



In Memoriam: Arthur Eugene Staebler, 1915–2007

Author: Valentine, Brad

Source: *The Auk*, 125(1) : 237-238

Published By: American Ornithological Society

URL: <https://doi.org/10.1525/auk.2008.125.1.237>

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.

and his friends and relatives shared many lunches there with him. However, he always insisted on paying the bill. Once after being treated to a lunch, I noticed that he gave the waitress a fifty-dollar tip. When I brought it to his attention that he was very generous, the tip being more than the bill, he explained that she was a college student and needed some extra cash. Brooke was very benevolent with his personal possessions and funds and eventually helped finance the college education of his three grandchildren. Many friends who visited him were surprised to receive a book from his library as a gift.

Brooke drove his own car while in his late eighties and once, while leaving the parking lot at Alisson's restaurant, he was stopped by an older man walking on the sidewalk. The man wanted to know how old Brooke was, and then proceeded to tell Brooke he was lucky, because his wife wouldn't let him drive. Brooke was quite pleased to be complimented on this late-life accomplishment, but was more intrigued when he learned that the man, Mr. Walker, was the uncle of George Herbert Walker Bush.

During his final months of life, Brooke's daughter Louise, who now had adopted her middle name of Brooke, became his caregiver, with the help of Deb and the grandchildren, until his death. Brooke's friends were numerous and extended throughout the country. He maintained contact with them to the end of his life. One Patuxent friend, Jerry Longcore, visited Brooke two weeks before he died and recalls how much Brooke enjoyed reminiscing about Patuxent biologists and those of the old Biological Survey. When Jerry mentioned that he had a picture of F. C. Lincoln banding a Mallard, Brooke commented that his friend "Freddie" had offices at Patuxent and in Washington, D.C., and that he would like a copy of the picture, which Jerry sent. Brooke's passion for birds was exceptional, and his friendship to birders and ornithologists who shared his passion was legendary. Brooke will be greatly missed by the many who had the privilege to share the world of birds with this gentleman biologist.

The comments of Rich Dolesh, Lynda Garrett, Mike Haramis, Gary Heinz, and Jerry Longcore are greatly appreciated.

The Auk 125(1):237–238, 2008
© The American Ornithologists' Union, 2008.
Printed in USA.

IN MEMORIAM: ARTHUR EUGENE STAEBLER, 1915–2007

BRAD VALENTINE

California Fish and Game, P.O. Box 3999, Santa Rosa, California 95401, USA

Arthur Eugene Staebler, who joined the AOU in 1935 and became an Elective Member in 1955, died on 5 March 2007 at the age of 91, at home, in Clovis, California. The oldest of three children, Art was born on 3 May 1915 in Detroit and moved to Birmingham, Michigan, at the age of four. In high school, he learned the natural sciences by collecting insects and birds for the Cranbrook Institute of Science. He graduated high school in 1933.

Art majored in Zoology (B.A., 1938) at the University of Michigan (U of M), then immediately entered the graduate program there. He spent six months with a team of scientists in Chiapas, Mexico, where he collected animal specimens, many of which are still housed in the U of M Museum of Zoology. He received an M.S. in 1940.

Art met Helen Williams, of Columbus, Ohio, while at the U of M, and they married in 1940. Caught up in Art's love of nature, the day after the wedding, they traveled and honeymooned at a boys' camp, where he worked as a nature counselor. In 1943, they had their first child, Bruce. In 1947, while living in Ann Arbor, they had twin girls, Ann and Susan. Their fourth child, Chad, was born in 1957 in Fresno, California. Helen, his wife of some 67 years, outlived Art by about a month.

In November 1943, Art was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Public Health Service and was stationed in Miami, Florida. His assignment was to ensure that alien insects that might pose public health or environmental risks would not enter the country. At the end of the war, Art was discharged and returned to U of M to pursue his Ph.D. in Ornithology. In

1949, he became director of the W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary in Augusta, Michigan. Concurrently, he completed his doctorate, with a dissertation comparing the life histories of Downy and Hairy woodpeckers.

In 1955, Art became an Assistant Professor of Biology at Fresno State College (now California State University, Fresno). Until retiring in 1980, he taught courses in biology, ornithology, advanced ornithology, vertebrate natural history, vertebrate zoology, and vertebrate paleontology. He also developed and taught concentrated inter-session classes in museum specimen preparation, waterfowl management, and desert ecology. During the turbulent 1960s and against a resistant administration, Art championed faculty personnel decisions based on qualifications and performance. Starting in the 1970s, he began a survey of vertebrate fossils, mostly in the hills west of the San Joaquin Valley. Then, as an emeritus professor, he expanded this interest and discovered new species of mosasaurs and plesiosaurs.

Art was a captivating instructor. Students eagerly anticipated each new topic introduced with his trademark: "Imagine, if you will. . . ." Flexible and generous with his time, Art was happy to administer students' independent studies. He chaired committees for 11 graduate students, whose work covered a wide range of subjects—regional floras, estuarine fish, freshwater fish, Great Blue Herons, White-crowned Sparrows, Sierra Nevada meadow avifauna, American Dippers, and food habits of deer and range cattle. In retirement, he chaired two committees for master's theses on paleontological subjects. Even late in life, at an assisted-living

facility, Art continued teaching by taking the other residents on field trips and otherwise sharing his knowledge and joy for living.

Art's participation in numerous projects and organizations was extraordinary. In addition to membership in the AOU, he also held memberships in the Wilson Ornithological Society and Cooper Ornithological Society. Among his many achievements in ornithology, he helped to develop and design a cannon-net trap-

ping system for waterfowl and a waterfowl banding-identification system, and encouraged coordinated banding programs to address regional questions. He helped establish the Fresno Junior Museum (later "The Discovery Center") and develop a bird sanctuary at Fresno's Woodward Park. Art's passion for the natural world will continue to be felt through the actions of the many educators and agency biologists he touched.

The Auk 125(1):238, 2008

© The American Ornithologists' Union, 2008.

Printed in USA.

IN MEMORIAM: GARY EARL DUKE, 1937–2006

PATRICK T. REDIG

Director Emeritus, The Raptor Center, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108, USA

Gary E. Duke, an avian physiologist at the University of Minnesota, died on 21 August 2006 at the age of 68. He had battled with rapidly advancing Alzheimer's disease for several years. Gary was born in Galesburg, Illinois, on 16 December 1937. His avian research began at Michigan State University with an M.S. thesis on censusing singing male American Woodcocks and a Ph.D. (1967) dissertation on metabolizability and food-passage rates in Ring-necked Pheasants. He then began a career as a faculty member in the Department of Veterinary Biology, College of Veterinary Medicine, at the University of Minnesota. His research specialty was avian digestion, and he was known to many as a leading expert in poultry gastrointestinal physiology.

Gary, however, was fascinated by owls, and immediately began to study owl physiology. His pioneering work on owl feeding behavior and digestive physiology remains a benchmark in the field. His excellent work with owls, diurnal raptors, poultry, and other species provides an important basis for much comparative avian biology. He collaborated with many researchers from across the United States and internationally. He organized and led several ecotour trips to Tanzania and Costa Rica, and collaborated in research on African wild dogs. He spoke annually at professional meetings and published more than 100 scientific papers, chapters in 9 books, and contributions to 25 symposium proceedings. More than 40 of his publications addressed raptors, and most of those were about owls.

Gary served the Raptor Research Foundation in various ways, including as president and several terms as a board member,

from 1975 to 1993. He was president of the National Comparative Gastroenterology Society and of the Minnesota Zoological Society. He served as vice president and as director of the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Society. An enthusiastic birdwatcher with a life list of 1,601 species, he was also a member of several ornithological organizations. He joined the AOU in 1967 and became an Elective Member in 1993. He was director of the Avian Research Center at the University of Minnesota for several years. His proudest achievement was cofounding The Raptor Center, a world-class conservation organization dedicated to study, conservation, medical care, and public education. An avid jogger, he set his lifelong goal as the earth's circumference, a goal he missed by only a few miles.

Gary received awards from a variety of organizations, including the Director's Award from the American Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for Humane Excellence, the American Motors Conservation Award, the Merck Award for Achievement in Poultry Science, and the National Wildlife Rehabilitator Award for Lifetime Achievement. A special issue of the *Journal of Experimental Zoology* (vol. 283, no. 4/5, 1999) on "Avian Gastrointestinal and Renal Physiology" was dedicated to him.

Gary is survived by his wife of 45 years, Mary Ann, two daughters, and two grandchildren. Owing to the generosity of his lifelong friend Dr. William Holleman, an honorary annual lectureship on topics in conservation and raptor natural history has been created in Gary's name.