

DR. WITMER STONE

FOR more than fifty years Dr. Witmer Stone was to ornithology what William Bartram, Alexander Wilson and the great Audubon were to the study of bird life in their generations. Those three men prosecuted many of their studies hereabouts and earned for Philadelphia the name of cradle of ornithology. From 1888 until the time of his death Dr. Stone had been connected with the Academy of Natural Sciences in this city. Until 1860, virtually all of the important ornithological research in America was accomplished by members of the Academy, and Dr. Stone carried on the tradition from the date of his earliest connection with the institution.

While his studies were prosecuted principally in ornithology, Dr. Stone also published numerous papers on mammals and reptiles which dealt with the geographic distribution of animals and the subject of zoological nomenclature. He was prominent in the campaign for the conservation of wildlife and popularized the study of natural history by meetings and lectures. His greatest contribution to ornithological literature was superintending the preparation of the Check List of North American Birds. It is the authoritative guide upon which every student of North American birds must base his work. In it are set forth the proper scientific and English names of every species and variety of bird that has been found on this continent. There is a detailed outline of the distribution of each kind of bird, including its breeding ground and the area in which it spends its Winter. The birds of this continent have lost a friend who knew more about them, their coloration and its significance, their seasonal changes of plumage and the nature and origin of their migration than any other of their admirers and students.