

3-2005

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"In Memory of Dr. Rushton G. Cortelyou" (2005). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 1109.
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In Memory of Dr. Rushton G. Cortelyou

The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union lost a longtime member and friend on May 2, 2004, when Dr. Rushton Cortelyou passed away just 16 days shy of his 98th birthday. He had been a member of the NOU for more than 50 years. He was preceded in death by Margaret, his wife of 68 years. Survivors include daughters Helen Linger and Carol Cortelyou, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Dr. Cortelyou, "Rusty", as he was known to his friends, was born on May 18, 1906, in Manhattan, Kansas, where his father was on the faculty at Kansas State University. Rusty graduated from KSU in 1927 with a degree in Civil Engineering. He earned an MBA from Harvard in 1929 and served in the U. S. Navy during World War II and the Korean Conflict, retiring with the rank of Commander.

Rusty and his wife Margaret Manley Cortelyou moved to Omaha in 1946, where he was treasurer of Fairmont Foods. Later, after earning a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 1967, he taught business courses at Bellevue College (now Bellevue University) until his retirement in 1973.

Rusty's membership in the NOU dates from 1953, and he contributed much to the organization. He served as president in 1962-64 and as editor of *The Nebraska Bird Review* from 1965 to 1990. As his daughter Carol remembers, "My dad really enjoyed the kind of detailed work needed for the *NBR*; he even kept doing the index when others took over the editing job." Rusty and his wife Margaret celebrated their 90th birthdays at the NOU spring meeting in Kearney in 1996. Later that year they moved to the Seattle area to be closer to their daughter Carol.

Rusty's participation in the NOU didn't end with the move to Washington state. He attended NOU meetings when he was able and watched over the organization's affairs from afar when he was not. Generous donations of books and money have been made over the years, and the Cortelyous were instrumental in the formation of the Scholarship Fund. Rusty wrote an article about his early years in the organization, "N.O.U. History Notes", which was published in the 1999 Centennial Meeting Program. In 2002 at the NOU Annual Meeting in Norfolk, Rusty was elected an Honorary Life Member. He was recognized in the nomination document for the "time, effort, unsurpassed leadership and continuity" he has given to the organization.



Rusty's generosity was extended also to the Kansas State University Foundation in a bequest for the renovation of a historic, 94-year-old limestone barn at the Konza Prairie Biological Station.

Rusty was an inspiration to all who knew him. He was always interested in learning, getting his PhD after age 60 and snorkeling for the first time at age 95. He outlived most of his generation and many of the generation that followed. According to his daughter Carol, he "enjoyed amazingly excellent health for 97 years". He was able to continue to enjoy many of his accustomed activities: reading, using his computer, updating his financial records, writing letters and watching nature shows, and being sick towards the end didn't keep him from watching Kansas State in the bowl game.