

**IN MEMORIAM: HARVEY I. FISHER, 1916-1994**

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**HARVEY I. FISHER, 1916-1994**

Harvey Irvin Fisher was born on 15 June 1916 in Edgar, Nebraska, and spent his youth near Blue Springs, Missouri. Following his A.A. from Kansas City in 1935, and B.S. from Kansas State University in 1937, he married Mildred Hoch; they had three sons. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1942. From 1942 through 1945, while at Berkeley, he was Technical Curator, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Biologist with the Crocker Radiation Laboratory, and Assistant Editor of *The Condor*. In 1944 he joined the AOU, became a Fellow in 1950, and was Editor of *The Auk* from 1948 to 1952 (to which he contributed numerous book reviews). He later became a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the International Academy of Science.

Harvey's long career in academia and work on Pacific ornithology began in 1945 as Assistant Professor at the University of Hawaii and Curator of Birds at the Bernice P. Bishop Museum in Honolulu. He was Founding Editor of *Pacific Science* from 1946 to 1948 and was an exchange professor to the University of Nevada at Reno from 1947 to 1948. From 1945 to 1972, he made 16 field excursions to Pacific Ocean sites including Micronesia, Polynesia, Melanesia, and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (known then as the Leeward Islands), usually accompanied by Mildred. During the 1960s he lived part of each year on Midway Atoll, where with the help of Mildred and students from Southern Illinois University, he studied the life history of the Laysan Albatross. The majority of the 37,974 albatrosses that he and his team banded were birds nesting on or reared within the triangle between the three abandoned aircraft runways on Eastern Island. In his intensive study plot at the northeast edge of this 4.5-hectare triangle he marked every nest with a numbered stake and captured annually both members of each nesting pair as well as their offspring. From four sites on Sand Island he transported more than 3,000 nearly fledged young to other islands, including 1,837 that survived a barge trip to Lisianski Island, 400 km away. Recaptures of 500 of the color-banded birds about seven years later showed that nearly all returned to the natal colony rather than the island of release (*Condor* 73:389-400). These albatross studies resulted in 18 publications in major journals; instead of the planned definitive book, he wrote with Mildred a children's book

*Wonders of the World of the Albatross* (1974), while Mildred alone wrote *The Albatross of Midway Island* (1970).

Other special interests included the functional anatomy of birds, particularly myology and osteology of cranes, doves, and New World vultures, with three reports on hatching muscles in grebes, gulls, and ducks. In 1946 he published a landmark paper on comparative anatomy of vultures (*American Midland Naturalist* 35: 545-727). He claimed to be the first to study footedness in birds (in 7,259 experimental landings by 11 domestic pigeons, seven pigeons were right-footed, three left, and one "ambidextrous;" *Wilson Bulletin* 69:170-177). In all he published approximately 100 papers with a broad range of topics; about 30% covered aspects of avian anatomy and functional morphology, 15% focused on the biology of albatrosses, and 20% covered various aspects of Pacific science. Funding sources for his research included university grants, American Philosophical Society, American Wildlife Institute, Office of Naval Research, and National Geographic Society.

From 1948 to 1955, Harvey was an Associate Professor at the University of Illinois. Then, following a summer of teaching at the University of Omaha, he became Professor and Chair of the Department of Zoology at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. With the encouragement and support of SIU President Delyte Morris, and in step with the rapid development of the University, Harvey greatly expanded the Zoology undergraduate and graduate programs. In 1961 he established and until 1971 chaired the interdepartmental program in biological sciences. He was one of the moving forces for the founding of the Pine Hills Field Station, the modernization of Life Science I, the planning and construction of Life Science II, the establishment of SIU-Edwardsville, and the establishment of the SIU Medical School. He served on numerous local, state, and national committees and participated in a variety of organizations, including Chapter Presidencies of Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, and the American Association of University Professors. Harvey was on the Board of Editors of the *Illinois Biological Monographs* from 1952 to 1955 and was Editor of *Transactions of the Illinois State Academy of Science* from 1955 to 1960.

Harvey was dedicated to his work; once he had an idea, he worked long and hard to get it implemented. Colleagues remember him as en-

ergetic, aggressive, reliable, and obliging. He enjoyed art and music and was a prolific reader. He supervised several Master's and Ph.D. students, wrote teaching manuals, and co-authored publications with colleagues (e.g. *The Myology of the Whooping Crane* as well as *Functional Anatomy of the Feeding Apparatus in Waterfowl* with Donald C. Goodman). Harvey also made educational films, some with the American Institute of Biological Sciences. One film of which he was most proud was "'Albatross'—A life history of *Diomedea immutabilis*" that was produced by SIUC Film Productions in 1967.

In 1971 Harvey stepped down as Chair of

Zoology and in 1972 became Assistant Dean of the SIU Medical School. He retired from Southern Illinois University in 1976 and settled on a farm in north-central Missouri that he had inherited from his parents. After Mildred's death in May 1990, Harvey married Marjorie Potter, a close friend of Mildred's. Harvey died in Columbia, Missouri, on 28 May 1994 after a brief illness, with burial at McCullough Cemetery in Triplett, near his retirement home. He will be missed by family and friends. Harvey influenced the lives of many students, colleagues, and kin; his accomplishments within his profession and SIU will be long lasting.

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## IN MEMORIAM: WILLIAM H. DRURY, 1921-1992

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William Holland Drury, a member of the AOU since 1951, an Elective Member since 1967, and a Fellow since 1978, died of prostate cancer at his home in Bar Harbor, Maine, on 26 March 1992. He was Professor of Human Ecology at the College of the Atlantic, where he had taught since 1976. He had earlier served as Director of Research at the Massachusetts Audubon Society (1956-1976) and as Junior Fellow and Assistant Professor of Biology at Harvard University (1948-1956). He is survived by his wife, Mary, and four sons.

Born in Middletown, Rhode Island, on 18 March 1921, Bill was educated at St. George's School, Middletown, where his father taught art. He spent an influential year at Haileybury College in England in 1938-39. Both his parents were artists, and they encouraged him to draw, think, and develop his own interests. Excused from organized sports in high school, he spent much time alone, exploring the landscape of

Newport County and developing a lifelong interest in birds and their behavior. When he entered Harvard in 1939, however, he found little respect for field studies: most "biology" was conducted in the laboratory, and the "ecology" that was taught was deterministic and reductionist. He graduated *magna cum laude* in 1942, but his senior thesis on the role of behavioral characteristics in species recognition was almost rejected. He passed only because he could answer factual questions on biochemistry posed by George Wald.

After a three-year spell in the Navy during World War II, Bill returned to Harvard in 1947. Unable to pursue his interests in field ornithology, he enrolled as a graduate student in botany and geology, earning his Ph.D. in 1951 with a thesis on bog flats and physiographic processes in Southeast Alaska. He was influenced at this period by Hugh Raup and Kirk Bryan; his field work gave him insight into the