

for 25 years, Chaplain of his American Legion post, and active in other community endeavors. To Nancy Elliott and the happy family he created we express the Federation's deepest sympathies. Though he was prematurely bowed by an affliction that brought no murmur of complaint from him, of him we can truly say, "this was an upright man."

Robert S. Arbib Jr.

NOTE: In having the acting presidency of the Federation pass to me in this untimely and unhappy way, with six month's of John Elliott's term of office still to run, I ask all those who now serve the Federation in any capacity to remain "in office", so that together we may pass over this difficult transition period as smoothly as possible. John leaves the Federation thriving and growing. Let us go forward from here.

R. S. A.

EDWARD J. WHELEN DIES

Edward J. Whelen, president of the Brooklyn Bird Club and long a leader and inspiration for birders in the New York area, died in February of a heart attack. He was taken ill at the dinner preceding a Brooklyn Bird Club monthly meeting.

The heart condition which he had had for several years did not seem to have deterred his birding enthusiasm or activity. In January, only a couple of weeks before his death, he had gone out to Montauk Point at the tip of Long Island, where he and his party had recorded a number of good wintering birds.

He was an enthusiastic member of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs and for many years had taken charge of the winter duck census for the New York region. This area sprawls over Manhattan up the Hudson River and also involves Brooklyn and ferry transportation to Staten Island.

Nothing could take second place to conservation for Ed Whalen. He was a member of the Federation Conservation Committee. He gave generously, eagerly — in fact, pages of it, all handwritten — of his enormous knowledge when asked for background information on issues in which the Federation was engaged — Great Horned Owl, Forest Preserve, etc.

He talked up conservation at almost every meeting of the Brooklyn Club. The club newsletters, which he wrote, snapped, crackled and sizzled with his comments and appeals. They were actually fun to read as well as being motivating.

In the December, 1962, issue of the newsletter, he pointedly referred the poison spray proponents to the dictionary, asserting that in their arguments, "Black becomes White and White is Black, and such words are dangerous, deadly and destructive, become dandy, delightful and diverting!"

Essentially Ed was a teacher and his conservation determination and his very personality, which could hold a room of persons spellbound, seemed to

well up from this quality. He wanted to impart information and to influence — which are the two characteristics that always stand out in a great teacher. He was entirely successful whether it was explaining the ecological reasons for preserving a forest, pointing out the deep-toothed lobes of some leaf in Brooklyn's Prospect Park (when birding was slow), examining a lichen under a microscope, pointing out a celestial nebula, or showing a beginner a Gannet diving into the winter Atlantic waters off Riis Park in Brooklyn.

Those who first saw or learned some star, plant or, particularly a bird, under Ed's guidance will never forget him — and the numbers of such persons are countless.

Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr.

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