

WOMEN IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS (1919–1949)

DAWN M. KAUFMAN, DONALD W. KAUFMAN, AND GLENNIS A. KAUFMAN

Department of Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131 (DMK)

Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506 (DWK, GAK)

During the first 30 years of The American Society of Mammalogists (ASM), a small but notable group of women made significant contributions to the Society and to mammalogy in general. The limited opportunity for women in mammalogy at the time of the founding of the ASM in 1919 is evidenced by the observation that only 16 of 435 Charter Members were women. To highlight the contributions of early women mammalogists, we describe the accomplishments of 23 women in short biographical treatments. To facilitate our presentations of activities and accomplishments, each woman was placed into one of six categories, although some individuals could have been listed under more than one category. The six categories were research in the field, research in the museum, research in the laboratory, service to the ASM, other naturalists involved in the ASM, and relevant non-members.

Key words: women, mammalogy, biology, research, history, American Society of Mammalogists, 1919–1949

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Lucille Farrier Stickel (born 1915, living) was born in Michigan. She received her B.A. from Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University) in 1936 and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan in 1938 and 1949, respectively. In 1941, she married William H. Stickel (member of the ASM) and accompanied him when he accepted a position with the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. She subsequently took employment at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, as a research wildlife biologist. She worked there for ca. 30 years, from 1943 until her retirement in 1982. From 1972 to 1981, she served as Director of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, during which time the Patuxent became an internationally recognized research center. Stickel, listed in *American Men of Science* during 1955–1979, is acknowledged widely for her work in assessing the impact of pesticides in wildlife. Recognition of her research came in 1974 when she received both the Aldo Leopold Award from The Wildlife Society and a D.Sc. Honorary Degree from Eastern Michigan University. Further, she received a Special Conservation Award from the National Wildlife Federation in 1980, and then in 1989 was honored along with her husband with a laboratory building, the Stickel Laboratory, at the Patuxent. She published six articles in the *Journal of Mammalogy*, which dealt primarily with populations of small mammals. She presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Society in 1946, which so impressed the group that she received a standing ovation (D. E. Hoffmeister, pers. comm.). Especially important was her work on population biology and the estimation of the size of home ranges for small mammals (e.g., Stickel, 1946, 1954, 1965). Stickel also was the only female contributor to *Biology of Peromyscus* (the second *Special Publication* of the ASM) for which she prepared the chapter on home range and travels (Stickel, 1968).
