

## The University of Connecticut, Storrs

George A. Clark, Jr.

THE University of Connecticut at Storrs, located in a predominantly rural setting about 20 miles east of Hartford and 30 miles from the shores of Long Island Sound, is one of the largest centers of higher education in the state. More than 16,000 students are enrolled during the academic year and more than 3000 of these are in graduate programs. Other branches and facilities of the University are located throughout the state. The Storrs campus lies in a scenic area of rolling hills and valleys, principally covered by deciduous second-growth forests. The University owns about 2300 acres, most of which are undeveloped and available for field research including the 300-acre Moss Tract. Moreover, many thousands of additional acres are readily accessible in nearby woodlands. There is, also, a marine studies field station at Noank, Connecticut.

An ornithology course was first offered in 1900-01, when the institution was known as the Connecticut Agricultural College. A titular appointment of State Ornithologist of Connecticut, to be held by a member of the faculty, was first created by the state legislature in 1909. Herbert K. Job was the first appointee, holding that position until 1914 when he resigned to direct the Department of Applied Ornithology of the National Association of Audubon Societies, the forerunner of the present National Audubon Society. From 1928 to 1953 an ornithology course was taught by Professor Jerrold A. Manter, who after retirement from the University, has prepared two editions of a volume summarizing the status of more than 250 species of birds known from the Storrs area (Manter, J. A., 1975, *Birds of Storrs, Connecticut and vicinity*, 2nd ed., 86 pages, pub-

lished by the Natchaug Ornithological Society). Professor James A. Slater, formerly State Ornithologist, taught ornithology from 1954 to 1964 and has done much to facilitate the development of ornithological research at Storrs. The introductory ornithology courses have subsequently been taught by Professor George A. Clark, Jr., the present State Ornithologist.

The current Biological Sciences Group includes about 75 faculty members and offers one of the widest arrays of biology courses in New England. Additionally, The University of Connecticut Museum of Natural History contains over two million biological specimens, including more than 9000 study skins of birds as well as collections of avian mounts, skeletons, embalmed specimens, feathers, eggs, nests, and photographs. Professor Carl Rettenmeyer is Head of the Biological Sciences Group and Director of the Museum of Natural History. George Clark is the Curator in Ornithology, and Robert Dubos is manager of the vertebrate collections and chief preparator. Among the wide range of facilities available at the University are a spectrum analyzer for study of vocalizations, scanning and transmission electron microscopy, an extensive library, and a major computer center with numerous terminals in the Torrey Life Sciences Building. A synopsis of more than 20 M.S. and Ph.D. theses concerned with avian ecology and behavior was published in 1981 (Clark, G. A., Jr., Ornithological theses at the University of Connecticut, *Connecticut Warbler* 1:47-50.) Recent graduates include Noble Proctor, now compiling a "Birds of Connecticut," Robert Norton, West Indies Region Editor for *American Birds*, Robert Bertin, author on thrushes and hummingbirds, Carol Smith, New

Hampshire endangered species authority, Tony DeGange, now in Alaska, and others.

THE FOLLOWING faculty members are currently conducting research on the biology of wild birds.

Alan H. Brush (newly appointed Editor of *The Auk*) teaches physiology and studies the comparative biochemistry and systematics of birds with special attention to feather proteins and pigments and the developmental biology of feathers.

George A. Clark, Jr. (co-editor with Brush of the *A.O.U.* "Perspectives in Ornithology," 1983) teaches evolution and ornithology and conducts research on the external structure of birds in relation to their behavior, ecology, and systematics.

Theodore Taigen teaches physiological ecology, and his research includes the respiratory physiology of eggs and the energetics of nestling birds.

Andrew Moiseff teaches neurophysiology and studies mechanisms of sound localization by Barn Owls.

David Miller of the Psychology Department teaches comparative animal behavior and investigates the development of vocalizations in ducks and quail.

Other current faculty members who have contributed to ornithological studies include G. Anderson (pollination biology), N. Clark (comparative vertebrate endocrinology), A. Damman (plant ecology), P. Goetinck (developmental biology), S. Pacala (community and theoretical ecology), C. Rettenmeyer (social insects), J. Slater (entomology, systematics, and biogeography), R. Somes (avian genetics), F. Streams (insect ecology), F. Trainor (transmission of algae by birds), and K. Wells (vertebrate social behavior).

— *The Biological Sciences Group*  
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