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IN MEMORIAM: PHILLIP ALEXANDER CLANCEY, 1917–2001

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superb paintings and included Stewart MacDonald's detailed range maps for almost every species, sold nearly 300,000 copies, by far the most successful of the museum's many publications. The second edition contained 595 pages in place of the initial 428, and covered 578 species in place of 518. Now, a first estimate of the number of species breeding in Canada (426) was attempted. As Eric L. Mills has written in the *Ottawa Field-Naturalist's* "Trail and Landscape,"

> The great virtues of this masterwork are its absolute accuracy, the information-filled conciseness of its species accounts, the beauty of the illustrations… and the little, appreciated notes on identification which make it clear that Godfrey was far more than a museum ornithologist.

Earl shared with us how thrilled he was by Richard E. Webster's article, "Building a birder's library," in *Birding* in 1993; Webster wrote that Godfrey's *Birds of Canada* fitted each of his conceptions of "quality" and was one of the two "best bird book buys" in the entire world.

Earl was generous, unassuming, and infinitely patient. Regardless of pressing duties, he would without exception take any amount of time to help anyone, amateur or professional, who came for help. At times he received and answered over two thousand letters a year. He worked unselfishly for the *Canadian Field-Naturalist* as an associate editor from 1947 to 1976 and again from 1990 to 2002. He was also an associate editor of *Bird-Banding* from 1948 to 1955, and a member of Canada's National Research Council Committee on Bird Hazards to Aircraft.

His alma mater, Acadia University, conferred on him an honorary Doctor of Science degree in 1969. In 1986, when the Society of Canadian Ornithologists first instituted the Doris Huestis Speirs Award as the top honor in Canadian ornithology, Earl was the obvious and unanimous choice to be its first recipient. In 1997, the Ontario Field Ornithologists presented him with their first Distinguished Ornithologist Award. The American Birding Association gave him the Ludlow Griscom Award in 2000.

He married Marilyn Legge in September 1970; she died in 1987. After retirement in December 1976, he changed to the unpaid position of Curator Emeritus, and became a Research Associate in 1993. He continued to freely dispense his expertise to his many correspondents and to museum staff, such as M.G. who occupied the office next to him. Diabetes and the consequent poor circulation in his lower extremities eventually led to restriction of such activities. However, he was still bird-watching around Ottawa in the weeks before he was admitted to the hospital in early 2002.

In 1947, C.S.H. had his first contact with Earl, who spent untold hours making innumerable corrections to a young medical student's long manuscript, for eventual publication in *Canadian Field-Naturalist.* In spite of its typing errors and faulty constructions, Earl did not reject the paper out of hand. Instead, his painstaking assistance was so educational that I was motivated to keep on writing. We kept in touch, by mail and occasionally by telephone, until the week before his death. During a long visit with him in his home in Ottawa early in 2000, Earl cajoled C.S.H. into researching the details of the life of Arthur C. Twomey for a joint memorial, his final publication, 64 years since his first; page proofs for that memorial arrived during the week Earl died.

For nearly 40 years Earl was the ultimate authority on the distribution and taxonomy of Canadian birds. He anticipated that his successor, Henri Ouellet, would write his memorial some day, but as fate would have it, Henri died unexpectedly, so that Earl wrote Henri's memorial instead. Earl Godfrey was a phenomenon—no one will ever again be as knowledgeable about every bird species across all of Canada, nor offer such ungrudging and unselfish assistance.

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IN MEMORIAM: PHILLIP ALEXANDER CLANCEY, 1917–2001

DAVID ALLAN

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Phillip Alexander Clancey was born on 26 September 1917 in Glasgow, Scotland. His family subsequently moved to London and then to Switzerland, but by age seven he was back attending school in Glasgow and then studying at the Glasgow School of Art. He served with the Allied forces in Sicily and Italy during World War II, escaping death by the narrowest of margins and being deafened in one ear by an artillery explosion. In 1948–1949, he accompanied Col. Richard Meinertzhagen on an ornithological expedition to Yemen, Aden, Somali, Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Africa.

Clancey immigrated to South Africa in August 1950 to take up the post of Curator of the Natal

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Museum in Pietermaritzburg. He was Director of the Durban Museum and Art Gallery from 1 January 1952 until his retirement on 25 September 1982, and then continued as a research associate of the museum until his death.

Clancey wrote extensively about the taxonomy of African birds, naming some 200 subspecies of southern African birds; several avian subspecies have been named after him by others in his honor. His books include *Catalogue of the Birds of the South African Subregion* (1965–1972), *Handlist of the Birds of Southern Mozambique* (1970–1972, for which he was awarded the prestigious Gill Memorial Medal of the Southern African Ornithological Society, now BirdLife South Africa), *The Birds of Natal and Zululand* (1964), *The Gamebirds of Southern Africa* (1967), *The Rare Birds of Southern Africa* (1985), and *Kingfishers of Sub-Saharan Africa* (1992). He was the chief editor of the *S.A.O.S. Checklist of Southern African Birds* (1980) and a coauthor of the second volume of *Atlas of Speciation of African Birds* (1978). He also contributed to *The Atlas of Southern African Birds* (1997). Other publications total more than 530.

He served as President of the Southern African Ornithological Society and as the long-standing Chairman of its List Committee. He was also a long-standing Chairman of the Natal Bird Club (now BirdLife Port Natal) during the club's formative years, served as President of the Southern African Museums Association and was awarded a Fellowship by the Museums Association in London. He was elected a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1975. The University of Natal conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Science in 1981.

Clancey's skill in the preparation of bird skins was renowned. The Museum's collection, the third largest in Africa (some 32,000 bird study skins) many collected during his 26 major expeditions, is widely acknowledged as the finest on the continent. His trips to Mozambique resulted in the largest collection of material from that poorly known region. His discovery of the Lemon-breasted Canary, a species new to science, and of the southern Mozambique population of the Olive-headed Weaver were particular highlights. His success is reflected by the eminent ornithologists who have served there during and after his tenure, including Walter Lawson, Richard Brooke, Clive Quickelberge, Ian Sinclair, John Mendelsohn, and Aldo Berruti.

His artist talents are evident in the many bird paintings presented in his books and in the dioramas viewed by several million visitors to the Durban Natural Science Museum. Some of the dioramas were repainted up to six times until they matched his exacting standards. His avian portraits remain in high demand.

Clancey died in Durban on 18 July 2001. His portrait can be found in R.J. Dowsett's memorial in *Ibis* 144:369–370. Clancey was a rare combination of scientist, author, artist and administrator. His lifetime of meticulous dedication serves as an example for others.

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IN MEMORIAM: WILLIAM J. BEECHER, 1914–2002

PETER E. LOWTHER AND MARY HENNEN

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William John Beecher, one of three children of Edward J. and Anna Beecher, was born 23 May 1914 in Chicago, Illinois. A lifetime resident of the Chicago area, he died 27 July 2002, at the home of a friend in Wood Dale, Illinois. His interest in birds began in earnest at age 15 as the result of a class assignment from Brother Anselm of St. Patrick Academy in Chicago; Beecher selected the Red-headed Woodpecker for the subject of his report and quickly became a bird fan.

Beecher attended the University of Chicago from 1938 to 1954 (except for army service from 1942 to 1945; while stationed in the southwest Pacific during World War II, he sent Field Museum 288 specimens from the Solomon Islands). He earned his bachelor's degree in 1947. His master's work—an ecological survey of the Fox Lake marshes where his parents had a summer home (*Nesting Birds and the Vegetation Substrate,* Chicago Ornithological Society, 1942)—was conducted under the supervision of W. Rudyerd Boulton; his degree was awarded in 1949. Beecher was pleased by a favorable review given this publication by Joseph Hickey in *Audubon Magazine* and by the compliments from Aldo Leopold who told Beecher that he used it in his game management classes. Alfred E. Emerson served as his doctoral advisor and supervised his anatomical studies examining oscine phylogeny. That research was based on extensive dissections of anatomy of jaw musculature and skull structure, summarized in several publications (including "Convergent evolution in the American orioles," *Wilson Bulletin* 62: 51–86; "Adaptations for food-getting in the American blackbirds," *Auk* 68: 411–440; "A

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