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IN MEMORIAM: JOSEPH R. MURPHY, 1925–1992

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Joseph Robison Murphy was born 14 June 1925 in Salt Lake City, Utah and died of complications from prostate cancer in Yorba Linda, California, 17 June 1992. Joe spent most of his early life in Long Beach, California. His early college education was at Brigham Young University and it was there, after a Ph.D. from and a teaching stint at the University of Nebraska (1951–1960), that he spent most of his professional life. He served in the Marine Corps in the Pacific Theater at Okinawa during World War II.

Joe was trained as an ecologist. His dissertation work was on the fauna and flora of hot sulphur pools in Yellowstone National Park. It was in the Park, working as a ranger-naturalist (1950–63), and as a seasonal summer ranger at Grand Teton National Park (1987–1991), that Joe was really in his element. His easy manner with people, his deep booming voice, his extemporaneous speaking ability, and his ability to lead discussions made him a favorite not only in the parks but with colleagues and students. Joe was among the most widely read of academics I have met. While he was not a Renaissance man in every sense of the word, he did give those who were a run for their money. He could discuss history, steam locomotives, Middle Eastern politics, and biology with equal ease and knowledge. His courses in the history of biology and human anatomy were exceptional and popular.

Some of Joe's early ornithological publications concerned colonial nesting birds and the Bald Eagle in Yellowstone Park. Perhaps it was

as a result of the Bald Eagle work that Joe's research emphasis shifted mainly to raptors. Most of his 20 or so graduate students worked on raptors, particularly the Bald Eagle. He served as president of The Raptor Research Foundation from 1975 to 1978, and as an editor of the *Journal of Raptor Research*. He became an Elective Member of the AOU in 1985. He also served as the North American Secretary for the World Working Group on Birds of Prey, International Council on Bird Preservation, for several years in the 1970s. One of his last ornithological contributions (*Condor* 89:205–229, 1987) stemmed from his membership on the Scientific Advisory Panel on the Spotted Owl. He collaborated on research projects with many international colleagues, especially those working on eagles in Australia. His many consulting jobs with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service usually revolved around the status of eagles or raptors that were rare, threatened, or endangered.

Joe's teaching assignments were as diverse as his knowledge of subjects. He was a favorite among undergraduates. In 1965, he was Honors Professor of the Year, an award given by the University to the outstanding professor teaching in the honors program. In 1967, he received the Maeser Teaching Award, the most prestigious teaching award that Brigham Young University grants. Soon after his early retirement from the University in 1985, his cancer began to give him trouble and he moved to California where he then remarried. He is survived by his wife and five children.