

A second visit to obtain pictures of the owls was unfruitful; both birds were discovered in the tree, one on the nest, the other near in a hedge. Photographs of the sitting bird proved worthless and efforts to film the other were in vain. The bird on the nest was not disturbed, which we regretted, for when the next visit was made two weeks later to obtain a few pictures of the young, the nest was vacant. Without doubt the young had been hatched before the second visit and had flown, as there was nothing to indicate any different conclusion.

SIDNEY E. EKBLAW.

Obituary.

KENYON ROPER

Kenyon entered the Coast Artillery in the summer of 1917 as a Second Lieutenant. After training at Fortress Monroe, he sailed for France in December, 1917. Shortly after his arrival overseas he transferred to the aviation service and was promoted to First Lieutenant in the 91st Aero Squadron. In March, 1918, he received another promotion to the rank of Captain. Spurred by the idea of revenging the death of George, he accounted for at least four Boche planes. But on September 14, 1918, he and his pilot were brought down behind the German lines. For five months he was reported missing in action, but finally the government reported his grave near Tronville, Meuthe et Moselle, the identification being a handkerchief with his name in indelible ink, the handkerchief being in the possession of a young German boy who lived in the vicinity where Captain Roper fell to his death and is buried.

Book Review

Life History of North American Birds, Order Pygopodes. By A. C. Bent.

This, Bulletin 107 of the U. S. Nat. Museum, is a continuation of the late Major Bendire's monumental work. Mr. Bent is a member of the Wilson Club, as was Major Bendire. In writing this work Mr. Bent has been assisted by many well known ornithologists, who have furnished him with much valuable material. He has also had access to all the literature needed. The result

has been an accurate, as well as an interesting work. Under each species the setting of its natural environment is first given, portraying a vivid picture of the bird in its actual haunts. Courtship, nesting, eggs, young, plumage, food, behavior are then taken up and finally very accurate data concerning the distribution, such as breeding range, winter range, spring and fall migration, casual records and egg dates. With each species characteristic photos are given, selected from the author's own fieldwork and that of many others. At the end of the volume there are eleven color plates of the eggs of the Pygopodes, which are certainly true to nature. Colored plates of the birds themselves would have added still more to the value of the work, which we regard as perfect as far as the contents are concerned. Mr. Bent has certainly earned the full gratitude of Ornithologists the world over. In regard to some questions of species and subspecies, while following the A. O. U. check-list's decision officially, he has also had the courage to express his private opinion, e.g. in regard to *Cepphus mandtii*, which he is inclined to regard as a subspecies of *gryllis*, an opinion in which we concur. The disputed *Uria ringvia* we are personally convinced is a good species, but as Mr. Bent shows there is much to be said on both sides of the matter, that he has done well to leave it an open question which the future may decide.

The one great criticism we have to make does not strike at Mr. Bent, but at a government that has been shameless enough to put such a fine piece of work out in a poor pamphlet form without even any binding, on miserable paper and with still worse covers. This certainly is not the place for petty economy.

W. F. H.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Bear in mind that our next annual meeting will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, in conjunction with the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. No program of these meetings has been issued, so that the dates of our meetings cannot be announced at this time. But it is probable that our meetings will be held on December 30 and 31. Announcement of the exact time and place of meeting will be made in ample time by circular letter. It is hoped that you will not wait for an invitation to prepare and read a paper at this meeting, but that you will send your title as soon as possible to the secretary, A. F. Ganier, 1023 Villa Street, Nashville, Tenn. Liberal coöperation will ensure a most profitable and interesting meeting.



Henninger, W. F. 1919. "Life History of North American Birds, Order Pygopodes by A. C. Bent." *The Wilson bulletin* 31(3), 100–101.

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