Arthur T. Wayne

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When the ornithological history of South Carolina is reviewed, there is but one person whose contributions are comparable to those of Audubon. In fact, when the impact Arthur Trezevant Wayne made on the body of scientific knowledge in the state is examined, his contributions exceed those of Audubon. No other ornithologist, in past or recent times, can match the time spent afield—47 years—that Arthur Wayne devoted to the study of birds. During this long career, which was virtually uninterrupted, Wayne added 45 species to the state list, published 125 scientific papers, wrote the first state bird book, and became recognized as the most eminent Southern ornithologist of his time (Gething 1930).

Born in Blackville, S.C., on 1 January 1863, Arthur Wayne was the son of an architect with an English, Scottish, and French Huguenot heritage. The Wayne family was originally from Charleston, but had removed to Blackville to escape dangers the Civil War had brought to the Charleston area. At the close of hostilities, the family returned to Charleston, where young Wayne would finish high school with honors in 1880 (Sprunt 1931).

At the age of 17, Arthur Wayne obtained his first job in a time when few young men in the South could afford to go on to college. Wayne's first employment was with Barden and Murdock, a cotton brokerage firm. Even in the post-Civil War period cotton export was still a major business in Charleston, and the sale and shipment of raw cotton required constant accounting and processing of orders. This job lasted until 1883 when Wayne went to work for another cotton brokerage firm, Lesesne and Wells (Sprunt 1931). The tasks of the business world did not hold Wayne's attention for long.

In 1874, when Arthur Wayne was a schoolboy, he was befriended by Gabriel Manigault, then director of the Charleston Museum. At this time Dr. Manigault was not only director, he was also the entire staff. This friendship encouraged Wayne's interest in science, particularly in birds. Wayne spent many hours in the field searching for specimens to add to the Museum's collections maintained by his friend and mentor. Manigault saw to it that Wayne learned the art of preparing a bird skin from an elderly Englishman the Museum hired to prepare its collections (Sprunt 1931).

The relationship between Arthur Wayne and Dr. Manigault was a solid one in which Manigault saw great promise. In 1883, William Brewster made his first visit to Charleston to visit his friend Dr. Manigault. Wasting no time, Manigault spoke highly of young Wayne and introduced him to Brewster. This single meeting changed the fate of Arthur Wayne and of ornithological history in South Carolina.

In the 1880s William Brewster was a leading figure in American ornithology. He had founded the Nuttall Club in his home town of Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1873. This organization would later grow into the prestigious American Ornithologists' Union, which Brewster helped to establish in 1883. As the awareness of the need for bird protection increased, William Brewster would become, in 1896, the first president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. This organization was the forerunner of what is today the National Audubon Society (Hanley 1977).

At the time of Wayne's first meeting with him in 1883, Brewster was associated with the Harvard University Museum. From this position, which Brewster held for several decades, he traveled extensively, collecting specimens and adding data to the collection of the Harvard Museum.

There is little wonder that meeting a nationally known scientist like William Brewster would excite a 20-year-old Wayne. The true level of this excitement, however, was deep enough to drive Arthur Wayne for the balance of his life. He finally had found a well-respected elder who advocated a life's work doing exactly what Wayne wanted all along, studying and collecting birds. From this point forward Arthur Wayne dropped any pretense of involvement in the business world and concentrated all his efforts on his real interest. William Brewster instilled in Wayne a burning interest in bird collection, particularly that of rare species. As was the custom in Victorian times, the collection of bird skins and eggs was the accepted practice of establishing data on bird populations. In the days before adequate binoculars and cameras, there was no other way of verifying or identifying the various regional forms of bird life.

During Brewster's first visit to Charleston in the spring of 1883, he spent a great deal of time afield with young Arthur Wayne. Part of this time was spent in search of Swainson's Warbler, a bird thought to have been lost to science since 1833. Although the first attempt ended in failure, Wayne found Swainson's Warbler a year later, in the spring of 1884. This discovery was made during Brewster's second trip to the Charleston area, and Wayne was thrilled to have Brewster submit an article on his discovery to *The Auk* (Wayne 1910).

William Brewster did more for Wayne than merely stirring a passion for birds. Perhaps as great a contribution was his insistence on accurate record keeping. This would extend not only to observations, but also to specimen and egg collection. It is very likely that Wayne already knew the value of careful recording and particular attention to detail, both from the cotton brokerage business and through the Victorian mindset of the time; but William Brewster stressed its importance to the scientific approach.

Additionally, Brewster, who was an avid collector and firm believer in the practice, convinced Wayne that money could be made by providing specimens to private collectors as well as museums. This concept sparked Wayne to make several collecting trips outside South Carolina and encouraged wide correspondence to market his specimens.

Wayne had begun to turn his avocation into a vocation as early as 1882, when he made a 4-month collection trip to Greenville, S.C. Brewster's influence, however, caused Wayne to make several collecting trips to Florida, beginning in 1892. The first trip was headquartered out of Branford, Florida, where Wayne began collecting in March. By May he wrote to Brewster that he had secured a good many Bachman's Warblers and several fine Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. The trip was operated on a shoestring, with Wayne asking Brewster for $13 due him from the previous year, adding "... I have nothing and I am dependent upon what I sell to meet my expenses" (Wayne to Brewster, 16 May 1892).

By September 1892 the trip was successful to the point that Wayne had collected 13 Ivory-bills and 43 Bachman's Warblers. He offered the Ivory-billed Woodpecker skins for $20 each and those of Bachman's Warbler for only $2.50 each (Wayne to Brewster, 16 September 1892).

Arthur T. Wayne and Mrs. Wayne were photographed on the front steps of their home at Porcher's Bluff, Mount Pleasant, S.C., about 1920. This is one of the only three known photographs of the famous South Carolina ornithologist.

In December 1892, Wayne's collecting found him along the Swannee River, where he shot six Carolina Paraquets. Of this soon-to-be extinct species he wrote, "It is the hardest bird I know of to get in full plumage, and *fine*. The tails of nearly every one are very ragged. They feed upon the green pine mast which soils their feathers." The Swannee River held a special fascination for Wayne, and he pleaded to Brewster to join him promising, "I can positively shoe you *any day* at least two Ivory-bills" (Wayne to Brewster, 10 December 1892).

By 1893, even Wayne apparently began to realize that many of the spectacular species he was collecting were beginning to decline. His first observation of this was on the rarity of the Carolina Paraquet. Still, with the rate at which he collected, there is no wonder rare birds were becoming more rare. At Old Town, Florida, Wayne shot 11 Bachman's Warblers in 3 hours (Wayne to Brewster, 7 January 1883). By March 1893,

he wrote that Bachman's Warblers "... are very rare here and not one tenth as numerous as at Branford" (Wayne to Brewster, 27 April 1894). By the end of April 1894, Wayne was collecting in Jefferson County, Florida. He noted at this time that "Bachman's Warbler is an excessively rare bird here and I only took nine" (Wayne to Brewster, 27 April 1894).

The actual value of Wayne's collecting trips was questionable in spite of his apparent success. The buying and selling of bird skins was simply not adequate to provide any sort of living. In 1901 he wrote Brewster that "I have sold nothing whatever this year of any consequence and I am worse off than I have ever been. Everything has advanced in price until it is a struggle to get something to eat" (Wayne to Brewster, 2 August 1901).

FINDS NEST OF BACHMAN'S WARBLER

Wayne's experience with rare species in Florida would eventually prove to be extremely valuable at home. This is especially true in regard to Bachman's Warbler. Wayne had suspected that the bird bred actively north of Florida and wrote of his suspicions about Georgia habitat as early as 1894 (Wayne to Brewster, 27 April 1894). In 1901 Wayne rediscovered Bachman's Warbler in South Carolina, taking a bird at Fairlawn Plantation, Christ Church Parish, near his home in Mount Pleasant. This accomplishment was viewed as a significant scientific feat, for the bird had not been observed in South Carolina since its description by Audubon in 1833. Five years later, on 17 April 1906, he located two nests with eggs in the same portion of I'on Swamp (Wayne 1910).

While Wayne's first major contribution was the rediscovery of Swainson's Warbler in 1883, his most famous would have to be that of finding Bachman's Warbler. Other discoveries, while somewhat less spectacular, are nevertheless important, such as his description of Wayne's Warbler (*Dendroica virens waynei*) and Wayne's Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris waynei*) as well as numerous state records.

William Brewster encouraged Wayne to publish his findings, and Wayne began in 1884 with his first article on the Chuck-will's-widow in *Science Record.* This was followed by a paper on Swainson's Warbler in the *Proceedings of The Elliott Society* in 1885 and with his first article in *The Auk* in 1886. Arthur Wayne went on to publish a total of 125 scientific papers during his career. His most important contribution, however, came in 1910, through his long association with the Charleston Museum.

In 1905 Wayne was asked to be honorary curator of ornithology at the Charleston Museum. He had begun his long association with the institution as a schoolboy and had benefited greatly from his friendship with its director, Dr. Gabriel Manigault. Writing to Brewster in 1906, Wayne admitted, "I only accepted the position to help Mr. Rhea, who is a very nice man. The birds have gone to ruin and it makes me very sad everytime I go to the museum" (Wayne to Brewster, 27 April 1906).

WRITES STATE BIRD BOOK

In November 1905 Wayne decided to write a book on the birds of South Carolina. He pleaded with his now-elderly friend Brewster to become involved in the project with him by writing the introduction and editing the manuscript. At the same time Wayne freely admitted that he had no money to publish the book (Wayne to Brewster, 2 October 1907). Although Brewster declined to provide any assistance, Paul Rhea, then director of the Charleston Museum, stepped in to offer publication as the first in a series of Museum

contributions. Wayne's *Birds of South Carolina* was published in 1910 through the Charleston Museum. It was dedicated to William Brewster (Wayne 1910).

By the time the *Birds of South Carolina* was published, Arthur Wayne was already well known in the scientific community. In addition to his long friendship with Brewster, Wayne counted among his corresponding friends the likes of A.C. Bent, John Thayer, Joseph Grinnell, C. Hart Merriam, Outram Bangs, and Frank Chapman (Wayne 1910).

In order to appreciate Arthur Wayne's contribution, it is important to look at his personality. Physically small in stature, he was extremely energetic. He never owned a car and relied on his feet and a row boat to get around. He would frequently walk great distances and on one occasion logged 24 miles in one day while searching for an assistant lost in the swamp (Wayne to Brewster, 21 May 1906). On several occasions he injured himself in the field by slipping while climbing trees or by sticking thorns in his eye. None of the accidents was enough to prevent him from completing his day's work (Laurie and Chamberlain 1979).

Wayne's personality was such that no detail escaped him. He was exceedingly careful in collecting and presenting specimens to the point of searching the ground for a missing feather after shooting a bird or not allowing anyone to touch the bird skins once in his collection (Sprunt 1931).

On top of all this compulsive behavior, Arthur Wayne was also obsessed with seeking the truth. He was constantly on guard against exaggeration and undeserved acclaim. In 1917 he wrote to fellow collector and friend Gilbert Rossignol that "I could not go to bed and sleep if I knew I had told a falsehood" (Wayne to Rossignol, 1 February 1917).

In the face of adversity, Wayne remained amazingly buoyant. Financial affairs were always a problem throughout his life. In 1911 he wrote that he was unable to support himself and his wife on $110 for 9 months or more, but was still not going to give up the "bird business." Even the publication of his book did not net any money (Wayne to Brewster, 16 September 1911, 21 April 1917).

Arthur Wayne's unique personality played an important role in molding the future of South Carolina ornithology. Among his students who learned firsthand the value of frugality, strict attention to detail, and extreme caution were such prominent 20th-century ornithologists as Edward Dingle, Alexander Sprunt Jr., Herbert Ravenel Sass, Francis Weston, and E. Burnham Chamberlain.

ELECTED A.O.U. FELLOW

Two years before his death, Wayne was elected a fellow in the American Ornithologists' Union. This recognition, in 1928, pleased him tremendously because he had revered the organization since his introduction to bird work.

On 5 May 1930 Wayne suffered a stroke while showing his bird collection to Sprunt and two companions. He died later that day (Gething 1930).

Arthur Wayne contributed a great deal to the ornithology of South Carolina with his taking of record specimens and his various scientific papers. Perhaps his greatest contribution to science was his demonstration of the importance of intensive field work conducted in a very limited area. It must be remembered that with the exception of the Florida collecting trips and two others in South Carolina, virtually all of Wayne's discoveries were

made within walking distance of his house. Never before and, quite likely, never again will anyone else produce comparable results from such a limited geographic area.

Wayne's other major contribution was to the students he gathered around him. The importance of record keeping, the eye for detail, the need for collecting—all of these values contributed to the overall conservative scientific approach that would become the mark of South Carolina's major ornithologists for the next 50 years.

Arthur Wayne was one of the few fortunate enough to do exactly what he wanted to do for life. Although he never achieved riches and frequently had to struggle, Wayne made a tremendous impact on South Carolina ornithology. "It is," he wrote, "a perfect passion for me to be in the woods ... and all I want is a living out of it" (Wayne to Brewster, 22 February 1911).

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CBC Roundtable

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Plains Research Station, Rocky Mount, N.C. A combine was harvesting a field of soybeans while a mature Red-tail glided along above at about 100 m. As I watched, the bird folded its wings and stooped in the direction of the machine. About 50 m from the combine, the hawk braked and plunged to the ground. I immediately heard the scream of a rabbit in distress. I located the hawk with my binoculars. The bird was, by then, shielding its catch and glaring back at me. Finally the hawk rose laboriously with its prey, apparently a young rabbit. As the bird flapped to a scope of woodland nearby, I reflected that a favorite pastime of my childhood was chasing assorted varmints flushed by farm machinery. Evidently that particular Red-tail took a more utilitarian view of such situations, although I hope it found a bit of adventure, and even felt suspense, from waiting near a soybean combine.—JOSHUA A. LEE, 5104 Newcastle Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27606.