

IN MEMORIAM: ALFRED E. EYNON, 1918–1988

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Alfred Eynon, a crack field ornithologist and authority on the avifauna of northern New Jersey, joined the American Ornithologists' Union in 1934. He was made an Elective Member in 1969 and a Fellow in 1983. Eynon was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, on 14 September 1918. He kept his New England accent all his life, went into the insurance business in Newark, New Jersey, saw military service (1942–1946) in Europe during World War II, and emerged with the rank of captain in the U.S. Army. In Italy, he sustained a head wound, which was to impair his later life. He took his bachelor's degree at Rutgers University in 1952–1955, his M.S. at Wisconsin in 1962, and his Ph.D. there in 1969.

At Madison, Eynon's career was set back by recurrent bouts of poor health; eventually he lost his ability to drive a motorcar. His master's thesis was an analysis of Aldo Leopold's field notes on the timing of bird song at the start and close of the day (published as a jointly authored

paper in *The Condor* (1963: 269). His Ph.D. dissertation, undertaken under J. T. Emlen Jr., was on "The agonistic and sexual behavior of captive Japanese quail: *Coturnix coturnix japonica*." Eynon's research career after graduation was curtailed because he was eventually confined to a wheelchair. Eynon made it his business to become familiar with the works of other ornithologists and he seldom forgot what he learned: he was virtually a walking encyclopedia of ornithological people and places. His humble and understanding attitude made him a pleasant person with whom to be associated. His one good break in life was his marriage to Emma Probasco on 21 February 1942. In his later years, he was more and more dependent on her for everything, and her unfailing devotion to his needs compelled the reverent admiration of all his friends. He died of a coronary on 28 October 1988, at their home in Verona, New Jersey, and he is buried at Grandin, New Jersey.