

Annotated checklist of Maine birds.—Peter B. Vickery. 1978. Maine Audubon Society. 20 pp. (paperback). \$1.95. (Maine Audubon Society, Gilsland Farm, Old Route 1, Falmouth, Maine 04105).—The status and seasonal occurrence of the 393 species of birds known in Maine are summarized in a convenient chart that includes habitat but not distribution in Maine.—W.J.B.

Virginia's birdlife, an annotated checklist.—Yu Lee R. Lerner et al. 1979. Virginia Avifauna No. 2, Virginia Society of Ornithology. 117 pp. (paperback). \$4.50. (VSO Treasurer, 520 Rainbow Forest Drive, Lynchburg, Virginia 24501).—This check-list was prepared by the check-list Committee of the Virginia Society of Ornithology as a revision of Murray's "A check-list on the distribution and status of 400 species of birds occurring in Virginia." The discussion is divided under three headings of Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and Mountains and Valleys, with a map showing the boundary lines between each area.—W.J.B.

OBITUARY

EDWARD ALLWORTHY ARMSTRONG was a remarkable man. He was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on 8 October 1900. A naturalist from childhood, he never outgrew the simplest aspects of what he termed a Christian delight in nature.

Edward's higher education began with 2 years of science, then he switched and got a B. A. in philosophy and psychology at Queen's University, Belfast; there followed 2 years' theological study at Cambridge University prior to ordination in the Anglican church. He later studied anthropology and, afterwards, Chinese for 2 years at Hong Kong University, culminating in an M.A. in comparative religions at Leeds. After traveling widely and serving at several churches in earlier life, he settled at the Parish Church of St. Mark, in Newnham, Cambridge, in 1943—salary: 400 pounds/annum; duties: the care of souls and of the parish property—even to supervising maintenance of the cemetery. He retired in 1966 to 23 Leys Road, Cambridge, where he died 19 December 1978.

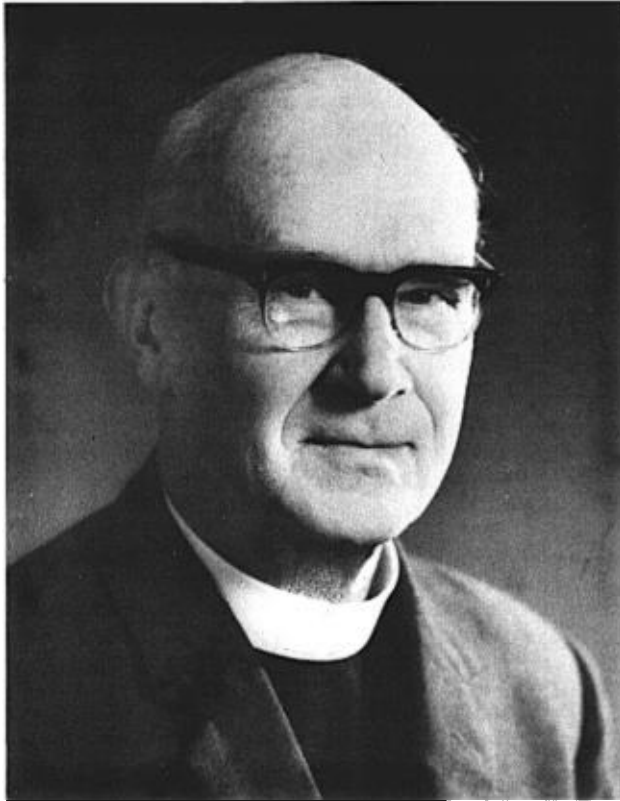
He published several important works. *Birds of the Grey Wind* (1940) is a charming book about his boyhood in Ireland; there were three editions and it received the Burroughs Medal in the United States. *Bird Display and Behaviour* (1942) was written under the stress of wartime, issued revised in 1947, in French in 1952, and in the United States (Dover Publications) in 1965. *The Way Birds Live* (1943) went into a fourth revised edition (1967) in the United States (Dover). A book revealing great insight and scholarship, widely admired here and abroad, was *Shakespeare's Imagination* (1946), a study of word-clusters; it had two small printings in England, then (1963) in the United States and, further revised, in hardcover (Univ. of Nebraska Press 1979). *Bird Life* (1949) was a small tome for the novice. More directly related to the church are *The Gospel Parables* (1967) and *Saint Francis: Nature Mystic* (1973), both published in the United States.

Edward began intensive study of the Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) in 1943 and, after his New Naturalist monograph appeared (Collins 1955), someone stated the obvious—that Cambridge had done much better by the Wren than had the "other place" [Oxford] by the Robin. Such are university rivalries! This was followed by another major opus, *The Folklore of Birds* (1959), reissued in 1970 in the United States (Dover). *A Study of Bird Song* (1963) was reissued a decade later, also by Dover.

Edward became a Corresponding Fellow of the A.O.U. in 1951 and received an honorary M. A. from Cambridge that year; he was Vice President of the B.O.U. from 1963 to 1965.

As circumstances allowed, he journeyed to various places to study the Wren or to attend some conference. Well along in the 1960s, he went to Africa and was thrilled at the sight of two million flamingos, but he was not in full vigor on his return. Apparently this marked the onset of Parkinsonism. Also, he had a coronary condition, not accurately diagnosed until 1968, and there were times when he blacked out. Gradually his health deteriorated and, under sedation, seldom could he concentrate for more than a few hours. Even so, under pressure from a publisher, in four months in 1974 he authored the text for *The Life and Love of the Bird* (New York, Crown Publishers 1975). A small paperback, *Discovering Bird Song*, appeared that year in England. Despite his ailments, both he and Mrs. Armstrong also flew to Australia to visit their elder son and family.

In 1977, as senior author with H. K. L. Whitehouse, there appeared "Behavioural adaptations of the Wren" (Biol. Rev. 52: 235–294); it should be required reading for all would-be ornithologists. The next



EDWARD ALLWORTHY ARMSTRONG
1900–1978
(from a photograph taken in 1966)

year came another small paperback, *Discovering Bird Courtship*. He continued writing to the last day of his life, turning out shorter manuscripts—usually on request from publishers.

Such totting-up partially reflects Edward's involvements and range of interests. The least that can be said is that several of his works will be consulted for a very long time. We visited and corresponded for 35 years, and I prefer to recall him in full vigor, cycling off to Cambridge, or making a wry penetrating comment about some matter under discussion. He drove himself to the limit—all the duties of a parson, trying to find a daylight hour to watch Wrens, tending his bees, gardening, and always a writing project. On occasion the family got away in caravan and tents to the coast, the continent, or Edward's native Ireland. Such holidays were to seek sunshine or to get grist for his literary mill. His personal goal was to become increasingly proficient at peering deeper into the dark corners of the human mind, as evidenced in the Shakespeare and the folklore books. I have long felt that the measure of his real worth in the Cambridge area was in his warm relations with his parishioners and the value he gave to academics and others who sought his advice frequently. He came to regard himself as the last of a long line of parson-naturalists. The higher-ups in the Church never recognized his erudition, but he received generous and deserved recognition from naturalists in his lifetime. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and two grandchildren.—RALPH S. PALMER.