



*Arthur C. Clarke*

## ARTHUR COPE EMLLEN: 1882-1941

By JOSEPH M. CADBURY

Arthur Cope Emlen died suddenly on January 26, 1941 at Jacksonville, Florida, while on a vacation trip to study the birds and animals which he loved so well. His passing will be keenly felt by all who knew him and particularly by the members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club of which he had been an active and interested member since 1897.

He was born on April 9, 1882, on the old Cope estate in Germantown, known as Awbury, where he spent most of his life. Through his mother he was related to Edward Drinker Cope, the famous herpetologist and naturalist, and from her he early developed an interest in natural history which later became both his vocation and avocation.

After graduating from Germantown Friends' School in 1901 he went on a trip to England where he visited the South Kensington Museum in London in order to be able to identify more readily the birds which he saw as he traveled about the countryside. He went into the profession of landscape engineering and construction and for many years was active in this work which gave ample opportunity to make use of his talents.

Arthur Emlen was a man of wide and varied interests and was active in a large number of organizations. He had a great fund of local historical knowledge and was for several years the president of the Germantown Historical Society and co-chairman of the Grumblethorpe Society which was responsible for the preservation of this historic landmark. He also was a former president of the Octavia Hill Association which was active in improving living conditions for the poorer families of Philadelphia. He was an active member of the Society of Friends of which he was an overseer and he served as a member of the committee in charge of the Friends' Free Library. In all of these activities his influence was keenly felt and his advice was eagerly sought and freely given.

While in his early teens Arthur Emlen became acquainted with Witmer Stone and this acquaintance developed into a lifelong friendship. It was through Dr. Stone that he first was introduced to the D. V. O. C., becoming a member in 1897. From that time on he was regular in attendance and frequently took part in the activities and field trips of the Club. In 1933 he was elected vice-president of the Club, serving in that capacity until 1936 when he became president, which office he filled with tact and enthusiasm until 1938. During Dr. Stone's last years Arthur Emlen would often drive him to the station on his way to the Academy of Natural Sciences in order to conserve his energy and often assisted him in other ways. Thus he helped to make Dr. Stone's last years more fruitful. After Dr. Stone's death he came as near as anyone could to taking his place in the Club.

In 1921 Arthur Emlen became an associate member of the American Ornithologist's Union and attended a number of its meetings from which he

derived great pleasure. He was also a member of the Society of Mammalogists, The Pennsylvania Forestry Association, the National Audubon Society, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, The Philadelphia Zoological Society and the Wissahickon Bird Club of which he succeeded Dr. Stone as president.

Arthur Emlen never contributed much to scientific ornithology. Rather his principal contribution was through the influence of his personality in his contacts with others. He was deeply interested in education, particularly of children and during his last years he was very active as a trustee of the Academy of Natural Sciences and as secretary of the Ludwick Institute. In the latter capacity he was instrumental in starting the Saturday morning lecture series for school children and the now popular "Expeditions for Everyone." To quote from Dr. Cadwalader's description of his work at the Academy, "He advocated widening the field of the Academy's popular publication, especially leaflets and booklets for young people. It was evident his life was to be devoted more and more to education through the Academy. His death in the prime of life leaves a void which will be hard to fill. However Mr. Emlen's contribution was so earnest and sincere that it will have permanent results, inspiring other Philadelphians to give of their talents and time to free natural history education, juvenile and adult.

"He was intensely interested in the new Hall of Birds in the Free Museum of Natural History, the completion of which will show all the birds within a 50 mile radius of Philadelphia. His dream of an educational program for the Academy, touching and benefiting the lives of all the young people in the reach of the institution, does not die with him."

Arthur Emlen's place in the D. V. O. C. is one which it would be impossible to fill. His warm greeting and friendly smile will be missed by all of us. Above all his sound judgment, modesty, patience, tolerance and sincerity may well serve as a guide to those of us who knew him.