



Photo by Wharton Huber

*William Stone*

# CASSINIA

---

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

---

No. XXXI

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

1938-41

---

### WITMER STONE (1866-1939)

BY JAMES A. G. REHN

On May 23, 1939, the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club lost the most outstanding figure in its history in the passing of Dr. Witmer Stone. No other individual tied the Club, as we know it today, so closely to the limited group of enthusiasts who composed it in the nineties, and during the virtual fifty years of his association, no one exerted a more constructive, yet restrained and tactful, influence upon its natural development.

During these decades of its history, with their kaleidoscopic passing through the membership of the Club of many promising amateur ornithologists, often in their student years and some now distinguished college professors elsewhere, Witmer Stone stood in our ranks as the symbol of authoritative ornithology, the arbiter whose knowledge, wit, and kindness made him beloved to the beginners and the seasoned "wheel horses" alike. Drawing upon his experience with birds, bird literature and bird men, and their history, he gave to the discussions at the meetings of our Club a breadth, value, and appreciation of ornithology in its broadest sense, which we shall miss increasingly with the years.

The progressive development of human knowledge evolves new intellectual associations, and destroys others. Witmer Stone belonged to one of these latter, now passing groups, that of the old school general naturalist, as his interest in animate nature was so broad and vivid that he had a more than casual acquaintance with the components of many groups of animals, and of plants as well. The increasing complexity of our knowledge of living things, the consequent need for specialization and the multiplication of all scientific literature have united in bringing to a close the era of the general naturalist, which was a necessary stage in the development of research in the natural sciences, and, of the enthusiastic group which characterized that era in America, Witmer Stone was one of the last. Equally at home with birds or mammals, he also possessed a good knowledge of reptiles, of mollusks, and particularly our local land and marine forms, of many of our insects and crustaceans, as well as critical ability in the systematics of our local flora surpassed only by that of Simon-pure botanists. This knowl-

edge, accumulated in the mind of our old associate, was freely drawn upon in and out of season by members of our Club. Truly, as our late President, Wharton Huber, has said, "It is an inestimable privilege to have known Witmer Stone."

Witmer Stone was born in Philadelphia, September 22, 1866. He was the second son of Frederick D. and Anne E. Witmer Stone. His father, a distinguished Pennsylvania historian, was for years Librarian of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Much of the love and regard of Witmer Stone for good literature, graceful writing, and for books as creations of human minds and hands probably can be traced to the influence of a scholarly father. Young Witmer Stone early exhibited an interest in nature and the accumulation of boyhood collections proceeded along the usual pattern of the times, aided and abetted by youthful acquaintance, soon life-long friendship, with members of the neighboring Brown family, one of whom, Amos, later became a distinguished professor of geology at the University of Pennsylvania, another, Stewardson, a botanist of attainments, Curator of Botany at the Academy and also a President of the D. V. O. C. Stewardson Brown's association with our Club extended from his election in 1891 until his death in 1921.<sup>1</sup> This juvenile circle, of the type which, in the latter part of the past century, inspired a number of our eminent scientists of today, was doubtless as important in shaping the future of Witmer Stone as it was in influencing those of his juvenile associates.

The historic Germantown Academy supplied Stone's early training, followed by the University of Pennsylvania, from which he graduated in 1887. Elected in under-graduate years to the Secretaryship of his college class, which has produced a number of men of exceptional ability, he held this post until his death. His A.B. degree of 1887 was followed by that of A.M. in 1891, and in 1913, the honorary one of Sc.D. was conferred upon him by his Alma Mater. In 1937, the University of Pennsylvania further honored him with the Alumni Award of Merit.

Following his graduation from the University of Pennsylvania, Stone served for a period as assistant in the library of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. It is not difficult to understand from this and his parental inheritance why the history of ornithology and of the lives of ornithologists occupied so large a niche in his ever active mind. In March, 1888, he was appointed a Jessup Fund Student at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and then began the association which continued through his life, productive of opportunities for ornithological association for the individual and constructive direction in many fields for the institution. Largely through Stone's energy and initiative, an Ornithological Section of the Academy was established in May, 1891, which supplemented within the legal structure of the institution the independent and less formal D. V. O. C. The Section was maintained for nearly thirty-five years, passing out of existence in 1925 when a change in Academy By-laws abolished all section organizations.

<sup>1</sup> See *Cassinia*, No. XXIV (1920-1921), pp. 1-7, portrait, (1923).

During his more than fifty years of association with the Academy, Witmer Stone served the institution in many capacities. From a Jessup Fund Student he passed in 1891 to the Conservatorship of the Ornithological Section, together with an assistantship to the Board of Curators, becoming a member of that body of four in 1908, and its executive in 1918. In 1925, he moved by an administrative reorganization to the newly created post of Director of the Museum, becoming Emeritus Director in 1928. With these broadly administrative posts he also held that of Curator of Vertebrate Zoology from 1918 to 1934, Curator of North American Birds from 1934 to 1938, and, due to failing health, in 1938, that of Honorary Curator of Birds. In 1927, he was elected one of the two Vice-Presidents of the Academy, an honor he held at the time of his death. The scope of his official Academy duties during these many years can hardly be summarized in a few sentences. With a supporting staff of truly skeleton proportions, his energy, initiative, and foresight unquestionably saved for posterity priceless collections in many fields of the natural sciences. As one who labored with him for years in this work, the writer can testify to what was accomplished with few hands, meager funds, and make-shift housing, the latter often built by the hands of men worth far more as scientific research workers. As Dr. Stone's long-time associate, Dr. J. Percy Moore, has so graphically said in a memorial minute of the Council of the Academy: "His life became so merged with that of the Academy that for many years it was difficult to think of them apart. With characteristic industry and thoroughness, and the help of other members, the then wasting biological collections were salvaged, renovated, and conserved. Many valuable specimens and records were saved and many reforms in labelling, cataloguing, and storing were established . . . Poverty greatly hampered the progress of the Academy. Only through the loyalty and enthusiasm of the staff was its place in the scientific world maintained. The personal sacrifices were little short of heroic and Stone was an acknowledged leader and an inspiration to the younger men."

In 1888, when Dr. Stone became associated with the Academy, its bird collections numbered 26,000 specimens. In 1939, at the time of his death, the same collections totalled 143,000. Much of this growth took place in years when a concentration of administrative and non-ornithological curatorial responsibility gave but exceedingly few hours for birds or bird problems. Yet between 1889 and 1908 thirty-eight papers, chiefly on birds, appeared from his pen in the "Proceedings" of the Academy, together with joint authorship in two others. Aside from these, numerous contributions by him appeared during the same years in the "Auk," "Cassinia," and other journals.

The field activities of Dr. Stone in behalf of the Academy were many and varied, although largely carried on in the eastern United States. Virtually hundreds of field trips were taken to the New Jersey pine barrens and the coastal section of the southern part of the state, while many others were made to the lower Susquehanna Valley and the Sullivan-Wyoming county portion of Pennsylvania and western Maryland. The Cumberland mountain section of Ken-

tucky, and coastal plain of South Carolina, the Duluth region of Minnesota, and the Chiracahua Mountains of Arizona were also visited and studied by him, and from all of these extensive and important collections were brought back for the Academy. To gather material for others to study was second nature to him. In 1890, he was also a member of an Academy expedition, under the leadership of Professor Angelo Heilprin, to Yucatan and eastern Mexico, which early gave him a personal acquaintance with tropical American bird life. Several years before, at the beginning of his Academy association, in 1888, he had visited Bermuda on another Academy expedition, similarly under Heilprin's leadership.

The area, however, idelibly associated with the name of Witmer Stone is the Cape May peninsula, where some of his earliest observations and collections were made, and there in later years, in the afternoon of life, by months of residence and through many special visits, he built the background which enabled him to give us and to the world in his "Bird Studies at Old Cape May" the most lasting of his memorials. There, most fittingly, the National Association of Audubon Societies has established the "Witmer Stone Bird Sanctuary" to permanently link our memory of the man, his service in the protection of bird life, and the place he loved and has made ornithologically famous.

The first serious contribution to the science of ornithology from the pen of Witmer Stone was "The Turkey Buzzard Breeding in Pennsylvania," published in the "American Naturalist" for 1885, in which two Chester County nests of the species were reported. In the following six years, of the sixteen of his ornithological contributions, two dealt with a subject always of surpassing interest to him, that of bird migration and means for its graphic recording. Others of these papers evidence the work in which he was engaged at the Academy in the rejuvenation of its bird collections, such as the catalogues of the Old World Flycatchers, the Owls, the Crows, the Birds of Paradise and the Old World Orioles in the series there, as well as a report on the birds of the Mexican Expedition and those of the several Peary Greenland expeditions sponsored by the Academy. Stone's interest in spiders is also shown by the publication in 1890 of a catalogue of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey members of the arachnid family Lycosidae.

Of the ornithological contributions which appeared from his pen before the turn of the century, probably that of greatest permanent value in itself, and because it led the way for more comprehensive studies of the same problem by others, was "The Molting of Birds, with special reference to the Plumages of the Smaller Land Birds of Eastern North America." This relatively pioneer paper of 1896 dealt with one of the subjects which remained throughout his life a most absorbing one—the molts and plumage sequences of birds. His interest in this phase of ornithology was constantly reflected in his writings dealing with purely systematic or faunistic ornithology, and much original information on plumages will be found in those papers.

It was but shortly after Witmer Stone became a student at the Academy that he made the acquaintance of Spencer Trotter, who as a Jessup Student in 1876 had helped move the Academy bird collections from the Broad and Sansom

Streets building to that at Nineteenth and Race. As Stone later wrote, this was his first acquaintance with a real ornithologist—one who knew more about birds than he did. The friendship which developed between these men was of the type Witmer Stone possessed the faculty for creating, an abiding, life-long, mutual appreciation of respective worth. Many of those who knew Spencer Trotter as a friend and fellow club-member can understand this mutual attraction of personalities which possessed in common brilliant minds, broad culture, ready wit, and a touch of whimsey.

Through Spencer Trotter's acquaintance with them, Witmer Stone met William Baily, George Spencer Morris, and Samuel N. Rhoads. These five, with Charles A. Voelker and J. Harris Reed, formally organized the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club on February 3, 1890. Thence the life of Witmer Stone had as an integral part the activities and progress of the D. V. O. C., and its members the value of an interest in their observations, their writings, and their many field excursions, which broadened their knowledge, helped them in their perplexities, and gave them the pleasure of an association more deeply valued with each passing year. The history of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club has been written by those who were its founders, and the part which Witmer Stone played in this history needs now but the stressing of high points.

Dr. Witmer Stone was elected the second President of the Club in 1891, and served a single year, as was customary at that time. During the first twenty years of the Club's existence, he made numerous formal communications on a variety of topics, such as the birds of Fulton, Sullivan, Wyoming, and Susquehanna Counties of Pennsylvania, Cape May and Salem Counties, and the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, of Delaware, parts of Maryland, the Duluth region of Minnesota, Bermuda, Yucatan and the Eastern Cordillera of Mexico; molts and early plumages of North American birds; mutation; the forms of the genus *Ammodramus*, the relationship of the Rallidae; migration theories, recording migration; lost species of Wilson and Audubon, ornithology at Philadelphia in the past, Dr. Elliott Coues, the A. O. U. of 1840-45, and first describers of American birds. His interest in the history of ornithology and the biography of ornithologists is evident from these communications, plus the numerous sketches or memorabilia of earlier or contemporary ornithologists, botanists, and other naturalists, which have appeared in the pages of "Cassinia," "Bartonia," the "Auk," and in certain volumes of biographical character.

Soon after the organization of the D. V. O. C., a committee of three was appointed to superintend the preparation and publication of a catalogue of the birds known to occur in the vicinity of Philadelphia and on the New Jersey coast. This committee consisted of George Spencer Morris, Samuel N. Rhoads, and Witmer Stone. The preparation and editing of this work was at once placed in the hands of Dr. Stone. Based upon previously published literature, the very important notes and collections of the members of the Club, as well as information supplied by many correspondents in various parts of Pennsylvania and New

Jersey, "The Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey" appeared from his pen in 1894, as a publication of the D. V. O. C.

This important regional work has remained for nearly a half century the best single volume of its character and coverage. Divided into two parts, the first of these is entitled, "Geographical Distribution of Birds and Bird Migration," and contains brief but excellent summaries of the "general laws of geographical distribution" with an analysis of the life-zones to be encountered in our territory, followed by descriptions of the faunal areas of eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey with their characteristic resident or nesting birds. The portion on bird migration presents a summarized exposition of the subject as reflected in the bird life of the area covered. The second part of the volume is an "Annotated List of the Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey." To this very carefully prepared treatment of the local occurrence of three hundred and fifty-two forms of birds, which also presents for most of them the summarized breeding range and winter distribution, is appended a bibliography of ornithological literature relating to eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey published to the year 1894. It is safe to say this volume gave to the D. V. O. C. a permanent place as a serious ornithological organization, and it also helped establish Witmer Stone, early in his life as one of our leading American ornithologists.

While the D. V. O. C. during its first decade published four brochures containing abstracts of its proceedings, and also a few short papers by its members, the need for a more ambitious serial publication on local ornithology, also containing the Club's migration data, was constantly discussed. This resulted, in 1901, in the establishment of "Cassinia," to the editorship of which Witmer Stone was at once appointed. He had been one of the supporters of the journal idea, and its name, perpetuating the memory of Philadelphia's early master ornithologist, was his happy suggestion. Most appropriately, the first article in the serial was a sketch of the life of John Cassin by Dr. Stone, the frontispiece a reproduction of an original Cassin photograph which hangs in the ornithological department of the Academy. It is fair to say that the existence of "Cassinia" through nearly forty years has been due very largely to the interest and labors of Witmer Stone, who, serving first as its official Editor, continued through the years unofficially to aid and advise those who succeeded him in that post. The exceedingly laborious analysis of the invaluable migration reports, which give "Cassinia" its greatest value, were until recent years the labor of love which Witmer Stone assumed for this one of his numerous brain children. The continuity and exhaustive, fifty year coverage of the Club's migration reports made them, he felt, of the utmost ornithological importance—in his mind, as he often said, the most valuable of our local contributions to bird knowledge.

During the decade and a half from 1920 to 1935, Dr. Stone spent a number of his summers at Cape May, a locality which had appealed to him from his first visit many years before. The notes and observations which he accumulated on the bird life of the Cape May Peninsula interested an increasing number of D. V. O. C. members, and soon Stone's Cape May observations, already extensive

and important, were supplemented by those of a score or so of similar enthusiasts, and Cape May became our local ornithological mecca. By its geographical position and importance as a migration fly-way concentration point, this selection of Cape May was fully justified. The plan for a work on the ornithology of coastal New Jersey was the definite result of these studies made over several decades, and, in 1937, Dr. Stone produced the two volumes of "Bird Studies at Old Cape May," which are his greatest single ornithological contribution. Illustrated by reproductions of paintings, drawings, and photographs, largely made by D. V. O. C. members, these volumes weave into a unit Stone's innumerable personal observations, those of many other Club members, and the relevant published record, the whole presented, in a background of sympathetic understanding, with the charm which characterizes so many of his writings, its verbal pictures broadened by the vision of one who in viewing the particular never neglected the broad scene. As Dr. J. P. Moore has so truly said, this work "reflects Stone at his best, both as a naturalist and a writer."

While Philadelphia remained the center of all of Stone's activities, the country as a whole drew upon his knowledge and ability. Becoming an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1885, he was elected a Fellow in 1892. In 1912, he succeeded Dr. J. A. Allen as Editor of the "Auk," probably one of the most outstanding recognitions of ability and scholarship which can be accorded an American ornithologist. During his incumbency, Dr. Stone worked unceasingly for the diversification of the contents of the "Auk" to cover the many ramifying fields of ornithological research and observation. His reviews of important literature and listing of the less outstanding contributions made this side of the journal of broader usefulness. His interest in so many angles of ornithology gave to his critiques a particular value not found in mere contents abstracts. For twenty-five years, Witmer Stone gave to this work the best years of his life, relinquishing it only after the need for conserving his strength made this imperative. To those who were his constant associates, the exactions of this editorship and what it demanded of his energy were clearly evident.

From 1914 to 1920, Dr. Stone was Vice-President of the American Ornithologists' Union, and from 1920 to 1923 he served as its President. But a relatively few days after his death, the Brewster Medal of the Union was awarded posthumously for his outstanding ornithological contribution "Bird Studies at Old Cape May." In early years, when a vigorous champion of the need for comprehensive bird protection, Dr. Stone was from 1897 for a number of years a member, and for part of the time Chairman, of the American Ornithologists' Union's Committee on Protection of North American Birds. During this period, he worked actively for state and national legislation for the protection of bird life, and his continued but eminently practical interest in the subject was evident in his services as President of the Pennsylvania Audubon Society, and for some years as a member of the National Committee of Audubon Societies. He was an outspoken opponent of poisoning campaigns by governmental or other agencies in the "control" or extermination of so-called noxious and predatory mammals.

In 1901, Witmer Stone was appointed a member, and from 1919, Chairman, of the Committee on Nomenclature and Classification of the A. O. U., from 1905 to 1908, taking an active part in the revision of the A. O. U. Code of Nomenclature, this being an angle of systematics to which he had given special study. In recognition of preeminence in this field of zoological science, he was elected one of the few American members of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, a post he held at the time of his death.

The Third Edition of the A. O. U. Check-list of North American Birds issued in 1910 by the Union's Committee on Nomenclature and Classification states in its preface that "the preliminary revision of the geographical ranges of the species and subspecies was undertaken by Mr. Stone," and again that "the Union owes a lasting debt of gratitude to Mr. Stone and Dr. Merriam" for their work in the preparation of the check-list.

In 1924, the Union authorized the preparation of a fourth edition of the check-list, and Dr. Stone was appointed chairman of a special committee in charge of this work, power being given him to select the other members of this committee. His years between 1924 and 1931 were crowded with check-list labors, and when this catalogue—for such it was, and of a most unusually comprehensive type—appeared from the press in 1931, it was recorded in the preface that the work was largely written by Dr. Stone. Few but those associated with him in this project, or close enough to him officially to know its virtually day-to-day demands, appreciate what a great amount of his time and energy this task consumed. The verification of all references alone was a tedious and day-consuming responsibility, while the refurbishing of the distributional statements to include the enormous increase of recorded information since the previous check-list was, in itself, enough to deter any but the most serious student. To those of us who knew him well, Stone's work on the Fourth Edition of the A. O. U. Check-list seemed to afford him a deeper and more lasting personal satisfaction than any other purely technical undertaking with which he had been associated.

Of Witmer Stone's contributions to ornithology and other sciences not already mentioned, a number are of special importance. In 1902, jointly with W. E. Cram, he prepared a popular volume on American mammals entitled "American Animals," which remained until relatively recent years the standard work of its character. In 1908, his "Mammals of New Jersey" appeared, followed the subsequent year by "The Birds of New Jersey, their Nests and Eggs." The latter volume is of special value to local ornithologists as it contains a full bibliography of New Jersey ornithology up to the year of the preparation of his work.

In 1912, there appeared from Stone's pen one of his most outstanding contributions, one which showed very clearly his authoritative versatility. This was "The Plants of Southern New Jersey with Especial Reference to the Flora of the Pine Barrens and the Geographic Distribution of the Species." An exhaustive work of over eight hundred pages and one hundred and twenty-nine plates,

this study will long remain the authoritative, systematic, and distributional guide to the flora of the Pine Barrens. It is not a mere compilation of previously published records and a tabulation of material in established herbaria. While including these necessary data, it had as its chief reason for existence the specially assembled collections, totalling over twelve thousand specimens, secured by its author on many scores of field trips to southern New Jersey localities, these extending over a period of approximately ten years. On many of these trips I was privileged to accompany him, collecting insects while he busied himself with the plant life. His personal plant records thus always had the support of preserved material, subsequently given without restriction to the herbarium of the Academy. Dr. Francis Pennell, Curator of Plants at the Academy, in paying tribute to Dr. Stone's work as a botanist, has said this volume "stands forth increasingly with time as the most careful geographic study of any comparable part of the flora of eastern North America."

From Dr. Stone's pen Dr. Pennell lists twenty botanical titles; Mr. Huber in his tribute to Stone's work as a mammalogist lists nineteen in that field. Three papers on reptiles and amphibians appeared in the Academy's "Proceedings" prior to 1911, and allusion has already been made to his important paper of 1890 in lycosid spiders. His purely ornithological contributions, which include a large number of reviews of ornithological works, total many hundreds. In local field entomology he found, in the later years of his life, escape from the limitations laid down by failing health, and, while at Cape May, accumulated an extensive, important, and representative series of the insects of that area, himself collecting, sorting, mounting, labelling, and determining much of the material, securing the determination of more by specialists in the various fields of entomology. This work gave marked satisfaction to the deeply implanted collector's instinct, and all of these collections were assembled for eventual addition to the Academy series. This desire, often expressed by him, has now been consummated, and in more than one order of insects the most extensive local representation possessed by the Academy is that accumulated by Witmer Stone.

Many recognitions of Witmer Stone's attainments, other than those already mentioned, were accorded him. These included the Presidency of the American Society of Mammalogists, of which he was a charter member, and membership in the American Philosophical Society and the Society of the Sigma Xi; fellowship in the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the Otto Hermann Medal of the Hungarian Ornithological Society (conferred in 1931); honorary membership in the Nuttall Ornithological Club, the Cooper Ornithological Club, the Linnean Society of New York, the Zoological Society of Philadelphia (of which he was also a Director), the Philadelphia Botanical Club, the British Ornithologists' Union, the Ornithological Society of France, the Ornithological Society of the Netherlands and the Hungarian Ornithological Society; and foreign membership in the German Ornithological Society and the Bavarian Ornithological Society.

The dominant traits of Witmer Stone's life were kindness and helpfulness. As our D. V. O. C. fellow-member Dr. Cornelius Weygandt, writing of him before Dr. Stone's passing, has so well said, "He has a genius for friendship, and he regards it as part of a duty done cheerfully to help others working in any field that approaches his own." Again Dr. Weygandt says, "I find mention of a thrush of the high mountains of Northern Italy. I go to the Academy of Natural Sciences to ask my friend to identify it, and to show me a specimen. He digs out the skin of the rock thrush for me, giving me of his time so infinitely precious. He is of those years in which he begins to wonder, as I do of myself, whether he will be able to finish up all the work that is within his power to do. Yet such is his human fellowliness and unselfishness that he will spend an hour any time to help you in your little concerns."

The saving grace of humor gave Witmer Stone a corrective balance to a nature inclined to be retiring in consequence of deafness left by juvenile whooping-cough. The merry twinkle of the eye, the clever quips or even the touch of whimsy, and the healthy abandon of a hearty laugh, would show that beneath all the serious work, the grind of editorship, the often monotonous routine of curatorial duties, and the piles of sometimes pointless and often trivial correspondence requiring attention, there was a spirit fully in tune with its fellowmen, akin to their problems, their joys, and their paradoxes. As Dr. Weygandt observantly writes, "He accompanies a list made for you of the principle men in natural science of our state of Pennsylvania with a story of a drunk in Washington who stole an ocelot from the Zoo there." Those of us who knew Witmer Stone as a daily associate can recall many instances when his humor, as vivid as in boyhood, but always kindly, lightened our burdens, made the task shorter, the problem easier to solve, the long trudge shorter.

To the younger man privileged to work with Witmer Stone, this eternal buoyancy of spirit and the enthusiasm which he kept until the last years of his life created inspiration of the sort kindled by few. Many great scientists completely lack this ability to enthuse others, or to paint their discoveries in language most of us can read. Witmer Stone had that personal magnetism without pose, directive ability without presumption or arrogance, and kindness without patronizing which inspired both young and old and placed them forever in his debt.

In a memorial of the late Stewardson Brown, Witmer Stone penned a few sentences which, while referring to a kindred organization, deserve to be read by members of the D. V. O. C., so expressive are they of the measure of the man. "While technical knowledge and activity in research are admittedly necessary for the successful program of a club such as ours, there would be no club were it not for further qualities exhibited in the membership. There must be personalities that hold us together—that inspire respect and affection and weld bonds of friendship that will not yield with the lapse of time." As our botanical colleague Dr. Pennell has so well said, "How many of us to the end of our days

will feel a debt of gratitude to Witmer Stone for his encouragement to us during our formative years."

It is given to few of us to have our life's work, and the reflection of our span of years upon our associates, as beautifully expressed as in the memorial minute to Witmer Stone adopted on October 3, 1939, by the Council of the Academy of Natural Sciences. "Of Doctor Stone it may be said that the seed within him on fertile soil grew into a sturdy tree of many branches, bearing fragrant flowers and nourishing fruit. Naturalist, scientist, faithful custodian of collections, biographer and historian of scientists and their science, interpreter of the rules of zoological nomenclature, protector of birds, writer of exceptional beauty and vigor, sometimes poetical, lecturer and teacher, helpful adviser, delightful companion and valued friend, Witmer Stone gave the best of his life and labor to the historic Academy and of the riches of his personality to colleagues and associates. His works and our memories are a fitting memorial, and may his spirit long abide in the lives of those on whom he spent it."