

WILLIAM H. WERNER

1842—1912

William H. Werner, a Corresponding Member of the Club, died at his home in Atlantic City, N. J., May 13, 1912, aged seventy years. Mr. Werner was born at Nazareth, Pennsylvania, January 18, 1842 and at an early age became interested in collecting birds and in taxidermy.

He traveled in various parts of the United States, Mexico and the Bahamas in search of specimens which he mounted with much skill. For many years past his collection has been on exhibition on the "Boardwalk" at Atlantic City and is familiar to visitors as the "Wonderland." Previously some of them were exhibited at the Centennial Exposition in 1876 and were pronounced by Mr. William Brewster as "masterpieces of taxidermal skill".

Mr. Werner was an unassuming man, with no ambition for such reputation as may be gained from publication, and who found fulfillment of all his desires in the collecting and mounting of his specimens. Unfortunately his modesty has deprived ornithology of many valuable facts concerning the habits and distribution of the birds which he met with. It must not be supposed however that he withheld the information which he had acquired, for on the contrary he cheerfully shared it with anyone who was interested and placed no restriction upon its use.

In the "Nuttall Bulletin" for 1879 (pp. 75, 80, 99, 103) Mr. Brewster discusses briefly several rare birds and eggs which formed part of "a superb collection" obtained by Mr. Werner in Comal County, Texas during April and May 1878, and publishes accounts supplied by Mr. Werner on the breeding of the Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. Later in the October number for the same year appears a colored plate of a pair of the Vireos and their nest from an exquisite little study in water colors by Mr. Werner himself.

Of late years Mr. Werner has been taxidermist for the New Jersey State Museum, and the writer has been indebted to him for valuable data on New Jersey birds, which appeared in the recent report on birds of the State.—W. S.