

OBITUARY



MRS. CARLL BRADY TUCKER, who died in New York City on December 21, 1976, in her 93rd year, will be sadly missed in the world of ornithologists; we have lost a friend and supporter of a very rare quality. Of only medium height, Marcia Tucker nevertheless had a certain aristocratic presence, the effect heightened by a deep, resonant voice. Nonetheless she was friendly and forthright.

She became keenly interested in the study and the protection of birds, which she always loved, in the nineteen-twenties, greatly encouraged by the late Frank Chapman and a few other bird enthusiasts, and she soon began to help a variety of organizations. One of the first to benefit was The American Museum of Natural History, as the beautiful exhibit of British Birds presented by her in memory of Viscount Grey, an old friend, still bears testimony. She served several terms as a director of the National Audubon Society, for which she worked generously for many years. She helped also very substantially the International Council for Bird Preservation, and the same can be said of the A.O.U.

As long ago as 1932 one reads that the publication of A. H. Howell's *Birds of Florida* was made possible through her generosity. One may assume that this was to permit inclusion of the fine color plates by the late F. L. Jaques which adorn that volume.

For many years and continuing to the time of her death, The Marcia Brady Tucker Foundation annually awarded a grant to permit two or three deserving students to attend our annual meeting. Meanwhile, the Council of the Union had from time to time discussed the need for a publication outlet for papers of greater length than could be accommodated in *The Auk*. This need was met when George H. Lowery, then President of the Union, with his unflinching tact and lucidity, persuaded Marcia Tucker to subsidize a new series to be called *Ornithological Monographs*. The first of these appeared in 1964 and now more than 20 have been published. The series has become one of the most important in the annals of ornithological publication. The annual subvention of \$5,000 from the Tucker Foundation insured its success. A high point of the junior author's term as president of our organization was the annual meeting held at Ohio State University in 1965. Mrs. Tucker was persuaded to attend the annual banquet and sit at the dais next to Robert M. Mengel, whose *Birds of Kentucky* had just been issued as number 3 in the

Monograph series. Bob Mengel, who had known Marcia Tucker for many years, in his witty tribute to her noted that this was the second time she had bailed him out; the first had been on a birding trip to Jones Beach when they had nearly foundered in a leaky rowboat.

She was a member of the A.O.U. since 1924, and she became a benefactor in 1968. A daughter of Anthony N. Brady, a founder of Consolidated Edison and Union Carbide companies, Mrs. Tucker disposed of adequate means to support those who shared her tastes, working for the preservation of birds and conducting life studies of them. For many years she was helped by Carll Tucker, her late husband, who took much interest in her work. They owned a sea-going yacht and traveled widely, visiting a number of countries. Bird watching was always a principal object.

Although she insisted on being a simple amateur, Mrs. Tucker actually acquired a good knowledge, not only of the North American avifauna, but of the birds of Great Britain and several other countries. She amassed an important library of ornithological books, including most of the great works of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, which, some years ago, she donated to the Smithsonian Institution, Cornell and Kansas Universities, and the Audubon Museum of Henderson, Kentucky. She also presented to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Cincinnati Museum of Art a remarkable collection of childrens' portraits by English artists of the eighteenth and nineteenth century. She loved children and was very helpful with a number of charitable institutions and hospitals.

Several generations of ornithologists were graciously entertained at Mrs. Tucker's great residences in New York City, at Mount Kisco, and at Hobe Sound, Florida. Whenever a Congress or some other meeting took place in the vicinity, a reception was held for its members, who would always remember it with delight and gratitude. She met most of them, being a regular attendant at many national and international gatherings.

Times have changed; the New York mansion was razed to make room for yet another dreary apartment house. But those who were privileged to know Marcia Tucker will not forget her; those who were not will nonetheless continue to benefit from her lifelong devotion to our science. Because of a long and close friendship, the senior author is particularly honored to be able to express here the gratitude of all those who knew her and benefitted from her kindness, enthusiasm and generosity.—JEAN DELACOUR and DEAN AMADON

NOTES AND NEWS

Wanted: Data on the seasonal distribution of North American gulls.—We are developing a procedure whereby the U.S. Air Force can predict the potential seasonal hazard to aircraft presented by gulls in parts of North America. This knowledge will be used to schedule missions around high risk areas thereby reducing the likelihood of bird/aircraft collisions. Supplemental data on local gull populations are needed from all parts of the continent. The assistance of field workers is solicited to aid us in this task. Please submit reports of your gull observations to DR. WILLIAM E. SOUTHERN, *Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115*. Data will be gathered for a 2-year period beginning 1 September 1977.

For each observation, please provide the following information: list of species present, approximate number of each species, precise locality description, dates observed, any information on causes for concentrations (e.g. sanitary landfill operation), and any details about the frequency of such concentrations in the respective areas. Information is sought from inland as well as coastal localities.

Shorebird color-marking in Alaska.—The U.S.F.W.S. has begun color-marking and banding shorebirds along the Alaska Peninsula. Dunlin, Short- and Long-billed Dowitcher, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Rock and Western Sandpiper, and Bar-tailed Godwits are being color-banded with a split red-blue band (and with U.S.F.W.S. metal leg band). Each bird is also being color-marked yellow with picric acid. Reports of sightings of such birds should be sent to: BIRD BANDING LABORATORY, *Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, Maryland 20811*. A copy of the report should also be sent to ROBERT GILL, JR., *USFWS, 800 A Street, Suite 110, Anchorage, Alaska 99501*. Reports should include details of species (with age if possible), place, date, color marks, and notes on association with other shorebirds. For color and metal bands please record which leg the band is on, the color scheme, e.g. red over blue or blue over red, and whether the bands are above or below the "knee."