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IN MEMORIAM: ANDREW J. BERGER, 1915-1995

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ANDREW J. BERGER, 1915-1995

(Photograph taken in October 1986)

Andrew J. Berger, a member of the AOU since 1944, an Elective Member since 1952, and a Fellow since 1958, died in Hawaii, 4 July 1995. He was also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Born in Warren, Ohio, 30 August 1915, Andy grew up in Ohio, where he graduated in 1939 with a B.A. from Oberlin College. For a brief period he worked at the University of Missouri doing game management research, but left to enter the Army Air Corps in 1941, where he served until 1946. After the war he remained in the U.S. Air Force Reserve from which he retired as a Lt. Colonel. In 1946, Andy entered graduate school at the University of Michigan, earning an M.S. in 1947, and a Ph.D. in 1950. He held academic positions at the University of Michigan Medical School and later at the University of Hawaii, where he served as Chairman of the Department of Zoology. Following retirement, Andy continued his conservation and environmental consulting efforts. He is survived by son John and daughter Diana.

Andy loved birds, usually keeping several in his home, and he loved his science of ornithology, once noting that "zoologists and botanists are kids that never grew up. . . they do what they want to do and get paid for it." Andy did his Ph.D. work under the anatomist, Alfred Stockard, and but for his discovery that someone had already done an anatomical study of turtles, he might have pursued a career in herpetology. Instead, he studied the comparative functional morphology of the pelvic appendage in three genera of Cuculidae. In choosing a career in ornithology, Andy said that he was most influenced by Josselyn Van Tyne and George Miksch Sutton, noting that they showed him "the high standards that should be sought." Van Tyne and Sutton were as different as two ornithologists could be, Van Tyne domineering, rigidly organized and formal, and Sutton the artist, philosopher, and raconteur, yet both were great men of science and high standards. Andy was able to see the best in each and learn from both. Indeed, throughout his life he found challenges, satisfaction, and success from widely divergent sources: from anatomy to ecology, from the classroom to the courtroom, from scientific to popular writing, from aviculture to parenthood. Andy had a broad outlook on life—a capacity for dealing with and benefiting from diversity. He was always the careful observer and opportunist, developing serendipitous obser-

vations into significant research projects. When, while teaching at the University of Michigan Medical School, he was admonished to focus his research on human anatomy, Andy took a position at the University of Hawaii so that he might continue his many passions. The old cliché "diversity is the spice of life" seems epitomized in Andy. His research contributions to our knowledge of avian musculature (e.g. *Avian Myology*, coauthored with J. C. George; the chapter in O. S. Pettingill's classic text *Ornithology in Laboratory and Field*), career as an instructor in the anatomy department of the University of Michigan Medical School, and published textbook on human anatomy (*Elementary Human Anatomy*) define a highly successful career and persona. Yet, these were only the beginnings. Andy Berger the field biologist, conservationist, author of *Hawaiian Birdlife*, and of two ornithology textbooks (*Fundamentals of Ornithology*, coauthored with Van Tyne; and *Bird Study*), was equally, if not more successful. Diversity wasn't just the "spice" of his life, but the fuel that kept him so energized.

Perhaps the strong, yet different influences of Van Tyne and Sutton helped, but Andy traced his love of birds to his early childhood—he was ready for Van Tyne and Sutton, accompanying Van Tyne into the field to study Kirtland's Warblers, finding help from Sutton in raising and studying nestlings, all the while completing a dissertation in anatomy. From my perspective, one of Andy's greatest contributions came about with his fulfilment of a promise to Van Tyne. While in the field with Kirtland's Warblers, Van Tyne suffered chest pains and knew he was very ill. He asked Andy to promise to finish the ornithology text he had been working on. Less than a year later Van Tyne died and Andy completed their *Fundamentals of Ornithology*. The text went through two editions and remains a classic, with two features in particular that no text since has matched: an extremely useful glossary, and a systematic summary of the bird families of the world, each illustrated with a representative species drawn by Sutton.

In an article in the Indian journal *The Peacock* (December 1964, "Birds and the Cultured Mind"), Andy expressed his attitudes towards education and science, noting that "to be fully effective as a teacher and a scientist" one must "also be a philosopher and a humanitarian." Andy was all four and was incredibly effective because he was so well read. Among his per-

sonal effects was an 18-page, single-spaced list of books he had read and when he read them. He was described by one of his avid pupils, his daughter Diana, as not only the best father a daughter could want, but also a mentor and the best teacher she had ever had. She noted that "No one else could palm a handful of colored chalk and draw the circulation of the large intestine with such precision and grace."

Andy was a strong and vocal conservationist, always willing to take on any adversary for the sake of birds and a healthy environment. During a stay in India, for example, he published an eloquent and forceful criticism of inadequate efforts to protect the habitats of the Gir Forest (*Peacock*, May–June 1965, "Forestry, Conservation, and the Indian Lion"). At a teacher's conference in Honolulu, Andy publicly criticized First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson's effusive praise for conservation efforts in Hawaii, meriting the headline "Speech by Mrs. Johnson here labelled 'pure bunk.'"

Andy called it as he saw it, and when it came to conservation, he took his case effectively to both the scientific community and the public. He was a key expert witness in the successful

legal battle to protect the Palila (*Loxioides bailleui*) and its habitat. The ruling in the case defined "taking" as used in the Endangered Species Act to include not only direct physical harm to the species, but also to its habitat, making this a landmark case that has been crucial in arguments to protect many other species.

Andy was always active in professional societies and was especially fond of the Wilson Ornithological Society, strongly supporting its Van Tyne Library at the University of Michigan with contributions of books and journals. He was President of the Wilson Society when its annual meeting was held at Mississippi State University. I'll always remember him as he was on a canoe trip down the Tombigbee River following that meeting. Standing knee-deep in water with soaked pants and the ever-present flowered Hawaiian shirt, wanting to know everything we could tell him about the river and region, stopping us mid-sentence to hear a Swainson's Warbler, then providing persuasive arguments as to why the river should not be converted to the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. Always the student, always the ornithologist, always the teacher, Andy Berger.

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## IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT A. MCCABE, 1914–1995

JOHN T. EMLÉN, JR.<sup>1</sup> AND THOMAS R. MCCABE<sup>2</sup>

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Robert A. McCabe, Fellow of the AOU, died 29 May 1995 after a year-long battle with cancer. During his 81 years, Bob rose from the poverty of the depression years in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin to the highest positions and honors within his chosen profession. His contributions to the field of wildlife ecology will endure through the many students and professionals he influenced during his long and distinguished career.

Born in 1914, Bob spent his youth in the hard-working, but lower income German/Polish sec-

tion of Milwaukee. From Bob's early experiences he recognized the importance of improving one's situation through education. Finishing high school at the height of the depression meant delaying college until he could afford tuition. At this time, Bob was introduced to a circle of rabbit hunters who embraced his newly found enthusiasm for the out-of-doors by inviting him along to take care of the dogs and clean their quarry. Herein was the seed that blossomed into a life-long pursuit of knowledge regarding natural resource ecology. A life-