

HENRY W. FOWLER

JAMES K. MERITT

Henry W. Fowler, Curator Emeritus of the Department of Ichthyology & Herpetology at the Academy of Natural Sciences, died on June 21, 1965, at the age of 87.

Mr. Fowler first visited the Academy as a schoolboy in 1892, and two years later his official association with the Academy began. This association lasted for seventy-one years and was continuous, except for a two-year period when he was a special student at Stanford University.

Mr. Fowler's enormous knowledge of the fishes of the world and his published literature made him the most widely known ichthyologist of his time. His first publication appeared in 1900. His scientific writings include over 600 titles and constitute nearly 19,000 pages of printed material. His works include studies on the fishes of China, the Philippine Islands, Malaya, New Zealand, Peru, Chile, Brazil, and the Crustacea of New Jersey, Fossil Fishes of New Jersey, and Marine Fishes of West Africa. In 1944, when he was 66 years old, he embarked on "A Catalog of World Fishes", a monumental classification of each known fish according to family, genus, species, subspecies and other groups.

Mr. Fowler's papers were profusely illustrated, and he is thought to have illustrated more species of fish than any other person in the history of ichthyology. Originals of his drawings and paintings of fishes, both published and unpublished, fill many feet of shelf space in the Academy's manuscript library where he generously deposited them.

He hunted fish in oceans around the globe and urged scientists going on expeditions to bring back fish specimens. His large and varied collection of fishes was also donated to the Academy. He made known to science many hundreds of previously unrecognized species of fishes, as well as two new families.

Henry Fowler did not actively participate in the affairs of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club during his later years, but he served as President of the Club from 1916-1918. His article "Water Birds of the Middle Delaware Valley" appears in the 1903 *Cassinia*, and "Some Local Fish-Eating Birds" appears in the issue of 1913. Many of the bird skins in the D.V.O.C. collection were taken by Henry Fowler around the turn of the century; these include a number, such as the Yellow Rail, that might be considered unusual or of especial interest.

Mr. Fowler joined the D.V.O.C. in 1894, and at the time of his death he was the only remaining member to have joined the Club in the last century.

He is survived by his wife, the former Elizabeth Keim, and a son, Henry W., Jr.

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