WILLIAM AND NANCY KLAMM SERVICE AWARD FOR 2016: EDWARD H. BURTT, JR.

Each year, the Wilson Ornithological Society recognizes a member who has provided extensive service to the Society with the William and Nancy Klamm Service Award. The award honors the memory of extensive service and commitment to the Wilson Ornithological Society shown by Bill and Nancy Klamm, who generously supported the Society with both their time and a substantial financial bequest. This year’s award is being given to a member whose involvement with the Society overlapped Bill’s work on the Audit Committee.

In 1988, Edward H. Burtt, Jr., known to all as Jed, began his regular attendance at WOS meetings. In 1989 he was elected to a two-year term as an elective councilor. The following year, he co-chaired the scientific program committee for the Wilson meeting in Norton, Massachusetts. In 1993, he was elected as Second Vice President of the Society and after serving as Second Vice President and then First Vice President, he served as President from 1997 to 1999. During this time, he organized an interactive workshop on undergraduate teaching in ornithology and a workshop in the management of ornithological collections at teaching institutions and nature centers. Jed wanted to provide resources for teaching faculty, so after the former workshop, Jed shepherded the process of converting those exercises to a laboratory manual that was posted online free of charge.

As First Vice President of the Wilson Society, Jed initiated the Margaret Morse Nice medal and plenary lecture in 1997. The award recognizes a lifetime of ornithological research and work as a mentor. Jed’s introductions to these lectures have been quite inspiring by providing information about Margaret Morse Nice’s life and her influential career as a scientist. As he introduced the recipients, he was able to find direct connections between their career and Nice’s. The detailed and individual information in the introductions of the recipients were typical of Jed’s work in the Society, integrating a commitment to high quality ornithological research with personal touches and a family feel.

Although he completed his work on the executive committee in 1999, Jed continued to be active both on the Council and in the Society. In fact, Jed hosted the 2003 Wilson meeting at Ohio Wesleyan University, in joint session with the Association of Field Ornithologists and the Clark Ornithology Symposium. Jed’s interest in creating a special feel for the students at the meeting included scheduling the poster session during an extended lunch period, with lunch in the poster venue included in the registration. His interest in providing additional opportunities for students and professionals to interact included having the Ohio Wesleyan Jazz Band perform at the end of the banquet. Most years, Jed willingly served on the committee that judged student presentations and he served for many years on the nominating committee, helping to identify ornithologists who would be able to bring fresh perspectives to Council and many who could benefit from mentoring relationships with other Council members.

Perhaps Jed’s most influential involvement with the Wilson Society is his attendance at meetings with students. Most meetings included several students from Ohio Wesleyan. His mentorship of