BioOne COMPLETE

# IN MEMORIAM: MARION ANNE JENKINSON, 1937–1994

Author: Schnell, Gary D.

Source: The Auk, 120(1) : 194-196

Published By: American Ornithological Society

URL: https://doi.org/10.1642/0004-8038(2003)120[0194:IMMAJ]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 28 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://complete.bioone.org/terms-of-use



# *In Memoriam*

*The Auk* 120(1):194–196, 2003

## IN MEMORIAM: MARION ANNE JENKINSON, 1937–1994

GARY D. SCHNELL

*Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History and Department of Zoology, 2401 Chautauqua Avenue, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73072, USA*

Marion Anne Jenkinson was born in Lancaster, Ohio, on 10 April 1937, the daughter of Bryan and Thelma Cox Jenkinson, and died accidentally on 7 July 1994 in her home in Lawrence, Kansas. Survivors include an adopted daughter, Tracy Lynn Kester; her mother, Thelma; two sisters, Nancy Corbally and Rebecca Dusek; a brother, Bill Jenkinson; and two grandchildren, Rick and Heather Kester. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert M. Mengel, whom she married on 21 December 1963. They worked closely together in many ornithological pursuits until Robert's death on 15 January 1990 (see Tordoff 1991).

Marion grew up in London, Ohio, and earned a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in 1954 from Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio. After teaching high school biology for two years in Mifflin, Ohio, she entered graduate school to study ornithology at the University of Kansas, receiving a Master of Arts in Zoology in 1963.

Marion was appointed as an Adjunct Curator of Ornithology in the Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas in 1968. For the rest of her life, she worked extensively with the avian collections in the museum. She organized collections, oversaw their computerization, and was a major contributor to the successful seeking of grant support for them. In particular, she worked to develop the already world-class avian skeletal collection, significantly adding to the numbers of specimens and species represented.

Marion joined the AOU in 1960, became an Elective Member in 1977, a Fellow in 1987, and an Elective Councilor in 1983 and 1993. She worked tirelessly for the AOU. She served as Treasurer and as Chair of the Finance Committee from 1985 to 1993, instituting major modifications that helped place the AOU on a firm financial and business footing; Marion was one to carefully study and research what needed to be done—and then to take action. She was an original and active AOU representative on the management committee of the Birds of North America project. Marion also contributed countless hours to *The Auk* during Robert Mengel's tenure as Editor (she was designated as an Associate Editor in 1966–1967), as well as during his time as Editor of *Ornithological Monographs* in the early 1970s (Marion was Special Editor for monograph no. 12). She had an eye for detail, but also for untangling and simplifying convoluted phrases and sentences in such a way that helped authors present their ideas with greater clarity. Robert was quoted as saying that Marion was "the best editor I have ever known" (Tordoff 1991).

Marion was a member of the AOU Collections Committee from 1975 through 1985, serving as its chair for the last six years. She was effective in mobilizing many of us to become actively involved in survey projects of world collections and was successful in obtaining National Science Foundation support for an international survey of avian anatomical specimens.

Marion's dedication to the AOU was acknowledged by the Council in 1996 when it established the Marion Jenkinson AOU Service Award. The award is given in recognition of individuals who have performed continued extensive service to the AOU, including holding elected office, but emphasizing volunteered contributions and committee participation.

One project to which Marion was particularly devoted was the Latin American Library Enhancement Project, which provided library resources to 100 universities in Latin America. She was a founder and codirector with Mercedes S. Foster of that endeavor sponsored by the Council of Biology Editors and supported by Allen Press, as well as numerous other organizations. One individual familiar with the project noted that it "flourished because Marion cut through the bureaucracy and indecision that usually accompany decisions involving large numbers of people; she simply raised the money and did the work herself," with the help of a few other people. Marion managed the project finances, as well as the packaging and shipment of many tons of literature.

Marion was a person of strong views and convictions concerning professional matters, politics, and many other subjects. She was a member of the American Civil Liberties Union and also supported humanitarian programs in the Lawrence community. She made her views known and it was clear where



Downloaded From: https://complete.bioone.org/journals/The-Auk on 28 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://complete.bioone.org/terms-of-use




MARION ANNE JENKINSON, 1937–1994

(Marion Jenkinson in her office in the Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas holding the skull of a Whooping Crane [*Grus americana*]. Photograph taken on 27 November 1989 by Jeff Johnston, Office of University Relations, University of Kansas.)

Downloaded From: https://complete.bioone.org/journals/The-Auk on 28 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://complete.bioone.org/terms-of-use

she stood, whether it be as a promoter of a particular AOU project or as an advocate for teachers rewarding students with nutritious snacks rather than candy.

Marion was generous with her friends and with others. She was a consummate story teller, particularly when paired with Robert in a small group of friends. Marion liked to read, particularly about history, and greatly enjoyed travel. She adopted Robert's fascination with fly fishing, and a number of their joint exploits are chronicled in his book *Fly Fisherman's Odyssey* (Mengel 1993). Through Marion's efforts, this collection of essays written over a 25 year period was published as a memorial to Robert. It has been pointed out that if one reads it, "one essay a day after the day is done," the book can serve in a very real way as a memorial to both of them.

Soon after her fatal accident, numerous messages were read at a public reception celebrating her life. These notes captured attributes of Marion that made her such a valued friend and colleague. Here is a sampling: "Marion was opinionated, hard headed, smart, honest, sincere, hardworking, loving, outspoken and brave." In describing both Robert and Marion, "Each was intelligent, educated, talented, gregarious, loquacious, a gifted raconteur, and often good-naturedly argumentative." "Marion was brisk and businesslike, but with a warmth and humor that made even the most mundane task tolerable." "She set high standards of integrity, honesty, and fairness for herself and others. She challenged her friends and colleagues to be and do the best, and supported them in that effort." "Marion loved words and championed their correct usage." "She was persistent in pursuing the details of projects, yet wise in picking the tasks worthy of her time. Marion was a skilled advocate, negotiator, and strategist." "Marion was an activist in the best sense of the word. She had a passion for getting things done that was marvelous to behold." Marion brought a valuable perspective to organizations like the AOU, as well as to her friends and acquaintances. And as so aptly understated about Marion, "She made a difference on the positive side."

## Literature Cited

Mengel, R. M. 1993. Fly Fisherman's Odyssey. Lyons and Burford Publishers, New York.

Tordoff, H. B. 1991. In Memoriam: Robert M. Mengel. Auk 108:161–165.

---

*The Auk* 120(1):196–198, 2003

# IN MEMORIAM: W. EARL GODFREY, 1910–2002

C. Stuart Houston[1] and Michel Gosselin[2]

[1] *863 University Drive, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N OJ8, Canada; and*

[2] *Canadian Museum of Nature, PO Box 3443, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6P4, Canada*

W. Earl Godfrey was born at Wolfville, Nova Scotia, on 18 March 1910 and died in Ottawa, Ontario, on 8 June 2002. He joined the AOU in 1942, became an Elective Member in 1949, and a Fellow in 1955. He served on the AOU Council from 1961 through 1963, as well as on the program committee, 1958–1961, the special committee on vernacular names, 1960–1962, the Brewster award committee, 1962–1964, and the committee on biography, 1969–1972. He was elected as official Canadian representative to the International Congress of Ornithology in 1962, and Corresponding Member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1976.

Earl grew up in Wolfville, a small, picturesque Nova Scotia college town, when its population was less than 2,500. Wolfville had already spawned the first federal migratory bird officer for the Maritime provinces, the legendary Robie W. Tufts, and it was destined to provide more National Museum of Canada curators per capita (Austin L. Rand and Earl in ornithology, J. S. Bleakney and F. R. Cook in herpetology) than any other locality in Canada. When Robie Tufts caught Earl and a friend poaching birds with a slingshot, he confiscated the slingshot and replaced it with scientific bird books. That was Earl's introduction to a treasured friendship that, as he later wrote in his memorial of Tufts, "was to grow and endure and become a never-ending source of inspiration, guidance, and freely given help of all kinds over half a century."

Earl studied biology at Acadia University in Wolfville, earning his Bachelor of Science in 1934, in the depths of the Great Depression. In 1935, he had a three-month contract to collect birds for the National Museum of Canada in his native Nova Scotia, and he collected for them in western New Brunswick for another 10 weeks in 1939. Robie Tufts, in the role of Earl's surrogate father, arranged for Earl to move to Cleveland as private tutor to the unruly son of Cyrus S. Eaton, a Cleveland industrialist whose roots were in Nova Scotia. In 1939 and 1940, Earl attended gradu-

Downloaded From: https://complete.bioone.org/journals/The-Auk on 28 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://complete.bioone.org/terms-of-use