

## IN MEMORIAM: KLAUS IMMELMANN, 1935–1987

RUSSELL P. BALDA

*Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona 86011 USA*

The world lost a truly brilliant biologist on 8 September 1987, when Professor Klaus Immelmann, an Honorary Fellow of the AOU since 1976, unexpectedly passed away. Born on 5 May 1935 in Berlin, Professor Immelmann received degrees from the Gutenberg University in Mainz and the University of Zurich. Since 1973, he was Professor of Biology and Director of the Institute of Ethology at the University of Bielefeld in West Germany. In addition, he served as Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research (1978), a unique facility known for its many stimulating and contemporary seminars, and as Dean of the Biology Facility (1985–1986).

Immelmann's major research focused on the ontogeny of behavior in birds and mammals. A yearlong visit to Australia, early in his career, resulted in three books on various ecological topics, and a lifelong series of questions about behavior in birds. His classic studies on the early development of behavior, especially imprinting in Zebra Finches, have stood the test of time.

Professor Immelmann was born in the shadow of the famous Berlin Zoo when it was considered one of the top zoos in the world, if not the very best. He claimed he was himself imprinted on zoos. His love and passion for everything about zoos is not commonly known, but his support for zoos and his university-level course in zoo biology were highly regarded.

Immelmann was an imaginative, active, restless scientist of international stature. In addition to an intense research program that resulted in more than 100 publications and a number of books, he contributed actively to professional societies. He served as Secretary (1965–1972) and President (1973–1982) of the German Ornithological Society (DOG), and as President of the German Zoological Society (1983–1984). He was President of the 15th International Ethological Congress (Bielefeld, 1977) and of the 19th International Ornithological Congress (Ottawa, Canada, 1986).

He made numerous visits to the United States. A stimulating and dynamic speaker, he served as a visiting professor at UCLA (1980) and the University of Wisconsin (1981) and presented seminars and guest lectures in impeccable English at many colleges and universities. His talk given at the 16th I. O. C. (Canberra, Australia), on the use of behavior as a taxonomic tool, was one of the finest talks I have ever had the pleasure to hear.

Professor Immelmann will be sadly missed by his many friends and colleagues in the AOU as well as by all students of avian biology and behavior. A more complete memorial can be found in *Journal für Ornithologie* 129: 258–260.