

JAMES A. G. REHN

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On January 25, 1965, the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club lost James A. G. Rehn, one of its greatest naturalists. He had been a member since 1899 and during the course of the years contributed to *Cassinia*, read papers, and was active in many posts. He was a fellow and past president. The words he used in *Cassinia* to commemorate Witmer Stone fit him to a preeminent degree. He wrote "He belonged to a now passing group, that of the old school general naturalist, as his interest in animate nature was so broad and vivid that he had more than a casual acquaintance with the many components of many groups of animals and of plants as well."

Mr. Rehn was one of the Academy's most widely-known scientists. He was one of the world's outstanding orthopterists (specialists in roaches, crickets, and grasshoppers). He worked mainly with grasshoppers, and largely through his efforts a collection of more than half a million specimens, among the finest in the world, was built at the Academy. He contributed papers not only in his specialized field in which he described 954 species of orthoptera new to science but also papers on mammals.

His versatility is suggested when he accompanied the George Vanderbilt Expedition to Africa in 1934 acting as ornithologist, mammalogist, herpetologist, and ichthyologist. He managed to collect quite a few insects along the way. This trip was one of the 29 made by Mr. Rehn. He collected in Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, the Matto Grosso in Brazil, as well as many places in the United States.

To have known Jimmy when he was active in the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club was an inspiration and a privilege. His gift of vivid description and narration made his trips come alive. His dedication to the scientific purposes of a trip did not prevent him from appreciating the human and humorous happenings. He recalled that the expedition on the African trip was stalled by the unwillingness of a native chief to let the safari go into his territory. Mr. Vanderbilt had expected no difficulty as he had been made very welcome on a previous trip. The chief seemed unable to recall his previous hospitality. After several attempts to establish a workable relationship had been met with stony and noncommittal responses, the shades of disappointment and frustration looked as though they might crystallize into a permanent bloc to the expedition's further progress. Then inspiration came to Mr. Vanderbilt. He produced a bottle of gin. The light of recognition came to the eyes of the chief. With the appearance of a second bottle cordiality exuded from his every pore. Jimmy swore that the chief remembered not only the gin but the brand.

James A. G. Rehn was alive to the whole world of nature: insects, birds, plants, geology, weather, ecological relationships, and evolutionary interpretation. He did not preach, he shared. He said without words "Share my joy in this amazing and challenging world of living things." We treasure this.

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