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IN MEMORIAM: BOONSONG LEKAGUL, 1907–1992

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Boonsong Lekagul, world renowned biologist and conservationist, died 9 February 1992 after a lengthy illness that had incapacitated him for several years. He was born 15 December 1907 at Songkhla in southern Thailand, educated in public schools there, and received his medical degree in 1933 from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. He is survived by his wife, Suparb, and five sons, three of whom are also medical doctors.

Dr. Boonsong led a very active and productive life. He established the first polyclinic in Thailand, in Old Town, Bangkok, in 1935. An enthusiastic hunter and collector, he turned his efforts to conservation as Thailand's wildlife and forests were threatened with depletion. He established the Bangkok Bird Club and was active with the International Committee for Bird Protection and the World Wildlife Fund.

In demand by children as a lecturer and storyteller, he published conservation news in En-

glish and Thai and numerous pamphlets for the education of school children. His major work was the first guide to Thai birds, titled *Bird Guide of Thailand* in 1968; the second edition with Edward W. Cronin, Jr., appeared in 1974, and a further revision was published as *A Guide to the Birds of Thailand* with Philip D. Round in 1991. He also co-authored, with Karen Askins, Jarujinta Nabhitabhata and Aroon Samruadit, the *Field Guide to the Butterflies of Thailand* in 1977 and the monumental *Mammals of Thailand* with Jeffrey A. McNeely in 1977.

Boonsong was an accomplished artist who illustrated his first bird guide, as well as some other of his publications. For his many efforts to guide Thailand's people and government into an appreciation of their environment, he received recognition by the Royal Family of Thailand, became a Corresponding Fellow of the AOU in 1974, and received the Getty Award from America in 1979.