

## Marcus Ward Lyon, Jr.

### *President*

Marcus Ward Lyon, Jr., was born at Rock Island Arsenal, in Illinois, to Captain Lyon and his wife on 5 February 1875. Little appears to be known of his early life, which was spent at Army posts in various parts of the country. One of these was Watertown Arsenal near Boston, Massachusetts. His scientific interests apparently stem from his childhood days there when he began to make collections of insects and other animals. Later, his father apparently was again posted to Rock Island, because Lyon graduated from high school there in 1893 and entered Brown University that same year, receiving his bachelor's degree in 1897. His college training in biology led to his being offered an instructorship in bacteriology at North Carolina Medical College in 1897. After serving in that post for a year, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he was appointed an Aid in the Division of Mammals, U.S. National Museum (USNM), Smithsonian Institution. Concurrent with this part-time position, he began graduate studies at George Washington University, obtaining his M.S. degree in 1900 and his M.D. in 1902. In that same year, he married Martha Maria Brewer of Lanham, Maryland. Lyon continued to work in the National Museum, but embarked upon a parallel teaching career in the Howard University Medical School in Washington. He taught physiology, bacteriology, and pathology there until 1917. With the outbreak of World War I, he joined the U.S. Army and served as pathologist in Walter Reed Army Hospital from 1917 to 1919, attaining the rank of Major. At the same time, he taught veterinary zoology and parasitology at the Medical School of George Washington University. During that 18-year stretch of medical teaching and practice, his wife also obtained an M.D. from Howard University, and in 1919 they jointly accepted an invitation to join the staff of the South Bend Clinic in Indiana. This decision resulted in a major change of direction for Lyon. Previously while associated with the Division of Mammals at USNM, he had published a series of significant papers on the morphology, systematics, and zoogeography of wild mammals. Most notable among these are his paper on the classification of the hares and their allies (1904) and an account of the mammalian family Tupaiidae (1913), for which he was awarded a doctorate by George Washington University. Although his formal relationship with the USNM ended in 1912, he continued to publish broadly in mammalogy until his move to Indiana. In addition, he published a number of basic medical studies during that period.

After he and his wife set up their medical practice in South Bend, Indiana his scientific contributions were almost all devoted to Indiana subjects, focusing particularly on the region around South Bend. His medical publications also drew from his practice more frequently than during his time in Washington. Perhaps the most significant publication from this period is his book, *Mammals of Indiana*, published in 1936. In this last period of his life, he became an ardent conservationist and spokesman for wildlife protection. His last paper was in press when he died on 19 May 1942; it described the changes, mostly negative, that had occurred in the Kankakee Region along the Indiana border near his home as a result of human activities.

*Obituary*

Anonymous. 1942. Marcus Ward Lyon, Jr. 1875–1942. *American Midland Naturalist*, 27(3):i–xv.