IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT WINTHROP STORER, 1914–2008

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Robert W. Storer, 1914–2008
(Conducting field work on crakes in Paraguay in 1979. Photograph courtesy of Philip Myers III.)

Robert W. Storer, member of the AOU for 73 years, Fellow and Past President (1970–1972), died at age 94 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on 14 December 2008. A meticulous scholar, known for his studies of grebes and other diving birds, Bob was among the most eminent American ornithologists of the 20th century and played a major role in the academic excellence of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ) for more than four decades.

Bob was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on 20 September 1914—the day after World War I began. The family soon moved to northern New Jersey, where his father worked for an engineering firm. Shortly after the war, the family bought a summer cottage at Mantoloking on the then-undeveloped New Jersey shore, where his mother, a trained teacher, encouraged Bob’s interests in sea life, birds, butterflies, and particularly caterpillars, which