

IN MEMORIAM: STEPHEN MARCHANT, 1912–2003

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Stephen Marchant, who died at age 91 in September 2003 in his adopted country, Australia, was elected a Corresponding Fellow of the AOU in 1974.

Stephen was born in England on 11 August 1912. He was educated at Shrewsbury School and went up to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, in 1935. As a field geologist with Shell Oil, he was able to study birds in the Middle East, Africa, Borneo, and Ecuador. A steady flow of ornithological publications resulted. In 1971 he was awarded the Union Medal of the British Ornithologists' Union "in recognition of eminent services to ornithology and to the Union."

After settling in Australia in 1963, he was the instigator of the 1966 Canberra-based push to reinvigorate the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union (RAOU). He became editor of their journal, *The Emu*, in 1968. By 1974, at the time of the first southern-hemisphere meeting of the International Ornithological Congress in Canberra, Stephen had changed the tone of *The Emu*. I am reminded of the words

of Tommy Garnett (*Emu* 82: 241–243): "As editor, he seized the *Emu*, tied up its somewhat bedraggled feathers and lifted its head so that it could face the inspection of international ornithology without apology—and made enemies on the way....Stephen was intent on compelling the professional scientist to write English and the amateur to write science. Both groups found the exercise...painful."

By the early 1980s the RAOU took the bold step of promoting the compilation of a comprehensive handbook of the birds of Australia and New Zealand (HANZAB), with Stephen as its chief editor.

In 1997, he was awarded the John Hobbs medal for his contributions to Australian Ornithology as an amateur. In 1994, he became an honorary member of the general division of the Order of Australia (AM) for his service to ornithology and conservation. More complete obituaries appeared in *Canberra Bird Notes* (2003), and in *The Island Naturalist* (2003–2004), each with a portrait.