

# Maurice Brooks



Maurice Brooks, a native Upshur County, for fifty years has contributed his outstanding talents as a biologist, forester, ornithologist, author, teacher, and active conservationist to West Virginia and the Appalachian Region.

One of the outstanding professionals in the College of Agriculture and Forestry at West Virginia University, from where he graduated in 1923, and one of the founders of the division of Forestry, Mr. Brooks helped develop many young people into outstanding foresters who have served the forest industry and West Virginia well.

Mr. Brooks began his career as a 4-H Club Agent with the Cooperative Extension Service, later served as a High School teacher and principal, joined the WVU Biology Department in 1934, and then served as professor of wildlife management at West Virginia University for 33 years. He served as a member of the West Virginia Conservation Commission, has written numerous articles, and is highly regarded throughout the state and the region as a lecturer and author in wildlife management and biology.

Nationally recognized for his two books, *The Appalachians*, 1965, and *The Life of the Mountains*, 1968, he also received three honorary Doctors of Science degrees from West Virginia Wesleyan College, from Susquehanna University, and from Salem College. He received numerous accolades for his work from national newspapers, including the Pittsburgh Press, Oregon Journal, Baltimore Sun, Washington Post, Knoxville Observer, and New York Times.

West Virginia University honored him by conferring on him its highest award, the Order of Vandalia. Long interested and active in youth affairs, Mr. Brooks joined an Upshur County 4-H Club in 1914. He later served many years as a 4-H County Camp Instructor, and also served as President of the West Virginia 4-H All Stars.

In addition to the regional and national recognition which came with his teaching and writing, Mr. Brooks is recognized nationally for his scholarship. He served as president of the Wilson Ornithological Society; was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; is a member of both Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma XI honoraries.

A distinguished lecturer, author, and scientist, Mr. Brooks has made major contributions to his state through his teaching and scholarship.