

from Minnesota hunters and showed how frequency of color phases varied in relation to grouse population cycles, providing a basis for other researchers to demonstrate the linkage of color phases and aspects of grouse behavior and reproduction.

Hundreds of students, researchers, land managers and private forest owners have been influenced by Gullion and his research. In the Ruffed Grouse Society he played a key role by authoring wildlife-management booklets and newsletter articles, and by serving on the national board of directors and as chairman of the research committee since 1972.

Gullion authored over 160 professional and

popular articles including *Grouse of the North Shore* (1984) and *The Ruffed Grouse* (1989, Minocqua, Wisconsin). During his final year he was honored by the Minnesota Forestry Association with an award for "excellence in wildlife habitat management"; by the North Central Section of the Wildlife Society with its premier award, the Professional Award of Merit; by the Izaak Walton League with its Honor Roll Award; and by Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson for "outstanding work in forestry and Ruffed Grouse research." The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, University of Minnesota, has established a fund for an endowed chair to honor Gordon Gullion and to perpetuate his work.

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IN MEMORIAM: HAROLD H. AXTELL, 1904–1992

ROBERT F. ANDRLE

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Born in Tuxedo, New York, in the Hudson Highlands, Harold Axtell's interest in nature commenced at an early age. After years as a musician with dance bands, he entered Cornell University in 1940 and earned his doctorate in vertebrate zoology in 1947. He then came to the Buffalo Museum of Science as curator of biology, retiring in 1969.

While at Cornell, Harold associated with Arthur Allen, Paul Kellogg and Albert Brand, particularly in their early work studying and recording bird vocalizations, for which his acute hearing and musical training made him especially expert all his life. His phonetic renderings of bird sounds such as, for example, the White-throated Sparrow and Connecticut Warbler, ran into the many hundreds.

An all-around naturalist and field biologist, Harold concentrated on ornithology and particularly the fine points of field identification

of birds, to which he devoted a great deal of time in later years. He became internationally known for his expertise in this and was respected and admired by many field birders as well as professional ornithologists. In the 1950s he pioneered a verification system for bird sight records for the Buffalo Ornithological Society, methods of which have been incorporated or adapted in subsequent systems by other organizations.

In connection with this system he wrote several thoughtful and comprehensive articles in *The Prothonotary*, the Buffalo Ornithological Society's publication, on the question of whether a sight record can be scientific and how to write verification reports on them. He was elected a Fellow of the Buffalo Ornithological Society and in 1951 became an Elective Member of the American Ornithologists' Union.