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MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

He named one new taxonomic variety; ten new forms, and twenty-seven new name combinations. Named for him were the genus *Breitungia* Love and Love, and two species *Antennaria breitungia* Porsild and *Thalictrum breitungii* Boivin. He donated his central-eastern Saskatchewan plants to the herbarium in Ottawa and left the proceeds of his estate to the August J. Breitung and Mathilde K. Breitung Memorial Trust Fund to support taxonomic research at the W. P. Fraser Herbarium at the University of Saskatchewan. His taxonomic papers remain the standard references for Saskatchewan, not yet superseded.

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C. Stuart Houston

BREWER, THOMAS MAYO. Born Boston, 21 November 1814; died Boston, 23 January 1880. Ornithologist, oologist, publisher.

FAMILY AND EDUCATION

Son of Col. James Brewer, Revolutionary patriot who took part in Boston Tea Party. A.B., 1835, M.D., 1838, Harvard. Married Sally R. Coffin, 1849; two children.

POSITIONS

Medical doctor, Boston, 1838–1840. Contributor, then editor, *Boston Atlas*, 1840–1857. Partner, then president, Swan and Tileston publishing firm (later, Brewer and Tileston), 1857–1875.

CAREER

After brief career as dispensary physician in Boston, became a correspondent for *Boston Atlas*. Published first paper, on native birds of Massachusetts, in *Boston Journal of Natural History* (1837) as a supplement to Hitchcock's *Catalogue of the Birds of Massachusetts*, adding forty-five species. Active in cause of public education, serving on Boston School Committee, 1844 until his death.

Collaborated with Spencer F. Baird and Robert Ridgway on *A History of North American Birds*, 3 vols. (1874), for which he wrote all of the life histories (about two-thirds of material), and the posthumously published *The Water Birds of North America*, 2 vols. (1884).

Joined Boston Society of Natural History in 1835 and contributed papers to its *Proceedings* for over forty years. Prepared and published new edition of *Wilson's American Ornithology* (1840) and contributed to it his own synopsis of all known birds of North America. His journal, *North American Oology*, published by the Smithsonian, appeared only once (1856) due to expenses of color plates. Translated Francis E. Sumichrast's *The Geographical Distribution of the Native Birds of the Department of Vera Cruz, with a List of the Migratory Species* from French into English (1869). Toured principal museums of Europe, 1875–1876, inspecting oological collections; wrote description of trip in August 1877 in *Popular Science Monthly*. Left own large collection of birds' eggs to Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard.

Although an amateur, enjoyed international reputation as ornithologist. Financed and publicized the Swede Thure Kumlien as a naturalist and brought him worldwide recognition. An enthusiastic and indefatigable worker given to argument and criticism, Brewer regarded field of Massachusetts birds as his private domain and did not think highly of younger generation of ornithologists. Quarrel with Elliot Coues over English sparrow was carried on in pages of *American Naturalist*. Was close friend of Audubon's during later years of Audubon's life and received acknowledgment in *Birds of America*.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Considered America's first oologist, in its broadest sense, since he was concerned with breeding habits and life histories, as well as eggshells. Work on geographical distribution of birds.

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John A. Drobnicki

BREWER, WILLIAM HENRY. Born Poughkeepsie, New York, 14 September 1828; died 2 November 1910. Chemist, geologist, botanist.

**BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF
AMERICAN AND CANADIAN
NATURALISTS AND
ENVIRONMENTALISTS**

EDITED BY

*Keir B. Sterling, Richard P. Harmond,
George A. Cevalco, and Lorne F. Hammond*



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