

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

IAN C. T. NISBET

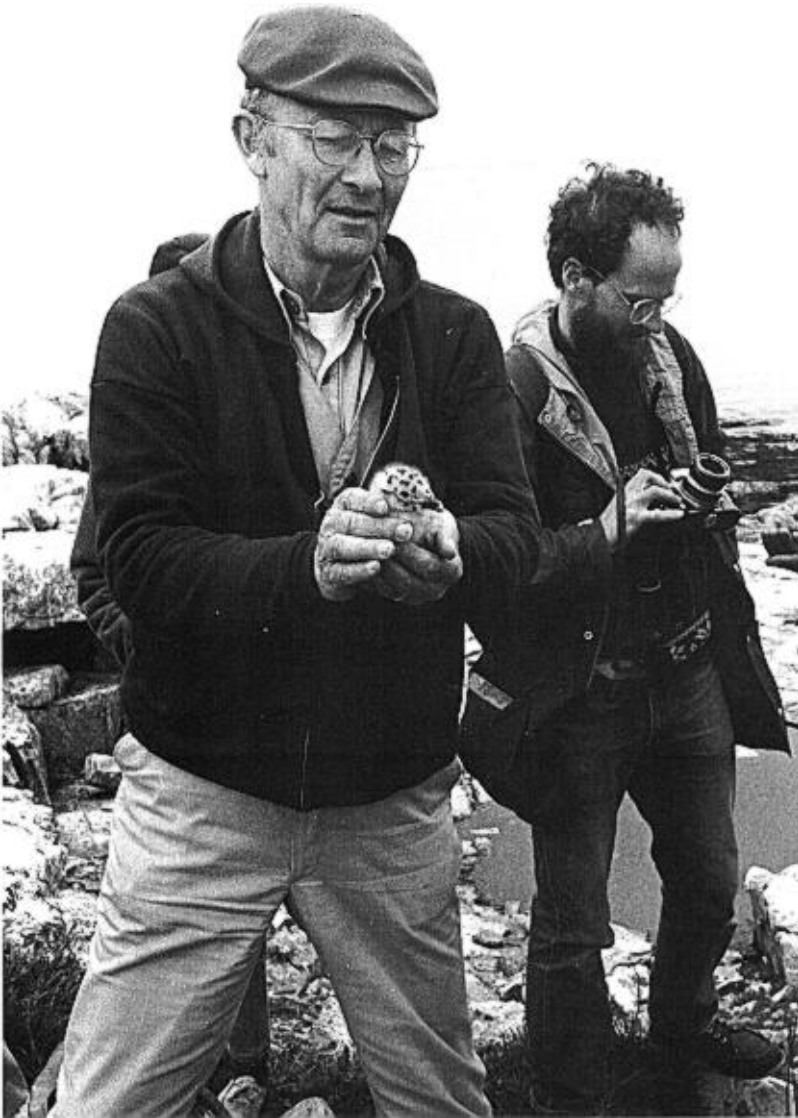
150 Alder Lane, North Falmouth, Massachusetts 02556, USA

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



WILLIAM H. DRURY, 1921-1992

(On left holding Herring Gull chick; photograph taken in 1990)

dynamic nature of vegetation development and its relationship to geological processes. He also was profoundly influenced by Ernst Mayr, developing a sense for the pre-eminent importance and unifying role of natural selection in biology. He started teaching at Harvard in 1952 and continued as a Lecturer until 1976. His courses were unique in integrating geology,

botany, animal behavior, population dynamics, and evolutionary biology.

In 1954, he accompanied Josselyn Van Tyne on a field expedition to Bylot Island, NWT, where he conducted behavioral and ecological studies on 12 breeding bird species. Also in 1954, thanks to the first of a series of travel grants from a wealthy classmate, he traveled widely

in Europe, attending the International Ornithological Congress in Basel and visiting a number of ornithological field stations. Interactions with David Lack, Hubert Kluyver, Hans Löhrl, and Lars von Hartmann reinforced his conviction that good science could be done through field work on birds, an idea that was still unfashionable among academics and granting agencies in the USA.

His opportunity came in 1956, when a major bequest to the Massachusetts Audubon Society led to the establishment of the Hatheway School of Conservation Education. Bill Drury became its first Director. He was probably the first Ph.D. scientist to be employed by a conservation organization in North America, and initially he was free to conduct his own scientific program. In addition to providing technical advice to the Massachusetts Audubon Society and other environmental organizations, he developed a small but vigorous research station in Lincoln, Massachusetts, which attracted a succession of visiting scientists from Europe and North America. His primary research in 1956–1960 was a comparative study of breeding behavior and ecology in plovers, only part of which has been published (*Auk* 78:176–216, 1961). He also conducted (jointly with this writer) a series of radar studies of migration, and first identified and studied the transoceanic migration of the Black-poll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*; *Bird-Banding* 34: 107–159, 1963).

His research time soon became fragmented, however, by the need to work on pressing environmental problems. He was drawn into the pesticide controversies of the 1950s and 1960s, working at both local and national levels. He served on several panels of the President's Science Advisory Committee under Presidents Kennedy and Nixon, and he was a co-author of the Committee's influential report *Use of Pesticides* (1963). In 1960, following the bird-induced crash of a Lockheed Electra at Logan Airport, he was pressed to work on Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) and had to terminate his plover studies. Characteristically, he saw this as an opportunity to do good science, conducting a large-scale study of population dynamics of Herring Gulls (*Ecology* 49:644–676, 1968) and an extensive, seven-year study of this open, expanding population (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service *Wildlife Research Report* 2:173–212, 1972). He then broadened his work on seabirds, starting a study of terns in Massachusetts, conducting a

field survey and historical review of seabird breeding colonies along the New England coast (*Bird-Banding* 44:267–313, 1973; 45:1–15, 1974), and doing four years' field work in Alaska under the OCSEAP program.

Increasingly frustrated by restrictions on his field work, he moved in 1976 to the newly founded College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine. There he helped to develop the College's individual-oriented teaching program and its field-based curriculum in biology. His 16 years at the College were primarily occupied with teaching, but he continued work on the flora and seabirds of Maine islands, promoted the restoration of seabird colonies through gull control, and started a long-term study of terns at Petit Manan.

Although most of his publications were on birds, he thought of himself primarily as an ecologist, and taught courses in human ecology in the last few years of his life. He collected plants in many boreal areas and published papers on the flora of Alaska, Yukon, NWT, Quebec, and Maine. He also published papers on the ecology of archaeological sites in France and Newfoundland. His long-term interest was in the inter-relationships among systems—landscapes, geology, plants, animals, and humans. He developed his world-view when the conflict between the deterministic ecology of Clements and the individualistic ecology of Gleason was at its height. He was an ultra-Gleasonian, continually promoting the individualistic concept of natural systems, the dynamic nature of landscapes and communities, and the decisive importance of natural selection. He was an unremitting critic of ecological theories that purported to describe structure and order in natural communities, regarding such theories as self-delusion or worse. He himself could see only disorder and change in natural systems, and he saw natural selection as a disruptive force hindering the development of orderly relationships. Unlike most ecologists, he believed that the conflict between Clementsian and Gleasonian thinking remained unresolved even in the 1980s, finding determinism and teleology in the thinking and writing of most ecologists, even those who did not acknowledge the influence of Clements and perhaps had never read Clements' work. In the 1970s, he bitterly resented the ascendancy of the deterministic theories of Eugene Odum and Robert MacArthur, both of whom he regarded as crypto-Clementsians. He

even criticized his colleagues and natural allies in the environmental movement, believing that reductionist thinking underlay much of the nascent science of conservation biology.

Like Gleason and others who have regarded natural systems as inherently complex and disorderly, Bill Drury failed to gain widespread acceptance of his views, in part because he found it difficult to formulate a coherent alternative theory. Indeed, he probably thought that a general theory of ecology would be *ipso facto* wrong. His most important and influential paper was a critical review of the concept of ecological succession (1973, reprinted in *Benchmark Papers in Ecology* 5:287–324, 1977), in which he sketched an alternative to the traditional theory of succession, but did not develop it very far. He did not live to see the emergence of “patch dynamics” as a theory of landscape processes, but he might well have thought this unacceptably deterministic also. In the last few years of his life, he was working on a book-length manuscript, tentatively entitled *A Far From Equilibrium Ecology*, or *The Gods Must Be Crazy*. This was about three-quarters complete at the time of his death, and his colleagues hope to complete and publish it (although it is not clear that Bill had articulated enough of his own ideas to make this possible).

In addition to his field research and conceptual thinking, Bill Drury was a dedicated conservationist and an accomplished artist. Because much of his best work remains unpublished, he may be remembered best as a teacher. He introduced several generations of students to the real biology of natural systems, gently encouraging them to go into the field and observe for themselves, to test their preconceptions against observations, to question their assumptions, and in many cases to modify or reject the ideas they had acquired from textbooks or previous teachers. He has trained many scientists to think independently, and these in turn are passing on this characteristic to their own students. In the term coined by Whitehead, this legacy constitutes Bill Drury’s “objective immortality.”

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## IN MEMORIAM: WALTER R. SPOFFORD, 1908–1995

DEAN AMADON

*The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street,  
New York, New York 10024, USA*

Walter Richardson Spofford II, a member of the AOU since 1927, and an Elective Member since 1967, was born in Hackensack, New Jersey, on 25 November 1908. The family moved to eastern Massachusetts, where Walter met and was inspired by the numerous local naturalists, including W. H. Forbush and A. C. Bent. Professionally, however, with a Ph.D. from Yale in 1938, he taught neuroanatomy at Cornell Medical College, Vanderbilt University, and later at the Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, New York.

Of 34 notes published by Spoff in *The Migrant* during his years in Tennessee, 70 percent pertain to birds of prey, his abiding passion. He found Peregrine Falcons nesting in the shattered top of a giant cypress in Reelfoot Swamp

and years later a rare tree nest of Golden Eagles in New York. His report on the shooting of wintering eagles in Texas from aircraft helped curb that pernicious activity. For a time he was a falconer. Some regretted that Walter never wrote books on his favorite birds, the two eagles and the Peregrine, but he preferred to make his unparalleled knowledge available to all through correspondence and personal contacts. In Ralph Palmer’s account of the Golden Eagle in the *Handbook of North American Birds*, for example, one finds frequent mention of Spoff’s contributions.

Dr. Spofford met his wife, then Dr. Sally Hoyt and *de facto* manager of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, at Ithaca. Sally is well known to members of birding clubs in New York for