

In Memoriam: Burton S. Webster

Burton S. Webster, manager of Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge for 24 years before his retirement in 1972, died August 25, 1980. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, two sons, one daughter, four grandsons, and three sisters. A native of New York state, Burt was educated at Syracuse University, School of Forestry. His first job was with the U.S. Forest Service, and he worked on five National Forests before transferring to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at White River National Wildlife Refuge in 1940.

Burt served two years in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Following the war he and his family moved to Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge in 1948. He was a recognized conservation leader in Mississippi, and was named the outstanding conservationist in Mississippi in 1970. Burt was one of the principal organizers of the Oktibbeha Audubon Society and was long a faithful member of the Mississippi Ornithological Society. He served MOS as vice-president from 1967 to 1971 and frequently contributed important bird records to the MOS Newsletter and the Mississippi Kite. Among his many talents, Burt was an ardent photographer. He knew the value of photographic records (see cover photo). As a tribute to Burton Webster the Oktibbeha Audubon Society has donated a large collection of bird books in his name to the Starkville Public Library.



Burton and Marjorie Webster on the occasion of Burton's 70th birthday, 18 March 1980