county of Illinois, and more than 30 miles of shore line of Lake Michigan has been set aside as a sanctuary for wild animals and birds. This news comes when we here in South Australia are fighting hard to show the 'powers that be' the necessity of setting aside an area of poor country on Kangaroo Island for the same purpose, and shame be it to South Australia that there are no such parks or reserves in this State as there are in America and even approaching those now existing in other States of the Commonwealth.

Few countries in the world possess the bird fauna that Southern Australia has, as any complete ornithological work with colored plates of all the species will demonstrate. Even such an admirable little work as 'An Australian Bird Book' by Dr. J. A. Leach, with its plain and colored figures, gives a fine realization of the extraordinary avifauna of that great island continent. We find no Humming Birds, Vultures or Woodpeckers, to be sure, but an enormous array of nearly 400 species of everything else known to the Class Aves, including such archaic types as the Emu, Lyrebird, Moundbuilders, and so on. A very large percentage of the forms are of wonderfully varied and brilliant plumage, especially among the Kingfishers, Rollers, Cockatoos, Parrots, Chats, Regents, Honey-eaters, Diamond Birds, and many others.

It is greatly to be hoped that the government will give heed to such earnest appeals to it as have been made by such distinguished and far-seeing ornithologists as Captain White, Dr. Leach and not a few others among Australian scientists and sincere lovers of all that nature offers in that grand old sunny continent of the Southern Hemisphere.

R. W. SHUFELDT.

Washington, D. C., 28th November, 1918.

NOTES AND NEWS.

In a discussion of nomenclature in 'The Auk' for October, 1918, p. 508, the writer referred to a 'list of proposed changes and additions to the 'Check List' compiled by Dr. H. C. Oberholser and embodying the compiler's opinions upon certain of the cases.'

This sentence seems to have been interpreted by some readers as a reflection upon Dr. Oberholser by charging him with inserting in a list of "proposed changes" a personal opinion as to the advisability of the changes. No such criticism was intended and while the writer sees no reason why Dr. Oberholser should not have added such opinion, nevertheless, he did not do so, and the writer was misled by certain opinions already published elsewhere and quoted in these lists.
Our whole object was to emphasize the fact that these lists did not have the authority of the A. O. U. They simply represent the present status of nomenclature if all the proposed changes not subsequently rejected by others were accepted.

The use of the words “becomes” and “will therefore stand” have misled others into the view that the final action had been taken, whereas Dr. Oberholser simply means “becomes” or “will therefore stand” provided the proposed change is accepted.

It has proved impracticable to hold meetings of the Committee for the past several years and in order to have all proposed changes conveniently accessible, Dr. Oberholder has, at the request of the chairman, prepared these annual lists for final action when a new Check-List is prepared.—W. S.

WALTER FREEMAN McMATHON, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, was killed in action, in France, August 28, 1918.

Mr. McMahon was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts, June 17, 1889. He attended the Shurtleff School at Chelsea and later the Lewis School at Roxbury. Subsequently he took a course in the School of Fine Arts, and studied zoology at Harvard University. He early developed an intense interest in the study of birds and for a time lectured extensively at various places in Massachusetts. He conducted bird exhibitions in Tremont Temple and the Mechanics' Building in Boston. For two years he was secretary to Edward H. Forbush, State Ornithologist of Massachusetts, during which time he conducted much of the correspondence of the office and drew many of the illustrations used in Mr. Forbush's bulletins. He served a year as secretary of the Massachusetts Game Protective Association with an office in Boston. In January, 1917, he was called to the office of the National Association of Audubon Societies in New York, where in a short time he became Chief Clerk. The bird walks he conducted in Central Park quickly became well known, and many bird-lovers in the City thus made his acquaintance. He was a member of the Linnaean Society and regularly attended its meetings. He left the Association on March 15, 1918, to enter the Army and in less than sixty days sailed for France. He saw more than a month's service in the front lines and as "scout" for his platoon was engaged in a number of dangerous enterprises. It was while undertaking a desperate mission in this capacity that he met his death from the bullet of a German sniper while crossing No-man's Land. Walter McMahon was not only a forceful character, but he possessed, to an unusual degree, an innate refinement and a quiet courtesy that particularly endeared him to all with whom he was associated.—T. G. P.

DOUGLAS CLIFFORD MABBOTT, at the time a private in the 79th Company, 6th Regiment of the United States Marine Corps, was killed in action to the north of Chateau Thierry, France, September 15, 1918. Mabbott has been an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1916.
and a member of the United States Biological Survey since 1915. He was born at Arena, Iowa County, Wisconsin, March 12, 1893, and was educated in the public schools of that state, graduating from the High School at Baraboo. While in Washington, D. C., in order further to fit himself for his official work, he took a special course in zoology at George Washington University. He was self-taught in natural history, however, and before coming to the Biological Survey creditably passed two of its examinations, one of which required special knowledge of mammals, the other of birds. In the Biological Survey, he was an assistant in economic ornithology, and was especially trained to investigate the food habits of wild ducks. He made good progress in this work and left with the Survey, ready for publication, three manuscripts treating the food habits respectively of the three species of Teals, of the Gadwall and Widgeon, and of the Pintail and Wood-duck. In the summer of 1917 Mabbott helped to make a survey of the resources in food for wild fowl of the lakes of North Dakota. He served in the National Guard of the District of Columbia in 1916 when trouble with Mexico threatened, and was honorably discharged. He enlisted for service in the present war in February 1918, as soon as he could complete reports on the North Dakota work and on the groups of wild ducks studied. He received ten weeks' training at Paris Island, South Carolina, and was sent at once to France. He had a rifle blown from his hand by a bursting shell, received hospital treatment for shell shock and had only recently recovered and resumed his place in the ranks at the time he was killed. His last words exhorted his comrades to hold the ground gained. Mabbott enlisted in the Marines to get quick action and he got it, and he will ever be numbered among the heroic band that stopped the German drive on Paris. In his office work Mabbott showed tireless application and he had become very efficient in his special line. Out of doors he was a splendid companion with a keen eye and ear for nature's wonders. While of an independent nature and original turn of mind, in character he was a most likable, straightforward and wholesome boy. To the writer of these lines he was not only an irreplaceable assistant and successor in an especially valued line of work, but a sincere and manly young friend whose loss leaves a definite void.—W. L. M.

Prof. David Ernest Lantz, Assistant Biologist in the Biological Survey since 1904, and an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1885, died of pneumonia at his home in Washington, D. C., Oct. 7, 1918, after an illness of only a week. He was born at Thompsontown, Pa., Mar. 1, 1855, and at the time of his death was in his 64th year. After graduating at the State Normal School at Bloomsburg, Pa., Prof. Lantz became principal of schools at Mifflintown, Pa., a position which he occupied two years. In 1878 he moved to Kansas where during a residence of a quarter of a century he became widely known in educational and scientific circles. He served as superintendent of schools at Manhattan, professor of mathematics in the State Agricultural College for
fourteen years, and later as principal of the Dickinson County High School, and field agent of the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station.

In 1904 he received an appointment in the U. S. Department of Agriculture and has since devoted his attention mainly to investigations on mammals of economic importance. He published extensively on economic mammalogy and was the author of twenty or more Farmers' bulletins and a number of other reports and special papers.

During his residence in Kansas he published about thirty-five papers and short notes on birds and added two species to the state list, the Purple Gallinule in 1893 and the Roseate Spoonbill in 1900. His most important ornithological contributions were his 'List of Birds in the Goss Collection' and his 'Review of Kansas Ornithology.' The latter paper contained a unique feature in the 'Historical List' showing the date when each species was first recorded from the state.

Prof. Lantz was widely known in scientific circles in Kansas and in Washington. He was a life member of the Kansas State Horticultural Society, the Kansas Academy of Science, and served as secretary and president of the Academy of Science. He was a member of the Biological Society of Washington and for five years filled the office of recording secretary. When the 'Ten Year Index of The Auk' was in course of preparation he served on the committee and took an active part in the work.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Clara Deen Lantz, and two daughters. Mrs. Frank S. Evans of Baltimore, Md., and Mrs. J. N. Simmons of Victor, Colo.—T. S. P.

Check Lists.—In view of the invitation extended by the B. O. U. to the A. O. U. to cooperate in the preparation of a series of check lists of the birds of the principal zoological regions of the world( see 'The Auk,' Oct. 1918, p. 509), it is interesting to recall what has already been done by the A. O. U., the B. O. U., and the R. A. O. U. and some of their members in the publication of check lists.

The A. O. U. has published an official 'Check-List of North American Birds' including the species and subspecies which occur north of the Gulf of Mexico and the Rio Grande and also on the peninsula of Lower California. The first edition appeared in 1886 and two revised editions have since been issued, one in 1895 and the last in 1910. Before the organization of the A. O. U. several check lists of North American birds were published by individual authors who later became members of the Union and took part in the preparation of its first Check-List. Of these the first was published by Baird in 1858, the second by Coues in 1873 with an elaborately annotated revised edition in 1882, and the third by Ridgway in 1881. The check lists of Baird and Ridgway were issued by the Smithsonian Institution and National Museum and those of Coues were private publications.

The official check list of the British Ornithologists' Union has been limited to two editions of the 'List of British Birds,' one of which appeared
in 1883 and the other a revised edition\(^1\) in 1915. In 1912 a ‘Hand-List of British Birds’\(^2\) was published independently by Hartert, Jourdain, Ticehurst, and Witherby, all of whom were members of the B. O. U. Several earlier lists have been published covering the same ground, among which the more important are the ‘Zoologist List’ of 1870, Wharton’s List of 1877, Col. Irby’s ‘Key List’ of 1892, and Seebohm’s ‘Geographic Distribution of British Birds,’ 1893.

The Royal Australasian Ornithologists’ Union in 1913 published the result of ten years’ work of its committee in the form of an ‘Official Check-List of the Birds of Australia.’\(^3\) In addition to this there are at least three other check lists all published by Gregory M. Mathews during the last decade, viz. a ‘Hand-list of the Birds of Australasia,’ 1908, in ‘The Emu,’ based on Sharpe’s ‘Hand List’; a ‘Reference-list to the Birds of Australia,’ in ‘Novitates Zoologicae,’ XVIII, 1912; and a ‘List of the Birds of Australia,’ 1913. Australia is thus unusually well supplied with recent lists of its birds.

Of lists of birds of other regions prepared by members of the Ornithologists’ Unions several deserve mention in this connection. On the birds of America Sclater and Salvin’s ‘Nomenclator Avium Neotropicalium,’ 1873, as its name indicates, includes the birds of the Neotropical region; Brabourne and Chubb’s ‘Birds of South America’ appeared in 1912;\(^4\) while Cory has begun the publication of an extensive ‘Catalogue of Birds of the Americas,’\(^5\) covering the region from Patagonia to the North Pole — of this the second volume (the only one thus far issued) was published in 1918. For Europe, we have among others the ‘List of the Birds of Europe’ by J. H. Blasius, reprinted from the German in 1862, and Dresser’s ‘List of European Birds’ which bears the date of 1881. For the region comprising the islands of the Pacific Ocean Wiglesworth’s ‘Aves Polynesiae,’ 1891, is the most comprehensive list.

Among check lists of the birds of the world are G. R. Gray’s\(^6\) ‘Hand-List of Genera and Species of Birds,’ in three parts, 1869–71; Boucard’s ‘Catalogus Avium,’ 1876; and Sharpe’s ‘Hand-List of the Genera and Species of Birds’ in five volumes, 1899–1909.

This brief enumeration of only a few of the more important lists of birds of extensive regions includes three check lists that are world-wide in scope, one covering North and South America, seven North America, two South America, two Europe, seven the British Isles, four Australia, and one Polynesia. Some of these lists now require revision and there is room for greater uniformity of treatment of the subject and more catalogues of birds of natural zoological areas such as Australia, the Neotropical

\(^1\) For a review see The Auk, XXXII, p. 243, 1915.
\(^2\) For a review see The Auk, XXXIX, p. 407, 1912.
\(^3\) For a review see The Auk, XXX, p. 445, 1913.
\(^4\) For a review see The Auk, XXX, p. 286, 1913.
\(^5\) For a review see The Auk, XXXV, p. 365, 1918.
\(^6\) G. R. Gray was not a member of the B. O. U.
Region, and Polynesia. To meet these requirements is in part the object of the proposed ‘Systema Avium.’—T. S. P.

An interesting collection of paintings of extinct birds or those in danger of extinction is being made by the New York Zoological Society. The three paintings now exhibited in the Administration Building in the Zoological Park are the work of Robert Bruce Horsfall and include the Great Auk, Pallas’ Cormorant, and the California Condor.

According to ‘The Emu’ efforts are now being made to raise a sufficient fund to purchase and transfer from England to Australia the great collection of Australian birds belonging to Gregory M. Mathews. This is the first large collection of birds which has been offered for sale since the collection of the late Count Hans von Berlepsch was sold a few years ago. The latter collection was especially rich in South American species.

Dr. T. S. Palmer has prepared an interesting historical account of the American Ornithologists’ Union, with portraits of the founders and some leading members, which appeared in ‘The American Museum Journal’ (XVIII, No. 6, November, 1918). The object was to arouse interest in and to advertise the society in the hope of securing additional members. A few copies are available should members desire to secure them from him.


We learn with much regret of the retirement of Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant from his post in the British Museum (Natural History), on account of ill health. According to ‘The Ibis,’ Mr. Grant became connected with the museum in 1882 and began his work in the Bird Room in 1885, becoming Assistant Keeper of the Zoological Department in 1913. While serving in outer defences of London, in August 1916, in the 1st County of London Volunteer Regiment, he received a sunstroke from the effects of which he has suffered ever since. By absolute rest in the quiet of the country, it is hoped he may soon regain his health.

Beginning with the April 1918 issue ‘The Ottawa Naturalist’ has appeared in a much improved form, with a larger page and new cover. It was established in 1887 by the Ottawa Field Naturalists’ Club and is therefore one of the oldest natural history periodicals in North America. Judging by the recent issues the improvement extends also to the subject matter and it bids fair to hold and strengthen its honorable place in scientific literature.
The Chicago Ornithological Society founded in December, 1912, by Dr. R. M. Strong continues as an active organization, meeting on the second Tuesday of each month. The officers for the current year are Edward R. Ford, President; Dr. Alfred Lewy, First Vice President; Prof. C. W. G. Eifrig, Second Vice President; Miss Marian Fairman, Secretary-Treasurer, address 4744 Kenwood Ave., Chicago, Ill.

An interesting exhibit of pictures illustrating protective coloration in nature and concerned with the origin of camouflage in war, by Abbott H. and Gerald H. Thayer, was held in the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C., October 26 to November 17, 1918.

Early in 1920 the Nuttall Ornithological Club proposes to issue a supplement to its Memoir III, 'The Birds of Essex County' (Massachusetts) by Charles Wendell Townsend, M. D., which was published in 1905. The author will be glad to receive any notes of interest on the birds of this county, including earlier or later dates than those in the original memoir, in order to make the supplement as complete and valuable as possible. These notes should reach him on or before November 1, 1918. Address 98 Pinckney St., Boston, Mass.

A letter of Mr. M. Rasmusson describing the presence of a flock of supposed Wild Pigeons in Saratoga County, N. Y., October 1, 1918, has been given wide publicity by the N. Y. State Museum at Albany and was published in 'Science' and doubtless elsewhere. While it is of course impossible to satisfactorily verify such observations, attention might be called to the statement of the observer that he had seen the bird but once before, which was about twenty years ago near Ithaca. Even that observation was a very late one if the date is correctly given.

Another observation of alleged Passenger Pigeons by John M. Crampton, Supt. of the Conn. State Board of Fisheries and Game, in May, 1918, at Southington, Conn., was published in 'The Conservationist' (Albany, N. Y.), August, 1918. It seems more convincing than the other, as Mr. Crampton was familiar with the birds from boyhood, but again positive proof is impossible, and we have to consider several positive records of men who had killed hundreds of pigeons, mistaking doves for pigeons in later years!

Called to the Colors.—During the past year lists of the members of the A. O. U. in military and naval service have been published in each number of 'The Auk' as the information was received. It now seems desirable to present in one place the names of all these members in order to show the active part taken by the American Ornithologists' Union in the great world war. The following list has been corrected to Nov. 11, 1918, the date of the signing of the armistice. It is still incomplete and in some cases (as shown by months in parentheses), the latest information available is now out of
Future editions of the list are likely to consist mainly of corrections which should be sent to the Secretary so that the service record of the Union may be made as complete as possible.

Killed in Action.

McMAHON, WALTER FREEMAN, New York City, Aug. 28, 1918.
MABBOTT, DOUGLAS CLIFFORD, Washington, D. C., Sept. 15, 1918.

ANDERSON, ERNEST MELVILLE, Esquimalt, B. C. Private A Co., R. C. R., B. C. Special Service Unit, Quebec.
ANTHONY, HAROLD ELMER, New York City. Capt. 309th Field Artillery, Camp Lewis, American Lake, Wash.
BERGTOULD, DR. WILLIAM HARRY, Denver, Colo. Major Medical Corps, U. S. General Hospital No. 21, Denver, Colo.
BRADLEE, THOMAS STEVENSON, Boston, Mass. Major, Asst. to Dept. Quartermaster in charge of Personnel & Transportation Division, Governor's Island, N. Y.
BRITTEN, DR. GEORGE SIDNEY, Syracuse, N. Y. Captain Medical Corps, Am. Exped. Forces, in France.
BROOKS, WINTHROP SPRAGUE, Boston, Mass. Ensign in the Navy (Retired).
BURLEIGH, THOMAS D., Pittsburgh, Pa. 20th Engineers (Forest), in France.
CAHN, ALVIN ROBERT, Chicago, Ill. Laboratory work in Base Hospital, in France.
CHAPMAN, DR. FRANK MICHLER, New York City. Red Cross Commissioner, South America.
CHAPMAN, MRS. FRANK MICHLER, New York City. In Red Cross work, South America.
CROSBY, MAUNSELL SHIEFFELIN, Rhinebeck, N. Y. Captain Quartermaster Corps, Am. Exped. Forces, in France.
Derby, Dr. Richard, New York City. Major, Medical Corps, Am. Exped. Forces, in France.
Dice, Lee Raymond, Washington, D. C. Private Yale Army Laboratory School, New Haven, Conn.
Eastman, Francis B. Major 344th Infantry, Camp Grant, Rockford, Ill. (Mar., 1918).
Fowler, Frederick Hall, Palo Alto, Calif. Captain of Engineers, Office Chief of Engineers, Washington, D. C.
Goodrich, Miss Juliet Theodosia, Chicago, Ill. In war work in France.
Griscom, Ludlow, New York City. 2d Lieut., Service des Accredités, Credit-Lyonnais, Paris, France.
Hall, Frank Gregory. Signal Corps School of Meteorology, 32d Service Co., College Station, Texas.
Kittredge, Joseph Jr., Missoula, Mont. 1st Lieut. 10th Engineers (Forest) Am. Exped. Forces, in France.
Laing, Hamilton Mack, Portland, Ore. Instructional Section, School of Aerial Gunnery, Beavemont, Ont.
Lewis, Harrison Flint, Yarmouth, N. S. District Auditor, M. D., No. 5, P. O. Box No. 6, Quebec, P. Q.
Lincoln, Frederick Charles, Denver, Colo. Acting Sergeant, Calif.
Pigeon Section 293d Aero Squadron, March Field, Riverside.
Loring, John Alden, Owego, N. Y. 1st Lieut. of Ordnance, Texas.
Maples, James Comly, Port Chester, N. Y. Seaman in the Navy Section Base No. 1, Third District, New Haven, Conn.
McCook, Philip James, New York City. Major, Adjutant 9th Brigade, Am. Exped. Forces, in France.  (Wounded in action Nov. 6, 1918. Convalescing in Base Hospital No. 6, in Bordeaux.)


Meyer, George Ralph, Captain Coast Artillery Corps, Fort Kamehameha, H. I.

Meyer, Miss Heloise, Lenox, Mass. Red Cross, in France.

Mitchell, Dr. Walter Jungerich, Wichita, Kans. Captain Medical Corps, Camp Funston, Kans.

Muir, Olaus Johan, Moorhead, Minn. Cadet Army Balloon School, Fort Omaha, Nebr.


Oldys, Henry, Silver Spring, Md. Asst. Auditor War Dept., in France.

Overton, Dr. Frank, Patchogue, N. Y. Major Medical Corps, Camp Upton, N. Y.


Pangburn, Clifford Hayes, New Haven, Conn. Formerly Acting Lieut. Red Cross in France.


Robinson, Wirt. Colonel, U. S. Military Academy, West Point, N. Y.


Schaeffer, Oscar Frederick, Geneva, N. Y. 10th Engineers (Forest), Am. Exped. Forces, in France.

Shelton, Alfred Cooper, Eugene, Ore. 2d Lieut. Sanitary Corps. 831 5th St., Santa Rosa, Calif.

Shufeldt, Dr. Robert Wilson, Washington, D. C. Major Medical Corps, Army Medical Museum, Washington, D. C.

Smith, Lester Wheadon, Meriden, Conn. First Class Seaman, Naval Reserve, in France.

Stimson, Dr. Arthur M., Washington, D. C. Sanitary Officer, 2d Naval District, War College, Newport, R. I.

Just as we go to press comes the sad news of the death, on January 6, 1919, of Theodore Roosevelt. So prominently and continuously has he figured in the history of our Country during his active life, and so great have been his services to humanity, that his attainments as a naturalist have been completely overshadowed. Only a few have appreciated the breadth of his knowledge in the field of science or realized that he had there established a lasting reputation wholly independent of his greater fame.

A member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, during his college days at Cambridge, and an Associate of the American Ornithologists’ Union from 1888 to 1902, he was, throughout his life, an active and accurate student of birds. As a hunter he was not content with the mere accumulation of trophies or specimens but invariably obtained valuable and original information on the habits of the animals, and his numerous contributions to ornithology and mammalogy will stand for all time as works of reference.

On certain special subjects, such as animal coloration, he was an authority and his intimate knowledge of the literature and the extent of his personal observations were a revelation to those who were privileged to discuss them with him.

In the United States National Museum and the American Museum of Natural History his name will be forever perpetuated in connection with the great African and South American collections which he was largely instrumental in securing.

Those who were in a position to judge this side of the man will realize that it was only the eminence of Roosevelt the statesman and the constant call to public service, that obscured the reputation and checked the further development of Roosevelt the naturalist.

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