



**CHARLES H. ROGERS**  
1888-1977

### CHARLES HENRY ROGERS 1888-1977

Charles died at Princeton on February 26, 1977 at the age of 89. He was an Honorary Member of the D.V.O.C., having joined the club in 1950.

Born in Philadelphia on January 13, 1888, he became interested in birds at a very early age with the encouragement of his father who provided him with bird books and trips to the Philadelphia Zoo. At the age of 12 in 1900 he participated in the first Christmas count, taking his census in New York City's Central Park. That first year 27 people scattered over the country, took 25 censuses. In succeeding years he took part in every census until 1969 when he was hospitalized as a result of a heart attack. Thereafter, his participation continued until his death. He was census editor for "Bird Lore" for a period of eight years and inaugurated many of the rules under which it is presently conducted.

Charles took his freshman college year at Haverford, thereafter transferring to Princeton from which school he graduated in 1909, having majored in modern languages. He worked for several years on Wall Street but apparently spent so much time at the American Museum of Natural History and so impressed the curator, the late Dr. Frank Chapman, that he was offered and accepted a post there in the bird department in 1912.

His birding activities were somewhat curtailed in 1918 as a result of World War I where he served in the infantry but in 1920, he returned to Princeton University as a teacher of biology and ornithology and as curator of the bird collection. Over the years, as a result of judicious trading, he built the collection to some 15,000 skins embracing all families of birds in the world save the Australian scrub birds.

His other memberships included: Elective Member, American Ornithologists Union, Wilson Ornithological Society, Life Member and Secretary (1915-20) of the Linnaean Society of N. Y., Trenton Naturalist Club, of which he was past president and recipient of the club's special plaque in 1970 for his "understanding and appreciation of wildlife" and titular head of the informal New Jersey Field Ornithologists Club of Princeton for the past 40 years. He was Director of the Elk Lake Nature Study Camp in the Adirondacks for ten years and was president of the New Jersey Audubon Society from 1940 to 1945 receiving, in 1965, the Society's special recognition award for "valuable contribution to wildlife conservation."

Charles Rogers had the faculty of interesting people in birds in particular and conservation in general and most of us are better birders from having known him. His knowledge seemed limitless and was always available to all who were interested. Over the years he provided many programs at meetings of the Club and his talks were always interesting and informative. His death is a great loss to ornithology, to this Club, and to all who had the good fortune to know him.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, two sons, Charles R. of Cambridge, Mass., and Capt. William W., U. S. M.C. of Havelock, N. C., and three grandchildren. The Wild Life Refuge at Princeton has been renamed in his memory. Edwin D. Bloor, Jr.

3 Grandview Ave., Lawrenceville, N.J. 08648