Kimberly Gray Smith, Elective Member (1984) and Fellow (1991) of the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU; now American Ornithological Society), who served as Editor-in-Chief of The Auk (2000–2004), passed away suddenly on April 9, 2018, at his home in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Kim was a community ecologist par excellence, and for the legions of his friends, students and colleagues, the loss of his warm-hearted persona and his inspiring mentorship leaves a painful void. Few ecologists mastered so many diverse areas of biology and natural history in their lifetimes as Kim did. Birds, bugs and bears—he studied them all, with an insatiable curiosity and inspiring intellect honed by over 3 decades of nurturing a phalanx of students towards productive research and teaching careers. A keen historian who loved to lecture and write on the history of ecological thought, Kim became a leading ecologist by learning from the careers of past pioneering ecologists.

Born July 19, 1948, in Manchester, Connecticut, to Robert H. and Janet (Simon) Smith, Kim was the third of 5 children. His interest in nature was sparked at an early age by his grandfather. As a young boy, he showed an interest in plants; later, he posed for a picture with a reconstructed roadkill, his mother and grandfather cheering from the sidelines. But his passions were always varied. He started his academic career as an athlete. At Tufts University (B.S., 1971), he dabbled in lacrosse, swimming and squash. The ornithology class he took with Herman Sweet in 1969 set him on a path towards a lifetime of studying birds. In August, 1969, he was the first intern at the Manomet Bird Observatory in Massachusetts. Soon thereafter he led bird tours on Cape Cod (summer, 1971) and traveled across the country doing a “half” Big Year in 1972, notching 485 species.

Kim came to the University of Arkansas in 1972 for his M.S. degree (1975), under the supervision of Douglas A. James. Doug, and his then wife Frances “Fran” James, nurtured Kim as he launched his love of ecology into an outstanding academic career. Fran became a professional mentor to him, a relationship that lasted throughout his career. He said that he never made a major professional decision without talking to Fran first. Kim’s long and impressive publication record started with a paper in a leading journal. His M.S. work on summer altitudinal distribution of birds along the Ozark slopes appeared in Ecology (1977), propelling him on the path to scientific acclaim. He was particularly adept in the developing field of multivariate analysis as applied to ecological systems.

Kim received his Ph.D. (1982) from Utah State University under James A. MacMahon, studying avian resource partitioning along a montane sere. After a brief stint (1980–1981) as a post-doctoral research ecologist...