

OBITUARY

LILLIAN CHRISTIANSON STONER

The death of Lillian Christianson Stoner on March 25, 1978, in St. Petersburg, Florida, deprived the Federation of a founder, patron, benefactor and long-time friend. Born in Norway, Iowa, on June 12, 1885, she attended the University of Iowa in Iowa City, where she was a pre-medical student and where she met Dayton Stoner, whom she married in 1912. Her college work included a great deal of zoology, and she shared in her husband's work both in the field and out. They had no children, and Mrs. Stoner devoted her life to her husband and his interests, which closely paralleled her own. When Dr. Stoner died in 1944, while State Zoologist of New York, Mrs. Stoner completed his unfinished "Birds of Washington Park, Albany, New York," which was published in 1952 as *Bulletin* No. 344 of the New York State Museum. She wrote many papers on birds for *The Kingbird*, *Feathers*, the journal of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, and other publications. She had a prominent role in the founding of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, an activity that gave her great pride and satisfaction. In 1974 she established the Lillian C. Stoner Award, to encourage aspiring young ornithologists to join the Federation and attend its annual meetings. She was a Patron of the American Ornithologists' Union, having joined that organization in 1907. These are only a few of her many accomplishments and activities.

It is hard to speak of Lillian in the past tense, because she was so interesting, interested, and alive. Our memories of her include a two-day auto trip from Albany, New York, to Columbus, Ohio; she was 84 at the time and her range of conversation greatly enlivened the trip for us. She knew many people and had enjoyed many things; she spoke of her college days, her life with Dayton, her trips, and her investments. We also remember her at the age of 85, when she sat and ate under a picnic table during a sudden shower instead of climbing into a car with the "softies." It is with great personal sorrow that I write these words, for Lillian was a great lady and person as well as a friend. We shall miss her.

— E. M. Reilly