

IN MEMORIAM: EDVARD K. BARTH, 1913–1996

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By a curious coincidence, two of Norway's most distinguished ornithologists, Edvard K. Barth and Holger Holgersen, died on the same day, 23 April 1996. Edvard K. Barth was born in Trondheim on 19 April 1913. From childhood he was interested in nature, especially birds. He managed to complete his studies in zoology at the University of Oslo before the Germans closed the University. A patriot by heart, he served as a member of the military secret service division "XU" of "Hjemmefronten," one of the most successful resistance units in Europe, from 1941 until the end of the war, and was in charge of "XU" for all southern Norway after 1944. He took great risks but avoided the German Gestapo, as did his fiancé, Sonja.

Fascinated by the mountains of Rondane in central Norway, he made numerous visits to this area with close friends, equipped with tent and sleeping bags. Once, the famous Norwegian explorer, Thor Heyerdal, then also a student of zoology, accompanied him. Edvard became a keen field zoologist, for many years earning his living as a freelance photographer and writer. After the war he built a small cabin high at Nessetra in the birch region of Rondane. Here the famous Norwegian painter, Harald Sohlberg, had made his painting *Vinternatt i Rondane* (winter night in Rondane), recently elected as the Norwegian National Painting.

Edvard lived year-round in his isolated cabin in the mountains until 1954, when he became the curator responsible for bird collections at the Zoological Museum in Oslo until he retired in 1980. He kept his office in the museum and worked up collected material until a few days before his death.

Edvard produced 206 scientific and popular papers. He earned his D.Sc. in 1968 with a study on systematics in the Laridae. Deeply interested in wildlife management, he took an active part in discussions and wrote in hunting journals and newspapers. He joined the AOU in 1957 and became a Corresponding Fellow in 1974. He attended the International Ornithological Congress in Helsinki in 1958.

Later in life he became increasingly interested in the primitive, prehistoric methods of reindeer hunting with bows and arrows. In company with his wife, Sonja, he mapped in Rondane a large number of ancient reindeer traps, which included guiding fences and blinds from which to shoot with bows and arrows. He became a leading authority in this field; his work came to be appreciated by professional archaeologists who initially were skeptical. A major paper on this topic was completed just before his death. Edvard is survived by Sonja and their two daughters. A more complete memorial, with portrait, appeared in *Vår Fuglefauna* 19:79–80, 1996.