

TURNER E. McMULLEN

ROBERT L. HAINES

Mac joined the D.V.O.C. in 1920, was elected a Fellow in 1950, and an honorary member in 1955. He described himself as a hot-headed little Irishman who loved to fight but who never smoked or drank liquor. Close association revealed a kind-hearted and sensitive person, and a day spent in the field with him was to be remembered for the continuous flow of observations on birds, people, and every conceivable subject.

Although he had studied mechanical and electrical engineering Mac was a machinist by trade. In his early days he had tried being a jockey and a tight-rope walker. He had also tried prize fighting, but he weighed only 100 pounds and there weren't enough paperweights to keep him in the ring.

By natural tendency Mac was a collector. In addition to birds' eggs he had collected at various times bird skins, nests, butterflies, moths, beetles, turtles, snakes, sea shells, coins, minerals, Indian relics, nuts, mechanical puzzles (many of which he himself had made), and stamps. His greatest interest was in birds and their eggs. He always carried his Federal collecting permit. Hawks and owls were favorites, and he reveled in climbing trees and cliffs. Well-concealed nests were a challenge to his sharp eye and his faculty for observing nest-revealing behavior. Mac would become incensed when his unpublished records were questioned at club meetings (egggers were not accustomed to giving information on the location of rare breeding birds).

Mac kept a careful and detailed record of all his activities. The first entry from the "Notebook of T. E. McMullen on Oology, Ornithology, etc." reads: "Born May 17, 1881 at Rising Sun, Cecil Co., Maryland. Helped my brother William collect eggs until I left Md. June 17, 1891; his collection was strung on strings and hung up in the living room." Four hundred and sixty legal-size pages and 23,490 recorded nests later the last entry was made on May 13, 1962: "23-490/ /-705-4 7 ft. in my Rose Arbor, female on nest, later had four young." In Mac's notes nomenclature, the first number was the nest number, the second number the set mark in his collection, the third the A.O.U. number, and the fourth the number of eggs. He then inserted remarks about the nest.

The low year for a season's nest total was 1962, the high 1953:

	1953	1962
Number of species found	35	1
Number of nests found	2097	1
Number of eggs found	3205	4
Number of young found	355	4

On July 15, 1953, Mac recorded 705 nests of no. 70 and 264 nests of no. 80.

The following entry is dated June 29, 1918: "Went along Wissahickon Creek with Miller. Examined #1495 and #1496, still same as on June 23.

1502-1/ /-624-0 12 ft in Chestnut Oak at Germantown.

1503-1/ /-755-0 8 ft in Spicebush at Germantown.

Examined #1493; was empty as on 23rd. #1489 (423) held 4; could not collect them on account of park guard; had the nerve to tell us to take the trolley to Norristown Asylum. Wanted to know what we were doing; I told him hunting for gold in the chimney."

In 1936 Mac cooperated in an effort to protect the Bald Eagles of the Delaware Valley from predation by "eggers". One of several trips appears in his notes as follows: "March 8, 1936. Left home 7:45 A.M., Went to Walt Whitman Hotel, where I met Street, Pough, Ed Reimann, and we went to Collingswood, where we met Julian K. Potter and Emlen, and we all went to Cedar Creek; where we stopped and saw several Canada Geese and Ducks; then to Ocean View, and Swain, where we left the cars and went in the woods road to the Eagle nest #10601; Reimann climbed the tree, it had 3 eggs; they were stamped in indelible ink 'Protected by Audubon Society'; from here to the nest at Reade's Beach #10603. Reimann climbed the tree; had 3 eggs; and he lowered one egg in a bag; which was stamped; while moving pictures were taken of all of us holding the egg; then it was raised by Reimann; put into the nest and the others stamped."

The value of Mac's records was recognized by Stone in "Bird Studies at Old Cape May" and by Bent in his "Life Histories." This gave him great satisfaction. Mac's notebooks have been donated to the D.V.O.C. by his son and daughter.

During the last years of his life Mac was partially paralyzed by a severe stroke. He died June 30, 1969.

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