

IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT DANIEL ETCHÉCOPAR, 1905–1990

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Robert Daniel Etchécopar, an AOU member since 1965, Corresponding Fellow from 1965, and Honorary Fellow since 1980, died in Versailles, near Paris, on 15 January 1990.

Born into a family of Brittany notaries on 4 September 1905 in Quimperlé, Finistère, France, he was meant to succeed his father in law. He studied law at Paris University, obtaining his doctorate, but did not come back to the family office; his true vocation lay elsewhere. His inclination for ornithology led him to the Paris Museum. Welcomed by Jacques Berlioz he became a familiar of the Bird Room. In 1935 he joined the Société Ornithologique de France, which publishes the quarterly review *L'Oiseau et la Revue française d'Ornithologie*, was elected treasurer in 1941 and secretary-general in 1944, and gave much of his time and his enthusiasm for 30 years.

In 1954 he took charge of the banding center established in the Paris Museum and remained its director until his retirement in 1976. To this new office, Etchécopar brought his great organizational skills, his imaginative dynamism, and an ability to discover and recruit able collaborators. The French banding center assumed a new regional importance, becoming the Centre de Recherches sur les Migrations des Mammifères et des Oiseaux (CRMMO). In 1963, fully aware of the necessity for coordinated research when studying migration, he founded and became first president of Euring, a coordinating

body between the different national banding centers of Europe.

His own contributions to the scientific literature included numerous publications on oology, systematics, and ecology. He coauthored with François Hüe a series of handbooks covering all the desert and semiarid regions that run through the Palearctic from the Atlantic Ocean to the China Sea: "Les Oiseaux du Nord de l'Afrique" (1964, Paris, Boubée), "Les Oiseaux du Proche et du Moyen Orient" (1970, Paris, Boubée), and "Les Oiseaux de Chine, de Mongolie et de Corée" (2 volumes; 1978, Tahiti, Editions du Pacifique, and 1983, Paris, Boubée, completed after the premature death of F. Hüe in 1972). He also organized and partly financed a Middle East expedition with Christian Erard in 1967.

Etchécopar played an active role in affairs of the International Ornithological Congresses from Uppsala (1950) to Canberra (1974), being a member of the Permanent Executive Committee from 1954 (Basel) to 1962 (Ithaca). He also attended many of the conferences of the International Committee for Bird Preservation and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the AOU Centennial Meeting in 1983.

More complete memorials have appeared in *Le Courrier de la Nature* (1990, 125: 16–17) and *L'Oiseau et la Revue française d'Ornithologie* (1990, 60: 269–274).