
ARTHUR AUGUSTUS ALLEN

On January 17, 1964 Arthur A. Allen died at his home in Ithaca, New York at the age of 78. But to those who knew and loved him — his family, his students, his colleagues, his friends around the world — he is not gone. As Oliver H. Hewitt said at the memorial service in Sage Chapel, a little of him lives on in each of us.

Doc was a kindly man, patient, observant, hard working with a keen sense of humor. I have never known a more understanding person.

He knew each nook and cranny of the Cayuga Lake Basin, he traveled widely too — to Alaska where he and his son David located the nest of the Bristle-thighed Curlew; to Mexico and Labrador, to Churchill and Arizona. He shared these trips with us in his superb photographs and recordings.

His publications on New York State birds first appeared in 1910; one of his last in this issue of the Kingbird. In 1914 our oldest member club, the Linnaean Society of New York published his *The Red-winged Blackbird: A study in the ecology of a cattail marsh*. His life history of the Screech Owl is a favorite of mine with its fine portrayal of the bird and its environment near Glenside. Work on the Ruffed Grouse brought him worldwide recognition as a scientist.

Doc greatly enjoyed the A. O. U. meetings where he renewed old friendships and stimulated the members. As new techniques in photography became available he tried them out and kept a good pace ahead of the changing scene. His courage to tackle the new and the unknown made him an inspiring teacher. With Albert Brand and Paul Kellogg he was quick to open up the world of sound recording which adds so much more to our appreciation of birds. Last night I played *Dawn in a Duck Blind* and marveled again at his depth of understanding of duck, goose and swan talk.

He loved birds and helped others understand and appreciate them. Each May the people of Ithaca enjoyed his early morning bird walks in Stewart Park; at Monday night seminars he presided as the checklist was read and bird events of the week were discussed. During the coffee hour afterwards he took on all comers at Ping-Pong and so far as I can remember he was never beaten. At the close of summer school he and Mrs. Allen were at home at Glenside with their traditional Spencer-Marsh-Water punch. The spring census, a dawn to dark coverage of the Cayuga Lake Basin was inaugurated by Dr. Allen and through the twenties and early thirties the Cornell group competed with a Potter Swamp expedition led by Elon H. Eaton of Hobart College. Doc's team usually won, because he had the immensity of Montezuma as a generous handicap. Later the Buffalo Ornithological Society competed too, with their big Oak Orchard Swamp excursion.

What a legacy he has given to us! His son, Glenn suggested some selections to be read at the memorial service. One, from the Diary of John Woolman, seems particularly appropriate.

In the fall of the year died my father.
In his lifetime he manifested much care for us his children,
And often endeavored to imprint in our minds
The true principles of virtue
And particularly to cherish in us a spirit of tenderness
Not only towards people
But also towards all creatures of which we had the command.
Stephen W. Eaton

DR. ELON H. EATON'S WIDOW DIES

Mrs. Esther Woodman Eaton, 88, widow of Dr. Elon Howard Eaton, died April 5, 1963 in Geneva, N. Y. Dr. Eaton was well known for his two-volume publication, "Birds of New York."

Mrs. Eaton was one of those birding wives, themselves never caught up in the activity, but who, through their encouragement and support, make it possible for their husbands and children to enjoy birding. Her son, Dr. Stephen Woodman Eaton of St. Bonaventure University took his Ph. D. at the School of Ornithology at Cornell University. He is an officer in the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.

Mrs. Eaton further supported bird watching activities through her membership in the Federation and also through financial support for many years of the Eaton Bird Club of Geneva, named in honor of her husband.

Mrs. Eaton was born Nov. 28, 1874 in Hyde Park, Mass. She received a B. A. degree from Smith College, Northampton, Mass. in 1898 and took post graduate work at Radcliffe College.

She came to Geneva to live with her brother, the late Prof. Willis Patten Woodman, professor of Latin at Hobart. There she met Prof. Eaton who was to make Hobart College associated in the public mind with ornithology — an association that is still recalled whenever any teacher there offers a course in this subject. She married Prof. Eaton in 1910, the year that his famous work on New York birds was published.

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The Kingbird is a publication of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need of conserving natural resources and to encourage the establishment and maintenance of sanctuaries and protected areas. Individual member's dues are \$3.00 annually and all individual members receive the Kingbird. A member wishing to make an additional contribution may become a Sustaining Member (\$5) a Supporting Member (\$10) or a Life Member (\$100—"payable over a four-year period in equal installments until the full amount is paid", if member so desires.) For all classes of membership contact the treasurer, Kenneth B. Niven, 61 Broadway, Monticello.