

is not a potential environmental contaminant. Effects on other birds are not discussed.—J.J.M.

VERMEER, K., AND F. A. J. ARMSTRONG. 1972. Mercury in Canadian prairie ducks. *J. Wildl. Mgmt.* 38: 179-183.

WIEMEYER, S. N., B. M. MULHERN, F. J. LIGAS, R. J. HENSEL, J. E. MATHISEN, F. C. ROBARDS, AND S. POSTUPALSKY. 1972. Residues of organochlorine pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, and mercury in Bald Eagle eggs and changes in shell thickness—1969 and 1970. *Pesticides Monit. J.* 6: 50-55.—Twenty-three *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* eggs from Alaska, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota and Florida contained residues of DDE, dieldrin, PCBs, and mercury, with significant eggshell thinning in all but some from Alaska.—J.C.O.

OBITUARIES

MARIA EMILIE ANNA VON MICULICZ-RADECKI KOEPCKE was born 15 May 1924 in Leipzig, Germany and received her doctorate in Natural Sciences in 1949 from Christian-Albrechts University. She arrived in Peru in 1950 to meet her fiancé and university classmate, Dr. Hans Wilhelm Koepcke. They were married 24 June of the same year. Then began the dual career of the two biologists. The husband and wife team worked so closely together in their research and publications that it is difficult to discuss Maria without mention of Hans. Together they were largely responsible for the formation of the scientific climate of Peru—directly through their investigations, teaching, conferences, and writings, and particularly by their outstanding example. Maria concentrated her studies on Peruvian ornithology and Hans on the ecology of tropical fauna. They traversed virtually every region of Peru, learning life forms firsthand. Little of the biota escaped their scrutiny and they wrote on invertebrates, ichthyology, paleontology, plant formations, and marine biology, as well as on ecology and avian biogeography and systematics.

Although a small woman, Maria's enthusiasm and vitality were infectious. While teaching at the University of San Marcos, Lima, she was in charge of the Section of Birds and Mammals of the Museum of Natural History "Javier Prado" from 1953 to 1958. She was named chief of this section in 1958, discharging this duty until her untimely death. Maria published 22 works in German, Spanish, and English and coauthored 11 other publications with Hans. Her pen-and-ink drawings illustrated many of their joint publications. She personally illustrated every species in her "Las aves del Departamento de Lima" (English ed.: 1970, Narberth, Pennsylvania, Livingston Publ. Co.). Drawings for five new Peruvian airmail stamps depicting birds of the country were submitted shortly before her death and are now in circulation. Maria was a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union (1962), the Senckenbergische Naturforschungs-Gesellschaft of Germany, and the Asociación Ornitológica de la Plata of Argentina, a Field Collaborator of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, as well as an active member of the Comité Nacional de Protección a la Naturaleza of Peru and the Deutsche Ornithologen Gesellschaft of Germany.

In addition to 10 new subspecies of birds, Maria described two new furnariid species and a new genus and species of cotingid. In her honor are named a species of cacique, a subspecies of curassow, and with her husband, a subspecies of lizard. Hans Koepcke is presently completing the final part of a major joint work, "Las



MARIA KOEPCKE (1924–1971)

aves silvestres de importancia económica del Perú” as well as about seven other manuscripts he was coauthoring with his wife.

Since 1969 the Koepckes had selected for their investigation a remote area of Amazonian Peru on the Yuyapichis (or Lullapichis) River, a tributary of the Pachitea in the Ucayali drainage. Maria Koepcke was completing legal arrangements in Lima setting aside the area for research. She spoke with us enthusiastically of returning to the “jungle” to resume research with her husband. On a flight to Pucallpa 24 December 1971 the plane crashed, killing Maria and 90 other passengers. The sole survivor of the tragic accident was Juliane Koepcke, their 17-year-old daughter and only child.—AMADEO M. REA and LEÓN KOSTRITSKY B.

FRANK ALEXANDER HARTMAN, of German, English, and Welsh ancestry, was born at Gibbon, Nebraska on 4 December 1883, the son of George Washington and Flora Willietta (Sprague) Hartman. His early education was obtained in the elementary and high schools of Kansas City, after which he attended the University of Kansas where he received an A.B. degree in 1905 and an A.M. in 1909. In 1914 he earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Washington. He was an Austin Teaching Fellow in Harvard Medical School from 1915 to 1919, then a Lecturer and Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto, and between 1919 and 1934 a Professor at the University of Buffalo. In 1934 he became Professor and Chairman in the Department of Physiology, The Ohio State University, remaining in that capacity until 1947. From 1947 until his death in Columbus, Ohio on 21 March 1971 he was a Research Professor in that department.

In 1905 Professor Hartman married Anna Botsford, who died in 1966. They had two daughters and three sons. In 1968 he married Dr. Kathryn Brownell with whom he had been associated professionally for several years.

Dr. Hartman was an outstanding endocrinologist and an authority on the adrenals, and the majority of his more than 175 publications, as sole or co-author, dealt primarily with these and associated glands. He was a Fellow or Member of a dozen scientific societies, receiving in 1932 a Gold Medal from the American Medical Association. In 1935 he was President of The Association for the study of Internal Secretions and Endocrine Society.

His interest in birds developed early. His first ornithological publication was in Science in 1914 and concerned the peculiar sounds nighthawks make when volplaning. This was followed in 1950 in *Country Life in America* by "The nighthawk of San Juan Island." In 1941 he joined The American Ornithologists' Union and became a Life Elective Member in 1957. Between 1946 and 1965 he published, alone or in collaboration, 18 papers on birds, most of them pertaining to avian adrenals and related glands. Other papers concerned the cardiac and pectoral muscles, locomotor muscle weights, and lipids in the liver and locomotor muscles. To obtain weights and measurements on various parts of the avian body he visited diverse localities, including Panama, Louisiana, Florida, and Maine. He made, or had made for him, skins of the birds he collected and studied. Eventually he gave most of these skins to the Bird Divisions of the U. S. National Museum and The Ohio State University Museum of Zoology. Of the 814 specimens he gave the latter museum, 431 were from Panama. In Panama he occasionally associated with his friend Dr. Alexander Wetmore.

Dr. Hartman was essentially shy and a person with whom you became acquainted slowly, after which he became a warm and staunch friend. He was a dedicated scholar and, when given a choice, preferred research.—MILTON B. TRAUTMAN.

FRANCIS HARPER, naturalist, author, and editor, joined the A.O.U. in 1907, became an Elective Member in 1917, and subsequently an honorary Life Elective Member. He was born in Southbridge, Massachusetts, on 17 November 1886 and died in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, on 17 November 1972—his 86th birthday. From Cornell University he received an undergraduate degree in 1914 and a Ph.D. in 1925.

Francis was a man of great ability and capable of forming enduring friendships with those who accepted him regardless of his strong opinions and a long list of dislikes. He was most articulate, when with friends, about all such things; one came to realize that his particular traits, including a prodigious memory, had much to do with his being a remarkable editor—an utter perfectionist. To illustrate: the Bartrams were a special interest of his and one of them tossed a rock from the side of a cove in the Catskills and reportedly counted to a certain number before it hit bottom; Francis went there and did likewise—literally leaving no stone unturned when verifying the statement. He was a prodigious notetaker. On 28 September 1952, having temporarily caught the note-taking disease from him, I jotted down his remark: "I despise garrulous senility, but don't know how to avoid it." We were finishing an excellent dinner and Francis became—in his own way—philosophical. He divided the "human race" [his words] into categories: the morally degenerate, the grossly unethical, and those not assigned to either of these categories—yet! To be subjected to his appraisal was living dangerously; one's alleged or actual shortcomings were candidates for entry in his notebook. Lest he be judged unique, however, the reader is referred to a fascinating account of his botanist brother, Roland, by Joseph Ewan (1968, *Bull. Torrey Bot. Club* 94: 391-393).

It was Francis's experience that he could not work under supervision; he got on, after a fashion, supported by relatively meager grants. He was employed or funded successively by the Geological Survey of Canada, the U. S. Biological Survey, Cornell University, New York State Museum, Boston Society of Natural History, Biological Abstracts, the American Committee for International Wildlife Protection, Penrose Fund, and otherwise by the American Philosophical Society, and other sources. His first trip north was to Lake Athabaska [his preferred spelling] in 1914. He went to Nueltin Lake in southern Keewatin in 1947—a high point in his career. For an excellent photo of him taken on this trip, see *Natural History* (1949, 58: 228). He was a Guggenheim Fellow in 1950–1952, went to interior Ungava in 1953—his last trip northward—and was employed for a time at the Huyck Preserve in Rensselaerville, New York. He settled in Chapel Hill in 1960 and resumed work on Okefinokee [his spelling] folklore, which he had laid aside 40 years earlier. He was a member of several honorary societies, including Phi Beta Kappa, and of various scientific organizations. He was especially fond of the American Society of Mammalogists, was its corresponding secretary in 1931–1932, much later was elected an honorary member for life, and probably his most enduring noneditorial work relates to mammals and their conservation.

He published about 135 titles, mostly journal papers, the subjects being: faunal zones, botany, conservation, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, quadrupeds, the Eskimo, the Montagnais, folklore, and early naturalists—especially the Bartrams. His longer avian papers include those on Long Island, New York, shorebirds (1916, with John T. Nichols), diving petrels (1921, with R. C. Murphy), and birds of interior Ungava (1958). In his own estimation (and in the opinion of the undersigned), first among his works are two long papers on the Bartrams (1942, *Trans. Amer. Philos. Soc.* n. s. 33, pt. 1; and 1943, pt. 2) and the naturalist's edition of "The Travels of William Bartram" (1958, New Haven, Connecticut, Yale Univ. Press). These are a monument to the Bartrams and to the scholarship of Francis Harper.

Francis married Mary Jean Sherwood, of Cornwall, New York, in 1923. He is survived by his widow, four children, seven grandchildren, and a sister.—RALPH S. PALMER.

WALTER PENN TAYLOR was a keen, energetic mammalogist and conservationist who contributed importantly to both of those fields over a long scientific career. He was born in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, October 31, 1888, and died in Claremont, California, March 29, 1972. His scholastic training was obtained at Throop Polytechnic Institute (Pasadena), Stanford University (one year), and the University of California at Berkeley, where he received his B.S. degree in 1911 and Ph.D. in 1914.

From 1909 to 1916 he was Assistant Curator and Curator of Mammals in the newly founded University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. He led several field trips in California and Nevada and wrote informative papers on the taxonomy, morphology, biology, and distribution of beaver, aplodontia, phenacomys, sea otter, and other mammals. In 1916 he transferred to the U. S. Biological Survey (later Fish and Wildlife Service), advancing from Assistant Biologist to Senior Biologist.

He joined the A.O.U. in 1916 as an Associate Member and became an Honorary Life Elective Member in 1950. Besides a number of short notes about birds in the *Condor* and elsewhere, he was coauthor with William T. Shaw of "The birds and

mammals of Mount Rainier National Park" (1927) and with Stanley G. Jewett of "The birds of the State of Washington" (1953). In all, W.P.T. had a personal bibliography of about 300 titles. In 1956 he edited a 668-page volume on "The deer of North America" by 15 authors.

For about 15 years his home was in Tucson while he did summer field work in Washington, Arizona, and other western states. In 1932-35 he held the title of Professor of Economic Zoology at the University of Arizona. There he collaborated with Charles T. Vorhies on life studies of the banner-tailed kangaroo rat and the jackrabbits, which led to joint papers on both those animals. Taylor also did a paper on the porcupine. Next he became Professor of Wildlife Management at Texas A. & M. in College Station. He developed and led the cooperative wildlife research unit there from 1935 to 1947. Then he moved to Oklahoma A. & M. in Stillwater and served in a similar capacity until retirement in 1951.

Vertebrate zoology, especially the economic relations of birds and mammals, joined with ecology and conservation, were his major interests. These he presented enthusiastically and vigorously in college teaching, public meetings and lectures, and in writing for publication.

He was a staunch admirer of Theodore Roosevelt and for a time adopted the former president's simplified spelling. Taylor's 1910 MVZ notebooks read "thru" and "thoro" and the avian ovum became "eg"—a one-third saving in space! The same notebooks also testify to W.P.'s scientific honesty as in entries for "unidentified water bird no. 1" (and no. 2). Field characteristics in the notes and a specimen or more of each sufficed to establish the identities upon return to the museum.

Taylor and I were together on three 2-month MVZ collecting trips in 1911-15 and became lifelong friends. Outdoor life for naturalists was then more rugged. Travel was by railroad, farm wagon, or on foot beside a pack train. Only the most durable foods were taken and cooked over open wood fires. Museum Director Joseph Grinnell wanted long series of bird and mammal skins, but enforced a spartan economy on field workers. One large sack of rolled oats supplied bait for rodent traps and for cooked breakfast cereal—we were the "Bait Sluffers." Much later came amenities afield—the auto truck for personnel and equipment, gasoline stove, air mattress, and various packaged foods.

Taylor was President of the Ecological Society of America (1935), American Society of Mammalogists (1940-41), Wildlife Society (1943-44), and Texas Academy of Science (1944-45). Other honors included the Gold Medal, U. S. Department of the Interior (1951); Honor Award, California Conservation Council (1953); and Aldo Leopold Award of the Wildlife Society (1961). In Claremont, California, the Community Building was named Walter P. Taylor Hall in 1967.

He was an active and outspoken member of various regional and national committees and organizations on the conservation of natural resources and wildlife. After retirement he lectured on these topics in several schools. He served on the Claremont City Council and was Vice-mayor in 1963-64. Altogether, Walter P. was a notable example of the "abundant life."—TRACY I. STORER.