

LYNDS JONES
1865-1951



Lynds Jones was born at Jefferson, Ohio, on January 5, 1865. His boyhood years were spent on prairie farmland near Grinnell, Iowa, where he developed, at an early age, a serious interest in plants and animals, especially birds.

Two years' attendance at Grinnell College was followed by entrance to Oberlin College where he received the A.B. degree in 1892, and the S.M. in 1895. His two courses in ornithology, given at Oberlin in 1895, are considered to be the first such courses offered in an American college. In 1898, he was named Instructor in Zoology. He pursued graduate work at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass., and in 1904-1905, he was granted a year's leave of absence from Oberlin to complete work for the Ph.D degree at the University of Chicago where he studied Ecology under Shelford and Cowles.

In 1905, Jones was made Associate Professor of Zoology and, in 1908, his faculty designation was changed to Associate Professor of Animal Ecology while he continued as Curator of the Museum. In 1913, a year's course in ecology was introduced and a major in animal ecology was first started at Oberlin in 1915. Among those who took this major and subsequent masters were two of his sons, George and Harold.

In 1922, Jones was raised to the rank of Professor of Animal Ecology and, in 1926-1927, he added Advanced Animal Ecology, and Research in Animal Ecology to the curriculum. During a long period of teaching at Oberlin, he

offered summer courses at field stations, including the State University Lake Laboratory at Cedar Point, Pelee Island, Ontario, and Marblehead, Ohio. From 1915 until his retirement, he led numerous, extensive, ecological field excursions to the West Coast. On retiring in 1930, he continued bird study and did some teaching at Berry College in Georgia.

Lynds Jones was a pioneer in the field of ecology. His was perhaps the first departmental organization strictly in the field of ecology and his field excursions for ecological study are doubtless among the earliest of their kind in American Colleges.

By these outstanding contributions to the organization and development of ecological instruction and by his field and laboratory studies, particularly in ornithology, he exerted an important and lasting influence in the field of ecological science.

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