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offenders, and freeing the others from the stigma of guilt is a benefit to the useful species. Moreover it advances the cause of bird protection as a whole. If the protection of birds is to rest upon an economic basis the truth must be learned and told or the whole movement receive a setback. If bird protection, on the other hand, is to be based upon æsthetic principles, the writer will agree and support the cause, if only the pleading be on that basis. But in the scientific study of economic values, utilitarianism must prevail, and the rule of the greatest good to the greatest number be uncompromisingly applied.

W. L. McATEE.

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

'THE AUK' is indebted to Mr. Louis Agassiz Fuertes for the admirable drawing of the Great Auk which with the present issue replaces the cover design that has done service for the past thirty years. While it may be true that our familiarity with living Great Auks has not increased in this period, it is equally true that in that time an artist has been developed, whose ability in depicting bird life, has enabled him to make what is unquestionably a far closer approximation to the actual appearance of this famous bird, than was possible for any of our bird-artists of a quarter of a century ago.

Mr. Fuertes has moreover had the benefit of suggestions from Mr. D. G. Elliot, Dr. Frederic A. Lucas, and Mr. Frank M. Chapman; while the rocky islet upon which his birds are shown, is based upon a photograph of Funk Island, where Dr. Lucas in 1887 procured a large collection of Great Auk bones.

In the first number of 'The Auk' January, 1884, Dr. Elliott Coues in commenting upon criticisms of the name of the journal, hoped that instead of becoming extinct like its namesake, 'The Auk' might long flourish, and that in it the bird might live again — or as he put it "*in pennis ALCA rediviva.*" In the 28 years of Dr. Allen's guidance this hope has been amply fulfilled, so far as the text is concerned; and we can now say the same thing of our cover, or following Dr. Coues — "*in pennis Fuertesii ALCA rediviva!*"

BRADFORD TORREY, a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union and widely known as a writer of outdoor sketches, died at Santa Barbara, Cal., October 7, 1912, after a short illness. He was born at Weymouth, Mass., October 9, 1843, a son of Samuel and Sophronia (Dyer) Torrey, and was educated in the public schools of his native town. After completing his school course at the age of eighteen, he worked for a short time in a shoe factory, taught school for a year or two, then, after occupying positions with two business houses in Boston, entered the office of the

Treasurer of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in that city, where he remained about sixteen years. In 1886 he found more congenial occupation as one of the editors of the 'Youth's Companion,' but he resigned this position in 1901 to devote himself exclusively to his own literary work. After leaving Weymouth he lived successively in Boston, Melrose Highlands, and Wellesley Hills, Mass., but since the winter of 1907 he had been at Santa Barbara,— whether as a mere visitor or as a permanent resident his friends were unable to learn.

As a boy and young man Bradford Torrey, though a great reader (eschewing fiction, however), was fond of walking in the woods and fields, but it was not till some time after he had left the country to make his home in Boston that he became especially interested in birds or in any form of outdoor study. He has told the story of his introduction to ornithology in a sketch entitled 'Scraping Acquaintance' included in the first of his books. This was not his earliest literary venture, however. He had written a paper on the birds of Boston Common, which, at the instance of friends who had heard him read it, he had sent to the 'Atlantic Monthly,' which printed it in February, 1883. Encouraged by this success, which had been quite unlooked for by him, he embarked on what finally became his life work as a writer of discursive essays on birds, flowers, and the world out of doors. Many of his essays made their first appearance in the 'Atlantic.' Others were printed in the 'Boston Transcript,' the 'Youth's Companion,' the 'Christian Endeavor World,' and elsewhere. His first book, 'Birds in the Bush,' was published in Boston in 1885. It was followed by 'A Rambler's Lease' (1889), 'The Foot-Path Way' (1892), 'A Florida Sketch-Book' (1894), 'Spring Notes from Tennessee' (1896), 'A World of Green Hills' (North Carolina and Virginia) (1898), 'Everyday Birds' (juvenile) (1901), 'Footing it in Franconia' (1901), 'The Clerk of the Woods' (1903), 'Nature's Invitation' (New Hampshire, Florida, Texas, and Arizona) (1904), and 'Friends on the Shelf' (literary criticism) (1906). Mr. Torrey also edited Thoreau's Journal in fourteen volumes (1906 and 1907). Shortly before his death he had sent his publishers copy for a book to be called 'Field-Days in California,' which is announced for publication in the early spring of 1913.

For many years Mr. Torrey spent a part of the spring, summer, or autumn at Franconia in the White Mountains region of New Hampshire, and many of his most delightful essays are records of his observations and reflections there, but he also visited other parts of New England (just over the line in the Province of Quebec too), and about 1894 he began going South for the late winter and early spring. He thus visited Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, Texas, Arizona, and finally California.

At the first meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, in 1883, Mr. Torrey was made an Associate Member, and he was elected a Member in 1901, when that class was instituted. He was a Resident Member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club from 1884 to 1886. He published a paper on

'The Booming of the Bittern' in 'The Auk' for January, 1889, and an even dozen of General Notes at intervals from 1886 to 1905. He also contributed two articles to 'Bird-Lore' and during the years 1907-10 he printed twelve notes in the 'Condor.'

It was through his literary writings, however, that Mr. Torrey rendered his best service. He combined to a very unusual extent the scientific with the æsthetic habit of mind. He was always accurate and careful in his observations and statements, and he had a happy way of turning even his scientific doubts and disappointments to good account in a literary way, as when his long search for Ravens in North Carolina ended with the bagging of a 'brace of interrogation points.' His combination of enthusiasm with a humorous detachment was also one of his greatest charms as a writer, and one which made it possible for readers without any particular knowledge of or interest in birds to enjoy his writing almost as much as the confirmed bird-lover. Besides this he had a gentle and cheerful philosophy that led him to interest himself in his fellow men, whom he considered, after all, quoting Scripture as he was fond of doing, to be 'of more value than many sparrows.' The birds, as well as the trees and wild flowers which also occupied much of his attention, he regarded as a part of outdoor nature, and his essays are pictures of the landscape — of New Hampshire, Cape Cod, Florida, Arizona — no less than accounts of the birds he found there. His style is conversational, chatty we may call it, but exact and carefully considered, and he spared no pains in the preparation and revision of his copy for publication.

Mr. Torrey was a lover of music and for years a regular attendant at the Symphony concerts in Boston. His own instrument was the piano, upon which he was fond of improvising. In his social relations he was too modest and retiring to form a wide acquaintance, but he was much loved by the small circle of his more intimate friends, who found him always sincere and loyal and of an even, cheery temper, while no one could talk with him without being impressed by the fineness and rare purity of his character.

F. H. A.

WE have just been advised of the death on January 8, 1898, of Valdemar Knudsen who was elected a Correspondent of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1888 when he was actively engaged in studying the birds of the Hawaiian Islands, making his home on Kauai. He at that time sent numerous collections to the U. S. National Museum which were described in papers by Dr. Leonhard Stejneger, who named *Puffinus knudseni* and *Himantopus knudseni* in honor of the collector. Mr. Knudsen was born in Norway Sept. 5, 1822.

MR. WILFRED H. OSGOOD of the Field Museum of Natural History returned in October from a nine months' trip in South America, having crossed the Andes of northern Peru and descended the Amazon River to its mouth. He was accompanied by Mr. Malcolm P. Anderson who has remained for

further work in eastern Peru and northern Brazil. At date of last shipment their collections of birds and mammals numbered over 2000 specimens including a very large number of species, since they were successful in obtaining a representation of three very distinct faunas, the arid west coast of Peru, the high Andean region, and the upper Amazon valley. On December 14, Mr. Robert H. Becker sailed from New York to join Mr. Anderson for continuation of the work during the coming year.

FOUR new 'habitat' groups of birds have been completed recently at the Field Museum of Natural History, respectively showing the Northern Loon, the Great Blue Heron, the Whooping and Sandhill Cranes, and the Golden Eagle, besides a few species of smaller size. They have been installed in a handsome quadripartite case of the style previously used for such exhibits and show considerable advance in technique, especially in the perfection obtained in the reproduction of various types of vegetation. All have large backgrounds by Mr. C. A. Corwin. The loon group shows two adult birds, nest and eggs, and scene in northern Michigan. The heron group includes several great blues and a 'rookery' of large nests in trees is represented on the painted background. The crane group contains three large 'Whoopers,' one of them in the beautiful tan-spotted immature plumage. A single adult Sandhill Crane is shown also and all four are placed in a beautiful setting in the brilliant fall colors of the vegetation along a small stream in northern Illinois. The Eagle group contains a pair of adult birds and their young in a nest on the side of a particolored cliff in the badlands of North Dakota. The background shows a picturesque bend of the Little Missouri River with soft-colored terraced buttes in the distance. The modeling and taxidermy of the four groups are by Messrs. Julius Friesser and Leon L. Pray.

MR. LEO E. MILLER, who met with so much success in Colombia collecting for the American Museum, together with Mr. Francis X. Iglseeder, as his assistant, sailed from New York City on November 26, for South America, for the purpose of continuing the investigation of the birds and mammals in the interests of the American Museum.

ON December 10 Dr. John C. Phillips and Dr. Glover M. Allen arrived in Port Said, Egypt, after a voyage which their cabled messages describe as wholly pleasant. With few delays they will proceed to Khartoum and then meet a camel caravan which is ready and waiting their arrival. The plan is to spend several months collecting for the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy in the Atbara River region near the borders of the Sudan and Western Abyssinia. Especial attention will be paid to preserving birds and mammals but efforts will also be made to secure representative series of other groups, such as reptiles, amphibians, fishes and insects. Dr. Phillips hoped to be able to secure, in Khartoum, natives who had been employed on previous expeditions and thus secure skilled assistance in collecting.— T. B.

MR. W. E. CLYDE TODD with two companions made a trip to James Bay during the summer under the auspices of the Carnegie Museum and the National Geographic Society. They left Pittsburgh, May 15 last, and travelled by canoe from the terminus of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway to Moose Factory. Here a small sailing vessel was secured and the southern and eastern shores of James Bay were explored. The unusual weather conditions and failure to secure suitable guides prevented them from going farther north as they had expected. Good collections of birds and mammals were secured, however, and much data on distribution and migration. The expedition returned November 16.

WE learn from Mr. Robert Ridgway that Volume VI of the Birds of North and Middle America is being pushed rapidly to completion. It will comprise the Picidæ, Capitonidæ, Ramphastidæ, Galbulidæ, Bucconidæ, Alcedinidæ, Todidæ, Momotidæ, Caprimulgidæ, Nyctibiidæ, Strigidæ, Aluconidæ, Psittacidæ and Cuculidæ. The manuscript covering the first ten families is finished, except for the genus *Chordeiles*, while that of the remaining four is partly completed. The portion relating to the Woodpeckers is already in type.

Our readers will also be glad to know that the publishers of Mr. Ridgway's long expected new 'Nomenclature of Colors' have promised some copies by the first of January, 1913.

THE project of establishing wild-fowl refuges in the marsh lands of Louisiana and Texas originated by Mr. E. A. McIlhenny and Charles W. Ward received a great impetus from the purchase of Marsh Island Louisiana, by Mrs. Russell Sage, announced early in October, 1912. This tract comprises 75,000 acres and adjoins the Ward-McIlhenny Wild Fowl Refuge, and the Louisiana State Wild Fowl Refuge, which together cover 60,000 to 70,000 additional acres.

Gunning on the Marsh Island tract will be absolutely prohibited and it will form a permanent refuge for all kinds of wild bird life.

'Forest and Stream' for October 12, 1912, gives a detailed account of this region based upon investigations by Mr. George Bird Grinnell who visited Marsh Island at the instance of Mrs. Sage prior to the purchase.

AT the last meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, Mr. A. C. Bent, who is engaged on the continuation of Major Bendire's work on the 'Life Histories of North American Birds' presented a 'report of progress' designed to show what he had actually accomplished and also to arouse more interest among the members of the Union in an undertaking which can never be completed by the unaided efforts of any one man.

For over twenty years Mr. Bent has devoted his spare time to visiting various points of ornithological interest in North America for the purpose of collecting the information, photographs and specimens necessary for an extensive work on the breeding habits of North American birds.

During this time he has visited both northern and southern Labrador, Newfoundland, all of the southern provinces of Canada from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, all the Atlantic and Gulf states from Maine to Louisiana, many of the inland states and the Pacific coast from Puget Sound to northern Alaska, including the Aleutian Islands. He has made a more or less extensive field acquaintance with over 500 different birds and has accumulated a large amount of notes, photographs and other material, which form the basis of his personal contribution to the work.

Since he undertook to continue Major Bendire's work on the Life Histories of North American Birds he has, with some clerical assistance, looked through nearly all of the more important ornithological publications which he could conveniently reach, and made a bibliographical index to such published notes on life histories as he might care to use, covering all the species which are to be included in the next volume to be published. Much further work in this direction still remains to be done, for which he is open to receive offers of assistance from competent ornithologists who are willing to undertake this work and for which he is willing to pay a reasonable price for the time and labor involved; this work should be done by someone who has access to one or more large libraries.

Major Bendire's first volume began with the Gallinæ, A. O. U. number 289, and his second volume ended with the Icteridæ, A. O. U. number 513, including 223 species in the two volumes. Considering the fact that comparatively little is known about many of the water birds and that many of the ocean wanderers and stragglers need little more than passing mention, as American birds, it seems safe to plan on covering all of the first part of the A. O. U. Check-List, up to where he began, in two volumes. The present plan, which is subject to revision, is to have the first volume cover the Colymbidæ to the Anatidæ, at least as far as the Geese; as the life histories of many of the Tubinares will be decidedly brief, it may be possible to include all of the Anatidæ in this volume.

The work of gathering information, material and contributions for the Life Histories has been partially organized on a very satisfactory basis. As it is impracticable, if not impossible, for any one man to know and keep in touch with all of the reliable observers and contributors in North America, it has seemed best to place this work in the hands of competent leaders in various parts of the country, who are fitted and willing to take charge of the work in their particular sections, to arouse interest among their acquaintances in collecting information and material, to secure contributions from competent and reliable observers and to pass judgment on the accuracy and reliability of whatever they send in for publication. The following well known ornithologists have already generously volunteered to serve in this capacity:—

Rev. W. W. Perrett for northern Labrador.

Dr. Chas. W. Townsend for southern Labrador.

Mr. W. E. Saunders for Ontario and Quebec.

Mr. Arthur H. Norton for Maine.

Mr. Witmer Stone for Eastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey.

Mr. H. H. Bailey for Virginia.

Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson for North Carolina.

Mr. Arthur T. Wayne for South Carolina.

Prof. Lynds Jones for Ohio.

Mr. Benj. T. Gault for Illinois.

Prof. Walter B. Barrows for Michigan.

Dr. Thos. S. Roberts for Minnesota.

Mr. Chas. R. Keyes for Iowa.

Rev. P. B. Peabody for Kansas.

Mr. Edw. R. Warren for Colorado.

Mr. Aretas A. Saunders for Montana.

Mr. Allan Brooks for British Columbia.

Mr. S. F. Rathbun for Washington.

Mr. Wm. L. Finley for Oregon.

Mr. A. B. Howell for California.

Nearly all of these collaborators have reported more or less progress in arousing interest in the work among their correspondents and considerable material has been sent in and filed away for future use, but in far too many cases the results of their labors have been disappointingly small. This is due to the following causes:—

(1) The water birds have always been the most neglected class of American birds, because to many ornithologists they are the most inaccessible and the least interesting. Consequently there is little information about them available. Unfortunately the information about the water birds is wanted first.

(2) Throughout the settled portions of North America there are comparatively few water birds still breeding and they are becoming scarce in many sections even as migrants. In regions where water birds are still abundant there are very few competent observers who have time to devote to bird study.

(3) The third cause, the only one of the three that can be removed, is the apathy and indifference of the men who could give the information wanted if they could only be induced to do so. Many good observers have promised to contribute but through procrastination or for lack of time have failed to do so as yet. Many men seem to prefer to publish their notes in the current periodicals, where they appear promptly. But there are a host of others whose interest has yet to be aroused to the necessity of cooperation, if this work is ever to be brought to a successful conclusion. It is to be hoped that collaborators will succeed in arousing more enthusiasm in this work so that the publication of the next volume may not be too long delayed.

Eighteen life histories have already been written, but as they contain mainly the results of Mr. Bent's personal observations, together with such quotations from published material as seemed desirable to make them more



nearly complete, they are open to additional contributions from others, as well as final revision. Preference will always be given to original contributions, quotations from published literature will be reduced to a minimum and contributors will be given full credit for whatever material they furnish.

Mr. Bent already has in his own field notes nearly enough material to write the life histories of over half of the species to be included in the next volume, but, even after exhausting all the material contained in the published literature on the subject, there are surprisingly few species on which we have sufficient material to write even fairly complete life histories. A large number of printed lists of the information wanted have been distributed and they will be freely furnished to all who care to contribute. An extensive study of the published material brings to light some interesting facts; a vast amount of data has been published on migration and distribution, nesting habits have been written up more fully than any other phase of the subject and considerable has been written about the food of birds, particularly from an economic standpoint; but the exact period of incubation and the development of the young has been carefully worked out for very few species, the sequence of plumages in the water birds has been sadly neglected and comparatively little has been published on winter habits.

For many of the water birds only the most meagre life histories could be culled from the published literature on the subject. To collate and compile in an extensive work on this subject all that has been published relating to the life histories of North American birds, is an undertaking well worth while, but the value of any work of this kind is greatly enhanced by a liberal addition of original material, which was a marked feature of Maj. Bendire's work.

Mr. Bent has several years' work planned out in northern exploration for the study of the breeding habits of the more inaccessible species, but, in order to do this field work, he must rely largely on others for the information wanted about other more accessible species. There are few ornithologists who cannot find the time to study effectively some phases of the life history of one or more species, which are readily accessible.

There is much information which is badly needed and which could easily be obtained; much information of value lies buried in the field notes of nearly every observer; even fragmentary notes are often valuable as contributions to life histories; and it is only by collecting as much of this material as possible that we can hope to get anything even approaching completeness.

Finally, Mr. Bent thanked all those who have helped in the work, so far, and assured them that they will receive full credit for what they have done. He desires more collaborators to take the leadership in sections not covered in the foregoing list and should be glad to receive offers or suggestions. This much needed work on the Life Histories of North American Birds is now a living issue and it is being pushed vigorously, and we hope that this plea for help will not prove useless and that American ornithologists will show their interest in the work by cooperating to make it successful.

MR. WILLIAM LEON DAWSON, well known as the author of 'The Birds of Ohio' and 'The Birds of Washington,' announces the early publication of 'The Birds of California,' a work of over 1500 pages, with 750 half-tone cuts and 24 full-page color plates from original paintings, by Mr. Allan Brooks. The work is by Mr. Dawson with the cooperation of the Cooper Ornithological Club, and is announced to comprise a complete scientific, and popular account of the more than 500 species of birds found in the State of California, with analytical keys and other helps to ready identification, representative local lists and other appropriate critical matter.

Like 'The Birds of Washington' there will be several editions differing in illustrations, quality of paper, etc. The entire issue is limited to advance subscriptions. The Students Edition will sell for \$15 to \$30 according to the style of binding, and Booklovers' Edition limited to 500 copies, at \$45; Large paper Edition de Luxe, limited to 250 copies, at \$67.50; Sunset Edition de Luxe, limited to 250 copies, at \$110; Stockholders' Edition de Luxe, limited to 250 copies, at \$150; and the Extra Illustrated Patrons' Edition De Grand Luxe, limited to 100 copies at \$1000. The last is in four volumes, the other editions in three.

THE first Annual Dinner of the Linnæan Society of New York was held at the Hotel Endicott in that city on the evening of December 17, 1912, and was attended by over sixty members and invited guests.

The object of the dinner was two-fold: to bring the members together in an informal, social way, and to express to Mr. Frank M. Chapman, the guest of honor, the Society's appreciation of his invaluable services to ornithological science through his well-known work in popularizing the study of birds.

President Jonathan Dwight, Jr., acted as toastmaster, and among those at the speakers' table were, besides Mr. Chapman, Henry Fairfield Osborn, Frederic A. Lucas, John Burroughs, Ernest T. Seton, A. K. Fisher, John H. Sage, T. Gilbert Pearson, George Bird Grinnell, and Spencer Trotter.

The Linnæan Society was founded in March, 1878, with but ten members, including such men as H. B. Bailey, Ernest Ingersol, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, John Burroughs and Dr. A. K. Fisher. Its object has always been to promote the study of natural history, and its growth and increasing influence since those early days have been most gratifying.

Mr. Chapman became a member of the Linnæan early in his career and has remained closely identified with its activities. His unremitting efforts in stimulating interest in bird study are too well-known to need detailed mention here, and as tribute to them Dr. Dwight, on behalf of the Society, presented him during the dinner with the Linnæan Medal.

The unqualified success of this first annual dinner of the Linnæan leads to the hope that it will become a permanent feature of the Society's active season.