

continued to study birds at the museum as a Research Associate of the Smithsonian Institution. He spent much of his time studying morphological variation of widely distributed birds correlated with ecological aspects of various parts of their range. Major studies completed after his retirement were of the Song Sparrow and the American Robin. These studies were logical extensions of his interests as reflected in his systematic writings of many years.

John was a member of many scientific and conservation organizations, beginning with the one he helped organize in Buffalo in 1929. He joined the AOU in that same year, becoming an Elective Member in 1941 and a Fellow in 1947. Of all the professional societies, John was most active in the AOU. He was chairman of several committees and a member of the Council for several years before his election to the presidency in 1968. John was greatly amused when a resolution adopted by the AOU during his presidency filtered down through the FWS to him to draft a response. He later chaired the important ad hoc Committee on Scientific and Educational Use of Wild Birds whose report as a Supplement to *The Auk* in 1975 was one of the first responses to the tightening of policy and regulations on collecting permits. John was also President of the Biological Society of Washington, the Washington Biologists' Field Club, and the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia. He also belonged to the Cooper and Wilson Ornithological Societies, the American Society of Mammalogists, the Wildlife Society, the National Audubon Society, and the Cosmos

Club of Washington, to name a few. John donated his journals to the FWS offices with which he was associated in the museum as long as he was in the Washington area. Much of his personal ornithological library was donated to George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

John and Louise left their Lake Barcroft home, where they had extensively grown flowers, trees, and shrubs (mainly azaleas), and moved into an apartment in 1983. Louise's health failed, and she suffered a long, painful illness with osteoporosis and diabetes. She died in September 1985. John continued to come to the museum regularly to continue his research on the American Robin until 1988, when he moved from the Washington area to Tucson, Arizona. There he was close to his daughter Betsy (Elizabeth Hanson) and her three grown children, Chuck, Jim and Kristy, a loving, closely knit family, and not too distant from his other daughter, Jane Katyryniuk, who lived in California. John greatly enjoyed rides in Saguaro National Monument and visits to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, and 4-wheel-drive jeep trips to the mountains around Tucson with grandson Chuck. John's health declined gradually, particularly affecting his balance. In the months before his death he had problems with circulation in his legs. While still in recovery from those problems, he died of a stroke on 3 May 1995.

This memorial relies heavily on an autobiographical sketch that John deposited in the AOU Archives. I appreciate comments and suggestions from many of John's friends and colleagues and his daughter Betsy.

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*The Auk* 114(4):751-753, 1997

## IN MEMORIAM: BEATRICE WETMORE, 1910-1997

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Bea Wetmore, Guarantor of the American Ornithologists' Union, died unexpectedly but peacefully in her home in Silver Spring, Maryland on 1 March 1997, at the age of 87. She was born Annie Beatrice van der Biest Thielen on 11

January 1910 on the island of Curaçao. Conversant at least in Dutch, English, Spanish, and Papiamentu, the patois of the Dutch West Indies, she served as secretary/translator for various entities of the Dutch government in Washing-



BEATRICE WETMORE, 1910–1997

(With Alexander Wetmore, 25 February 1962, El Copé, Coclé, Panama)

ton, and in Brisbane, Australia, during World War II. She became an American citizen in August 1944, the year she met Alexander Wetmore (1886–1978), the doyen of American ornithology (see *Auk* 97:608–615, 1980), whom she married on 16 December 1953. This was not long after Wetmore retired as Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, where he had served in administrative positions since 1924. Free to conduct full-time research, Alex continued his annual collecting expeditions to Panama, begun in 1944, the last taking place in 1966. Bea accompanied him on these trips and adapted to the diverse range of field conditions encountered, learning, for example, how to bake cookies on an open fire. Their last joint collecting expedition was to her former homeland in 1969, which resulted in a nice series of specimens from Bonaire.

Bea was a diligent and highly efficient secretary to Alex during his last quarter century of producing scientific publications and correspondence. She also accompanied him to countless scientific meetings and entertained ornithologists from around the world in the Wetmore home in Glen Echo, Maryland. The beauty of the place, with its magnificent downstairs library, was greatly enhanced by Bea's avidity as a gardener, her spring wildflowers being particularly enviable. Although she was completely dedicated to Alex and nursed him with devotion through his last difficult years of decline, Bea was a strong, independent woman with an unwaveringly pragmatic and unsentimental outlook regarding herself, which combined well with her warm and voluble personality.

After Alex died in 1978, his library was removed and the home was sold, but Bea kept the

vast accumulated treasure of bird paintings, prints, figurines, mementos of field expeditions, and other reminders of a long and productive ornithological life, and moved into a condominium. This process never stopped for long. Her friends would jest that her hobby was moving, as she changed residences some 10 or 12 times in 18 years, apparently deriving much pleasure from rearranging all her Wetmorabilia in a new setting at frequent intervals, thus keeping alive the memory of Alex for herself and all those who visited her. Her longevity deprived her of many cherished friends, yet her social circle was sufficiently wide that she never seemed to lack for companionship. She remained cheerful and active to the end.

Although she had no scientific inclinations of her own, Bea was a great benefactress of ornithology, becoming a Guarantor of the AOU in 1979 and regularly contributing very generously to the Wetmore Fund of the AOU and the Wetmore Fund of the Division of Birds at the National Museum of Natural History. She also devoted much effort towards compiling an ornithological gazetteer of Panama, extracting locality information from Alex's *Birds of the Republic of Panama* and from his field journals. Bea Wetmore lives on in the name of a distinctive subspecies of Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum beatriceae*, from the llanos of west-central Panama, her only other survivor being Margaret Wetmore Harlan, Alex's daughter from his first marriage.

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*The Auk* 114(4):753, 1997

## IN MEMORIAM: SAMUEL A. GRIMES, 1906–1996

MARGARET C. POWELL

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Samuel A. Grimes died on 2 November 1996 at the age of 90 in Jacksonville, Florida. He was born 5 May 1906 in Carlisle, Kentucky, and moved to Jacksonville in 1912. Although he had a long career in photoengraving, he became known worldwide as an ornithologist and photographer of birds. His photographs appeared in *Encyclopedia Britannica*, *World Book Encyclopedia*, *National Geographic*, *Bent's Life Histories*, and many other books and journals. The first color photograph of a bird reproduced in *Bird-Lore* was his image of a Roseate Spoonbill with young. His discovery of the first known Cattle Egret nest in North America at Lake Okeechobee, Florida, on 5 May 1953 made headlines round the world. His sighting of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker was mentioned in Alexander Sprunt's *Florida Bird Life*. A collection of his work was published in 1958 as *An Album of Southern Birds*. Over two-thirds of these superb photographs are of birds at their nests, includ-

ing the secretive Black Rail, a testimony to his great skill at finding nests.

Sam's interest in birds began at age 5. He participated in the Duval County Audubon Christmas Bird Count on his bicycle at age 13. He joined the Wilson Ornithological Society in 1924 and the AOU in 1925, becoming an Elective Member in 1951. He was a charter member of the Florida Ornithological Society and in 1979 became their first Honorary Member. He was President Emeritus of the Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee. On his birthday in 1984, the University of North Florida awarded him an honorary Doctor of Science degree for his many contributions to ornithology in Florida.

Sam also pioneered in recording bird songs in the field. In 1979 he produced a phonograph record, *The Vocally Versatile Mockingbird*, from over two miles of taped song of his favorite bird. His willingness to share both his pictures and his wide knowledge of birds made him an inspiration to all who knew him.