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Karl H. Maslowski, a world-renowned wildlife cinematographer and outdoor writer, was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on 4 February 1913. A year later, his family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where Karl resided for the remainder of his life and where he died on 1 June 2006. His parents encouraged his love of the outdoors from an early age. At age 15, he founded the Junior Society of Natural History at the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, where he later became a trustee, vice president, and member of the Board of Directors. Prominent Cincinnati businessman Christian Goetz befriended 16-year-old Karl and later “loaned” him a movie camera that eventually would lead to Karl’s film career. Throughout his youth, Karl worked to help support his sister and widowed mother. He finished high school by attending night classes and also took evening classes for a few semesters at the University of Cincinnati. He became a life member of the Wilson Ornithological Society in 1934 and a member of the AOU in 1935. He became an Elective Member of the AOU in 1951.

Karl was an eloquent voice for wildlife, commencing his career of wildlife photography, presentations, and lectures in the early 1930s. In 1937, he began a weekly column in the Cincinnati Enquirer, “Naturalist Afield,” that ran every Sunday (except during World War II) until late 1988. During the war, Karl enlisted in the Army Air Corps as a combat photographer and served in Europe. After the war, he provided movie footage for Walt Disney’s nature films and produced more than 70 wildlife documentaries. Although Karl published papers in The Auk, Wilson Bulletin, and Journal of Mammalogy, most of his writings were for the general public and appeared in a wide variety of magazines. He gave thousands of film lectures attended by more than one million people. These presentations awakened countless people to our environmental problems and influenced numerous young people to follow careers in education, biology, wildlife management, and conservation. The Outdoor Writers Association of America, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, and The Wildlife Society recognized Karl’s many achievements. In addition to numerous other awards, Karl received an honorary doctorate from Miami University of Ohio. His lifelong passions were bird watching, fishing, and hunting.

Karl married Edna Hadler in 1937. She and their daughter, Karla Maslowski Long, preceded him in death. Sons Peter, Stephen, and David and six grandchildren survive him. I thank Peter and Stephen Maslowski, Jeannie Harvey, and George Laycock for their assistance.