

## ARTHUR B. WILLIAMS

1874 - 1951



Arthur B. Williams died at his home in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, on August 18, 1951. Born in Montclair, N. J., he received the B.A. degree from Yale University in 1898 and seven years later began the study of law in the Cleveland Law School.

Williams' business activities included the practice of law and real estate work in which he was eminently successful. His contributions in the field of education, research, and citizenship were outstanding.

During 1928-1930, Williams conducted an educational program for the boys and girls of Fairmount Presbyterian Church and taught Natural Science to the elementary classes in the Sunday School. On June 1, 1930, he joined the staff of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History as a naturalist and ecologist with a special assignment as naturalist for the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board. The following year he opened the Trailside Museum in North Chagrin Park, the first of four such museums opened by him.

Williams studied ecology at Western Reserve University in the early thirties, receiving the M.A. degree in 1932 and the Ph.D degree in 1935. His doctoral thesis was published under the title of "The Composition and Dy-

namics of a Beech-Maple Climax Community" in **Ecological Monographs 6**, 1936: 318-408. In this important contribution he described the so-called spot-map method of taking breeding bird censuses which has since been adopted by the National Audubon Society, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and many ornithologists for the development of a new field of research in ornithology which is of considerable ecological significance. Also, this contribution included one of the earliest attempts to measure small mammal populations and provided a stimulus for the development of this research in the field of mammology. Two important contributions in book form are "The Native Forests of Cuyahoga County, Ohio" (1949) and "Birds of the Cleveland Region" (1950).

Subsequent academic posts held by Williams include Curator of Education at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History assumed in 1939 and membership on the Museum's Board of Managers from 1939 until 1946. He was a member of the Managing Board and Executive Committee of the Holden Arboretum for the period 1936-1950, and, in 1945-1946, he was chairman of the Committee on Moses Cleveland Trees of the Cleveland Sesquicentennial Commission.

Williams edited the Cleveland Bird Calendar, published by the Kirtland Bird Club, from 1941 until his last illness, and was editor of the Explorer, Natural History Museum bulletin, from 1942 until his retirement. Beginning in March, 1944, he wrote weekly nature editorials for the Cleveland Press. He was author also of many other writings on nature subjects.

Williams was a member of the University Club of Cleveland, the Professional Men's Club of Cleveland, the Cleveland Bird Club, the Ohio Forestry Association, the American Ornithologists Union, the Ecological Society of America and the Ecologists Union. He was a fellow of the Ohio Academy of Science and a senior fellow of the American Institute of Park Executives.

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