

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 Because much of his best work remains unpublished, he may be remembered best as a teacher.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

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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

her many contributions to *The Kingbird* and for her book, co-authored with O. S. Pettingill, Jr., *Enjoying Birds in Upstate New York*. The Spoffords made a memorable trip to study eagles in Africa in the company of Leslie Brown and Peter Steyn.

After retirement, Walter and Sally moved to their bird-rich Rancho-Aguila in the Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona. Birders came from far

and near to see the rarities. If Spoff occasionally was overwhelmed by the "dickey-birders," he had but to gaze at a mighty crag across the road where Peregrines were nesting, or to arrange a trip back east to check eagle eyries from Maine to New York. Death came to this gifted man in Douglas, Arizona, on 3 December 1995.

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IN MEMORIAM: WILLIAM H. MARSHALL, 1912-1996

C. STUART HOUSTON

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William Hampton Marshall was born 20 April 1912 in Montreal, Canada. Three years later his family moved to California, where he graduated from Berkeley High School in 1929 and from the University of California Berkeley, in biology, in 1933. After obtaining a master's degree in forestry from the University of Michigan in 1935, he worked for the U.S. Biological Survey and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, studying geese on the Bear River Refuge and Sharp-tailed Grouse in the Cache Valley, Utah. In 1942, he obtained his doctorate in forestry from the University of Michigan, and in 1945 became a professor of wildlife management and ecology at the University of Minnesota, where his studies included coots, muskrats, the reintroduction of bulrush into mud flats, and early radio-telemetry studies of porcupines. One monograph and a major paper dealt with plant and animal interrelationships on native prairie, and implications for management. He was director of field biology programs at the Univer-

sity of Minnesota's Lake Itasca Biological Station (1959 to 1970), a member of the Minnesota Governor's Conservation Advisory Board, and President of the Minnesota Academy of Sciences (1954 to 1955). He received the Green Award from the Minneapolis Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1957. His research grants and fellowships included a Fulbright Scholarship to New Zealand.

A member of the AOU since 1935, he became an Elective Member in 1950. He retired from the University in 1978, and died at Clarkston, Washington on 17 January 1996. He was predeceased by his wife, Leith, in 1991, and by a son, Guy, who died in a tragic car-train accident. He is survived by his son, Alan, of Lewiston, Idaho. In his memory a William Marshall memorial fund will support Native American students at the Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho. I am indebted to Arthur S. Hawkins for assistance in preparing this memorial.