

OBITUARY

MARGARET MORSE NICE
(1883-1974)

Margaret Nice died on 26 June 1974 at her home in Chicago, Illinois at the age of 90. The ornithological world and especially NEBBA have lost a faithful and dedicated scientist.

She was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, the daughter of a Professor of History at Amherst College. In 1906 she received the B.A. degree from Mount Holyoke College and in 1915, the M.A. degree from Clark University. She was married for nearly 65 years to Dr. Leonard Blaine Nice who prior to retirement had been Chairman of the Department of Pharmacology and Physiology of Chicago Medical School.

To many, she will be remembered as the housewife who single-handedly authored one of the most carefully executed life history studies ever attempted—the two volume series (“Studies in the Life History of the Song Sparrow”) published in 1937 and 1943 by the Linnaean Society of New York. Others will recall her charming book, “The Watcher at the Nest,” or the publication in 1962 entitled, “Behaviour of the Song Sparrow and Other Passerines,” or “Birds of Oklahoma.” Readers of *Bird-Banding* and those associated with NEBBA over the years have profited from her scientific articles (11) and general notes (4) published in the journal. Her first contribution to *Bird-Banding* was in Volume 1 (1930) and her last in Volume 42 (1971). Many readers have been impressed by the *hundreds* of review articles appearing in the Recent Literature section and by her command of the European literature on birds. She also found time to serve as President of the Wilson Ornithological Society (1937-1939), as an Associate Editor of *Bird-Banding* beginning in 1935, and she was instrumental in publishing the 1941-50 Ten-year Index.

In 1942 the American Ornithologists' Union awarded her the Brewster Medal for her classic work on the Song Sparrow, labelling this “The most important work published on birds of the western hemisphere during the last six years.” The honorary degree of Doctor of Science was conferred upon her by Mount Holyoke College on 5 June 1955, recognizing her outstanding contributions to “. . . studies on territory in bird life, on bird song, and on the incubation period of birds. . . .”

We are all saddened by the loss of this friend from the ornithological society, but what a productive and exemplary life she led! We will sorely miss her regular, punctual, and scholarly contributions to *Bird-Banding* and NEBBA.—Editor.