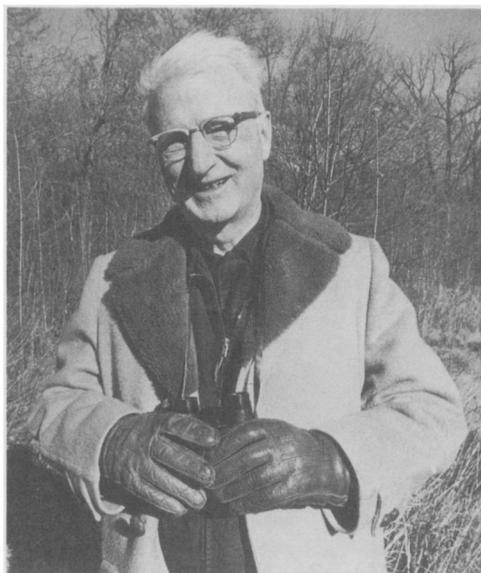


resolution of respect

S. CHARLES KENDEIGH, 1904–1986



On 26 and 27 May 1973 colleagues and former students gathered in Urbana-Champaign to help Charles and Dorothy Kendeigh and their two children, Donald and Katherine, celebrate Charles' retirement after 45 years of teaching and research. Over these years Charles attracted an unusually large number of graduate students, a total of 116 receiving graduate degrees (51 doctoral, 65 masters) under his direction; as a result there was a large delegation of former students present at the retirement festivities. A special one-day symposium with presentations by former students was organized in his honor by Lowell Getz, followed by an evening banquet.

Charles enjoyed himself thoroughly and took special delight in recalling humorous and embarrassing incidents involving his students. For example, when it came time for him to respond to all the accolades at the banquet he pulled from his pocket a 1938 letter from the chairman of the faculty fellowship committee which read: "We do not recommend Eugene Odum for a fellowship." He then proceeded to read a rather long list of reasons Odum was not highly regarded by the committee. Fortunately for me, Kendeigh did have confidence in me and provided research assistantship support. Then out of another pocket he produced a copy of Robert Whittaker's application for admission to graduate school, which was rejected by the Botany Department. Fortunately for Bob, Kendeigh and the Zoology Department recognized latent talent, which explains how it came to pass that Whittaker did his thesis on the vegetation of the Smokies for a Ph.D. in Zoology. And so it went far into the night. Charles was not only a prolific record keeper of research data but also of files on his students!

From the student's standpoint Charles Kendeigh was an ideal major professor. He was a stern taskmaster, but he gave his students plenty of leeway to try out their ideas and to make their own mistakes. He had the instinct to know when to encourage and when to discourage. When we also consider the many years he taught ecology to undergraduates and the large number of students who used his textbook (first published in 1961 as *Animal Ecology*, later revised as *Ecology*) we realize how great was his influence during the years that ecology was emerging as a major discipline.

Kendeigh was born in Amherst, Ohio on 18 December 1904 and received his early education in that state. He was an Oberlin College graduate, AB 1926, AM 1927. After a year at the University of Nebraska he came to Illinois to study under V. E. Shelford, earning his Ph.D. in 1930. For six years (1930–1936) he taught at Western Reserve University in Cleveland, and then was recalled to Illinois in 1936 as Shelford's understudy, and together they made Illinois a major center for ecology.

While still a student he began his monumental, long-term study of the physiological ecology of the House Wren at the Baldwin Bird Research Laboratory located on the estate of pioneer bird-bander S. Prentiss Baldwin at Gates Mills, a suburb of Cleveland. He worked there for something like 15 consecutive summers. This work (reported in numerous papers and three monographs) pioneered ecological energetics, which today is a major component of both population and ecosystem ecology, and most important, a common denominator link between these hierarchical levels.

Kendeigh also pioneered field study of breeding bird populations. Following the end of the Gates Mills period he spent many summers censusing, analyzing and comparing populations in different vegetation-types within the Eastern deciduous forest biome, including several consecutive summers working at the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve in New York State. Most important of all was his 35-year study of bird populations of a 60-acre island of forest in the midst of Illinois corn fields, and his comparisons with tracts of forest not so isolated. The study clearly showed that the island was too small to sustain true forest-interior species, since forest-edge species eventually penetrated to the center, displacing the interior species. Published in the *Illinois Biological Monographs* series in 1982, this study was singled out in a review of LTERs published by Gene Likens's Ecosystem Center as *the* outstanding example of a long-term ecological study by a single investigator using the same basic method year after year.

Kendeigh took an active part in the International Biological Program (IBP), collaborating with Polish and Russian workers on a survey of research dealing with granivorous birds. Following his retirement he made a successful effort to get the results of this project into publication.

Throughout his long career Kendeigh was active in the affairs of the Ecological Society of America. He served as president in 1951 and received its Eminent Ecologist award in 1978. He succeeded Shelford as chairman of ESA's Committee for the Study of Plant and Animal Communities, 1938–1945. He helped organize the Ecologist's Union and was a founder of the Nature Conservancy, which emerged from the Union as a separate organization. He served on the Conservancy's Board of Governors for many years. He was the first chairman of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and chaired its University Committee on Natural Areas for a quarter of a century. Kendeigh was an elected Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, and in 1951 received one of its highest honors, the Brewster Medal. He was president of the Wilson Ornithological Society, 1943–1945, and a founder of the Animal Behavior Society, another offshoot of ESA.

S. Charles Kendeigh was a man of boundless energy with a special talent for long-term studies. His love of nature and his belief in the importance of community-level organization led him to be very diligent in efforts to preserve natural areas. He was a workaholic, but he had a wonderful subtle sense of humor, and he had time to give to his family, his friends, and his students.

Eugene P. Odum
Callaway Professor of Ecology Emeritus
University of Georgia
Athens, GA

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