

IN MEMORIAM

Allan S. Klonick, 1921-2003

Gerry Rising
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On 22 Feb 2003, after over 65 years of active field birding and leadership not only in Rochester but state-wide as well, Allan Klonick died. He will be remembered for his many contributions to ornithology and as a friend to hundreds of Federation members.

Allan Klonick was the last of a fine group of Rochester ornithologists. A founder, in 1938, and later president of the Genesee Ornithological Society, he has now joined his companions in that organization, Gordon Meade, Joe Taylor, Howard Miller, Hi Clement, John Brown, Amb Secker, Elmer Siebert and Bill Edson, in some birding paradise.

But even in that company he stood out. When a remarkable local birding spot, Reed Road Swamp, was threatened by development, Allan, whose business was real estate, organized Bird Refuges, Inc., collected money and bought the property. He later acquired additional land including the famous Island Cottage Woods forming the west spit reaching out into Braddock Bay. Shortly before he died, Allan saw to it that those lands were donated to the Genesee Land Trust.

Allan was also instrumental in the formation of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs and he served as the first editor of *The Kingbird*.

He was president of the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club and helped to rebuild that organization's headquarters after a fire destroyed its earlier structure. For these and his many other contributions to conservation he was elected a Fellow of the Rochester Museum and Science Center.

The cause of Allan's death was a rare form of rapidly developing bladder cancer, his second bout with this dread disease. In 1965 he was diagnosed with throat cancer from which he completely recovered. Because of that earlier episode Allan often told his friends that he considered the years since then a gift. His wife, Sandy, another fine birder, died just nine months before her husband. They are survived by two sons, Thomas and John, and two grandchildren, Kate and Alex.