

## OBITUARY

ELSA GUERDRUM ALLEN, Member of the A.O.U. since 1935, Elective Member since 1947, died following a short illness on January 29, 1969, in Utica, New York. The widow of Arthur A. Allen (1885-1964) she was born in Washington, D. C. in 1888, attended schools in that city, received her B.S. from Cornell University in 1912, and her Ph.D. in 1929. While her doctoral dissertation concerned the life history of the Eastern Chipmunk, her chief interest came to be in birds and especially in the history of ornithology.

Her college-days friendship with Anna Allen (later Mrs. Albert H. Wright) resulted in her being included in field trips and other activities when Anna's brother Arthur was present, and in August, 1913, Elsa and Arthur were married—the beginning of a unique partnership in work, research, play, and family life that continued until her husband's death. Except when the children were quite small, she usually accompanied him on his expeditions and on photographic and lecture trips.

Soon after their marriage they moved into the spacious, rambling home on the hill overlooking Cayuga Lake, known as "Glenside." Here, over the years, Elsa Allen came to be known as a gracious and thoughtful hostess to the many students, colleagues, friends, and alumni who found their way to this charming home. How she managed to raise her family, care for the large house and garden, do research, and entertain large groups often with little advance notice was hard to fathom. The five Allen children were born between 1918 and 1927; she was thus caring for small youngsters while finishing her studies and research for her Ph.D.

She frequently assisted A. A. Allen in the Cornell summer session ornithology courses, taken by many teachers and graduate students. She acted as librarian of the Fuertes Library when it was housed in Fernow Hall, and for a few years after it was moved to the laboratory's new headquarters in the Lyman K. Stuart Observatory at Sapsucker Woods. She was responsible for many additions to the library. Until her death, she was a Research Collaborator of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. She was a member of Sigma Xi, the History of Science Society, and the Charles Lamb Society of London, as well as the major ornithological societies.

I have been unable to ascertain when she first became interested in ornithology, but in her first article in the *Auk* in 1936, entitled "Some 16th century paintings of American birds," she indicates that her interest had developed "a number of years ago" and it may be honestly said that she devoted her life as a scholar to this study. She was chiefly responsible for bringing long-overdue attention to the work of John Abbot, an early naturalist who painted in the late 1700s many of the birds of the southern United States, and thanks to her efforts, he was honored in a ceremony in Savannah, Georgia, in 1957, when Mrs. Allen unveiled a monument to his memory. She also was intensely interested in the work of Mark Catesby and Alexander Wilson, and gained greater recognition for their work than had hitherto been given, without disparaging the work of their contemporaries.

Her major work was "The history of American ornithology before Audubon," published in 1951 as Volume 41, Part 3 of the *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, the work having been supported by two grants from the Penrose Fund of the Society. After being out-of-print and virtually unobtainable for some years, it has just (1969) been reprinted by Russell and Russell in New York City. In 1956 she was given a grant by the National Academy of Sciences to continue her studies of John Abbot. This manuscript was almost complete at the time of her death and it is hoped that some way will be found to bring it to completion and publication.

It is to be regretted that because of concentration on the John Abbot book, she never was able to finish her contemplated work on post-Audubon ornithology, for which she had received a grant from the National Science Foundation, as it would be a worthy sequel to her earlier book.

Elsa Allen was a true scholar, a quiet unassuming person. We at Cornell will miss her visits to the Laboratory of Ornithology, and to her four surviving sons and daughters we extend our sympathy.—SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD.

### NOTES AND NEWS

The Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund of The American Museum of Natural History is administered by a committee that meets twice annually to review applications for grants and fellowships. Applications should be submitted not later than **15 February** and **15 September**. Application forms may be obtained from the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund Committee, The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024.

Dr. Joel Cracraft was appointed a Chapman Fellow for the period September 1969 to September 1970. He will study the phylogeny of the Gruiformes. Dr. M. Philip Kahl also received a fellowship for the period January 1970 to January 1971 to continue his studies of storks of the world.

Chapman grants during 1969, totalling \$59,200.00, were awarded to: Curtis S. Adkisson, individual recognition and behavior of Pine Grosbeaks; Bertin W. Anderson, mechanisms preventing interbreeding between Black-headed and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks; George W. Archibald, interspecific behavioral comparison of cranes in captivity; Clait E. Braun, taxonomic studies of White-tailed Ptarmigan; J. LeGay Brereton, study of desert habitats and bird life of southwestern U. S. as compared with the desert areas in Australia; Edwin H. Bryan, Jr., to study the Whitney South Sea Expedition journals in The American Museum of Natural History; Donald F. Caccamise, comparative niche utilization between the Common Nighthawk and the Lesser Nighthawk; Lynn Carpenter, adaptations of *Oreotrochilus estella* to its high altitude environment; Kenneth L. Crowell, population studies of Bermuda birds; James J. Dinsmore, studies on the Sooty Tern; Thomas C. Dunstan, a comparative investigation of tape recording playback and radio telemetry techniques in studying ecology and ethology of *Bubo virginianus* and *Otus asio* and also for his studies on the pesticide content of Osprey and prey items and relationship to breeding success; Lee A. Eberly, behavioral and ecological studies of Screech Owls; John T. Emlen, bird populations of Florida and Bahama Pine Forests; Tibor Farkas, biology and ethology of the genus *Pseudocossyphus* of Madagascar; J. Alan Feduccia, foraging behavior of the furnariid *Margarornis rubiginosus* in mixed species foraging flocks; Richard P. French, research at The American Museum of Natural History on Trinidad birds; Douglas Flack, bird populations in the aspen forests of western North America; C. H. Fry, research on the bee-eater *Merops boehmi* in Malawi and to attend the III Pan-African Ornithological Congress; Jon C. Glase, the nature and ecological significance of the dominance hierarchy in flocks of the Black-capped Chickadee; Leon J. Gorski, an investigation of factors related to taxonomy, territoriality, and habitat selection in Traill's Flycatcher; Great Gull Island Committee of The American Museum of Natural History, field work on Great Gull Island, New York; Robert J. Grimm and Richard B. Halley, analysis of bobbing behavior in the American Dipper; John William Hardy, breeding biology of the