

The Wicked Flee When No Man Pursueth.

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Ornithologist Is Visitor

Bird Disc Jockey's Task Is Tough One

BY EARL HEFFNER
Observer Staff Writer.

"Look at the bird," said the photographer. And for Dr. Arthur Allen, Ph. D., Cornell university, the request was a poser for the moment.

Did the photographers mean the bird in the tree or in the camera? He meant the one in the tree, a mocking bird. And Dr. Allen looked as he has looked—and listened—for years in pursuing his duties as an ornithologist.

Dr. Allen lectured last night to members of the Mecklenburg Audubon club at 8 o'clock in the Queens college auditorium. But yesterday afternoon he relaxed and explained his duties in his profession to some curious laymen.

Greyish, dignified Dr. Allen's eyes twinkled with youth as he related how a bird's songs are captured on a parabolic reflector, picked up by an amplifier, carried over wire to a second amplifier, and then recorded on a disc—a record just like the one in the juke box of the corner drug store.

SONGS OF THE WILD

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A simple task? By no means. Whenever Dr. Allen and his son endeavor to pick up and record the song of a bird—maybe a mocking bird, they pick up also the other sounds of the moment—a barking dog, a train whistle, wind roaring through the trees, a passing automobile or airplane. The result con-

stitutes a dilemma.

It's possible to filter the foreign noises somewhat to reduce their volume. But with this action the overtone of the bird's songs are filtered. No longer is the record a quality reproduction.

Dr. Allen and his cohorts have recorded the sounds of the wild throughout the United States, have taken pictures of the various birds and amphibians. Besides these activities within the boundaries of this country, he has recorded the sounds of jungle life in Panama.

During the war, he recalled, the Army on New Guinea found that its city-bred civilian soldiers were unable to "distinguish the sound of a Jap from a jeep." To help correct this, Dr. Allen went to Panama and recorded all jungle sound that he could locate. The recordings were used to aid in the education of Americans in the ways of jungle life.

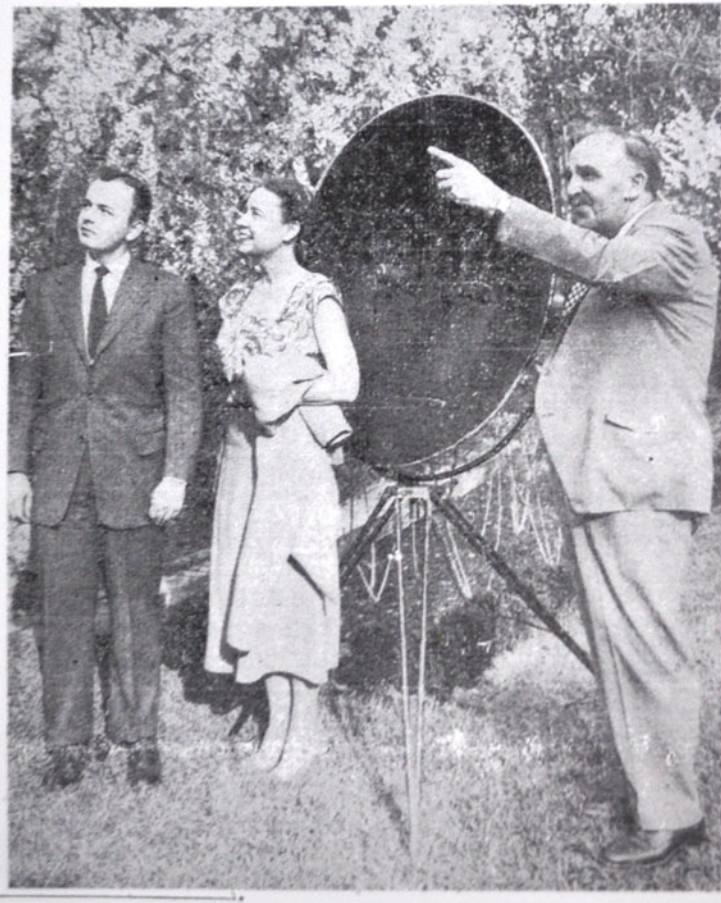
VISITS CLARKSONS

Dr. Allen arrived in Charlotte early Sunday evening. He immediately began to record the songs of birds in the beautiful Wing Haven garden of Mrs. E. O. Clarkson at 248 Ridgewood avenue. It was nearly 2 a. m. before the Allens—father and son—retired from work.

"Rarely," said Dr. Allen, "have I ever seen such a concentration of birds in one place."

Again last night after his lecture which was implemented by color films, Dr. Allen retired to the Wing

RECORD BIRD SONGS Dr. Arthur Allen (right), ornithologist from Cornell, spent the last two evenings and nights with his son, David (left) recording bird songs in the beautiful Wing Haven garden of Mrs. E. O. Clarkson (center). Last night, Dr. Allen addressed the Mecklenburg Audubon society. Tonight he will speak at Duke university. The machine in the picture is a parabolic reflector used to help capture the voices of the birds. (Observer Staff photo—Dumbell.)



Haven garden—almost a garden of Eden with its beautiful, blooming cherry trees—to record the sound of birds.

Mrs. George Potter, president of the Mecklenburg Audubon society, gave a most interesting and welcome address. Afterwards, B. Rhett Chamberlain, president of the N. C. Bird club, introduced Dr. Allen to the audience of an estimated 200 persons.

Today he will leave for Durham where he will lecture tonight. Already he is anticipating some hours of work in the spacious Duke gardens.