

## In Memoriam



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### IN MEMORIAM: FRED J. PIERCE, 1902–1992

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Fred John Pierce was born on the family farm near Winthrop, Iowa on 6 July 1902, and passed away at Cedar Rapids, Iowa on 6 May 1992. After reading Ernest Thompson Seton's *Two Little Savages* at age 13, Fred became a bird and book enthusiast for the rest of his life.

He was a charter member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union when it was organized in 1923. In 1931 he began a 30-year tenure as editor of the new journal of the Union, *Iowa Bird Life*. During his lifetime Fred built *Iowa Bird Life* into a respected state journal, balancing the interests of both scientist and amateur. He also contributed more than 500 long and short articles and book reviews under his own name. Fred joined

the AOU in 1948 and became an Elective Member in 1950.

He and his wife Reva founded the Pierce Book Company in 1944. They quickly developed the largest North American catalog business in new and second-hand natural-history books, with two catalogs each year, and a peak circulation of 14,000. Fred's success was due to his vast knowledge of early natural-history books and their value. In 1980 he sold the business to me, and I have carried on to the present.

A detailed description of the book business appeared in *Iowa Bird Life* (57:106–111, 1987), and a more detailed memorial appeared in the same journal (62:65–67, 1992).

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### IN MEMORIAM: JOHN FARRAND, JR., 1937–1994

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The death of John Farrand, Jr., on 24 June 1994, at age 56, came as a shock, even though his friends knew his health had been poor for years. John joined the AOU in 1973 and became an Elective Member in 1984. John Farrand was brilliant. He had an encyclopedic memory, a deep knowledge of the literature, excellent skills as a writer and editor, acute powers of observation, profound expertise in taxonomic matters. . . . I could go on. Storrs L. Olson (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 89:260, 1976) named a Pliocene lily-trotter *Jacana farrandi* for his "friend and sage counsellor in all matters ornithological."

One of John's close friends was James C.

Greenway, Jr. (Auk 109:377–380, 1992). During workdays at the American Museum, they had lunch almost daily at the "Dominican Place," a nearby Latin American eatery, now gone, like its two regular patrons. When some of us joined them, we (the joiners) studied the menu, but Jim and John murmured to the waitress the words she expected: *lo mismo* (the same), meaning *huevos rancheros*. When John came to my house in Tenafly, New Jersey, we visited "The Shrine" (the house where Ernst Mayr had lived). My son Alex loved to slide down the stairs on his bottom. Without being asked, John, a grin across his face, went bop-bop-bop down the

stairs (fortunately carpeted) with a delighted Alex. "I make a great uncle," John said.

John Farrand was born 28 December 1937 into a prominent Connecticut family, listed in the Social Register. His grandfather, Livingston Farrand, had been President of Cornell University. John obtained a B.S. from the University of Oklahoma (1966) and an M.S. from Louisiana State University (1969) under George Lowery. Why did John never get a Ph.D. or publish more scientific papers than he did? Probably because, as John P. O'Neill put it, "once he figured out a problem in his mind he was ready to dismiss it." John was Zoologist at the Smithsonian Institution, curatorial assistant in Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History (1973–1979), natural science editor at Chanticleer Press (1980–1984), and Editor-in-Chief of *American Birds* (1984–1985). That last job was not really for John, and he went on to a free-lancing career. He produced important books, including: *Reference List of the Birds of the World* (1975; with John Morony, Jr. and Walter J. Bock; *Auk* 92:818–830, 1975); *Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds, Eastern Region* (1977, 23rd printing 1994; with John Bull; *Auk* 95:201–202, 1978); *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding* (1983, 5th printing 1994; *Auk* 102:226–228, 1985); *Weather* (1990); and *Masterpieces of Bird Art* (1991; with Roger Pasquier; *Auk* 109:944–945, 1992). He edited *A Dictionary of Scientific Bird Names* by James A. Joblin (1991).

To sample John's remarkable erudition, read his "Moments in History" in *American Birds*. John and I once gave parallel talks about how to write field notes at a meeting of the Federation of New York Bird Clubs. Another time we birded together in the eastern Mediterranean. John visited South America (especially Peru) and Africa (especially Ethiopia), but his principal field work was in the United States (especially the New York City area). John was for a while co-editor of the *Kingbird* and president of The Linnaean Society of New York. A memorial by Susan Drennan (*American Field Notes* 48:171, 1994) gives other details and includes a photograph. Storrs L. Olson pointed out to Allison Andors the remarkable physical resemblance between Farrand and the well-known avian anatomist and paleontologist Robert Wilson Shufeldt (1850–1934; p. H10 of Hume's *Ornithologists of the United States Army Medical Corps*, 1942).

John's field marks were his button-down Oxford shirt, ragg wool sweater, and tan cotton pants, the quizzical way he looked at you, his slight tremor, his ironic wit, dry sense of humor, deep pleasure in the natural world, and great expressions. One of them, Peter F. Cannell reminded me, was "more later," which he would say in parting. If only that were still so.