

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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IN the death of Prof. Wells W. Cooke on March 30, 1916, the American Ornithologists' Union has sustained a great loss. He died at his home in Washington, D. C., from pneumonia having been ill for only eight days.

Prof. Cooke was one of the earliest members of the Union, having been elected a Fellow in 1884. He was born January 25, 1858, in Massachusetts, son of Rev. Elisha W. Cooke, but moved with his parents at an early age to Ripon, Wis., where he was educated.

For several years he was connected with the Indian Service in Minnesota and Indian Territory and then in 1886 was chosen professor of Agriculture at the University of Vermont, and director of the university experiment station. From 1893-1900 he was professor of agriculture at the college at Fort Collins, Colo., and on July 1, 1901, was appointed on the staff of the U. S. Biological Survey.

He became interested in birds at an early age and almost from the beginning of his studies he directed his attention primarily to bird migration, eventually becoming our leading authority on this subject.

As early as the winter of 1881-2 Prof. Cooke solicited the coöperation of other observers in a comprehensive study of bird migration in the Mississippi Valley and for two years the results of their work were published in the 'Ornithologist and Oölogist.' When the American Ornithologists' Union was organized in 1883, a committee was appointed to coöperate with Prof. Cooke in extending this investigation throughout North America and he became superintendent of the Mississippi Valley division. His work in this region formed the basis of one of the first extensive publications of the Biological Survey which later took over the migration investigations. Since Prof. Cooke's connection with the Survey he has had personal supervision of this work and his many valuable publications based upon the records of the Survey are familiar to all ornithologists. His activities however, were not limited to this field, and the work that he has accomplished in mapping out the ranges of North American birds and in compiling a voluminous card index to published records of occurrences are of equal importance, while his 'Birds of Colorado' and numerous other papers stand as evidence of his unusual activity and his ability to accomplish results.

Prof. Cooke was a great lover of outdoor life and was a leading spirit in the District of Columbia Audubon Society and in all local field excursions for the study of nature. He had a delightful personality — generous and unassuming and his loss will be felt by bird students in all parts of the



country who turned to him for aid as well as by those who profited from his published papers. At the next meeting of the Union a memorial address upon Prof. Cooke will be delivered by Dr. T. S. Palmer, which will later appear in 'The Auk.' — W. S.

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SVEN MAGNUS GRONBERGER, of the Library staff of the Smithsonian Institution, an Associate of the Union, died at Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, on April 24, 1916, after an illness of about three weeks. Dr. Gronberger was born at Norrköping, Sweden, August 19, 1866, and graduated in 1884 from the gymnasium of Norrköping, an historic city on the Baltic 75 miles south of Stockholm. After having spent some time in France and England, he removed in 1886 to New York City, where he studied law, and in 1907 came to Washington and entered the service of the Smithsonian. At the time of his death he had nearly completed a special course for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at George Washington University, with topics Zoölogy and Geology, on which subjects he had published several papers in various journals. He was an accomplished linguist, knowing perfectly French and the Scandinavian tongues, including some Icelandic, and was versed also in the English, German and Italian languages and literatures, besides Latin and Greek. For a number of years he had made a special study of zoölogical parks as factors in the popularization of natural science. He was a member of the Biological Society of Washington, the Anthropological Society of Washington, the Audubon Society, the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, and the Writers' Club of Washington.

Dr. Gronberger was the author of several papers on ornithological subjects which have appeared in 'The Auk' and in 'Forest and Stream' notably a translation of Peter Kalm's account of the Passenger Pigeon. He had also prepared an exhaustive monograph on the "Palæarctic Birds of Greenland," being a review of the occurrence of European and Asiatic species in Greenland from the middle of the 18th century to the present time. Publication of this paper is still pending.

JOSEPH PARKER NORRIS, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, 1886-1904, and a widely known oölogist, died at his home in Philadelphia on March 17, 1916.

Mr. Norris was born in Philadelphia, November 3, 1847, and was prominent in the business and social circles of the city. From boyhood he had been interested in the study of birds and their eggs and in 1885 he began the formation of a comprehensive collection of North American birds' eggs which, as the Norris collection, is now known to oölogists throughout the country and is one of the largest collections of its kind in America. For many years Mr. Norris took an active interest in developing this collection, assisted by his eldest son, J. Parker Norris Jr., its present



owner. In January, 1886, Mr. Norris became one of the editors of the 'Ornithologist and Oölogist,' and continued in that capacity until the magazine suspended publication in 1893. During this time he contributed a number of articles to its columns while his active interest and support were largely responsible for its success. He contributed a number of articles to 'The Country Gentleman,' (1863-67) and wrote the introduction to Davie's 'Nests and Eggs of North American Birds' (1889). In his writings he pointed out many errors of the early authors, notably in the number of eggs of the Raptores. Besides his other interests Mr. Norris was greatly interested in Shakespeariana and was author of a work on 'The Portraits of Shakespeare' (1885.) — W. S.

DR. FRANK M. CHAPMAN and Mr. Geo. K. Cherrie left New York on May 6, 1916, for Ecuador to procure materials for a 'Paramo group' for the American Museum representing bird life on the upper slopes of Chimborazo. Dr. Chapman expects to meet Mr. Leo E. Miller in Argentina and there secure specimens for a companion 'Pampas group.' On the way he will investigate the bird life of the Urubamba Valley, Peru, and later visit the Museums at Santiago, Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro for the purpose of establishing closer relations with the American Museum.

Mr. Cherrie after leaving Dr. Chapman will start field work with the Roosevelt Expedition in the marshes of Paraguay.

MR. HARRY S. SWARTH, for the past three years Zoölogist at the Los Angeles Museum of History, Science and Art, has rejoined the staff of the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoölogy, with which institution he had already been affiliated from 1908 to 1913. Mr. Swarth resumes the duties of Curator of Birds, which involve not only the care of the extensive collections of birds in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoölogy, but also enquiry into the systematic status of the lesser worked western bird groups.

MR. FRANCIS HARPER, has joined the staff of the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.



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