

## OBITUARY

GEOFFREY GREAM OMMANNEY, elected a member of the A.O.U. in 1941, died at "Winglands," his home in Hudson Heights, Quebec, on July 18, 1955. He was 76 years of age.

Born in England, a son of Sir Montagu F. Ommanney, at one time Permanent Undersecretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Ommanney qualified as a civil engineer at King's College, London, and specialized in harbor engineering. After some years of experience in England and the East, he came to Canada and in 1907 joined the engineering staff of the Canadian Pacific Railway. He was in charge of the construction of the Railway's eastern Great Lakes Terminal at Port McNicoll, Ontario. During the First World War he served in France with the British Expeditionary Force and was demobilized with the rank of major. Returning to the C.P.R., he organized and took charge of its development branch and was Development Commissioner when he retired in 1944.

An ardent conservationist, he was for many years a director of the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, retiring because of failing health in 1953. He was the most active bird-bander in the Montreal area and maintained a banding station in conjunction with a winter-feeding station at Hudson Heights on the south side of the Lake of Two Mountains. He played an active part in the establishment and maintenance of the Whitlock Bird Sanctuary. He kept careful records of his own observations and of those who assisted him in the study of the birds of that neighborhood. Some of his notes were published in 'The Auk' and others in the annual reports of the P.Q.S.P.B.

A man of strong convictions and a doughty fighter, "Geoff" Ommanney was also a charming companion and a loyal friend. His courage and cheerfulness during the years when his health was failing was an inspiration to all who knew him.—  
G. H. MONTGOMERY.

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Editor, The Auk

University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Dr. Storer:

The Conservation Department of Cornell University is conducting a research project concerned with hybridization in surface-feeding ducks, including the Mallard, Pintail, Black Duck, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, and Shoveller. The purpose of this study is to obtain further information on the relationships within this controversial group, using behavioral data, relative fertility determinations, and, possibly, other physiological techniques. It is hoped that the greatest possible number of hybrid crosses among these species may be studied, and we are in need of first generation male hybrids of known parentage for this purpose. Any aviculturist who happens to possess such birds, and who is willing to lend them to the Department for this project could assist us greatly. It would be appreciated if interested persons would contact Charles G. Sibley or Paul A. Johnsgard, Department of Conservation, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Sincerely yours,

Charles G. Sibley  
Associate Professor of Ornithology