BioOne COMPLETE

IN MEMORIAM: GARRETT EDDY, 1916–2001

Author: Rohwer, Sievert

Source: The Auk, 119(4) : 1107-1109

Published By: American Ornithological Society

URL: https://doi.org/10.1642/0004-8038(2002)119[1107:IMGE]2.0.CO;2

BioOne Complete (complete.BioOne.org) is a full-text database of 200 subscribed and open-access titles in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences published by nonprofit societies, associations, museums, institutions, and presses.

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Complete website, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at www.bioone.org/terms-of-use.

Usage of BioOne Complete content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non - commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

BioOne sees sustainable scholarly publishing as an inherently collaborative enterprise connecting authors, nonprofit publishers, academic institutions, research libraries, and research funders in the common goal of maximizing access to critical research.

Downloaded From: https://complete.bioone.org/journals/The-Auk on 29 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://complete.bioone.org/terms-of-use

In Memoriam



The Auk 119(4):1104–1107, 2002

IN MEMORIAM: OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL, JR., 1907–2001

MICHAEL P. LOSITO
Department of Animal Science, State University of New York, Cobleskill, New York 12043, USA

Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., died peacefully in his sleep in Bedford, Texas, 11 December 2001, at the age of 94, after a long and distinguished career in American ornithology. ''Sewall'' Pettingill, as he preferred to be called, was an exceptional college professor, lecturer, photographer, filmmaker, and writer about bird life.

Sewall Pettingill was born in Belgrade, Maine, on 30 October 1907, the only child of Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill and Marion Groves. His father hoped young Sewall would follow in his footsteps and seek a career in medicine. Throughout childhood, Sewall really was not sure what he wanted to be. He had developed an interest in the chickens on his grandfather's farm, and at one time considered being a poultryman. In his own words he performed ''marginally well in school''; his grades upon high school graduation in 1925 were not sufficient for admission into Bowdoin College—the only college he would consider. Sewall willingly attended a preparatory school, Kents Hill, in nearby Readfield, for one year, and was admitted into Bowdoin College in fall of 1926.

One thing Sewall knew for certain as a youngster, however, was his love for his childhood sweetheart, Eleanor, whom he met in 1921 in the 8th grade. He dated and courted Eleanor for 11 years, and married her on New Year's Eve, 1932. She was intimately involved in all of Sewall's ornithological endeavors, and even wrote her own book, *A Penguin Summer* (1960), a story of their adventures filming penguins and other birds in the Falkland Islands in 1953–1954. He published his version of that story in *National Geographic Magazine* in 1956.

At Bowdoin College, Sewall developed his interests in ornithology, mostly through his interactions with eminent zoology professor Alfred O. Gross. As a reporter for the college newspaper, Sewall interviewed Dr. Gross on his Ruffed Grouse investigations in Maine, and also his census work of the Heath Hen at Martha's Vineyard. One of his most memorable trips was on 5 April 1927, when he accompanied Dr. Gross, along with famed childrens' author Thornton W. Burgess, on a trip to Martha's Vineyard to observe, photograph, and take motion pictures of the three remaining male heath hens who did their courting dance in vain—the last female had already died. Sewall photographed one of the males, and later published his first article, ''The Passing of the Heath Hen,'' in *Forest & Stream* in 1929.

Sewall developed his skills in photography and motion pictures as tools for documenting bird life. In the summer of 1928, he enrolled at the University of Michigan Biological Station to undertake a course in field ornithology taught by Dr. Gross. This ultimately became his benchmark summer, as he studied and photographed nesting Hermit Thrushes, and later published the results in the inaugural volume of *Bird-Banding* (1930). At that point, graduate school loomed clearly on his horizon.

Sewall arrived in Ithaca in fall of 1930 to attend Cornell University and commenced a study of the American Woodcock for his Ph.D. dissertation under renowned ornithologist Dr. Arthur A. Allen. His fellow graduate students included George Miksch Sutton, John T. Emlen, and George B. Saunders. As a photographer and ornithologist, Sewall accompanied Sutton on expeditions to Hudson Bay in 1931 and Mexico in 1941.

Sewall received his Ph.D. in 1933 and spent the next three years in various teaching positions with the New Hampshire Nature Camp, Westbrook Junior College, and Bowdoin College. He obtained a 12-gauge shotgun with plenty of shells and ''dust shot,'' and began preparing bird study skins for his teaching col-

Downloaded From: https://complete.bioone.org/journals/The-Auk on 29 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://complete.bioone.org/terms-of-use



OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL JR., 1907–2001
(Posing with Eleanor for publicity photo-shoot by Disney Studios in Santa Monica Beach, California, just prior to their departure for the Falkland Islands in October, 1953.)

lection. In the meantime, he reduced his dissertation from 557 to 300 typed pages and published it in 1936 as ''The American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*)'' in the *Memoirs of the Boston Society of Natural History*.

In 1936, Sewall joined the faculty of Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, where he taught ornithology, entomology, and comparative anatomy until 1953. As expressed by his former students, his classes were demanding. He carried with him a somewhat serious demeanor, intermixed with a dry sense of humor; he regularly dressed in jacket and tie, but made it a point to wear a black tie on exam days. In a convivial way, his students came to nickname him, ''Sewall the Cruel.'' In 1945, he took a year-long sabbatical from Carleton College to participate in a project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Audubon Society to track Whooping Crane movements from their wintering grounds in Texas, but his search for extant breeding grounds in Saskatchewan was unsuccessful.

He joined the AOU in 1930, became an Elective Member in 1937, and a (Life) Fellow in 1947. Between 1937 and 1952, he fulfilled roles as secretary, vice president, and president of the Wilson Ornithological Society, and secretary of the American Ornithologists' Union. He was a delegate to the 12th International Ornithological Congress in Helsinki in 1958, and to the 14th IOC in Oxford in 1966.

At Carleton College, Sewall wrote and published his classic textbook, *Ornithology in Laboratory and Field* (1939). It became the longest-running and most widely used ornithological text in American colleges, with the 5th edition (1985) still in circulation. He published his pioneering bird-finding books, *A Guide to Finding Birds East of the Mississippi* in 1951, and the

Downloaded From: https://complete.bioone.org/journals/The-Auk on 29 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://complete.bioone.org/terms-of-use

companion volume, *A Guide to Finding Birds West of the Mississippi* in 1953. He went on to coauthor several state guides, *Enjoying Maine Birds* (1960), *Enjoying Birds in Upstate New York* (1963), and *Enjoying Birds Around New York City* (1966).

Sewall was a regular columnist for *Audubon Magazine* from 1957 to 1968, and served as editor-in-chief of *The Audubon Illustrated Handbook of American Birds* (1968). He edited the bird section in *Biological Abstracts* for 11 years (1942–1953) and book reviews for *The Wilson Bulletin* for 10 years (1959–1969).

Lecturing and motion picture work occupied a central place in his career. After he left his full-time teaching position at Carleton, he was Director of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology for 13 years (1960–1973), meanwhile serving as a Director of the National Audubon Society for 19 years (1955–1974). He accumulated much original film footage of birds, shown during his many lectures for the National Audubon Society's Screen Tours, from 1943–1978, taking him across the United States and into Canada, Bermuda, Bahamas, several Caribbean Islands, and Great Britain. He also led Audubon tours to the Galápagos Islands, and to Antarctica on the *Lindblad Explorer.*

Prompted by the success of his early filming of Atlantic Puffins, one of his first productions for the Audubon Screen Tours, Sewall obtained a contract with Walt Disney Studios to film penguins. Based upon a personal recommendation by Robert Cushman Murphy, Sewall chose the Falkland Islands. He obtained valuable footage of five species of penguins arriving on their breeding grounds, nesting, and returning to the sea following breeding. He returned to the islands five additional times, including a self-funded trip in 1971–1972; this resulted in his book *Another Penguin Summer* (1975). Other major film projects included those of birds and other wildlife in Iceland (in 1958), albatrosses on Midway Island (in 1963), and kiwis and other birds of New Zealand (in 1965). His film work can be seen in several early Walt Disney films, including *Nature's Half Acre, Water Birds, The Vanishing Prairie,* and *Islands of the Sea.*

As highlighted in Frank Graham's 1981 article, ''The Man from Wayne,'' above all Sewall wanted to be remembered as a teacher. Although his tenure at Carleton College only lasted 17 years, he taught ornithology and advanced ornithology at the University of Michigan Biological Station during 35 summers between 1938 and 1974. Numerous bird skins he collected and prepared over the years still reside in the Pettingill Laboratory there, in use by students of the ''Biology of Birds'' course. Sewall was a proficient taxidermist and believed in a good collection of bird-skins for teaching purposes. In 1974, he sold his personal collection of 2,253 study skins to the Delaware Museum of Natural History, and 500 additional skins to the Kalamazoo Nature Center.

After his retirement from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in 1973, he and Eleanor moved from Ithaca to take up residence in Wayne, Maine. Their plans were cut short four years later when Eleanor died of cancer in March 1977. Despite his greatest loss, Sewall remained productive. He revised his bird finding guides (the eastern in 1977, and the western in 1981), his textbook in 1985, and published his autobiography, *My Way to Ornithology,* in 1991. He remarried in 1985 to Josephine Dawson, and in 1987 they moved to Texas to spend their remaining years. His death followed hers by nine days.

Sewall received numerous awards and honors in his lifetime, including the Arthur A. Allen Medal from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in 1974, the Ludlow Griscom Award from the American Birding Association in 1982, and the Eugene Eisenmann Medal from the Linnaean Society of New York in 1985. He received Honorary Doctorates of Science from Bowdoin College in 1956, Colby College in 1975, and the University of Maine in 1982. His work for Walt Disney Productions earned him appearances on NBC's ''The Today Show'' and as a featured contestant on the original television show ''To Tell The Truth.'' He is survived by his two children, Polly Pettingill Losito of Auburn, New York, and Mary-Ann Vondra of Euless, Texas, as well as six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Upon entering my sophomore year in college, I received a letter from Sewall, dated 27 August 1982, wherein he expressed his philosophy on becoming a writer (emphasis his):

> ''By all means, write, *write,* WRITE, and write some more. Not to me, but on the results of your observations. You'll never regret putting them down on

Downloaded From: https://complete.bioone.org/journals/The-Auk on 29 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://complete.bioone.org/terms-of-use

paper, if not for the present, then for future reference. You will find writing hard going but it will improve with practice. Even at my stage in life, and with all the writing I have done, writing for me is still far from easy. Good writing is *real* work, often requiring much re-writing. Any author worth his salt will agree.''

The Auk 119(4):1107–1109, 2002

IN MEMORIAM: GARRETT EDDY, 1916–2001

SIEVERT ROHWER

Burke Museum and Department of Zoology, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195-3010, USA

With the death of Garrett Eddy on 4 July 2001 in Seattle, Washington, the University of Washington Burke Museum lost one of its most generous donors, a man whose enthusiasm and support had helped transform the museum into one of North America's premier ornithological training centers. Born in Seattle on 8 June 1916, Garrett was a graduate of Harvard University where he studied ornithology with Ludlow Griscom, then a research associate. There, through his undergraduate association with the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Garrett developed a deep appreciation of museums and of the value of systematic collections.

A member of the AOU since 1937, Garrett was elected posthumously as a Guarantor to the AOU in March, 2002 for his generous support of the 119th stated meeting of the society held in Seattle in August 2001. Because he wished students and professionals to see the quality of the Burke's program in ornithology, Garrett arranged to fund the lavish opening reception at the Burke Museum.

Garrett Eddy was retired President and Board Chairman of Port Blakely Tree Farms, a private timber company. Its research in forest management made Port Blakely a leader in thinning stands and in moving from 40 to 80 year rotations between harvests of Douglas fir. These policies were good for wildlife and produced fortunes from the export of logs that were too big for modern mills designed for small second-growth timber. Although the war and the family business precluded Garrett's pursuit of a scientific career, he maintained a life-long passion for scientific studies of birds and forest ecology.

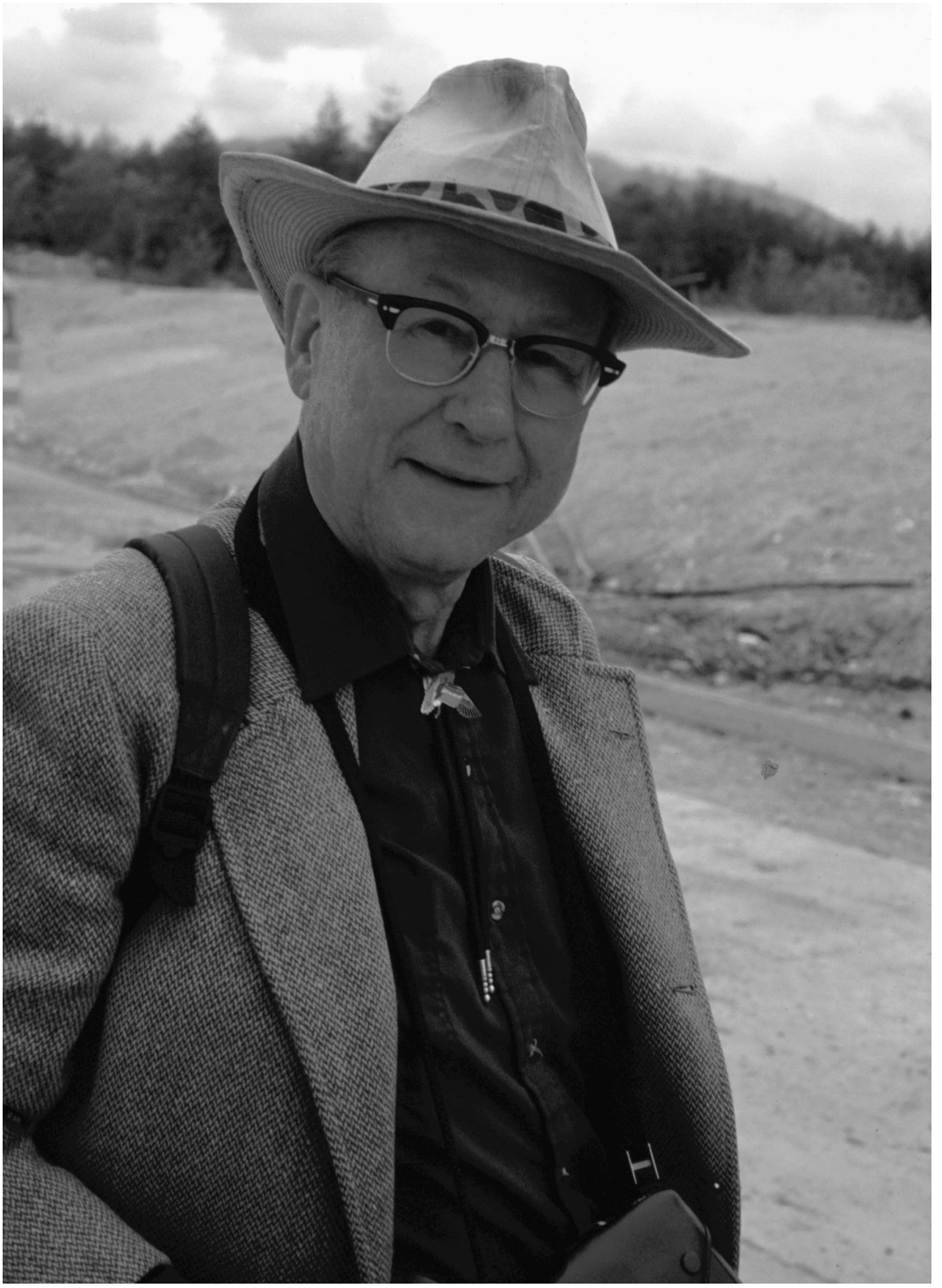
Garrett was an exceedingly private man, but his passions involved mountaineering (in his youth), hunting, forestry, and ornithological research. He was intolerant of low productivity, impatient for results, single minded in pushing ideas, and uncommonly grumpy about things badly done.

When Garrett was full of youthful enthusiasm for field research there were few ornithologists at the University of Washington. Although the Burke Museum was then an ornithological backwater, his father and Joshua Green had contributed more than 800 bird specimens from an east African safari during 1929–1930, and Garrett later contributed Washington specimens. The Burke's director, anthropologist Erna Gunther, had moved the administration of the museum into the academic Department of Anthropology; the curatorial assistant in zoology, Martha Flahaut, labored just to save its small bird and mammal collections. Only in the late 1950s did the Burke Museum appoint ornithologist Frank Richardson as one of its first faculty curators.

For more than 20 years prior to Richardson's appointment, Garrett Eddy was one of Seattle's most important contacts for Northwest birds. He collected early state records, kept extensive field notes, and studied changes in land-bird communities caused by development and logging. In those early years, Roger Tory Peterson once called Garrett to inquire about the eye color of Thayer's Gulls. Garrett had no idea, but invited Peterson to join him for a boat cruise to collect some. They succeeded, and then birded together in eastern Washington.

Garrett directed his early support to mammalogy at the University of Puget Sound where

Downloaded From: https://complete.bioone.org/journals/The-Auk on 29 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://complete.bioone.org/terms-of-use



Garrett Eddy 1916–2001

(Photograph taken by Sievert Rohwer in June 1992 at the Magadin Airport in the Russian Far East. Courtesy of the Burke Museum, University of Washington.)

Downloaded From: https://complete.bioone.org/journals/The-Auk on 29 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://complete.bioone.org/terms-of-use

Murray Johnson was applying protein electrophoresis to studies of systematics and building a superb research collection of mammals. Although Garrett helped support ornithology at Puget Sound, he was not happy with their low yield in specimens and publications.

I was appointed Curator of Birds at the Burke Museum in 1972. By the time I met Garrett in 1984, a vital collecting and research program in ornithology was under way. Shortly before we met I had failed to convince the University of Washington to purchase the last great private avian egg collection in North America. That experience convinced me that the Burke had to rely on private gifts. When another collection became available I sought the funds to purchase it. Garrett was on my list.

Garrett responded to my letter with an immediate call asking, ''What do you need?'' Somehow we agreed on $1,000. Later, at our open house celebrating this new collection, Garrett inquired about our visions and goals. I explained that we first needed to develop comprehensive North American collections for students undertaking comparative studies. Learning that seabirds were our weakest suit, Garrett proposed supporting not one, but two pelagic collecting trips. His only stipulations were that he would drive and that he expected good food: ''No canned beans.'' We spent a fortune on gourmet sandwich makings and my wife, Brigitte, joined us as lunch chef.

To our delight, this old hunter, lumberman, and navy captain was a fine shot and thoroughly comfortable in the field. As we netted migrating coastal land birds in rain and fog on the day before each boat trip, Garrett happily lugged net poles over dunes and through wet coastal shrub with the rest of us. Our skipper was delighted with his boating skills and knowledge of the seabirds she had so often seen while fishing. Garrett was impressed by the extensive use we made of each specimen—skin–skeleton combinations, extended wings, and gut parasites washed immediately from every seabird. His delight cemented ties between him and the Burke Museum, that soon distinguished our ornithology training program for its generous support of students. Garrett established three major Burke endowments, co-founded a fourth, and was instrumental in establishing the Burke's molecular lab. All of those gifts supported the energy and creativity of graduate students. He also supported 15 years of collecting and lab work on the previously undescribed hybrid zones between Hermit and Townsend's warblers, now one of the best studied in North America.

Immediately after the break-up of the Soviet Union, Garrett's most visionary accomplishment for the Burke Museum was to encourage and support a program of collaborative expeditions to Russia, involving two or more expeditions per summer for 10 years. The papers beginning to emerge from those collections are transforming our understanding of genetic variation among Holarctic species groups and revising our understanding of species limits in Eurasian birds. As part of that Russian program, Garrett generously brought numerous students and museum professionals from Russia to the Burke Museum for short-term training, and helped sponsor the Ph.D. studies of two Russians, one at the Burke Museum and one at the Bell Museum, University of Minnesota.

Three principles characterized those collaborations. First, Garrett held our feet to the fire for results measured in numbers of specimens and published papers. Second, he never meddled. His conservative political and environmental agenda never got in the way of our scientific collaborations, and his support for students was based only on whether they were doing good work. Finally, what he valued most were the scientific ''products'' of his support—manuscripts and reprints he kept organized in three piles, those from research he funded directly (warblers and Russia), those from students whose stipends came from his endowments, and those from researchers elsewhere who used Burke collections he had helped build.

We at the Burke Museum deeply feel the loss of Garrett Eddy, who died after a long battle with cancer. With his incredible enthusiasm and support, Garrett helped us—even drove us—to become all we could be.

Downloaded From: https://complete.bioone.org/journals/The-Auk on 29 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://complete.bioone.org/terms-of-use

The Auk 119(4):1110–1113, 2002

IN MEMORIAM: S. DILLON RIPLEY, 1913–2001

BRUCE M. BEEHLER,[1] ROGER F. PASQUIER,[2] AND WARREN B. KING[3]

[1]*Asia-Pacific Division, Conservation International, Washington, D.C. 20036, USA;*
[2]*Environmental Defense, 257 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10010, USA; and*
[3]*P.O. Box 77, Ripton, Vermont 05766, USA*

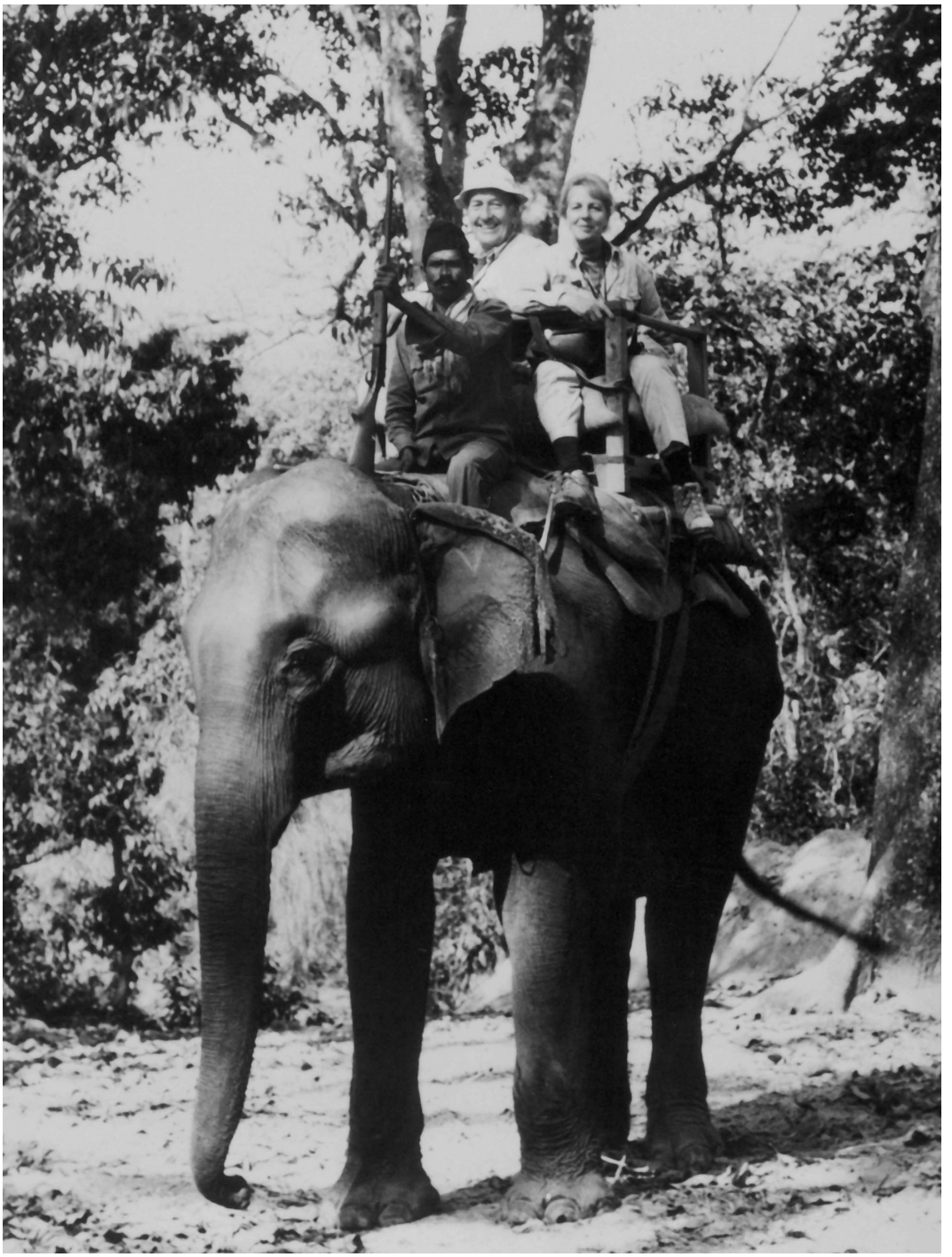
Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution for 20 years, expert on Indian birds, aviculturist, conservationist, and renaissance man, Sidney Dillon Ripley died on 12 March 2001 at the age of 87, following a long and debilitating illness. Known to those who worked for him at the Smithsonian as ''Mr. Ripley'' (not ''Dr.'', he requested), he was an extraordinary leader and visionary, often inspiring and at times obscure, but always innovative and courageous in his championing of ideas that deserved a hearing, especially to foster the intellectual flowering of his beloved Smithsonian Institution.

Dillon Ripley was born in New York City on 20 September 1913. His great-grandfather, Sidney Dillon, was founding chairman of the Union Pacific Railroad and in 1869 drove the ceremonial last spike completing the nation's first transcontinental rail line. In 1927, at the age of 13, Ripley and his older sister traveled to India. A six-week walking tour into Ladakh and western Tibet led to a lifelong fascination with the Indian subcontinent. In addition, as a teen he fell in love with waterfowl; his book, *A Paddling of Ducks* (1957), recounts his adventures watching, collecting, owning, breeding, and appreciating ducks, swans, and geese. Ripley was educated at St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire, and then at Yale (BA 1936), and Harvard (Ph.D. 1943). His professional career received its first lift in 1936, when, as a recent graduate of Yale, he joined a zoological expedition to New Guinea under the auspices of the Academy of Natural Sciences. Memorialized in his popular *Trail of the Money Bird* (1942), this two-year voyage gave Ripley his first serious taste of tropical ornithology, a love he retained through his life. He worked briefly in the Department of Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, and then took his doctorate at Harvard. He served in the OSS in South Asia during the second world war. Returning from the war, Ripley taught at Yale, and was a Fulbright fellow in 1950 and a Guggenheim fellow in 1954. He rose to full professor and director of the Peabody Museum of Natural History. During that period of 20 years, he and his colleague Sálim Ali of the Bombay Natural History Society redefined the ornithology of the Indian region, and in doing so became the acknowledged authorities on this diverse and now threatened avifauna. Perhaps the capstone of Ripley's scholarship was his *Synopsis of the Birds of India and Pakistan* (1961), one of the great traditional synoptic checklists of a major avifauna. Better known is Ali and Ripley's 12 volume *Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan* (1968–1974), which has had several lives because of revisions and various ingenious and useful reformulations.

As an ornithologist, Ripley loved the Old World. Many of his geographically focused works centered on the arc from Pakistan southeastward to the great island of New Guinea, including, in particular, Indonesia, the Philippines, Nepal, and India. He made many expeditions to India and Bhutan with Ali; those constitute a remarkable scientific achievement that may never be equaled. Ripley also completed a full revision of the thrushes for Peters' *Checklist* (1964), as well as a grand monographic treatment of the rails and their allies (Ripley 1977). The latter was an immediate collectible. Lavishly illustrated by J. Fenwick Lansdowne and beautifully designed by Crimilda Pontes, it was one of *Time* magazine's suggested ''picks'' for Christmas shoppers of that year.

At that stage in his life, when Ripley did something, it was noticed by the popular press as well as the ornithological journals. His high visibility was due to his long tenure (1964–1984) and conspicuous accomplishments as Secretary of the Smithsonian. Few natural scientists would question the declaration that Dillon Ripley was one of the greatest secretaries of the Smithsonian, comparable in effect to Spen-

Downloaded From: https://complete.bioone.org/journals/The-Auk on 29 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://complete.bioone.org/terms-of-use



S. Dillon Ripley
(S. Dillon Ripley, his wife Mary, and driver riding an elephant in India in 1976.
Photo courtesy of Smithsonian Archives.)

Downloaded From: https://complete.bioone.org/journals/The-Auk on 29 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://complete.bioone.org/terms-of-use

cer Baird. Eight museums, seven research facilities, and numerous outreach programs were added to the Smithsonian Institution during Ripley's tenure. Ripley's grand world view, his personal confidence, and his sense of mission that the Smithsonian Institution should educate the public at the same time as it fostered critical and independent scientific research, gave him the strength to win key battles against bureaucrats and nay-sayers within and without, and to lead the Smithsonian to new heights of accomplishment, outreach, and inclusiveness. Ripley's Smithsonian was a national institution without walls, without circumscription. His vision and diplomatic skills lowered the guard of even the most jaded congressional oversight staff, whereas his personal enthusiasm persuaded presidents from Johnson to Reagan that the institution needed strong government support. He made the Smithsonian Institution the nation's museum and cultural center.

He joined the AOU in 1938, became an Elective Member in 1942, and a fellow in 1951. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award, in 1985. He was awarded honorary degrees from 15 colleges and universities, including Brown, Yale, Johns Hopkins, Harvard, and Cambridge (United Kingdom).

Ripley had an additional career as a leader in international nature conservation. He spoke often of his belief that scientists had a particular obligation to work to protect the organisms and habitats they studied. With Peter Scott, Jean Delacour, Jack Vincent, Julian Huxley, Kai Curry-Lindahl, Yoshimaro Yamashina, and Jean Dorst, his name would certainly appear on the short list of key personalities who guided and expanded the world conservation movement. Ripley served for many years on the board of the World Wildlife Fund-U.S., and was the third president of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP, now BirdLife International). As president of ICBP, he oversaw the organization's substantial expansion, with a professional staff, increased publications, and national representatives in a growing number of the developing countries that had the greatest diversity of bird life to protect and the fewest local resources. As president, he was energetic in using his connections to advocate bird and nature conservation with heads of government, notably his friend Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India, and to confront those responsible for destruction of nature, such as Robert McNamara when the latter was president of the World Bank. Practicing what he preached, Ripley personally intervened in the recovery of the Hawaiian Goose or Nene, providing a breeding facility at his home in Litchfield, Connecticut. His waterfowl collection, which he began as a teenager, continues today as a nonprofit conservation and aviculture center, the Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Sanctuary, with species from around the world.

The three of us worked for Ripley with considerable fascination, overlapping in the years from 1971 to 1991. He had a style all his own, combining erudition, pragmatism, and wry humor. The press of his work as secretary kept him mainly at his office in the Smithsonian's Castle, but on any given day he might slip across the mall to the National Museum of Natural History, where he kept a research lab adjacent to the Division of Birds. His first love was ornithology, but his duties kept him ever on the move—from museum research budgets, to rallid systematic arrangements, or even to placement of guests at a dinner for the Reagans. He loved people, but especially those in positions of power, elected or inherited, whom he often persuaded to support the advancement of science, culture, or conservation.

For us, a visit to his house along Washington's Embassy Row was to enter a world of rare books, tiger skins, New Guinea artifacts, vast oriental rugs, Audubon originals, and evocative bric-a-brac. This was his home base—but when we knew him Ripley was a man regularly on the way to an airport, between conferences, board meetings, reconnaissance visits to his waterfowl collection, and overseas expeditions. This hardly slowed after retirement as Smithsonian Secretary until illness confined him in his final years.

His wife, Mary Moncrieffe Livingston Ripley, a photographer, orchidologist, and amateur entomologist, was a fitting mate. She traveled the world with him, and camped in the field in places as remote as Nagaland, Bhutan, and Netherlands New Guinea (now Papua). They made a wonderful, if idiosyncratic, pair. We remember them dressed in bush khaki in a South India bush camp, sitting after dinner in folding camp chairs by their large sleeping tent, lit only

Downloaded From: https://complete.bioone.org/journals/The-Auk on 29 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://complete.bioone.org/terms-of-use

by a Coleman pressure lantern, smoking their tobacco of choice (his a small cigar, hers a brown-wrapped cigarillo), and sipping a nightcap. The Ripleys were content in the field, but looked to buffer the rigors with what comforts could be made available. We recollect one call for ''ice'' during an April heat wave in Andhra Pradesh that led to a prolonged but eventually successful excursion by an assistant and driver on a Sunday afternoon. We suspect that 1985 encampment looked little different from what one might have seen in a 1930s expedition. They were at home in such an environment. Mrs. Ripley's premature death in 1996 was a great blow.

Ripley's several hundred scholarly publications focused principally on distribution, systematics, and taxonomy of birds of Asia and the Pacific. Whereas these may have been superseded, S. Dillon Ripley's influence endures. His intelligence, beneficence, and leadership touched a whole generation of researchers, from Panama to Papua New Guinea, from Indonesia to the Galapagos, and from the Philippines to Sri Lanka. His legacy to natural history and nature conservation will not soon be forgotten.

Dillon Ripley is survived by his three daughters, Julie, Rosemary, and Sylvia, and 11 grandchildren.

Downloaded From: https://complete.bioone.org/journals/The-Auk on 29 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://complete.bioone.org/terms-of-use