

Dr. Stephen Woodman Eaton

NYSOA lost a long-time member with the death of Dr. Stephen W. Eaton on February 16, 2017 at 98 years of age. Dr. Eaton had been a member of this organization since 1952. Until his later years, he and his wife Betty were regular attendees at our Annual Meetings. A strong supporter of The Federation/NYSOA, Steve was editor of *The Kingbird* from 1953 until 1956. He was a Seasonal Highlights Editor for nine editions of *The Kingbird*, and was a Regional Editor for Region 1 (Niagara Frontier) 29 times. He chaired the Federation's Bibliography Committee and contributed to many of their annual reports. Dr. Eaton was a charter member of The Cattaraugus County Bird Club that joined the Federation in 1976.

Steve Eaton was the son of Elon Howard Eaton, author of the two volume *Birds of New York* (1910). Steve was a veteran who served with the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II in southeast Asia. Eaton earned his doctorate at Cornell University in 1949 having studied ornithology, botany, and mammalogy. He then joined the faculty of St. Bonaventure University in Allegany New York. Until his retirement from St. Bonaventure in 1984, Dr. Eaton was a major professor for 22 master's candidates and 8 doctoral students in biology and botany.

Dr. Eaton wrote and published over 100 scientific papers. He authored *The Birds of Cattaraugus County New York* and co-authored *A Flora of the Vascular Plants of Cattaraugus County, New York*. Steve was a contributor on the multivolume series *Birds of North America*, writing accounts for Wild Turkey and Northern Waterthrush.

He was the contributing author for 18 species and co-author for two species accounts in *Bull's Birds of New York State* (1998). Eaton did field work on both New York breeding bird atlas projects and was the author of 44 species accounts in the first atlas (*The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*, 1988).

Stephen Eaton was instrumental in the reintroduction of the Wild Turkey in New York State. Starting in 1965, he participated in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Breeding Bird Survey and continued to cover his route until his acute hearing began to wane in the in the 1980s. He had a strong environmental ethic and served on the board of Western New York's Nature Conservancy. Following his retirement from St. Bonaventure, he worked to find a more environmentally sound alternative to aerial pesticide spraying for mosquito control along the Allegheny River Valley in Cattaraugus County. In retirement, he led many groups on field trips for birders and nature enthusiasts in western New York. He was instrumental in the founding of the Pfeiffer Nature Center in Portville, NY (a NYSOA member organization).

Dr. Eaton was a consummate naturalist and valued teacher. He is survived by his wife Betty and a foster son, Dr. Robert J. Ketterman, along with a large number of former students, colleagues, and friends whose lives were enriched by this man.