



SAMUEL CHARLES KENDEIGH, 1904-1986

## IN MEMORIAM: SAMUEL CHARLES KENDEIGH

ROGER D. APPLGATE

*P.O. Box 70, Orono, Maine 04473 USA*

Ornithology lost an eminent scientist with the passing of Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh, professor emeritus of zoology at the University of Illinois, at Urbana, Illinois, on 13 November 1986. Burial was in South Amherst, Ohio.

Dr. Kendeigh was born on 18 December 1904 at South Amherst, Ohio. He attended Oberlin College, where he received B.A. (1926) and M.A. (1927) degrees, and the University of Illinois, where he received a doctorate (1930). He taught at Western Reserve University from 1930 to 1936, when he joined the faculty at the University of Illinois. From 1925 to 1939 he was a research associate for the Baldwin Bird Research Laboratory at Gates Mills, Ohio. He retired from the University of Illinois in 1973.

Dr. Kendeigh received the A.O.U. Brewster Award in 1951 and the Ecological Society of America's Eminent Ecologist Award in 1978. He

wrote the classic "Physiology of the Temperature of Birds" and edited Shelford's "The Ecology of North America." The most recent of Dr. Kendeigh's 90+ publications (1979, *Illinois Biol. Monogr.* No. 50; 1982, *Illinois Biol. Monogr.* No. 52) were extensive summaries and analyses of 50 years of data from three Illinois natural areas. He was compiler from 1941 to 1973 of the Champaign Co., Illinois, Christmas Bird Count. His research interests included bird populations in relation to habitat, avian life histories, and physiological responses of birds to various seasonal and climatic regimes. He co-edited the book "Productivity, Population Dynamics, and Systematics of Granivorous Birds," which was the proceedings of the First General Meeting of the Working Group on Granivorous Birds of the International Biological Program (1973, *Warsaw, Polish Acad. Sci.*). He cooperated with

other international scientific efforts over the years.

Dr. Kendeigh was active in many professional and conservation organizations. He served as president of the Wilson Ornithological Society and the Ecological Society of America, and vice president of the A.O.U. He was co-founder and first chair of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and a co-founder of the Nature Conservancy and the Animal Behavior Society.

His deep concern for preservation of natural areas led him to action on a local level as a charter member, president, and board member of the Champaign County Audubon Society. He was instrumental in efforts to protect several significant natural areas in the Urbana area. For more than 25 years he served on the University of Illinois's Committee on Natural Areas, which oversees lands entrusted to the University for ecological research. Just before his death he had become actively involved in efforts to restore a tract of native prairie in a city park in Urbana.

A lesser-known fact is that Dr. Kendeigh was a strong advocate of nature education. Through

the Champaign County Audubon Society he supported establishment of a community nature center in Urbana. Like many others, I am forever indebted to him for providing some of my first experiences with birds. We were companions on numerous field trips and bird counts for nearly 20 years.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Dorothy E. Sutton Kendeigh; a son, Donald Charles Kendeigh; and a daughter, Katherine Jane Little. Also surviving are a sister, 8 grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Dr. Kendeigh left us all with a legacy of accomplishments, an attitude of productivity, and the dedication to complete the tasks he began for us. In 1985 the Champaign County Audubon Society established the S. Charles Kendeigh Ornithological Research Institute to honor his years of scientific excellence and to continue his research. We will all miss the sensitive and considerate man, as well as the competent scientist.

I thank K. Hamrick, L. Drury, N. Stutsman, and Dr. L. L. Getz for valuable assistance. Dr. Getz kindly provided the photo.