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OBITUARIES

WILLIAM THOMAS SHAW, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Fresno, California, May 13, 1948.

Shaw was born of Scotch ancestry in Woodburn, Ontario, February 10, 1873. As an infant he was stricken with infantile paralysis which left his left leg practically useless. Due possibly to this handicap he never married.

Shaw grew up in Minnesota where his early proficiency in preparing specimens helped him work his way through the University of Minnesota, at which he obtained his Bachelor of Agriculture and Bachelor of Science degrees in 1898 and 1899, respectively. His Master of Science degree was received at Michigan State College in 1901, and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Stanford University in 1926.

His early teaching positions were at Iowa State College and Oregon State College. He moved to Washington State College, Pullman, Washington, in 1908, where he taught biology, served as curator of the Charles R. Connor Museum, and was zoologist for the Experiment Station connected with the College.

After a year at Stanford he spent a year at Redlands University, filling in for an instructor on leave.

Coming to Fresno State College in 1928, he offered courses where students went on field trips with him and learned much along the trapline, digging out burrows, and

around the campfire. Many students were inspired to follow a career in zoology by participating in his painstaking, patient, and accurate work. Merciless and impatient was he with the student that tried to "get by."

For a time he made yearly trips to Mount Baker in Washington where, in quest of the nest of the Hepburn rosy finch, he camped in the snows of Mount Baker to observe the early phases of the bird's nesting. From this effort came his, "Winter Life and Nesting Studies of the Hepburn Rosy Finch" which appeared in 'The Auk.' With Walter P. Taylor, Stanley Jewett, and J. W. Aldrich, he was working on a "Birds of Washington" which, to the writer's knowledge, he labored to keep up to date in spite of long delays in publishing.

Upon retiring at the age of 70, he maintained an office at the college where he was constantly available to students. His last field trip, on May 8, 1948, was with a few members of the Fresno Natural History Society. He worked at his desk until scarcely an hour before he died.—ALBERT C. HAWBECKER.

JOHN DARLINGTON CARTER, an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1907, died at his home in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania, May 14, 1947. He was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, on December 30, 1874. Trained at Haverford College and Johns Hopkins University, he followed the profession of chemistry. Leisure time was devoted to ornithology. He learned taxidermy by practice and in the course of his long life installed in the museum at Westtown School specimens of most of the birds, with their nests and eggs, which summer in the middle Atlantic states. He was interred in the Friends' burial ground, Springfield Meeting, near Lansdowne.—A. W. SCHORGER.

CHARLES PELHAM CURTIS, an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1915, died at Ipswich, Massachusetts, on April 26, 1948. He was born in Boston on May 8, 1891. Educated in Paris and Cambridge, he was a prominent lawyer and financier of Boston. He was joint author of a book on hunting in Africa, but his interest in ornithology was patronal.—A. W. SCHORGER.

GEORGE BALCH LAY, an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1939, was born at Concord, New Hampshire, on May 4, 1895. His undergraduate work was done at Yale and the University of North Carolina. In 1932, he received from State College, North Carolina, the degree of Master of Science in entomology. He was attached to the North Carolina Forestry Service prior to spending the years 1935-1946 with the U. S. Biological Survey and Fish and Wildlife Service. In April, 1947, he went to Korea as a civilian employee of the U. S. Army in charge of insect and rodent control. He died there on May 6, 1948. While in North Carolina he was active in various bird clubs. He was buried at Chapel Hill Cemetery, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.—A. W. SCHORGER.