IN MEMORIAM

George Curtiss West, 1931–2016

Stanley Senner

National Audubon Society, Portland, Oregon, USA
ssenner@audubon.org

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Inspired by a fourth-grade teacher in his hometown of Newton Center, Massachusetts, George Curtiss West (May 13, 1931–August 31, 2016) enjoyed a lifelong personal and professional interest in birds. As recently as the year before his death, he published *North American Hummingbirds: An Identification Guide* (2015) and was coauthor of a paper on Orange-crowned Warblers (*The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 127:29–42).

George attended high school at the Vermont Academy in Saxtons River, Vermont, and remained in that state for his undergraduate education, graduating in 1953 from Middlebury College with a zoology major. He earned an M.S. (1956) and a Ph.D. (1958) in zoology and physiological ecology, respectively, at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, under the tutelage of pioneering physiologist and ecologist Charles Kendeigh. His dissertation on the energy balance of Tree Sparrows in relation to migration was based on field research conducted at Churchill, Manitoba, and combined his interest in birds, physiology, and ecology—a combination that characterized much of his professional work.

George conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Illinois under Kendeigh (1959) and at the National Research Council of Canada in Ottawa under J. S. Hart (1960). Following three years (1960–1963) as an assistant professor of zoology at the University of Rhode Island, in 1963 he landed at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), where he would spend the rest of his academic career.

Laurence Irving, a pioneer in comparative physiology, was the founding director of UAF’s Institute of Arctic Biology, and George was among the first invited to help establish what would become a premier research institution in Arctic biology, physiology, and ecology. George started as an assistant professor and attained the rank of professor of zoophysiology in 1968. On sabbatical leave in 1971–1972, he was a Fellow at the Max Planck Institut für Verhaltensphysiologie, in Erling-Andechs, West Germany, where he conducted research on circadian rhythms in birds with H. Pohl and J. Aschoff. George was director of the Biome Center, which sponsored the International Biological Program’s tundra biome studies, from 1970 to 1979; and director of the Institute of Arctic Biology from 1974 to 1977. During the last four years of his career at UAF (1980–1984), he served as vice president for academic affairs and institutional planning for the university’s statewide system of higher education. He retired as emeritus professor of zoophysiology in 1984.

George was author or coauthor of more than 80 scientific papers, most concerning the metabolism, thermoregulation, energetics, nutrition, ecology, and migration of birds at high latitudes. Redpolls and Willow Ptarmigan were frequent subjects, but George was broadly interested in adaptations to Arctic and Subarctic environments. His