

tary during World War II, was second and first Vice President, and was a representative of the Wilson Ornithological Society on the Council of the AOU and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was elected a life member of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Brooks Bird Club. He served eight years on the West Virginia Conservation Commission and four years on the Blennerhassett Historical Park Commission. He received honorary degrees from West Virginia University, Davis and Elkins College, West Virginia Wesleyan, Susquehanna University, and Salem College. In 1979 Maurice Brooks was the *Charleston Gazette Mail's* West Virginian of the

Year; and in the same year, the West Virginia State Legislature named him West Virginia Man of the Year. In 1970 West Virginia bestowed on him its highest honor for service with the University—the Order of Vandalia. In the January 1984 issue of *Audubon*, Maurice Brooks was honored with a biographical article, fittingly entitled *Dr. Appalachia*.

Maurice Brooks was a unique scientist, conservationist, writer and teacher who had a tremendous impact on thousands of individuals and students for more than half a century. In future years he will be acknowledged as the foremost naturalist ever to live and work in West Virginia.

The Auk 111(1):187, 1994

IN MEMORIAM: HAMILTON MACK LAING, 1883–1982

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Hamilton "Mack" Laing, a member of the AOU since 1917 and an Elective Member since 1943, was born at Hensall, Ontario, 6 February 1883, and died at Comox, British Columbia, 15 February 1982. A rural teacher in Manitoba for 11 years, he then studied art at the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York, 1911–1915, before serving in the Royal Flying Corps. He was assistant naturalist on the Smithsonian Institution Expedition to Lake Athabasca under Francis Harper in 1920, and assistant naturalist with National Museum of Canada field parties most summers in the 1920s and 1930s, while operating a nut farm at Comox, British Columbia.

He collected and superbly prepared about 10,000 specimens of birds and mammals for the Museum of Canada and Royal British Columbia

Museum. He published 16 scientific articles, chiefly in the *Canadian Field-Naturalist*, and his notes concerning 11 species appeared in A. C. Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds*. *Out With the Birds* was published in 1913 and *Allan Brooks, Artist-Naturalist*, appeared in 1979, representing an interval of 66 years between books! He wrote about 900 nature articles (many illustrated with his own photographs) for newspapers, magazines and outdoor journals. A plant (*Antennaria laingii*), a subspecies of the Great Basin pocket mouse (*Perognathus parvus laingi*), and a subspecies of the Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis laingi*), were named for him. His biography, *Hamilton Mack Laing, Hunter-Naturalist*, by Richard Mackie, was published in 1985.