

IN MEMORIAM: YOSHIMARO YAMASHINA, 1900–1989

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Yoshimaro Yamashina, Sc.D., the former Marquis and founder of the Yamashina Institute for Ornithology, died on 28 January 1989. For the last several decades, Dr. Yamashina had been the dominant force for ornithological research and conservation in Japan. Born in Tokyo on 5 July 1900, the second son of Prince Kikumaro Yamashina, he developed a boyhood love of birds that became a life-long passion. Shortly after his discharge from military service, Dr. Yamashina established the institute that now bears his name, and it was here that he housed his extensive bird collections, ornithological library, and research facilities.

Dr. Yamashina conducted his doctoral research on avian cytology, in affiliation with the University of Hokkaido. Subsequently he continued cytological studies, but also pursued research on the systematics and distribution of birds of Japan, east Asia, and the Pacific. The Yamashina Institute served as a research base and repository for the collections made by himself and a number of field collaborators. Perhaps

his publications best known to American ornithologists are the oft-revised "Handlist of the Japanese Birds," which was co-authored with a committee of distinguished Japanese ornithologists, and his "Birds in Japan," first published 1961, and last revised in 1982. Most remarkably, in 1981 Dr. Yamashina had the opportunity to describe a new species of flightless rail from Okinawa Island, one of the ornithological surprises of this decade.

In 1977, in recognition of his lifetime achievements in ornithology, Dr. Yamashina was awarded the Jean Delacour Prize. In 1978, his conservation efforts were recognized by the World Wildlife Fund, which bestowed on him its Golden Ark Award. Dr. Yamashina joined the AOU in 1927, was made a Corresponding Fellow in 1949, and an Honorary Fellow in 1953. Additional information on his life will appear in the planned memorial issue of the *Journal of the Yamashina Institute for Ornithology*, in the *Bulletin of the Biogeographical Society of Japan*, and in the *Japanese Journal of Ornithology*.