

In Memoriam: George H. Lowery

George H. Lowery, eminent ornithologist and friend to many of us, died at the age of 64 on 19 January 1978. A native of Monroe, Louisiana, Dr. Lowery completed his B.S. and M.S. degrees at Louisiana State University where he became a member of the faculty in 1936 and shortly thereafter founded the LSU Museum of Natural Science. He received his Ph.D. in 1949 from the University of Kansas. I first came to know of Dr. Lowery when I was a student at the University of Kansas and read his now classic study on the nocturnal migration of birds. For that study Dr. Lowery received the coveted Brewster Award of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1956. Although he published over 100 scientific articles, we probably know him best for his book, "Birds of Louisiana," which has gone through three editions. In addition to his bird studies, Dr. Lowery was also a highly respected mammalogist and in 1974 he received the Louisiana Literary Award for his book, "The Mammals of Louisiana and its Adjacent Waters." From its beginning in 1936, Dr. Lowery built the bird collection at the LSU Museum of Natural Science into the 4th largest university-centered collection in the United States, an amazing 86,000 specimens. Soon after my arrival at Mississippi State, he invited me to LSU to become acquainted with the museum. I made several trips to Baton Rouge and Dr. Lowery was always eager for me and my students to make use of the ornithological collection at LSU. He was a colleague for whom I had nothing but the highest professional and personal regard. In addition to other distinctions, Dr. Lowery served for three years as President of the American Ornithologists' Union and he was Boyd Professor of Zoology at LSU, his university's highest rank. He is survived by his wife, Murial, two daughters, and three grandchildren.

A memorial fund has been set up in the name of George H. Lowery, the proceeds of which will be used to further the interests and goals of the museum which he founded. Donations should be sent to: LSU Foundation, 122 Systems Building, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La. 70803.
--Jerome A. Jackson