



RUDOLPH BENNITT

1898-1950

Rudolph Bennitt, teacher, investigator and conservationist, at the University of Missouri, died suddenly on February 2, 1950. Born in Springfield, Massachusetts on December 22, 1898, Bennitt's outstanding career in higher education began at Boston University where he received the degrees of Bachelor of Science (1920) and Master of Arts (1921). He attended Harvard University as a Thayer Fellow and, in 1923, received the Ph.D. degree in general physiology.

Bennitt taught at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, at De Pauw University and at Tufts College. In 1927, he joined the faculty of the University of Missouri and, from 1944 until his death, he held the title of William Rucker Professor of Zoology.

Bennitt's early research interest was in the physiology of crustacea. His first ornithological paper, which was on the birds of Missouri, was published in 1932. Thereafter, he devoted his efforts to the study of conservation, publishing numerous articles on the ecology of game animals and on problems in wildlife management and conservation education. His study of the Bobwhite quail covered an eleven year period and culminated in a manuscript entitled "Some Aspects of Missouri Quail and Quail Hunting, 1938-1948," Tech. Ser. No. 2, Mo. Cons. Com., 1951. His convictions relative to training in the wildlife profession are contained in his 1946 paper, "University Objectives in Professional Wildlife Training," *J. Wildl. Mgt.* 10(3): 218-227.

Bennitt was the first chairman of the administrative committee of the Missouri Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit and the first president of the Wildlife Society. Through his many and varied contributions as teacher, investigator and administrator, he exercised a profound influence on the growth of ecological knowledge of game animals and on the development and application of conservation theory.

A bronze plaque in the Wildlife Conservation Building, University of Missouri, reads:

RUDOLPH BENNITT
1898-1950

First chairman of the Missouri Wildlife Research Unit—1937-1950. Scholar, teacher and conservationist. His industry and unselfishness were largely responsible for the initial reputation of this unit.

Erected by the Conservation Federation of Missouri in honor of his leadership and competence. April 22, 1950.

W. D. BILLINGS
E. S. HATHAWAY
C. L. NEWCOMBE, Chairman
Committee on Resolutions
Ecological Society of America

Berkeley, California
November 5, 1951

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