

IN MEMORIAM: STANLEY GORDON JEWETT

BY IRA N. GABRIELSON

STANLEY GORDON JEWETT was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick, on February 15, 1885, and moved with his family to California in 1895 where he attended school at Berkeley, Alameda, and near Healdsburg. After his father's death in 1897, the family returned to New Brunswick, where he finished grammar school and attended business college at Fredericton. In 1902, he went to Portland, Oregon, and spent a year at the Bartlett Ranch on Government Island, a farm which is now in a state wildlife management area. He went briefly back to New Brunswick, but returned in 1904, and from that time until his death on October 12, 1955, he was a resident of Oregon.

The Pacific Northwest was his chosen field of interest, and he left it only for brief intervals on collecting trips. The longest of these was for the Field Museum of Chicago in company with Dr. Wilfred H. Osgood to collect birds and mammals in Colombia and Venezuela in 1910 and 1911. During the interval between 1904 and 1910, he worked at various jobs around Oregon, but, whatever he was doing, he never lost interest in the out-of-doors and particularly in the birds and mammals.

In 1910, he was given a temporary appointment in the Biological Survey (Fish and Wildlife Service) and for several years continued to work on the biological surveys of Oregon, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Idaho, working in Oregon for the Biological Survey and the Oregon Game Commission on a co-operative project between those two agencies.

After 1916, he was continuously employed by the Biological Survey and the Fish and Wildlife Service in various capacities until his retirement in November of 1949. During that time, he worked on various surveys, handled predatory animal control work in Oregon and Washington, and later both rodent control and predatory animal work in Oregon.

He served for a time as superintendent of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge when it was being restored and had appointments as flyway biologist, refuge division biologist, and wildlife research biologist for the regional office.

He married Edna Isabella Myers of Portland on August 6, 1907, and is survived by her and two children, Stanley G. Jewett, Jr., a biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service, stationed at Portland, and Mrs. Leslie Hall who also lives in Portland.

Stan Jewett was one of a diminishing group of naturalists. While



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his principal interest was in birds and mammals, he had a genuine interest and a good working knowledge of the flora and fauna of the Pacific Northwest. Prior to my transfer to that area in 1918, I felt that I already knew Jewett because I had read so many of his field notes and examined the stomachs of so many birds he had collected. As we were both working for the same organization, although he was then stationed in Pendleton, Oregon, and I in Corvallis, we soon became acquainted, and from that time made field trips together whenever our work permitted us to travel in the same territory. As the work to which we were assigned developed in eastern Oregon, we arranged more and more trips together in that country. Traveling in a Model T Ford in those days was quite an adventure in itself. Roads were practically non-existent, and the distance that could be made in one day was dependent upon many things besides the number of hours of travel. We commonly carried with us food, bedrolls, extra water, gas, oil, and tools for repairing the unpredictable Ford. Sometimes we made twenty miles a day, sometimes we could make a hundred and carry on our other activities. Usually we camped where night overtook us and, from the first, made it a practice to put out a line of small mammal traps each evening. When it was possible to do so, we also did some bird collecting. We spent many evenings skinning birds in front of the car lights when we failed to finish before dark. While we did not make too much speed, it was still faster than any other mode of travel, and we did get thoroughly acquainted with the country and with its wildlife.

Jewett was one of the best field men I have ever known. He was energetic, covered the country thoroughly, and knew the birds and mammals well. It was always a pleasure to be with him in the field. Early in our association we learned that each of us was writing up notes on work done in North Dakota. As a result of our discussions, we decided to combine our notes into one paper, the first of a series of joint activities that carried on over the years until we published our collective notes in "The Birds of Oregon" in 1940.

Both of us habitually kept daily field notes while on our regular duties and frequently took our vacations to visit areas of the state that we did not get to visit regularly. Working together, we gradually covered every part of the state and eventually became especially interested in the offshore birds. In association with the late J. C. Braley, we made as many offshore trips as we could finance out of our slender personal incomes and gathered information on the offshore movements of birds along the Oregon coast.

In later years, when it was not possible for us to continue our joint

travels, we made brief excursions together whenever possible. We had many memories of good trips to share, particularly the offshore trips, our excursions into the great sagebrush areas of southeastern Oregon, and those into the Wallowa Mountains, an area which fascinated us.

Jewett was a good fly fisherman and habitually carried a fly rod, partly because it was sometimes necessary to live off the country and also because he thoroughly enjoyed fishing and a chance to watch the wildlife around him. He was a good hiker and camper, and a first-class field observer. Few men ever lived who knew the birds and mammals of the Pacific Northwest so well. His interest continued after his retirement in 1949, and he continued field work as long as his strength permitted. One of his greatest complaints on our last few visits was the fact that he could no longer be as active as he had been.

Jewett was elected a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1940 and was granted an honorary Doctor of Science degree by Oregon State College in 1953. He had earned these honors by a life-long of work in his chosen field.

He was not only a good field man but was thoroughly acquainted with most of the literature relating to birds and mammals of the Northwest. He spent many hours checking records and literature to correlate his own records with previous knowledge. While desk work irked him and he much preferred to be out of doors, he did produce many papers on birds and mammals during his active career. In addition to the "Birds of Oregon," he was one of the authors of the recently published "Birds of Washington State." As a result of many years of week-end trips in the vicinity of Portland, we prepared "The Birds of Portland and Vicinity," published as Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 19 of the Cooper Club's Avifauna series. This joint project eventually grew into an effort to put together the available information on Oregon birds and resulted in other joint publications. In addition to these books and papers, his bibliography contains about 80 titles of shorter notes, articles, and radio talks on birds, mammals, and conservation.

Jewett was an enthusiastic and persistent collector. He made excellent skins of both birds and mammals. In addition to those that went to the Field Museum and to other museums for which he worked in his early years, there are many hundreds of specimens collected by him in the U. S. National Museum and in the Fish and Wildlife Service Collection. The largest part of his private collection is now in the San Diego Museum. Material collected since he transferred his large collection there some years before his death has gone to the

College of Puget Sound. This institution also has received most of his library.

In addition to his keen interest in taxonomy, distribution, and habits of birds and mammals, Jewett had a continuing interest in conservation affairs. He and W. L. Finley worked for many years to build public support for the creation of the Malheur Refuge and the Hart Mountain Refuge in Oregon. He was always willing to stand and fight for anything in which he believed, and as his knowledge and reputation spread, he became increasingly influential in conservation affairs in the Pacific Northwest.

He will be sorely missed by those who were associated with him in these conservation activities, and his passing leaves a gap among the field ornithologists of this country. Men of his broad knowledge are becoming scarce in these days of increasing specialization, and there is need for men trained in the broader as well as the specialized biological fields. He was largely self-trained, but he did an excellent job and made a name for himself that will live long in the Pacific Northwest.

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