



NORMAN JOHN McDONALD  
1885—1971

## NORMAN J. McDONALD

PHILIP A. LIVINGSTON

Norman McDonald joined the DVOC in 1925. During his membership of nearly a half century, he brought to us a rare capacity for friendship, an insatiable scientific curiosity, and the gift of exciting that curiosity in others.

Mac was a member of a shrinking group: the general naturalist. In an age of specialists and “life-listers” he knew his birds well, but rarely missed a flower or tree, an animal or an insect. He urged his fellows to “look, feel, taste and smell.” He was at home in the field with the “greats”—Witmer Stone, Fletcher Street, Samuel Scoville and others of their generation.

He was a born educator, and taught others his skills in natural history and photography. With his fellow DVOC member, Horace “Shorty” Rolston, Mac devoted himself to youth. He served on the Philadelphia Council, Boy Scouts of America, and was a founder of the Comstock Society, dedicated to encouraging nature appreciation among Boy Scouts.

Born in Australia, he came to America as a boy. His parents were native Scots, a heritage of which Mac was most proud. His father taught him a love of the out-of-doors—the smell of the salt marshes, the infinite variety of the Pine Barrens, the joy of tramping the sea-beaches in a northeaster.

Mac was in the group from the DVOC who first visited Hawk Mountain to find a way to stop the slaughter. His dramatic photographs of dying birds and of piles of carcasses played a big part in the creation of a sanctuary and later in the securing of protection laws. He was an early worker for Tinicum and a fine general conservationist before it became a popular cause. He assisted Witmer Stone in the preparation of *Bird Studies at Old Cape May*, contributing text and a number of photographs.

He contributed frequently to the meetings of the DVOC, sharing his studies of the structure and color of feathers and his wide knowledge of the history of ornithology and ornithologists.

Mac was an Honorary member and one of the three members to be honored with the title “Devoc.” He served as president from 1944 through 1946.

He died March 22, 1971, and is survived by his wife, the former Lorene McLellan, an instructor at the Academy of Natural Sciences.

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