

OBITUARIES

RUBERT J. LONGSTREET was born in Mt. Dora, Florida in 1892 and spent his early years in New Smyrna Beach, where he died October 9, 1969. Throughout his life he was intimately connected with the Florida Audubon Society, for which he founded the Florida Naturalist in 1927, and remained its editor for 22 years. He was the society's president from 1930 to 1936. In recognition of his many contributions to Florida ornithology, he was voted an Elective Member of the A.O.U. in 1949, 26 years after he joined the union. He was my good friend for more than 35 years, and I had the honor of succeeding him as president of the Florida Audubon Society in 1936. For more details on his long and useful career, see my fuller account of him published most appropriately in the Florida Naturalist (1970, 43: 19-20).—C. RUSSELL MASON.

JOHNSON ANDREW NEFF, Member of the A.O.U. since 1919 and Elective Member since 1951, died on November 24, 1972, in Englewood, Colorado, at the age of 72. He was born October 29, 1900, at Marionville, in southwestern Missouri, to Ira and Zula Andrews Neff. His lifetime interest in nature began on the family farm.

Johnson's formal education was in horticulture (B.S., University of Missouri, 1924; M.S., Oregon State College, 1926). From 1926-30, he was an orchard property manager and president of the Lawrence County, Missouri, Farm Bureau. During that period he also served as secretary of the home town and township joint Chamber of Commerce.

At Oregon State College, under a teaching fellowship, he studied the relationships of woodpeckers and sapsuckers to Oregon horticulture. This led to his entering the Food Habits Division of the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey in Washington, D.C., on August 16, 1930. He later transferred to California and then to Arizona where, in addition to his pioneering work in mitigation and prevention of bird damage to agriculture, he conducted major studies of the Band-tailed Pigeon and the White-winged Dove. His publication on the Band-tail (1947) remains today the most extensive discussion of this species in the literature, while his field studies of the White-wing, from 1938 to 1942, were instrumental in the adoption of effective hunting regulations that resulted in the comeback of this species to its current position as the leading upland game bird in the Southwest.

In 1940, Johnson moved to the Denver Wildlife Research Center of the newly reorganized U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. There he completed his work with columbids and began studies of bird depredations in Arkansas rice fields and southern pine seedlings. He initiated the bureau's development of nontoxic chemical bird repellents for seed protection, now an accepted field practice in direct seeding of southern pines. During two assignments on Midway Island, he studied methods of preventing bird-aircraft collisions without the necessity of drastic reductions in the nesting colonies of albatrosses and other sea birds.

During 33 years of research in management of nuisance and injurious birds, Johnson demonstrated to agriculturists and ornithologists alike that new techniques could be found to save farmers large sums of money each year without detrimental effects on bird populations or other wildlife. Over 30 years ago, he submitted reports pointing out the dangers of establishing waterfowl refuges containing little or no food supply in the midst of intensive agriculture. Today, production of food crops on such refuges is a long-accomplished fact.



JOHNSON ANDREW NEFF (1900-1972)
(Photograph taken ca. 1960)

After retiring in 1964, Johnson received the Distinguished Service Award, the highest given by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The citation read, in part, "He, more than anyone else, has been responsible for developing present bird damage control techniques that are based on the recognition that the populations involved are interesting wildlife species to be preserved, but that local control of depredating birds is necessary in some situations. His good judgment and skillful work had a great impact in establishing the policies, procedures, and philosophy that have guided the Bureau in bird control over the years."

Johnson was also a charter member of the Wildlife Society and a member of the Cooper Ornithological Society since 1920. His more than ninety published papers cover the population dynamics, movements, food habits, and life histories of many bird species.

A half century of birdbanding work, both professional and private, stands as one of Johnson's most significant contributions. He served for a time as state representative or councilor in two regional birdbanding groups. During his California studies in the 1930s, he banded over 16,000 Tricolored Blackbirds. From 1961 to his death he and his wife, Gladys, operated a banding station at their home in Englewood, Colorado, where they banded over 10,000 birds of 52 species. Recently, Mrs. Neff showed us 37 Reports to the Bander she had just received from the Bird Banding Laboratory; all were reports of Laysan Albatrosses banded by Johnson in November 1954 during the first of his two trips to Midway and recaptured there 18 years later, in late 1972, by Harvey Fisher. To us it seems a fitting and moving coincidence that Dr. Fisher recaptured 12 of these birds on November 24, the day Johnson died.

Those who worked with Johnson at Denver will always remember his spirited recollections of diverse experiences during his boyhood and his career. He was at times quite outspoken in defense of his beliefs. As a conscientious voter and careful observer of politics at all levels, he was patriotic in the truest sense. Johnson was active in the Englewood Methodist Church and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees and was proud of having served as scoutmaster for three of the several years he helped scouting.

In concluding, we must note that Johnson Neff was a devoted family man. He expressed several times to friends the desire to celebrate his golden wedding anniversary; death overtook him about three weeks short of this goal. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Gladys Fraizer Neff; a son, Don J. Neff of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Flagstaff; and a daughter, Mrs. Sue McMillan, of Prescott, Arizona.—W. C. ROYALL, JR., and ERWIN W. PEARSON.

NOTES AND NEWS

All manuscript and illustrations for "Handbook of North American birds," vols. 2 and 3—both on waterfowl (Anatidae)—were delivered to Yale University Press in late March 1974. Publication is scheduled for 1975; a more definite date and the price per volume will be announced later.—RALPH S. PALMER.

A limited number of Student Membership Awards are made available each year by the A.O.U. Students at any stage of their academic training who are not now and have never been A.O.U. members are eligible. In 1974, 36 of 70 applicants were given A.O.U. Student Membership Awards. The recipients came from 23 of the United States and 1 Canadian province, and represent 1 Canadian and 31 U.S. schools.

Application forms are available from the SECRETARY or the CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AWARDS, DR. RUSSELL P. BALDA, *Department of Biological Sciences, Box 5640, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001*. The deadline for receipt of applications by the committee is 10 December.

The committee made two Marcia Brady Tucker Travel Awards totaling \$370 to attend the A.O.U. meeting in Norman, Oklahoma. The recipients are Edward H. Burt, Jr., of the University of Wisconsin, Madison; and William Shields of Ohio State University, Columbus.

Request for information.—In September a small number of color-banded Harris' Sparrows were released from Ithaca, New York. These birds were captured overwintering in Kansas and taken to Cornell for use in "displacement-orientation" experiments in the spring of 1974. They were released to determine whether they will move south from Ithaca or will travel west toward Kansas on their fall migration. Anyone sighting or collecting such birds please contact STEPHEN T. EMLEN, *Section of Neurobiology and Behavior, Division of Biological Sciences, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850*.