

HOWARD S. MILLER 1905-1969

Howard Miller died in his sleep on December 14, 1969. He had been one of Rochester's most able and most ardent ornithologists. He had been Regional Editor of The Kingbird for Region 2 since 1957. Federation members who had been on field trips with him will remember him well and with respect and affection. The following tribute to Howard by his friend Richard T. O'Hara appeared in the January issue of The Goshawk and is reprinted here with his permission. Ed.

Rochester birders were deeply saddened by the sudden death of Howard S. Miller on December 14, 1969. One of this area's veteran and most expert observers, Howard had been somewhat slowed down recently but seemed as interested and ready to go as always until about a week before his death.

Howard was a native Rochester resident who attended East High School and lived in the Culver Road vicinity all his life. He had been birding regularly in the nearby Tryon Park and Irondequoit Bay area since about 1930 and knew personally almost all of the Rochester ornithological community since that time. Many of his records were included in a summary published in the late 1930's by Richard Horsey who, along with the late William G. Edson, kept track of records from 1913 to that time.

Except for two years of military service in World War II, from which came his meteorological knowledge, he seldom left Rochester.

He was one of ten charter members of the Genesee Ornithological Society, and he acted as its statistics chairman for years. Members greatly enjoyed his knowledgeable articles and also his humorous comments and sidelights when he gave oral reports at the monthly meetings. He was regional editor for the *Kingbird*, publication of Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, and his bird reports for "Region 2 - Genesee" appeared regularly for many years in that journal.

In May, 1967, Howard was elected a Fellow of the Rochester Academy of Science. He subscribed to many journals and was widely read in the whole field of nature study. His fund of knowledge extended to many fields as well, not the least of which was sports, in which he took a keen interest. Howard was a bachelor and worked for many years for J. Hungerford Smith Company before diabetes and the loss of a leg forced his retirement a few years ago.

It was always a pleasure to go out with Howie. He had a very keen ear which was teamed with a remarkable memory, and he often knew from a single note which finch or warbler was overhead or hidden in the foliage. His observations were very carefully made, and other observers were not infrequently forced to recant a hasty call by his careful second look.

All who knew Howard Miller will miss him long. He was a good friend and frequently our teacher. A trip with Howie nearly always left one a little richer in knowledge and in appreciation of the world about us.