

## JOHN FARWELL FERRY.\*

BY BENJ. T. GAULT.

The sudden and untimely death at St. Luke's Hospital, Chicago, February 11, 1910, from acute pneumonia, of our fellow member, John Farwell Ferry, came as a great surprise and shock to his many friends in and about the city and throughout the country at large.

Born October 12, 1877, Mr. Ferry developed early in life a fondness for natural history pursuits and, before entering the preparatory school at Andover, Mass., had gathered together a collection of North American birds that would have done credit to a much older person.

Graduating with the engineering class of the Sheffield School of Yale in 1901, he later became Secretary of the Sheffield Branch of the Y. M. C. A. at New Haven, Conn. In 1902 he took up the mercantile calling and acted as a traveling salesman for two years. During the summer of 1905 he received an appointment with the Biological Survey and collected that season in California. February 1, 1906, he joined the staff of the Field Museum of Chicago, under Prof. Chas. B. Cory, curator of the Department of Zoology, which institution he served faithfully and well up to the time of his death.

His museum experience being the longest was perhaps most prolific of results, several trips of some duration being planned and executed by him during that time, chief among which may be mentioned an expedition to Central America and northern South America during the winter of 1907-'08.

This was followed the succeeding year by another to the islands of the Caribbean Sea, which proved unusually successful, adding several novelties new to science among the birds, a honey creeper, *Coereba ferryi*, being named by Prof. Cory in honor of the collector.

The readers of the Bulletin will remember the subject of this sketch by the very excellent paper of his, "The Spring Migration of 1907 in the Vicinity of Chicago," appearing in the March number of 1908. Additional articles have been published by him in "The Auk" and "The Condor," and at the time of his death he was working out a paper based upon the results of the Costa Rican, or Central American, trip previously mentioned. Tall in stature and of a dignified and courteous bearing, Mr. Ferry united to these an amiable turn of mind. He was a young man of exemplary habits and high ideals, and bid fair to achieve distinction as well in the science of birds. His loss to Illinois and to ornithology, therefore, will be keenly felt.

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