

awards

EMINENT ECOLOGIST AWARD FOR 1978

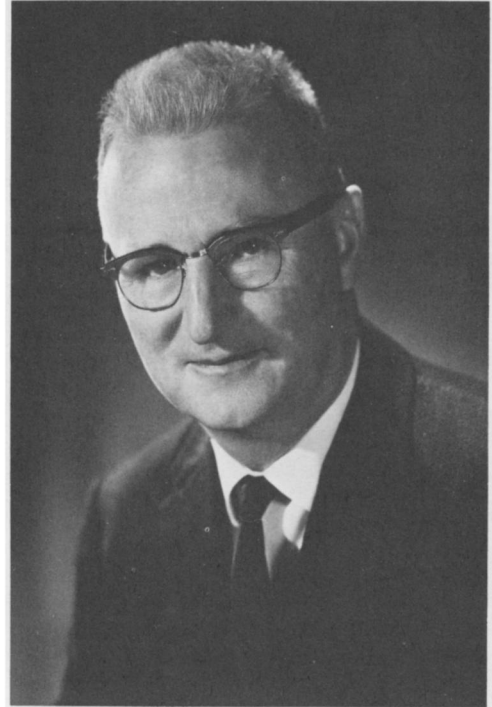
S. Charles Kendeigh

The Ecological Society of America honors itself by conferring its Eminent Ecologist citation for 1978 on one whose half-century of publishing and teaching built a bridge linking the generations of ecologists. S. Charles Kendeigh is widely and deeply respected for his integrity, devotion to science, and concern for students and associates.

Dr. Kendeigh studied with and later succeeded the pioneer American animal ecologist, Victor Shelford, at the University of Illinois. He became mentor to Eugene Odum, Robert Whittaker, and forty-nine other doctoral candidates and sixty-five masters students. Considering also the number of undergraduates he introduced to the field, both directly and through his textbook *Ecology*, it seems likely that no one had more influence on ecological science during the period of its coming of age. Kendeigh's election as Eminent Ecologist is securely based upon his outstanding research, teaching, and contributions to the Ecological Society.

He was born in South Amherst, Ohio, in 1904, was reared and educated in that state, and received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Oberlin College. After a year at the University of Nebraska, he entered the University of Illinois where he was granted the doctorate in 1930. He spent 1930–1936 in a position at Western Reserve. In 1936 he was recalled to the University of Illinois where today, four years after becoming Professor Emeritus, he is as active as ever. He also spent fifteen summers at the Baldwin Bird Research Laboratory near Cleveland, and other summers as research fellow at the Edmund Niles Huck Reserve and as teacher at several biological field stations.

Kendeigh's imaginative studies, from his 1927 paper on the house wren to a recent manuscript on comparative energetics of birds and mammals, constitute a model of scientific productivity in the development of a major theme—vertebrate physiological-ecology. His work on bird energetics began very early to stimulate what became an explosion of "energy-flow" WORK IN ECOSYSTEM ECOLOGY. The 1932 book *Physiology of the Temperature of Birds* is a classic.



Other themes running through Kendeigh's eighty publications are population census and dynamics, community classification, general conservation, and the preservation of research lands.

Sensitivity to the contributions of earlier workers is exemplified by his devoted work in completing preparation of Shelford's *The Ecology of North America*, editing it, and seeing it through publication.

The practical art of wildlife management was not neglected; that field is well represented among the many and varied courses and seminars Kendeigh handled. He was a founder and chairman of the national organization, The Nature Conservancy, originally termed the Ecologist's Union, and served eight years on its Board of Governors. He was the first chairman of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, and for a quarter-century chaired his university's committee on natural areas.

Responsibility to his profession is reflected in his memberships and official po-

sitions in very many societies. He was a founder of the Animal Behavior Society. Kendeigh headed the Ecological Society of America in 1951. By that date the scope of his interest had encompassed our science from the house wren to mapping and describing the "biociations" of this continent. The latter was the subject of his presidential address. Even if everything Kendeigh accomplished before 1951 could be disregarded, recognition as Eminent Ecol-

ogist is amply justified by what he has done as ecologist, ornithologist, teacher, author, and preservationist during the twenty-seven years since his term as ESA president.

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