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Author: Martens, Jochen

Source: The Auk, 123(3) : 910-911

Published By: American Ornithological Society

URL: https://doi.org/10.1642/0004-8038(2006)123[910:IMSE]2.0.CO;2

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The Auk 123(3):910–911, 2006
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IN MEMORIAM: SIEGFRIED ECK, 1942–2005

Jochen Martens
Institut für Zoologie, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, D-55099 Mainz, Germany



Siegfried Eck, 1942–2005
(In the Dresden collection, May 2005. Photograph by Frank Höhler.)

Siegfried Eck was born in Dresden on 25 May 1942, and died there unexpectedly at home on 11 September 2005. From 1967 until his death, he worked as curator of the ornithological collection at the State Museum for Zoology in Dresden, Germany. His loss has deprived the ornithological community of one of its highest-profile systematists and taxonomists, certainly one of the most important in Europe. He was an expert on the birds of the Palearctic; no problem was unfamiliar to him, no taxon a stranger. Chief among his many interests was individual and geographic variability in songbirds, and the current interpretations of species concepts. Historically, he was particularly influenced by authors such as Christian Ludwig Brehm, Otto Kleinschmidt, and Ernst Hartert, who had contested aspects of species subdivisions and the species concept, and who tended to think in terms of populations. He regularly published papers on all these subjects (listed in *Mitteilungen des Vereins Sächsischer Ornithologen* 9:119–125 [2002] and 9:677–681 [2006], and in longer obituaries in *Vogelwarte*

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43:279–280 [2005], *Anzeiger des Vereins Thüringer Ornithologen* 5:250–251 [2005], and *Zoologische Abhandlungen Dresden* 55:3–6 [2006]).

Eck's greatest achievement was to consider species as groups of populations and treat them accordingly, thus gaining a profound understanding of population structure. He was accustomed to noting the most delicate differences in coloration, dimensions, and proportions. One example is his monograph on the genus *Poecile* (1980). In a large project on the Asiatic Golden-spectacled Warbler complex (*Seicercus*), a group of cryptic Asian species, his acuity turned a joint project in the right direction (1999). Eck pointed out that many songbird groups exhibit a still unresolved morphological relationship, in which relatively short-winged and long-tailed taxa prove to be closely related to long-winged and short-tailed ones. He spoke of geographic and morphological vicariance. His analyses often encompassed both individual taxa as well as entire faunas. His awareness that morphometric-based population studies required comprehensive material resulted in an enlargement of the Dresden collection. Its contents nearly doubled in the 40 years of his work, which made it one of the most important collections in central Europe.

Eck was an autodidact, never having had the benefit of a university education. Nevertheless, he was highly regarded in his field. He became a Corresponding Fellow of the AOU in 1988. In 2002, the University of Mainz awarded him an Honorary Doctorate in appreciation of his remarkable contributions toward resolving taxonomic and zoogeographic problems of Palearctic and Asian birds. Three subspecies are named after him: the Great Tit of Sardinia (*Parus major ecki* von Jordans, 1970), the Coal Tit of western China (*Parus ater eckodedicatus* Martens, Tietze and Sun, 2006), and a sharp-tailed starling (*Lamprotornis acuticaudus ecki* Clancey, 1980) from South Africa.

Eck was always modest and reserved. He was open to all questions, especially those from students and young colleagues. His humor was delicate and his criticism supportive and restrained. As a scientist and human being, he set and held high standards. He is survived by his wife, Regine, a systematic entomologist; a daughter, Sonja; a son, Rolf; and one grandson.

The Auk 123(3):911–912, 2006
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IN MEMORIAM: DWAIN W. WARNER, 1917–2005

Kevin Winker
University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775, USA

Dwain W. Warner, Elective Member, was born near Revere, Minnesota, on 1 September 1917, grew up in Northfield, Minnesota, and died 30 September 2005. He graduated from Carleton College in 1939, with a major in botany and a minor in zoology. In the fall of 1939, he began work on a Ph.D. at Cornell University. In 1941 he was a key member of an expedition to northeastern Mexico led by George M. Sutton and Olin S. Pettingill, Jr., which started his lifelong dedication to the ornithology of Mexico. He began his dissertation research on the birds of the Mexican state of Tamaulipas under Arthur A. Allen at Cornell, but this work was interrupted by World War II. Dwain spent nearly three years in the U.S. Army, primarily in the South Pacific on the islands of New Caledonia, the New Hebrides, and New Zealand. He returned to Cornell University in March 1946 and, based on his field experiences during the war, completed his dissertation in August 1947 on *The Ornithology of New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands*.

Dwain began a 40-year career as a faculty member and Curator of Ornithology at the University of Minnesota's Minnesota Museum of Natural History (later the James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History). Teaching loads

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