

## Raymond Andrew Paynter, Jr.

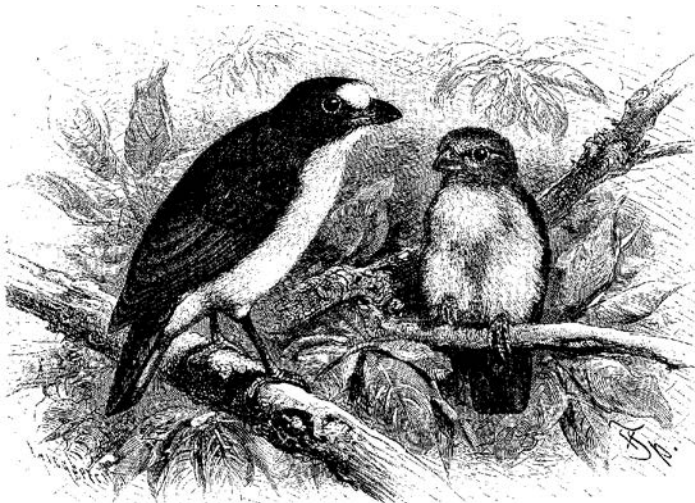
Massachusetts lost one of its premier ornithologists with the passing of Raymond A. Paynter, Jr. on July 10, 2003, from complications following a stroke. Ray was a graduate of Bowdoin College (1946) and received a master's (1948) and doctorate (1954) from Yale University, with a dissertation on the ornithology of the Yucatan Peninsula. He came to the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) in 1953 as Assistant Curator of Birds and served as Curator of Birds from 1961-1999. He led expeditions to Mexico, Belize, Nepal, Pakistan, and India. Most of his field work with birds was in Central and South America. He was a senior Lecturer in Biology at Harvard University, teaching a course on the biology of birds.

Ray was a prolific author and editor, publishing several books and monographs, nearly fifty papers in scientific journals, twenty book reviews, and a series of ornithological gazetteers of South American countries. The latter earned him, together with his collaborator Melvin Traylor, the Elliott Coues Award for lifetime achievement in ornithology, the highest award (co-equal with the William Brewster Award) given by the American Ornithologists' Union, of which he was a Fellow. Ray edited or coedited and contributed to many of the final volumes of Peters' classic *Check-list of Birds of the World*, a series left unfinished at Peters' death.

He was a stalwart member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, twice serving as its president, and editing more than twenty ornithological monographs for the Club's Publications series. Those who frequented the MCZ's Bird Department will remember the pleasant conversations over a sandwich at lunch or at the traditional afternoon tea — we will miss him. 🐦

*William E. Davis, Jr.*

*Editor's note: A feature article on Dr. Paynter is in preparation for a future issue of Bird Observer.*



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