

OBITUARY

Geoffrey Carleton 1909-1998

Geoffrey Carleton passed away in Elizabethtown on 13 Dec 1998 at the age of eighty-nine. He was a long-time Federation member, a past president of the Linnaean Society of New York and of the High Peaks Audubon Society. A birder par excellence, he served as Hudson-St. Lawrence Regional Editor for *Audubon Field Notes*, and his writings appeared in *The Auk*, *The Kingbird*, and *Adirondack Life*.

He studied ornithology with Charles Rogers at Princeton University, graduating with a BA in 1931, and went on to Columbia University where he received a BLS in 1940 and an MA in 1941.

While living in New York City until some thirty plus years ago, he was one of the city's most active and meticulous observers. He wrote "The Birds of Central and Prospect Parks" which was published in the *Linnaean Society's Proceedings* Nos. 66-70 in 1958 and the "Supplement to the Birds of Central and Prospect Parks" in *Proceedings* No. 71 in 1970.

Testimony to his active field life in the metropolitan New York area can be found in the number of records attached to his name in both John Bull's *Birds of the New York Area* (Harper & Row, 1964) and his *Birds of News York State* (Doubleday, 1974).

When the High Peaks Audubon Society was founded in Essex County in 1973, and a newsletter was started, Jeff became mentor and adviser to the editor, a role he played for the next quarter of a century. He also served for many years as Chairman of the Publications Committee, and in 1976 Carleton's *Birds of Essex County, NY* was published, followed by two supplements. In 1980 a Second Edition appeared and the Third Edition has just been printed and is now available.

Jeff was a true "character" and all his friends have a "Jeff story", usually about his lifelong aversion to drafts which he fought by constantly putting on sweaters and scarves removing them, and then putting them on again. My "Jeff story" is about the Federation delegates meeting we both attended many years ago when I noticed his pajamas were sticking out below his trouser legs as an added impediment to cold and drafts.

His Essex County lifelist stands at 272 species, more than any other local observer. It is fitting that the last bird added to that lifelist, a Swainson's Hawk at Witherbee in June 1997, was a first for Essex County.

Emanuel Levine