## Elliott Coues on the Death of John Cassin

In a memorial on the late Dr. James G. Cooper, in a recently issued number of the Condor, there is published a letter written by Dr. Coues to Dr. Cooper, dated Fort Maeon, N. C., February 21, 1869, which contains the following beautiful tribute to Cassin As we read it we recall the similar thoughts that passed through the mind of many an American ornithologist when, three years ago, we heard that Elliott Coues was no more.

"Of course you heard the sad, sad news that John Cassin's labors are ended The loss to science none of us can measure; nor can those privileged to call him friend adequately express the depth of that bereavement. And many as are our American ornithologists-high as some stand in American Ornithologythere is none left in all our land who can lift up the mantle that has fallen from his shoulders. His good work is accomplished, and he has gone to reap the rich reward of a life nobly spent in the survey of Nature's beauties, in drinking from the perennial fountain of Nature's truths | Since Audubon passed away from the scene of his usefulness, death has struck no such eruel blow to our beloved science As Dr. Brewer has said to me, 'Which one of our younger ornithologists will undertake to stand, after thirty-five years of training, where Cassin stood at his death?' The all-worthy, time-honored quartette has been rudely broken. Now only a triangle, Lawrence, Brewer and Baird, remains of the last generation of American ornithologists Who shall lead opinion when they, too, are gathered to their fathers? A higher trust than we perhaps appreciate is laid upon the few of us of this later day who pay devotion to the beautiful study of ornithology. It is no less than the keeping bright and untarnished, and transmitting to our successors, the name and fame of the science that has absorbed such minds as those of Wilson, Nuttall, Audubon, Bonaparte and Cassin May we prove worthy servitors, guarding with jealous care our trust, watchful that the vestal fires shall ever burn at the shrine we worship with a clear and steady flame.

"Ever yours, faithfully,

ELLIOTT COUES."