

## In Memoriam



*The Auk* 110(2):376, 1993

### IN MEMORIAM: WILLIAM GEORGE, 1925–1992

PETER STETTENHEIM

*Meriden Road, #64-255, Lebanon, New Hampshire 03766, USA*

William George, a member of the AOU since 1960 and Elective Member since 1969, died at a hospital in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, on 18 April 1992. Born in Santa Cruz, California, on 2 February 1925, he attended Stanford University and served in the Naval Air Corps during World War II. Initially an English major, he wrote and published several short stories during and after the war. He switched to ornithology and the University of Arizona, where he earned undergraduate and graduate degrees. His doctoral research on the classification of the Olive Warbler (*Peucedramus taeniatus*) led him to conclude that it was not a parulid warbler, as heretofore supposed (1962. *Am. Mus. Novit.* No. 2103).

From 1961 to 1964, Bill worked at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, first as a Frank M. Chapman Fellow and then as a Research Fellow. He spent a year in South America collecting songbirds for the Museum.

He joined the faculty at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale in 1964. He was promoted and attained full professorship. Bill taught courses in invertebrate zoology, vertebrate zoology, and ornithology. Diagnosed with cancer in 1985, however, he was forced to cease teaching the next year because of failing vision and the inability to walk.

His research interests included oscine hyoid structure, wing plumage, avian taxonomy, the habits of

woodpeckers, raptor management, the avifauna of southern Illinois, and the life history of the southeastern shrew (*Sorex longirostris*). Among ornithologists, though, he will be remembered chiefly for his studies of predation by domestic cats. Living on a farm in Cobden, Illinois, he was aroused by observations of his own cats. They prompted him to investigate the extent of such predation and its consequences for natural predators. He published his research in numerous journal papers and presented his findings at ornithological meetings. Bill was working on a book on the cat predation studies and his wife, Marian, a joint author, intends to finish it for him.

He was a member of several ornithological societies and served on the AOU committees on Research and on the Fuertes and Nice Awards. He helped to establish the Cave Creek Wood Warbler Sanctuary near his home.

Bill was seriously ill for the last seven years of his life. A voracious reader, he was very discouraged by his loss of eyesight. "In spite of his handicaps," his wife writes, "he remained essentially unchanged: contentious, irreverent, curious, scornful of hypocrisy, funny. He charmed his nurses and infuriated his doctors." He is survived by his wife, two daughters, and two grandchildren.

---

*The Auk* 110(2):376–377, 1993

### IN MEMORIAM: ARTHUR BERNARD SINGER, 1917–1990

CHANDLER S. ROBBINS

*Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland 20708, USA*

Arthur Bernard Singer was born 4 December 1917, and died 6 April 1990. Although brought up in New York City, Arthur developed an early fascination with birds. His favorite haunts were the Bronx Zoo and the American Museum of Natural History, where Robert Cushman Murphy encouraged his efforts and

where Arthur acquired a worldwide perspective. After graduating from Cooper Union Art School in New York City in 1939, he began his career as an art teacher, art director, and designer. His real interest, however, was in depicting the postures and plumages of birds and mammals. As early as 1941 his wildlife art