

Pierce Brodkorb, elected Honorary Member of the Florida Ornithological Society.



Pierce Brodkorb (left) at Florida Ornithological Society meeting held at Ft. Pierce, 1979. With him are (left to right): Glen E. Woolfenden, one of his students; William B. Robertson, Jr.; and Frances C. James.

Pierce Brodkorb is a name well known among ornithologists and paleontologists throughout the world. In addition to his monumental five-part *Catalogue of fossil birds*, the standard work in paleornithology, he is coauthor of *Vertebrates of the United States* and has published over 170 papers in scientific journals. He is presently Professor of Zoology at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida, where, since 1946, he has taught courses in ornithology, avian paleontology, evolution, zoogeography, and related subjects. He received his B.A. in Zoology from the University of Illinois in 1933 and his Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Michigan in 1936. As an undergraduate, he worked for the Field Museum of Natural History and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. For the first ten years after receiving his doctorate, he was Assistant Curator of Birds at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, where he also worked while a graduate student. These years of museum research and field work, much of the latter in the wildest parts of Mexico, not only resulted in a series of valuable scientific specimens and papers but are a storehouse of tales for students who now live in a world that seems too tame and too well known by comparison. He has served as consultant to the Florida Geological Survey, the British Broadcasting Corporation, and the Government of Bermuda, where he did field work in 1960. He joined the American Ornithologists' Union in 1925, the Cooper Ornithological Society in 1940, and the Wilson Ornithological Society in 1951. In recognition of his contributions to the field of ornithology, he was elected a Fellow of the AOU in 1958 and received the Union's highest award, the Brewster Medal, in 1978. A classical scholar as well as a zoologist, his command of Greek and Latin has enabled him to play an important role in the resolution of many difficult and complex questions of

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Oliver L. Austin, Jr., Cont.

As Curator of Ornithology at the Florida State Museum, Oliver Austin expanded the study collection of bird specimens and continued his writing and research. Much of his field time was devoted to banding Sooty Terns on the Dry Tortugas—a continuation of his long fascination with both banding and terns that began with Common Terns on Cape Cod and formed the basis for his work on avian demography. He has written many technical papers and books but perhaps is best known for his “Birds of the World,” a massive compendium published by Golden Press in 1961 and now translated into seven languages. Austin’s general prowess with the English language is legendary, and one of his greatest contributions has been his rigorous editorial work for technical and popular publications. Among his long list of credits: he served as Editor of *The Auk* for ten years; expanded the “Recent Literature” section of *Bird-Banding* to the enormously useful reference source it is today; compiled and edited the last three volumes of Bent’s “Life Histories”; and even in his retirement (since 1973) has continued his editorial services for the *Bulletin of the Florida State Museum*. He also still conducts an active banding program using the Japanese mist nets he introduced to American banders and researchers after World War II. He has just produced the third edition (this time with J. W. Hardy, his successor as Curator at the FSM) of his checklist of “Birds of the Gainesville Region, Florida” and continues to participate in a weekly call-in radio program for birdwatchers. He was a Charter Member of the Florida Ornithological Society until his election as Honorary Member in 1982.—MARY H. CLENCH.

Pierce Brodkorb, Cont.

zoological and anatomical nomenclature. He is a member of the International Committee on Avian Anatomical Nomenclature, which compiled and authored the *Nomina Anatomica Avium*, the world-wide standard anatomical dictionary of birds. He has himself described and authored at least 187 bird taxa, including one order, eleven families, 20 genera, and 78 species of fossil birds, two genera and 75 species or subspecies of living birds. A measure of the esteem in which he is held is that no fewer than 16 taxa have been named for him by his colleagues. His work on fossil birds has spanned the globe and their entire 140-million-year evolutionary history. He has made an especially important contribution to our knowledge of the fossil birds of Florida from such localities as Bone Valley, Reddick, Haile, Arredondo, and Thomas Farm. These Florida fossils have included such notables as *Titanis walleri* (Family Phorusrhacidae), an enormous flightless “terror crane” from the late Pleistocene deposits of the Sante Fe River and the first fossil flamingo from eastern North America, *Phoenicopterus floridanus*, from the Miocene Bone Valley Formation in Polk County. He has served as editor and reviewer for countless books and articles for most of the major scientific journals and publishing houses. Much of the contemporary literature of avian paleontology passes under his critical eye while still in manuscript form. Thus he has for decades contributed significantly to the improvement in quality of the literature for an entire field of scientific endeavor. Pierce Brodkorb represents the best in the tradition of teacher-scientist, and with a grin of delight he will boast of being an academic grandfather, for his students are now themselves producing another generation of young scientists.—DIANA G. MATTHIESEN and GLEN E. WOOLFENDEN.