

ciated character trait as his text, his FAS colleague Peter Pritchard recently captured precisely what his friends felt at his passing. It was thought by all who knew him, said Peter, that Herb would be late to his own funeral, but sadly he was early. Herb passed away after a long day

spent in his beloved salt marsh studying marsh birds. His passing was far too early but, as always, in his own style.

I appreciate the help of Stuart Houston, Fred Lohrer, Bill Praty, Peter Pritchard, and Glen Woolfenden in preparing this memorial.

The Auk 113(3):680–682, 1996

IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT EARL STEWART, SR., 1913–1993

CHANDLER S. ROBBINS¹ AND M. BROOKE MEANLEY²

¹ Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland 20708, USA; and

² P.O. Box 87, Fishersville, Virginia 22939, USA

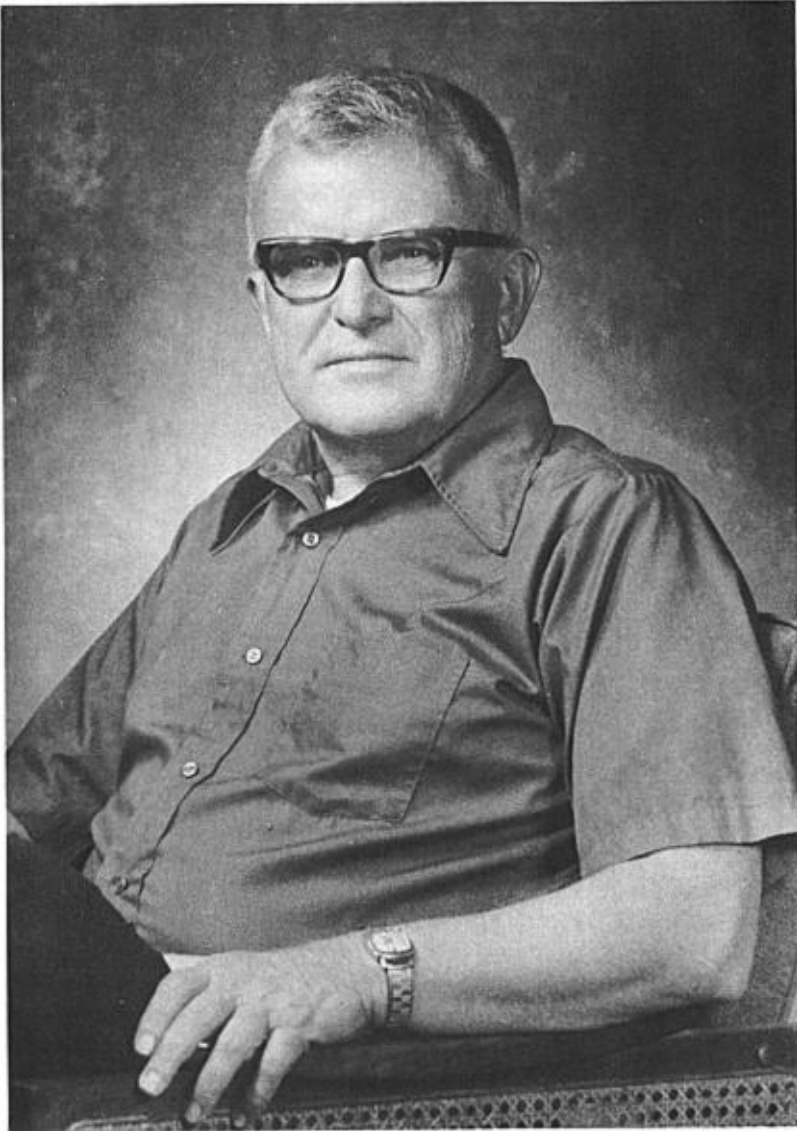
Robert Earl Stewart, Sr., our colleague, close friend, and mentor, was born on 16 April 1913 in Kansas City, Missouri. He graduated from high school in Grimes, Iowa, received his B.S. in Biology from the University of Iowa in 1936, and his M.S. in Zoology from the University of Michigan in 1937. His post-graduate work on the life history of the Common Yellowthroat was published in the *Wilson Bulletin* in 1953. Bob joined the AOU in 1938, was made an Elective Member in 1949, and a Fellow in 1974. During World War II, he served with the U.S. Navy Medical Corps in the Pacific Theater.

Bob's entire professional career was as a wildlife research biologist with the federal government. He began in 1938 with the Bureau of Biological Survey, which later became the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. From 1940 to 1960 he was head of ornithological research at the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Maryland, where he compiled an intensive inventory of birds and plants on the 2,650-acre reserve (*American Midland Naturalist* 1947, 1952). With C. S. Robbins, he published the definitive book, *Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia* in 1958. One of Bob's major projects was a 5-year landmark study, *Waterfowl Populations in the Upper Chesapeake Region* (1962). This was the most important study ever made of Chesapeake Bay waterfowl. Among his many other publications were those on ecology of the Tundra Swan, Ruffed Grouse, and Red-shouldered Hawk; migration of the Canvasback; breeding of the

Clapper Rail; racial composition of migrant Sandhill Cranes; and description of a new race of the Swamp Sparrow.

Most of Bob's work in the early years was in Maryland and adjacent states, but in 1955 he joined Robert P. Allen of the National Audubon Society in a search for the nesting ground of the Whooping Crane in Wood Buffalo Park. In 1949, he and colleague John Aldrich conducted a study of repopulation after removal of most of the adult passerines in a spruce-fir forest in northern Maine during the breeding season (*Auk* 68:471–482). This has become a classic reference in avian field experimentation.

We think of Bob as one of the last of the old-time, well-rounded naturalists—an expert in field identification, habitat relations, and food habits of birds, as well as taxonomy and ecology of plants, butterflies, reptiles, and amphibians. He started a card catalog of food habits of Patuxent birds, a nest record file that predated all other North American nest record programs, and a bird banding program at Patuxent. He endeavored to prepare a voucher specimen of each Patuxent and Maryland avian species not already included in the Ira Gabrielson collection. With Neil Hotchkiss and others he drafted a detailed vegetation map of the 2,650 Patuxent acres, on which he superimposed the breeding and winter distributions of bird populations. He initiated in 1948 (and edited through 1951) the Audubon Winter Bird Population Study, which is now published annually in the *Journal*



ROBERT EARL STEWART, SR., 1913-1993

of *Field Ornithology*, and he pioneered in studying effects of DDT on breeding songbirds.

Bob felt increasingly hemmed in by suburban sprawl and transferred in 1960 to Jamestown, North Dakota where, until his retirement in 1976, he was staff ecologist at the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center. He continued to contribute substantially in several fields of avian and ecological research. *Classification of Potholes in the Glaciated Prairie Region* (Stewart and

Kantrud 1969) is still considered a classic, and *Breeding Birds of North Dakota* (1975) was the forerunner of modern breeding bird atlases. He authored or co-authored 85 technical publications, 12 of which were published in *The Auk*. After retirement he continued his wildlife and botanical endeavors, amassing a large collection of photographs from the Southwest and publishing his bird observations.

Although Bob shied away from public ap-

pearances and meeting attendance, he was a long-time member of the Wilson and Cooper Ornithological Societies, The Wildlife Society, the Ecological Society of America, the Washington Biologists' Field Club, and the North Dakota Natural History Society. He served as a contributing editor for the *Atlantic Naturalist* (1948–1968) and as bird populations associate editor for *Audubon Field Notes* (1947–1952). He received the Department of the Interior's Meritorious Service Award in 1976 and the North Dakota Award of the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society in 1977.

His death on 15 July 1993 resulted from cancer. In November 1995, one of his primary study sites, a square mile of native prairie near Jamestown, was dedicated as the Robert E. Stewart Waterfowl Production Area, which is a fitting tribute to Bob's productive career. He is survived by his charming wife, Marjorie; daughter Margo Yerby; three sons, Dr. Robert E. Stewart, Jr. (AOU member and Director of the Southern Science Center in the National Biological Service), Dr. William Stewart, and Craig Stewart; 12 grandchildren; and 6 great grandchildren.

The Auk 113(3):682–684, 1996

IN MEMORIAM: GUSTAV A. SWANSON, 1910–1995

RONALD A. RYDER

*Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University,
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523, USA*

Gus Swanson, a member of the AOU since 1928, an Elective Member since 1947, and a Fellow since 1993, died in Fort Collins, Colorado, 2 April 1995. Gus was born 13 February 1910 on a farm in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota. His lifelong interest in birds began in third grade, when his teacher enrolled the entire class in the Junior Audubon Club. He attended Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota, earning a Bachelor's degree in Education in 1930, a Master's degree in 1932, and a doctorate in Zoology in 1934. He studied parasites of birds for his Ph.D. research.

He served as forester with the U.S. Soil Erosion Service (later the Soil Conservation Service) and taught wildlife biology at the University of Maine and the University of Minnesota. He took leave from the latter institution in 1941–42 to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but returned to the campus as an Associate Professor. From 1944 to 1948 he served with the Division of Wildlife of the Fish and Wildlife Service, heading that division from 1946 to 1948. He was also in charge of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Units.

Dr. Swanson was professor and head of the Department of Conservation at Cornell University from 1948 to 1966. "Varied and rewarding" was the way Gus described his 18 years at Cornell. They represented especially happy years for the entire family. Perhaps what contributed most to their happiness was the place they had chosen to live, a "retired" hill farm of 88 acres located five miles south of campus. The property presented many outstanding opportunities for developing wildlife habitat. Gus referred to these opportunities as a chance to practice what Aldo Leopold termed "wild husbandry" and defined as the "highest form of outdoor recreation." Various wildlife-habitat practices eventually were established at the farm, including four ponds, two of which were built with large areas of shallow water to encourage marsh vegetation. All supported fish populations, at times including species such as fathead minnows stocked to attract fish-eating birds. Several of the department's wildlife courses regularly visited the Swanson farm to study Dr. Swanson's management techniques and related aspects of his land husbandry. The site had such