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In Memoriam: Margaret Howell Mitchell, 1901-1988

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IN MEMORIAM: JULIAN R. FORD, 1932–1987

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Julian R. Ford, a Member of the AOU since 1964 and a Corresponding Fellow since 1982, died suddenly on 31 January 1987, shortly after his return from a collecting expedition to North Queensland. Born on 3 November 1932, Ford graduated from the University of Western Australia in 1953 with First Class Honours in Zoology. In 1984 he received a Ph.D. degree from his alma mater.

With his death, Australia and the world lost one of the leading experts on geographic variation and hybrid zones in birds. Over the past couple of decades, he published more than 30 papers on these topics, mostly in *The Emu*. In an era when most museums were too strapped for funds to mount major expeditions, Ford initiated series of transects through different parts of the Australian continent, which focused on unstudied or little-studied areas to analyze geographic variation with the aid of collections, recording songs, and to elucidate distributional barriers and factors limiting abundance. His analysis was comprehensive and meticulous.

Many of his publications are classics in their field, and will long remain sources of data on avian evolution in Australia.

Ford was an incisive thinker and always focused on long-term issues. Prominent in conservation bodies, he was equally intolerant of government practices (as in Queensland, of allowing grazing in national parks) and the practices of those who would deny all collecting. Conservation had to be based on understanding which, in turn, required scientific study. Prior to his death, Ford was a Senior Lecturer in Chemistry at Curtin University, Western Australia, and received many awards and research grants from the F. M. Chapman Fund in New York, the M. A. Ingram Trust in Melbourne, the Utah Foundation, and the Australian Government Research Grants scheme. Julian was a stimulating correspondent and companion. He bequeathed his extensive library and collections to the Western Australian Museum, Perth. A fuller account of his career appeared in *The Emu* (87: 132).

IN MEMORIAM: MARGARET HOWELL MITCHELL, 1901–1988

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Margaret Mitchell, Elective Member and Life Member of the AOU, died in Victoria, British Columbia, on 3 October 1988. Canada's first internationally known woman ornithologist, the daughter of Lucy Knox and George Howell, was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 28 October 1901. Hoping for a scientific career, in 1920 Peggy enrolled at the University of Toronto to study biology and geology. As in the mid-1920s paid jobs in ornithology were scarce in Canada, even for men, Peggy found employment as secretary to the head of paleontology at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM).

At the ROM she met L. L. Snyder and J. L. Baillie Jr. After her marriage to Osborne Mitchell in 1927, she gave up her paid position in paleontology to work as a volunteer in ornithology. Her main task was the "Passenger Pigeon inquiry," resulting in a booklet (1929) and an important monograph, *The Passenger Pigeon in Ontario* (1935). Although at the ROM she had no official title, and of course no pay, Peggy Mitchell became the first woman research "affiliate" of any natural history museum in Canada.

Mitchell joined the AOU in 1928 and the Wil-

son Society in 1933, but was not allowed to join the all-male bird clubs in Toronto! In 1950 the Mitchells moved to Brazil, and Peggy's observations of the new avifauna resulted in two papers (published in *The Auk* and the *Wilson Bulletin* in 1954), and a monograph on Brazilian birds (1957). In recognition of her accomplishments, in 1958 she was made an Elective Member of the AOU. She continued her detailed

observations in Britain, Barbados, and the Canadian Northwest until a series of strokes confined her to a wheelchair. Peggy possessed great enthusiasm for fieldwork. Her too few articles and two monographs are a testimony to her deep interest in science, and her willingness to carry out painstaking research under unfavorable conditions.

IN MEMORIAM: SIR PETER MARKHAM SCOTT, 1909–1989

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Peter Markham Scott was born 14 September 1909 and died 29 August 1989, just 16 days short of his 80th birthday. He excelled in so many activities that he is properly called naturalist, ornithologist, conservationist, wildlife artist, author, radio and television communicator, and—for pure recreation—champion glider and Olympic-class yachtsman. His interest in birds began in early childhood. His godfather, Sir James Barrie, had given him a Life Fellowship in the Royal Zoological Society as a christening present. Trips to the famous zoo with his nanny began before he could write, so he signed his admission with an X. He was elected Corresponding Fellow of the AOU in 1955.

He began his studies at Cambridge University in biology, but his love for painting waterfowl was so strong that he decided to become a professional artist. He graduated from Cambridge in history of art, then spent three years in art schools in Munich and London. As a painter of waterfowl, he illustrated 20 books including Jean Delacour's monumental 4-volume "Waterfowl of the World." He was author of 18 other works, all lavishly illustrated with his paintings. He was engaged at his death in writing (with his wife, Lady Philippa) a series of books based on his diaries, which he had begun in 1927.

In 1946 he established at Slimbridge the Wildfowl Trust to promote research and education about waterfowl. He acquired a collection of nearly all of the world's waterfowl, mostly free-flying, for exhibition and study. Paul Johnsgaard's book, "Handbook of Waterfowl Behavior," was based on a two-year postdoc-

toral study at Slimbridge. The Trust's annual publication, now called simply *Wildfowl*, has become an important source of literature on this group of birds. When the International Ornithological Congress met at Oxford in 1966, one of the field trips was to the Trust at Slimbridge. Sir Peter added additional Trust centers (for a total of eight), and at the time of his death he was planning a ninth.

Sir Peter's wildlife conservation contributions have been impressive. With two friends (Max Nicholson and Guy Montfort), he founded the World Wildlife Fund in 1961. During its first 25 years, it raised \$120 million for work in 135 countries. The successful captive breeding of Hawaiian Geese (*Neochen sandvicensis*) at Slimbridge has produced more than 1,000 birds and saved that species from extinction. He was an important influence in persuading Ecuador to make the Galápagos Islands a national park and in establishing the Darwin Research Station there.

Sir Peter was frequently recognized for his contributions. I select from a long list: seven honorary doctorates from universities in England, Scotland, and Canada; the British honors CH, CBE, DSC, FRS, and the knighthood in 1973; the gold medals of the New York Zoological Society, the National Zoological Park of the Smithsonian, and *Wildlife Art News*; the United Nations Pahlavi Prize; and the J. Paul Getty Award.

A recent biographical account appeared in the March/April 1989 issue of *Wildlife Art News* (8: 31). A comprehensive obituary by Janet Kear appears in the July 1990 issue of *Ibis*.