

## GEORGE H. STUART, 3RD

BY JOHN D. CARTER

In the development of a large body of knowledge, no one man, nor group of men, contributes all of it. American ornithology is no exception in this respect.

The pioneers, such as Wilson and Audubon, did wonderful work in a new field. Writers like Coues and Ridgway could go much further in presenting a complete picture of American bird life. A host of observers have added details of distribution, plumage changes, migration routes, nesting habits and many other phases, down to minute records of family life, the segregation of geographical varieties and studies of behavior under all possible conditions.

In this development, an important part has been played by those who have gathered material for study by themselves or others. As one drives across a bridge with no thought of its builders, so the desk student sits down comfortably before a series of bird-skins or a drawerful of eggs, quite unmindful of the toil and often hardship, which have been undergone in the making of the collections.

One of the more difficult branches of study, when fully carried out, is the hunting of nests. It is easy to find the homes of many of the common birds, but to locate and secure all of the rarer ones is a task that calls for all that a man has of endurance and perseverance. In many cases, eggs in the right condition may be had only during a short time each year and only in a small part of a bird's range. Journeys of several hundreds of miles for a single specimen are not uncommon.

Only those who have had the experience, know of the neck-ache which comes from many hours of looking for nearly, or quite, invisible nests in tall spruce trees, or know the sinking feeling when a rotten tree fails beneath one's weight.

Among the several men whom the writer has known, who have followed this difficult avocation, no one has surpassed George H. Stuart, 3rd, in zeal and perseverance in hunting, and in skill and patience in preserving his specimens. No one who has experienced it can forget his pleasure in showing, in the quiet of his hospitable home, the rarities resulting not only from his wide travels in this country, but also those from far corners of the earth.

His splendid collection goes to The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, where it should have a long time of useful service. Those of us who knew him, will mourn the passing of a good companion-in-the-woods and a loyal friend.