

## **In Memoriam: Keith L. Dixon, 1921–2012**

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## IN MEMORIAM: KEITH L. DIXON, 1921–2012

AOU COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS

Keith L. Dixon, Member (1943), Elective Member (1953), and Fellow (1966) of the AOU, died on 4 March 2012 at home in Logan, Utah. Keith was born in El Centro, California, and his early interest in birds led to his Boy Scout merit badge in 1936. In addition to local birding in San Diego, Keith's early interest in birds was influenced by Hoffman's *Birds of the Pacific States*. He finished Grossmout Union High School in 1939 and went directly to San Diego State College (now SDSU) and graduated in 1943. With World War II underway, Keith then entered the U.S. Navy.

Upon his release from the Navy, Keith did what a number of other young Californians did and entered graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley, where he worked under the direction of Alden Miller and produced *Behavior of the Plains Titmouse* (MA, 1948) and *An Ecological Analysis of the Inbreeding of Crested Titmice in Texas* (Ph.D., 1952). Keith followed his

interests to a position at Texas A&M College in Wildlife Management. He returned to California to become an assistant research zoologist at the University of California's Hasting Natural History Reservation and then moved to Utah State University (USU), where he remained until he retired in 1989.

During his career at USU, Keith continued to work on parids, wrote many book reviews, and participated in national and international meetings. His group also worked on small mammal populations. Keith was active in the AOU, Cooper Ornithological Society (honorary member, assistant editor, assistant secretary, vice president), and Wilson Ornithological Society (editor). In addition to his interest in avian ecology and behavior, Keith loved classical music. His wife, Martha Williamson Dixon, predeceased him, and he is survived by a daughter, Melissa Jane Dixon.