

OBITUARY

CARL ROBERT EKLUND, the American biologist, died in Philadelphia on 4 November at the age of 53.

He was born in Wisconsin in 1909 and graduated from Carlton College in 1932, joining Virginia's Shenandoah National Park as a forestry foreman. Two years later he transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service as a research biologist and remained with that department until his resignation in 1957, when he was Assistant Regional Director in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1936 he received his master's degree from Oregon State College.

He first visited Antarctica as a member of Byrd's United States Antarctic Service Expedition, 1939-41, when he made, with Finn Ronne, a 1200-mile dog-sledge journey discovering what were later named the Eklund Islands in King George VI Sound and proving the insularity of Alexander I Land (now Alexander Island). During the Second World War he served in Greenland and Canada as a major in the Arctic Desert Tropic Information Centre of the Army Air Forces.

During the IGY he spent 18 months as scientific leader of the United States Wilkes station, and on his return from Antarctica in 1958 was appointed Chief of the Polar and Arctic Branch of the Army Research Office.

Eklund was probably best known among polar biologists for his extensive study of the South Polar Skua (*Catharacta skua*) and for the elegant method he devised for measuring the internal temperature of penguin and skua eggs during incubation. At the time of the IGY, he made a major contribution to international co-operation in Antarctic biology by organizing a continent-wide banding scheme to reveal the movements of the South Polar Skua. In 1959, he received the degree of Ph.D. from the University of Maryland for a thesis on this species. More recently, he became concerned with census methods applicable to birds ashore and to seals in pack ice, and he presented a paper on this subject at the Symposium on Antarctic Biology in Paris in September 1962. Characteristically, he ended his remarks with a plea for international co-operation in such censuses, and during the same meeting was one of the most active members of an informal group which devised a plan for an international Antarctic bird-banding committee.

ALFRED HERBERT LARKMAN died in Wanganui, New Zealand, on 15 July 1962. He was chief engineer of *Aurora*, the ship which carried the Ross Sea party of Shackleton's Trans-Antarctic Expedition, 1914-17. Later, he was for many years head of the engineering department of Wanganui Technical College.

GEORGIY YAKOVLEVICH VANGENGEYM, the Soviet meteorologist, died in the USSR on 19 August 1961, aged 65. He early showed an interest in the Arctic, accompanying the voyages of *Malygin* in 1928 and *Krasin* in 1929, and from 1945 until his death he was associated with the Arctic Institute [Arkticheskiy Nauchno-Issledovatel'skiy Institut]. Here he was for some time in charge of the long-range weather-forecasting section. His careful study and analysis of typical synoptic situations over a 65-year period led to development of a forecasting method which, elaborated by others working under him, was the basis of the Institute's forecasts for shipping on the Northern Sea Route.