

JOHN H. ARNETT, JR., M. D.

JOSEPH M. CADBURY

Dr. John H. Arnett, Jr., a faithful member of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, passed away on May 7, 1959. Jack, the son of Dr. John H. and Katherine Arnett, was born in Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, on May 10, 1925. He was educated at Germantown Friends School and Haverford College where he attended one year before becoming eligible for military service. Faced with the decision of continuing his studies toward a degree in medicine or serving in civilian public service, he chose the former and received his "M.D." from the University of Pennsylvania in March 1948. Completing his internship at Cambridge, Mass, he served as plant physician for the Curtis Publishing Company for six years and also practiced at the out-patient department of the University Hospital. In 1956 he left for Harrisburg, Pa. to serve as doctor in a state mental institution in compliance with the alternate service provision of the draft law, and was still in this position at the time of his death.

Bird study was Jack's principal hobby from early boyhood. While still in elementary school he returned from a trip to the Tinicum marshes and wrote a letter which was published in the Evening Bulletin. In this letter he told of seeing some boys shooting at a snowy owl, and expressed the hope that something could be done to protect the birds in that area. Later, he was happy to lend his support to the establishment of the Tinicum Wildlife Preserve.

Jack was consistently and keenly interested in problems of conservation and this interest was undoubtedly enhanced by several summers at the Audubon Camp of Maine where he spent the time as a student assistant. He was a member of the National Audubon Society and was active in the work of the organization. He was also an associate member of the American Ornithologists' Union.

Whenever he had the opportunity, Jack would travel many miles to see new and interesting birds. He took several birding trips to Florida, the West, and the Great Smokies. In his Field Notes he tells of a trip to Virginia where he observed the rare Bachman's Warbler. As time permitted he joined all the Club trips, including mid-winter jaunts to the Poconos and to Cape Ann. He kept extensive field notes, and was a co-author of the "Field List of Birds of the Philadelphia Region". Cassinia was also an occasional outlet for brief notes on his observations, and for an article or two.

Jack was an active bird bander and an excellent amateur bird photographer. He was one of the more active Fellows of the Delaware Valley club and attended the meetings regularly. His sudden death was a great loss to his many friends and to his Club.

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